

We now make content with international standards: INTEKHAB DINAR

Intekhab Dinar rose to prominence with his role in the mega serial 'Bondhon', after working in numerous television projects, the actor found renewed success through his powerful performances in OTT.



PHOTO: STAR

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

His portrayal of a notorious chairman in the critically acclaimed web-series *Taqdeer* marked a remarkable resurgence in his career. Intekhab Dinar continued to enthrall audiences with memorable performances in web-series such as *Unoloukik's* episode *Dwikhondito*, *Khachar Bhitor Ochin Pakhi*, and *Lights, Camera... Objection*, amongst others.

Recently, the actor won the Best Supporting Actor Award in popular category for his portrayal as jailer Mostaque Ahmed in *Karagar* at *Blenders Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2022*.

How does it feel to win the Best Supporting Actor Award in Blender's Choice—The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards 2022?

It feels terrific to have won the award for *Karagar*; it's good to be recognised for work that you've put your heart and soul into. I didn't even think twice about taking on the role of jailer Mostaque Ahmed. I knew in my heart that this was the job for me. And knowing that people enjoyed my work makes me happy as an artiste.

How did it feel receiving the award from Suborna Mustafa and Badrul Anam Saud?

Suborna *apa* is a legend in the world of acting; I grew up watching her performances on television and in films. I have a lot of respect for her and have learned a lot from her. Accepting the award from both her and her husband director Badrul Anam Saud was a surreal experience for me.

How much did you struggle in your acting career?

Throughout my acting career, I didn't have to struggle

much. My transition into acting was actually quite smooth. I began my acting career by performing on stage for the theater troupe Nagorik Natya Sampradaya. *Gour*, a drama by Salahuddin Lavlu, was my first television series. Following that, I began working on the television series *Bondhon*, which brought me enormous recognition. Both these dramas earned me a special place in people's hearts, so I truly didn't have to struggle much.

Are you doing mostly OTT projects right now?

Yes. I am currently working on Kajal Arefin Ome's web-film, *Oshomoy*. After that I will be working with Shawki in another web project. I have lots of work in the pipeline.

Do you think this is best time for OTT?

Yes, now it's the best time for OTT- we have good budget and amazing filmmakers who are producing contents that are attracting the audiences. We have content that meet international standards. None of the directors are constrained, and they are free to present their work on a worldwide scale. Syed Ahmed Shawki and Nuhash Humayun are two of OTT's outstanding directors.

You have been highly praised for your performance in 'Karagar' and 'Unoloukik'.

Both *Karagar* and *Unoloukik* gave me immense recognition for my work. I am grateful to my directors. Everywhere I went in Kolkata, people complimented me on my projects. This gave me a lot of joy.

Do you think views matter when it comes to good content?

I think the idea of 'view' is temporary. I believe if a content is good then it will stand the test of time and prove its merit. If we are able to deliver a good project, then it will surely be etched in people's hearts forever.



NEWS

Tigers on edge in Kolkata

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palpable tension prevalent amongst the team management who were busy in their quest to find a fix for Bangladesh's plight. Shakib Al Hasan, however, could not partake in training as he was en route to the city.

The camp seemed invested in their own endeavours, away from the interest relating to the World Cup points table as miles away in Chennai, Sri Lanka pulled off an unlikely win over defending champions England.

As it stands, Bangladesh, England, and the Netherlands are tied on two points, making up the bottom three of the table.

However, such equations would not hamper the Tigers much it seems as it is not clear what their tournament goal is following four losses on the trot.

Shakib and his troops came with the motivation of reaching the semifinal for the first time but their bleak show has derailed that dream quite prematurely. It now appears that Bangladesh are looking at the World Cup from the outside, excluded from the company they want to be with.

Although the players were instructed to not interact with the media apart from the official press conferences, it seemed the cricketers were consciously trying to avoid eye contact with the big contingent of the Bangladeshi media.

Skipper Shakib already joked that he would want his side to finish at five or six in the prestigious tournament, if not as semi-finalists. While chances are still there, at least mathematically, to make the top four, it seems

Bangladesh and England are on the same boat in terms of equations needed for progress beyond group stage.

Bangladesh would need to win all of their remaining results, produce a huge swing in net run-rate, while hope that other results go their way to stand any chance of cementing a top-four finish.

However, amidst all the frustration, there was one positive for Bangladesh as pacer Taskin Ahmed, who missed out the last two matches due to his shoulder pain, was seen bowling in the nets.

Can Bangladesh clothe themselves in the chic vibes of the New Town area of Kolkata or will they dish out yet another uninspiring display in the 'City of Joy'?

3 killed, 10 hurt in Mohakhali high-rise fire

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Hasna fell from the ninth floor as she was climbing down the side of the building, grabbing a cable, said Mostafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station.

He added that she was declared dead on arrival after being taken to Metropolitan Medical Centre in the area.

Fire service recovered Aklima's body from the 11th floor around 12:30am.

Meanwhile, Rafiqul, who was initially rescued in an unconscious state around 11:40pm, was later declared dead when he was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital at 12:15am, said a fire service official.

Speaking to journalists at the spot around 12:00am today, Brig Gen Md Main Uddin, director general of Fire

Service and Civil Defence, said, "Ten people have been rescued from the building so far.

"Although the fire has been brought under control, it is taking time to douse the flames completely because of the presence of flammable objects like batteries and cables inside the building."

The official mentioned that the building was not fully equipped with fire protection systems. "There were fire extinguishers on some of the floors, but those were not adequate for the building."

The fire service DG said the fire was initially suspected to have originated from a short circuit.

"Some say the fire started on the fourth floor, while others say it started on the 11th. We will know for certain

after an investigation," he said.

Rozina Akter, duty officer of the Fire Service and Civil Defence Headquarters, said they were informed of the fire at 4:58pm and reached the scene at 5:07pm.

Eleven fire engines responded to the scene and brought the blaze under control at 7:30pm.

The army, navy, and air force joined forces with the fire service to combat the blaze, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

Our correspondent from the spot reported that thick black smoke was billowing from the 12th floor of the building.

Many on the 12th floor could be seen breaking windows to let out the smoke, while others went to the roof to escape the fire.

Hepatic procedure done on Khaleda

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health issues, including arthritis, diabetes, kidney issues, liver problems, and heart diseases for a long time, added the physician.

Three US physicians -- James Peter Adam Hamilton, Hamid Ahmad Abdur Rabb, and Christos Georgiades -- were flown in on Wednesday night as Khaleda is not allowed to leave the country for treatment.

The medical board earlier said the BNP chief needs a TIPS procedure for her treatment. However, the country's healthcare facilities do not have the expertise and equipment required to perform the procedure.

Khaleda, jailed for 17 years in two graft cases, was released from prison through a government executive order on March 25, 2020, on the condition that she will stay at her

home in the capital and not leave the country.

The government released her for six months after suspending her jail sentence, which was later extended several times.

On September 25 this year, Khaleda's family filed an application with the home ministry seeking permission for her to travel abroad for treatment. But the ministry turned down the application.

Ansars should not be given powers

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report in three working days, a sign it was going to be passed in the ongoing 25th JS session, which ends on November 2.

Jatiya Party MPs had strongly opposed the bill in JS.

Top police officials argued that the move would create a force parallel to the police force.

The home minister on Wednesday ruled out the likelihood of empowering the Ansar battalion

members to detain suspects and said the parliamentary watchdog would thoroughly examine the bill.

In the meeting yesterday, the parliamentary committee recommended amending section 8.

It recommended that Ansar members take necessary action under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, when an offence is committed in front of them.

On the responsibilities of Ansar members, the committee

recommended that Ansar members assist in the carrying out of responsibilities regarding security.

The bill had a provision for death penalty for committing mutiny and provoking rebellion in Ansar. The committee recommended the removal of the death penalty.

Chief of the JS body Benajir Ahmed, also Dhaka-20 lawmaker, told the media that the decision for the amendments was based on committee members' consensus.

Govt working to create conducive environment

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areas of cooperation in energy transition, digital infrastructure, transport corridors, human capital development, and decent work.

Hasina thanked the EU for its continued support to Bangladesh's socio-economic development, particularly in the green transition, education, and skill development, the statement said.

During a meeting with European Investment Bank (EIB) President Werner Hoyer, she said Bangladesh could support EU efforts to diversify the production of pharmaceuticals, vaccines, and medical equipment.

Hoyer appreciated the use of the 1-billion-euro loan portfolio for Bangladesh since 2000 in areas of shared priorities.

He noted in particular progress in projects being implemented under the water treatment and rail link upgradation.

Referring to the achievements in ensuring safe water and sanitation for nearly 97 percent of people in Bangladesh, the PM requested the EIB to consider supporting river dredging, water conservation, and surface irrigation.

Hasina also mentioned the initiatives

taken by her government to develop dual-track railways to promote cost-effective passenger and container traffic, while lauding the EIB's interest in financing impactful connectivity projects.

Hoyer referred to the loan package of 250 million euros signed in 2021 and said its disbursement would commence soon for strengthening the health system, the statement added.

The EIB president observed that Bangladesh was in an ideal situation to roll out vaccine production.

European Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič, during a meeting with Hasina, announced an additional €10.5 million in assistance for the Rohingya.

Meanwhile, Hasina returns home today, wrapping up her three-day official visit to Belgium where she attended the Global Gateway Forum-2023, reports UNB.

A commercial flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, carrying the premier and her entourage members, is scheduled to depart from Brussels Zaventem Airport at 2:00am today (Bangladesh time).

The plane is scheduled to land at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 12:15pm today.

The PM reached Brussels on

Tuesday to attend the forum, held on October 25-26, at the invitation of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

Telecom, internet

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traffic, managing the data flow between the country and the rest of the world and enabling internet service providers and telecom operators to access the global internet.

Many mobile users complained that they are facing difficulties in making calls while broadband users said they are unable to access the internet.

The voice call disruption was due to the building housing several ICXs, a switching system, which provides interconnections among the telecommunication network of the operators. For example, it enables Grameenphone customers to make calls to a user of Robi Axiata.

Due to a fire incident in Khawaja Tower in Mohakhali area, all mobile operators are experiencing issues with inter-operator calls as there is a hub of ICX located in that building, said the Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh, in a statement.