



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

BADHAN

wants more women-centric narratives

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Renowned for her role in **Rehana Mariam Noor**, Azmeri Haque Badhan is riding high in her career, earning praise for her works. She has received acclaim not just locally but also internationally with her Bollywood debut in **Khufiya** this year.

This December marks another milestone in the seasoned actor's illustrious journey. The shooting for her upcoming film, **Esha Murder**, is poised to commence in the coming days, with Badhan hopeful for a December shoot amidst picturesque outdoor locations.

The actress described **E s h a Murder** as a commercial film that is set for a theatrical release during the upcoming Eid. She also spoke highly of director Sunny Sanwar, praising him as an exceptionally talented individual leading the project under the banners of Cop Creations and Binge.

Breaking away from the traditional narrative where male characters dominate officer roles, Badhan found the prospect of portraying a female police officer uniquely captivating as the director unraveled the story's intricacies.

Expressing her enthusiasm for this new challenge, she shared, "I've never ventured into a police role before. While I've portrayed diverse characters to fit various story demands, this marks my first foray into playing a police character. I'm delighted and have a great understanding with the director."

Prepping for the role, the **Khufiya** star revealed, "I've dedicated one and a half months to specific character training, including martial arts sessions with an expert named Edward."

Emphasising the focus on women in **Esha Murder**, Badhan voiced her desire for more women-centric narratives, advocating for women to helm storytelling as directors and writers, ensuring authentic portrayals of women's stories.

When asked about future projects, Badhan simply expressed her intention to engage in work that brings her joy. Grateful for the recent success in Bollywood with **Khufiya**, she remains occupied with the preparations for **Esha Murder**, underscoring the significance of each project.

Regarding communication with Bollywood artistes, Badhan affirmed a positive and robust relationship. "Yes, I've cultivated beautiful connections with them. I regularly communicate with Tabu *di* and others," she confirmed.



Anirban, Sohini to bring 'Othello' to silver screen

The much-anticipated Bengali adaptation of William Shakespeare's **Othello** in the silver screen titled, **Athhoi**, is going to commence shooting on December 13, confirmed the film's joint production company Jio Studios and SVF Entertainment.

The film, which is scheduled to be released in 2024, is going to feature Sohini Sarkar, as Diya (Desdemona in the play), Arna Mukhopadhyay as the quixotic Moor of Venice, Dr Athhoi Lodha (Othello in the play), and Anirban Bhattacharya will take on the role of Gogo (Iago in the play). Anirban will also serve as the creative director, while Arna will be directing it as his directorial debut.

The makers adapted the Shakespearian tragedy to the backdrop of a Dalit setting while maintaining an original storyline.

Mehazabien set to appear in new project 'Anannya'

In a refreshing comeback to the YouTube arena, renowned actress Mehazabien Chowdhury is all set to grace the audience with a new drama.

The much-anticipated drama titled **Anannya**, directed by Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Raz is scheduled for release on December 16 on the CinemaWala YouTube channel.

The director described the plot to be as a narrative centered on women. Alongside Mehazabien Chowdhury, **Anannya** is set to feature Shashwta Datta and Dolly Johur in pivotal roles.

Pallabi Ray provided vocals for a song in the drama, featuring lyrics by Mahmoud Manzoor and music direction by Naved Parvez.



NEWS

'Even more hellish scenario' looms

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of them women or under 18s, have been killed.

Qatar's ruler hit out at "shameful" international inaction over the war in Gaza as he opened a Gulf Cooperation Council meeting in Doha yesterday.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Monday, citing US officials, that Israel had assembled a system of pumps that could be used to flood Hamas tunnels.

It was not clear whether Israel would consider using the pumps before all hostages were released, according to the story.

In the West Bank, Israeli forces killed one Palestinian man and critically wounded another person in different areas yesterday, the Ramallah-based health ministry said.

Nat'l Prof Dr Abdul Malik no more

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Cardiovascular Diseases, and his second namaz-e-janaza was held after Asr prayers in Shyamoli.

His third namaz-e-janaza was held after Maghrib prayers at the National Heart Foundation Hospital in Mirpur-2.

He will be buried at his family graveyard in Sylhet.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina conveyed her deep sorrow at the passing of Dr Malik.

In a condolence message, the premier said Dr Malik was the pioneer of cardiovascular disease treatment in Bangladesh. "He was a successful doctor, a renowned teacher, and a social worker as well."

She said Dr Malik has been awarded and appreciated in various ways for his philanthropic activities. "His contribution to the field of cardiovascular disease treatment in Bangladesh will be remembered forever," Sheikh Hasina added.

The prime minister prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

SC rebukes judge

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A five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan said this while hearing an appeal filed by Soheli challenging the HC judgement.

The other four judges of the bench are: Justice M Enayetur Rahim, Justice Md Ashfaul Islam, Justice Md Abu Zafar Siddique and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim.

The SC also adjourned the hearing of the appeal and fixed today for resuming its proceedings.

Earlier in the day, Rana submitted an application through his lawyers Prabir Neogi, Shah Monjurul Hoque and Muhammad Rafiul Islam. In the application, he offered an unconditional, unserved and unqualified apology to the apex court for his "inadvertent" acts.

The lawyers prayed to the court to accept the apology, pardon Rana, exonerate him from the contempt of court proceedings and scrap the HC verdict on him so that he could get a chance to become a good judicial officer.

Rana was present before the Appellate Division during the hearing.

On October 12, the HC sentenced Rana to a month's jail and fined him Tk 5,000 for ignoring its stay order on the trial of a criminal case and using unaccepted words in his explanation.

The criminal case was filed by the government with Cumilla Model Police Station on March 27, 2017 against one Mamun Chowdhury and his wife Ria Aktar under the

Bangladesh Telecommunication Act 2001 after allegedly recovering some Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) equipment from them.

Chowdhury and Aktar filed a petition with the HC challenging the proceedings of the case.

Following the petition, the HC on November 4, 2018 stayed the trial proceedings of the case and issued a rule asking the state to explain why the trial proceedings should not be scrapped.

Despite the HC's stay order, Rana, then the chief judicial magistrate of Cumilla, on April 10 framed charges against Chowdhury and Aktar in the case and declared Aktar a fugitive as she was not present in his court on that day.

On October 12, the HC also ordered Rana to surrender before the chief judicial magistrate court in Dhaka in seven days.

Later that day, the HC granted him bail for 30 days.

On the same day, the SC chamber judge stayed the HC verdict on Rana until November 21.

On November 21, the Appellate Division extended until yesterday its chamber judge's order.

At a stage of the hearing yesterday, the SC asked senior lawyers to defend the court saying that the SC is criticised arbitrarily in the media even though it passes orders in accordance with the law. If the court is not treated with respect, it is unfortunate, the Appellate Division said.

'Misrule' pushing

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Quader yesterday told a press briefing that a consensus would be reached between the 14-party members about participating in the polls. "The decision regarding seat-sharing will be announced by today or tomorrow after considering the partners' demand and the reality."

Rizvi added that law enforcers arrested over 19,500 of his party members across the country in 534 cases from October 28 till 3:00pm yesterday.

"At least 285 party workers were detained and 15 cases were filed against 1,395 named and many unnamed in the last 24 hours."

Meanwhile, the Fire Service and Civil Defence reported the torching

of one bus in the last two days till 6:00pm yesterday.

Police said arsonists torched a parked bus in Dinaipur Central Bus terminal around 2:30am. No casualties were reported.

In another development, Rab said it detained 834 people from across the country for vandalism and arson since October 28.

In Chattogram, members of Detective Branch of Chattogram police yesterday arrested three Chhatra Dal members for allegedly torching a bus in the port city's Dampara area on December 3.

(Our Dinaipur, Chattogram also correspondent also contributed to the report.)

Tigers eye historic series win

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Nayeem Hasan, and Mahmudul Hasan Joy.

Bangladesh, meanwhile, received an injury scare ahead of the Mirpur Test. Nayeem Hasan's availability for the game was thrown into doubt after the off-spinner suffered an injury in his right index finger during training yesterday. However, later the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) medical team confirmed to The Daily Star that the 23-year-old's injury is nothing serious and the spinner

will be available for selection for the second Test.

Tim Southee and his troops, on the other hand, will be looking to bounce back with the Kiwis desperate to bounce back and keep intact their record of never losing a Test series in Bangladesh. The Kiwis will also be looking to register their first win in the World Test Championship third cycle, having started it off with a comprehensive defeat in Sylhet.

Spin has once again been in the focus, especially considering the

unpredictability surrounding the Mirpur pitch. Keeping that in mind, the visitors may add an extra spinner as the likes of Mitchell Santner and Rachin Ravindra could feature alongside Ajaz Patel and Ish Sodhi.

Kane Williamson, who scored a magnificent hundred in Sylhet, will once again lead the way for the Kiwis in the batting department while Bangladesh will hope for Taijul and Miraz to be in their element to thwart any counterattacks from a strong New Zealand line-up.

COP28 fossil fuel battle hardens

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options are on the table and we don't see a balancing point".

"On one hand it's normal at this stage but it seems particularly difficult because we're talking about the elephant in the room, which is fossil fuels," Tubiana told AFP.

Nearly 2,500 fossil fuel lobbyists -- a record -- have been accredited for UN climate talks in Dubai, campaign

groups said.

The NGO umbrella group Kick Big Polluters Out said 2,456 people tied to fossil fuel interests were identified, roughly four times the number at COP27 last year.

If taken as a group they outnumber "every country delegation" apart from Brazil and the UAE, the coalition added.

Campaigners have worried about

the influence of the fossil fuel lobby since Sultan Al Jaber, the head of the UAE's national oil company ADNOC, was named president of COP28.

The annual Global Carbon Project estimated yesterday there is a 50 percent chance warming will exceed the 2015 Paris deal's goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius over multiple years by around 2030.



Climate activists protest against fossil fuel emitters, demanding action and more contributions to the Loss and Damage Fund, during the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS