

In talks with others from Bollywood as well

SHAKIB KHAN

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ZAHID AKBAR

After creating a buzz with his last released film, *Priyotoma*, directed by Himel Ashraf, Dhallywood 'king' Shakib Khan has geared up for yet another exciting project, *Dorod*. The project, which is directed by Anonno Mamun, is considered to be the first pan-Indian film from Bangladesh. Shakib returned to Dhaka on Friday after participating in the film's shoot for 20 days, which began on October 27. As soon as he landed, The Daily Star caught up with the star in a candid conversation, where he shared about his experience, new project and more.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

“It was a delightful experience of working in this project,” he shared, “We have completed 20 days of shooting located in India. I have gathered a lot of new experiences while working in a different environment.”

Shakib is sharing the screen with

the Bollywood actress Sonal Chauhan, popularly known for her role in the film *Jannat*. The former Femina Miss India also shared with the media, that she is excited about working in this project because of its intriguing script.

“Sonal and my on-screen chemistry will definitely captivate the audience, and they will get the proof after watching the film in the cinemas,” added Shakib confidently.

According to the film's associates, *Dorod* is slated to hit theatres on February 2024.

The film will be released in six languages, including Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada, in addition to Bengali.

According to Shakib, he has witnessed and observed lot of differences between local and Indian film industries. “Apart from shooting for the film, I have also had meetings with some other people from Bollywood. Within the upcoming days, these matters are supposed to be finalised.”

Notably, after *Dorod*, Shakib will be working in Himel Ashraf's *Rajkumar*.

On the other hand, Anonno Mamun shared that he was amazed to see Shakib's effort and dedication towards the production. “Shakib *bhai* has worked day and night for this film. I haven't seen any fatigue in him. If he doesn't like a shot, he retakes it. I am amazed at his dedication. I hope the film will turn out to be something good. Since it is a pan-Indian film, it will be released simultaneously in Bollywood, Tamil, and Telugu industries.”

The film is co-produced by India's production company SK Movies and Mumbai's One World Movies.

Several scenes from the shooting set of the film *Dorod* have already been revealed, featuring sensational chemistry between Shakib Khan and Sonal Chauhan. *Dorod* is a film that blends elements of psychological-thriller, romance and action. In addition, the film also stars Payel Sarkar, Rajesh Sharma, Deb Choudhury, Lutfur Rahman George, and Rio, among many others.



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL



Miss Nicaragua wins Miss Universe 2023

Sheynnis Palacios of Nicaragua has been crowned Miss Universe 2023. Following fierce competition amongst candidates from 84 countries, Miss Nicaragua emerged victorious as the 72nd Miss Universe.

Joining her in the final round were Miss Thailand and Miss Australia. During the crowning moment, R'Bonney Gabriel, Miss Universe 2022, proudly and joyfully passed the precious crown to her successor.

Moraya Wilson, the second runner-up from Miss Australia, and Anntonia Porsild, the first runner-up from Miss Thailand, each claimed coveted titles in the Miss Universe contest.

Taylor Swift postpones Rio Show after fan's death due to extreme heat



Taylor Swift on Saturday postponed a show in Rio de Janeiro after a fan died due to extreme heat at the singer's concert the previous night.

Saturday's postponement came after the heat index in the city had risen to as high as 59 degrees Celsius (138 Fahrenheit) on Friday when a 23-year-old fan in the crowd of 60,000 died during the first *Eras Tour* show in Brazil.

“I'm writing this from my dressing room in the stadium,” Swift posted on Instagram on Saturday. “The decision has been made to postpone tonight's show due to extreme temperatures in Rio.”

COUNTRYWIDE

Villagers suffer for collapsed bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Thousands of people of several villages in Shailakupa upazila have been suffering since a bridge over GK (Ganga Kapotakkho) Project Canal at Madla village near Khulubarbaria Bazar collapsed couple of months ago.

Before the collapse, people, especially farmers, traders and students of at least 21 villages used to cross the canal through the bridge every day.

According to Jhenidah Water Development Board (WDB), the 60-foot-long and 16-foot-wide bridge was built in 1960.

Locals said the year-old bridge broke down when a sand-laden truck was crossing it about six months ago.

Since then, villagers have been crossing the canal using a risky bamboo-made makeshift platform that they made on self-help basis.

Madla Secondary School, a large market, a government primary school and a public hospital are situated on either side of the canal.

Local farmers and traders are the worst sufferers as they cannot carry their produces and other goods to the nearby

markets in absence of a permanent bridge.

Moreover, due to the broken bridge no motorised vehicles like CNG-run auto-rickshaws, easy-bikes or motorcycles are currently plying on the route, putting regular commuters on sheer trouble.

Abdul Malek, a resident of Azadnagar village, said the important bridge broke down around six months back, but the authorities concerned are yet to take any step to reconstruct the bridge.

As a result, local farmers are incurring losses as they have to pay additional money to carry their products to the nearby market that lies on other side of the bridge, he said.

Pilot Hossain, an honours student from Purbo Madlapur village, said he has to cross the bamboo bridge amid risk to go to his college every day.

Hakimpur Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Iku Shikdar said although he has informed the authorities concern about the matter, they are yet to any necessary measures in this regard. Jhenidah WDB Executive Engineer Abu Rayhan said he has sent a letter to the concerned ministry for fund allotment.



The broken bridge at Madla village in Jhenidah's Shailakupa upazila. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka to work on labour rights at its own pace

FROM PAGE 12
export destination after the EU, an economic union of 27 countries. In 2022, Bangladesh's exports to the US stood at \$11 billion.

Blinken's announcement of the presidential memorandum comes at a time when Bangladesh is rocked by its worst labour unrest in a decade, with tens of thousands of workers clashing with police for a Tk 23,000 minimum monthly wage, up from the Tk 8,300 set by the government five years ago.

The unrest left at

least four workers dead, including three who were shot by police. Nearly 140 workers and around half a dozen union organisers were arrested over the clashes, while at least 10,000 unidentified garment workers were also charged with violence as part of the crackdown, police said.

On November 7, a government-appointed panel raised the sector's wage by 56.25 percent to Tk 12,500, Momen said.

Besides, the workers get facilities like housing, medical and maternal

leave. The provisions for trade unions were also relaxed.

“The US had slavery for 250 years before abolishing it in 1862. Today, the US per capita income is \$65,000 whereas it is only \$2,800 in Bangladesh. If we do a comparison, our workers are much better off,” he said.

Momen went on to urge international brands and retailers to raise the unit price of products, which would enable the factory owners to pay the workers' desired wages.

Asked about the

possibility of dialogue with the BNP on elections, Momen said: “The Awami League is always for dialogue, but the question is with whom. We cannot hold dialogue with terrorists.”

The national election will be held as per the election schedule, and there is enthusiasm everywhere for the elections.

“We want to see a free and fair election. We believe in democracy. There is only one way of changing power in a democratic process and that is by holding an election.”

Asked about the safety of US Ambassador Peter Haas, who raised concerns over remarks by some grassroots AL leaders, Momen said the government believes in freedom of expression.

“We cannot stop anyone from speaking. However, if anyone does anything outrageous, we will take action.”

While the government guarantees the safety and security of all diplomats, Momen advised the foreign diplomats to maintain the Vienna Convention as well.

‘EC to ensure level playing field for all candidates’

FROM PAGE 12
country, and 296 cases were filed, BNP leaders have said.

Asked about stopping such arrests and harassment, Alamgir said, “We will take steps so that no one from parties that are taking part in the election faces any kind of political harassment.”

“During the meeting with the law enforcers, we asked them clearly that there should be no political harassment,” Election Commissioner Anisur Rahman said.

He said no demands for bringing changes to the administration and police have been made to them. “We will look into the matter if there is any demand,” he added.

The EC announced the schedule for polls on January 7 amid political turmoil over the election-time government. Political analysts and observers fear uncertainty and escalation of violence as the Awami League and the BNP have been sticking to their guns.

Ice-cool Aussies show character

FROM PAGE 1
star-studded Indian batting line-up and eventually restricted them to 240.

But the innings that ended so favourably for the Aussies had begun in a starkly different manner.

In fact, nine overs into the innings, it was India who were looking on their way to posting a big total, mainly thanks to their captain Rohit Sharma.

But a moment of magic from Travis Head flipped the momentum of the innings and eventually the outcome of the final as Australia won the contest by six wickets to clinch their sixth World Cup title.

Rohit was batting on 37 off 27 balls as India were well placed on 66-1 when part-time spinner Glenn Maxwell came into bowl the final over of the first Powerplay.

Rohit, presumably trying to maximise the final over of field restrictions, decided to target the off-spinner.

He charged down the track and slammed a huge six and then followed it up with a four.

Had the swashbuckling opener decided that 10 runs from boundaries were enough in that over, the rest of the innings could've panned out very differently. But Rohit sought to hit another boundary, took a few steps forward, and tried to heave the ball over the in-field but mistimed his shot.

Right as the ball left the bat, Head, positioned at cover point, started running back while always keeping his eyes on the ball. He then put in a full stretch dive to grab the ball safely.

This wicket silenced the 132,000 fans in the stands and put a stop to a promising partnership between Virat Kohli and Rohit.

Just four balls later, Shreyas Iyer departed, and slowly but surely Australia took the wind out of India's innings.

Head's brilliant catch wasn't an aberration but the norm in the final as the Australian players were on their toes throughout the innings.

The fielders inside the

30-yard circle didn't let go of easy singles and the ones on the boundaries hardly let the ball hit the boundary cushions.

The Aussie ground fielding was so clinical that India could only hit four boundaries from overs 11-50.

Just as Head's moment of brilliance sparked the change of momentum, his commanding 137 off 120 balls sealed the fate of the final.

Perhaps for the first time in their history, Australia came into a final of the World Cup as the underdogs.

But the Cummins-led team came into the final with quiet confidence, which was apparent from their smiling faces from the moment they stepped on the field for the national anthems before the match.

On the eve of the final, Aussie captain Cummins, with a calm demeanor, said that nothing would be better than silencing a packed Indian crowd in the biggest cricket stadium in the world.

Australia, inspired by Head's impactful contributions and Cummins' ice-cool leadership, did exactly that.

Man arrested

FROM PAGE 12
him back to Jayachandi, some influential people, including Sakib, arranged an arbitration to punish him. His wife, the victim, was also present there.

At one stage of the arbitration, Sakib and a few others took the victim into a room and gang raped her. The rapists also filmed the incident and started blackmailing them into paying Tk 1 lakh for the footage. The victim paid Tk 40,000 to the criminals.

Later on November 12, the victim filed a rape case against three people.

Following the case, police arrested Sakib yesterday morning.

“Police are conducting drives to arrest the other accused,” said Abdus Shalek, officer-in-charge (OC) of Kulaura Police Station.