



PHOTOS: COLLECTED

Felicitations for a legend

ARTISTES PAY TRIBUTE TO ASADUZZAMAN NOOR ON HIS BIRTHDAY

“Noor’s greatest quality is that he’s a good person. “Even after becoming a minister, I haven’t seen him change. That’s the true mark of a person - not changing after gaining power,” said veteran actress Dolly Zahur.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Asaduzzaman Noor is a timeless artiste in theatre, radio, television, film, and OTT. His dominance on the theatre stage is prominent in plays such as *Nurul Diner Sharajibon*, *Dewan Gazir Kissa*, and *Galileo*, amongst others. His fluency elevated the iconic character Baker *bhai* in Humayun Ahmed’s *Kothao Keu Nei*.

Television dramas like *Eishob Din Ratri*, *Aaj Robibar*, *Bohubrihi*, and *Ayomoy* have taken his career to new heights.

Today marks the 77th birthday of this eminent cultural personality, who was honoured with the Independence Award. On this auspicious day, artistes of his time have shared their well-wishes with The Daily Star and wished him good health ahead.

“Noor is 12 years older than me, but we share a friendly bond. He calls me ‘tui’ (informal ‘you’), and I do the same. We have a lot of memories from working together in the tele-fiction *Aaj Robibar*, shared veteran actress Dolly Zahur.

“Recently, we worked in a radio drama, *Jatri*, and we enjoyed collaborating there as well. He playfully teased me, saying ‘Seeing you reminds me of Zahur (Dolly Zahur’s husband).’

According to the actress, Noor’s greatest quality is that he’s a good person. “Even after becoming a minister, I haven’t seen him change. That’s the true mark of a person - not changing after gaining power.”

Jayanto Chattopadhyay and

Asaduzzaman Noor share a bond of more than four decades. “We started not only acting together but also the journey of elocution. Noor is an exceptional actor, often referred to as a natural actor. He is what we call a method actor. He may appear easygoing to outsiders, but in reality, it’s quite challenging.”

According to Jayanto, Noor’s performance in *Aguner*

choices, but there’s a sentiment that he has devoted less time to acting due to his political commitments. He has had to allocate a significant amount of time to politics, and that continues.”

Jayanto eagerly awaits Noor’s return to the screen. “I want my friend to return to the cinema, giving it a bit more time. I’d like to see him in classic comedy roles.

individual. He is well-liked by everyone for his amiability and acceptability,” said Dilara Zaman, who collaborated with Noor in *Eishob Din Ratri* for the first time.

Suborna Mustafa shared that Asaduzzaman Noor needs many more years in both acting and politics. “I wish him good health and longevity. His contributions to the stage are immense, and I’ve witnessed his work on the stage. He continues to act on the stage even today, and I hope he remains unwavering.”

Expressing her wish to see him on the stage more frequently, Suborna added, “It’s been a long time since I acted alongside him, but he is still remembered by many. Lastly, I want to wish him a happy birthday and best wishes. May these years return to us once again.”

The incomparable Mamunur Rashid and Asaduzzaman Noor are both active in theatre. The veteran actor wished him on his birthday and shared his thoughts about him. “His contribution to the stage is immense, and I started my journey on stage as well. I haven’t left the stage, and neither has Noor. This is a significant matter. On his birthday, I wish him good health and many more days of acting. Artistes like him need to stay in the field for a long time. Another thing, in television dramas, he has made a significant impact with his excellent performances. To this day, when we talk about Baker *bhai*, everyone recognises him. Isn’t that something? The love for him will always be there.”



Poroshmoni is extraordinary. He has delivered an exceptional performance. Additionally, his role in the movie *Srabon Megher Din* was also remarkable.

“He’s a person who has been successful both in acting and politics. He served as a minister and was successful in that role as well. I don’t have any complaints about his

Nowadays, there are some great films being made. He should consider doing a few successful films and fully immerse himself in the world of cinema.”

Veteran actress Dilara Zaman wished him good health and shared memories with the actor.

“He is an ideal father, an ideal husband. He is a successful

Angelina Jolie takes strong stance against Israel’s brutality

Angelina Jolie is on the side of humanity, as she stated in a recent article on the recent conflict between Israel and Hamas.

On October 7, Hamas and the Israeli military engaged in airstrikes. While Israel describes it as a defensive measure against Hamas ‘terrorism’, Angelina Jolie dropped her two cents on the entire affair.



“Like millions around the world, I have spent the last weeks sick and angry at the terrorist attack in Israel, the death of so many innocent civilians,” the Oscar-winning actress wrote on Instagram.

“However, that doesn’t mean they can reason bombing civilians in Gaza who have nowhere to go, no access to food or water, no chance of evacuation, and no basic human right to cross a border to seek sanctuary,” added the actress.

Preity Zinta to make her acting comeback

Preity Zinta, widely recognised for her roles in iconic movies like *Kal Ho Naa Ho* and *Dil Chahta Hai*, is ready for a grand return to the silver screen. The actress, who took a hiatus, is gearing up for a remarkable comeback, reportedly in a woman-oriented film directed by a renowned South Indian filmmaker.

This exciting news comes a couple of years after Preity Zinta welcomed her twins, Gia and Jai. While specific details about the project remain confidential, it is believed to showcase compelling narratives that celebrate strong female characters.



NEWS

PM calls upon imams

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the function at the Bangladesh Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre in Narayanganj’s Rupganj.

“Pray for me so that I can serve the people of Bangladesh. The ongoing development of the country will continue and we can transform our country into a smart one,” Hasina said.

Condemning the Israeli attack on Palestinians, the premier said her government has been working to put an end to the war.

“We don’t want war, we want peace and we want the development of the people We are working to stop the war.”

She referred to her repeated calls to stop wars and arms race at different international forums, including the recently held Global Gateway Forum in Brussels.

“The world is witnessing the Ukraine war and the attack on Palestinians by Israelis where children and women are being killed and we never want these.”

Hasina said Bangladesh has already sent medicines and dry food for the Palestinians.

She said there are people of other faiths in Bangladesh alongside the Muslims and her government wants to ensure such an environment

where every people can practice their religions freely.

The PM called upon all concerned, particularly the imams, to make sure that no children can get involved in militancy, terrorism and drug addiction.

Hasina said the government has been constructing 564 model mosques and Islamic cultural centres at a cost of Tk 9,435 crore across the country.

With the opening of 50 more model mosques, as many as 300 model mosques and Islamic culture centres out of 564 have so far been inaugurated.

In five phases, she opened 50 mosques each on June 10, 2021, on January 16, 2023, on March 16, 2023, on April 17, 2023, and on July 30, 2023.

There will be registration and training arrangements for hajj pilgrims, imam training centre, research centre and Islamic library, autism corner, among other facilities, in the model mosques.

Imam of Masjid al-Nabawi in Medina Sheikh Abdullah bin Abdur Rahman Al-Bua’Yjan spoke at the function.

While speaking, the Imam expressed his satisfaction over establishing 564 model mosques across the country and thanked Hasina.

JS adopts resolution

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rights disaster. This Parliament calls on all the conscientious people, states and institutions of the world to come forward to protect human rights in Palestine and calls upon the Muslim Ummah of the world to come forward effectively to protect the Palestinian people and establish their just, independent and sovereign state,” reads the proposal.

Participating in the discussion on the proposal, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina strongly condemned Israel’s brutal attacks on the Palestinian people and said human rights are being violated constantly there.

“It [such brutality of Israel] must be stopped. We do not want this murder and war to continue,” the premier said.

Supporting an independent state of Palestine, the PM urged the

world to accept the just demands of Palestine.

“We hear a lot about human rights [from different countries]. Palestine people are living in very inhumane condition. A mother took shelter in a hospital with their children thinking it safe. But the Israeli forces carried out an air attack killing them. We have no words to condemn it. How could they attack a place like a hospital?”

“It is our responsibility as a human being to protest against such incidents,” she added.

She said that Bangladesh is always on the side of the Palestinians.

Fifteen MPs from treasury and opposition bench participated in the hour-long discussion.

After the discussion, the proposal was adopted unanimously in the parliament.

Afghanistan

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batters, including Shahidi, then produced half-centuries in a clinical chase which they accomplished in 45.2 overs to move to the fifth place in the points table.

Azmatullah Omarzai (73) scored the winning run with Shahidi (58) looking on from the other end.

Shahidi and his men had stunned holders England and 1992 champions Pakistan earlier in the competition and they proved those were no flukes with yet another impressive display against Sri Lanka.

Put into bat, several Sri Lankan batters got their eyes in but could not quite capitalise on those starts.

After the fall of Dimuth Karunaratne in the sixth over, Kusal Mendis (39) forged half-century partnerships with Pathum Nissanka (46) and Sadeera Samarawickrama (36) to steady the innings.

At 134-2 in the 28th over, Sri Lanka looked well placed to reach the 275-mark but the plucky Afghans struck at regular intervals to peg them back.

Angelo Mathews and Maheesh Theekshana raised 45 quick runs for the eighth wicket but Sri Lanka still fell short of the 250-mark.

Afghanistan lost Rahmanullah Gurbaz in the first over but Rahmat Shah (62) and Ibrahim Zadran (39) calmed the nerves with a 73-run partnership.

Kasun Rajitha dismissed Rahmat but not before the batter had brought up his second successive fifty of the tournament.

Shahidi and Omarzai mixed caution with occasional aggression in their unbroken century stand to take Afghanistan closer to the target.

With victory in sight, both decided to play their shots and Azmatullah scored the winning run when he attempted to hit a six and was dropped at deep midwicket.

Seven foreign

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hartal on Sunday.

Following the hartal, the opposition BNP announced a three-day blockade from October 31 to November 2, calling for the formation of a caretaker government for a free and fair election.

Meanwhile, the ruling Awami League has said the elections will be held under the current government as per the constitution.

2 projects worth Tk 19,353cr may

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four-lane project has been fixed based on a feasibility study conducted under the guidance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica). Of the project cost, Jica will provide Tk 5,709 crore.

Under the project, the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) will build 23.52 km of bypass roads and a flyover on Chattogram-Cox’s Bazar highway to eliminate bottlenecks in five towns.

In the first phase, there will be a 5.4 kilometre Patiya bypass, 3.3km Dohazari bypass, 5.1km Lohagara bypass, 6.8km Chakaria bypass and 3.5km Keranihat flyover.

The bypasses will be four lanes with a 2.5 metre-wide breakdown lane on each side. The flyover will be six lanes.

The government is working on a two-pronged approach to improve the traffic flow on the Chattogram-Cox’s Bazar highway as congestion and crashes are becoming increasingly common due to heavy traffic, according to RHD officials.

The highway needs to be rid of all bottlenecks in the next few years because the number of vehicles will significantly rise once the Matarbari deep sea port in Maheshkhali comes into operation in 2026.

Later, another project will be implemented to improve the remaining stretch of the 130 km Chattogram-Cox’s Bazar highway into four lanes, the officials added.

The Asian Development Bank will provide Tk 7,085 crore out of the total cost of Tk 10,797 crore for the project to convert the Chattogram-Dohazari metre-gauge railway into dual-gauge.

The Dhaka-Cox’s Bazar rail line via Chattogram is likely to be inaugurated on November 12 by Hasina, but the rail connectivity between the capital and the tourist district may not be smooth.

The dilapidated Kalurghat bridge and the poor state of a 52km section of the railway from Chattogram to Dohazari are communication bottlenecks.

To mitigate the situation, Bangladesh Railway is to take up

projects for building a new bridge and improving the Chattogram-Dohazari section for completion by 2028.

As a result, although the Dhaka-Cox’s Bazar rail line via Chattogram will be inaugurated next month, its full benefit will not be achieved until 2028.

As the metre-gauge railway is gradually losing relevance, it is imperative to turn the country’s railway into dual-gauge, said Muinul Islam, a former professor at the University of Chittagong’s economics department.

Expanding the existing two-lane highway to a four-lane is necessary for smooth connectivity between Cox’s Bazar and Chattogram, he added.

Besides the two projects, about 50 new and revised projects are likely to be placed at today’s Ecneec meeting.

Asked about the high volume of proposals, a planning ministry official said since no Ecneec meeting was held in six weeks, lots of proposals have built up.

The last Ecneec meeting was held on September 12.

Chisty, son jailed

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The judge directed authorities concerned to confiscate movable and immovable properties earned by the convicts illegally in favour of the state.

Earlier, the court recorded statements from 15 prosecution witnesses, including the complainant of the case.

The court framed charges against Babul Chisty and three others on October 30, 2019.

On April 10, 2019, ACC Deputy Director Shamsul Alam, also the investigation officer in the case, submitted the charge sheet against the four accused.

The IO dropped the names of former senior vice-president Zia Uddin Ahmed and former manager and SVP of the Gulshan corporate branch of Farmers Bank Delowar Hossain, as they died earlier.

On April 10, 2018, the ACC filed the case against six people, including Babul, with Gulshan Police Station on charges of money laundering amounting to Tk 160 crore.

On November 9, 2021, another Dhaka court sentenced Babul Chisty to three years imprisonment in a money laundering case.