

Shamol Mawla soldiers on with a plethora of roles

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

From portraying a mute character in *Silence* to embodying a repentant figure in *Virus*, Shamol Mawla has left a lasting impression with his diverse roles and versatility throughout the last year. Wrapping up the year, he graced the Deepto Play web-series *Hridmajhare*, taking on the role of a doctor. The on-screen chemistry between Shamol and co-stars Aisha Khan and Nazia Haque Orsha has been much loved by the audience.

In a candid interview with The Daily Star, the actor talked about his favourite projects and dubbing for Korean dramas, amongst other works.

How was 'Hridmajhare' different from your other works?

Hridmajhare is a beautiful story which reflects on the journey of a caring doctor. His life takes a turn when an unexpected incident changes his life for the worse. I am really happy that the audience could resonate with Dr Imran's emotions. Each of my stories carries its own unique essence, but what sets *Hridmajhare* apart is its distinctive feature—a 26-episode series integrated with intricate medical terms. The operation sequences presented a real challenge, demanding meticulous attention as we navigated through a myriad of scalpels and instruments to authentically depict these crucial scenes.

Tell us about your character in 'Dead Body'. What was the toughest part of filming in Bandarban?

It was really tough to shoot for the film as we had a tonne of action sequences on the slippery side of Shoilo Propat in Bandarban. Over the course of four days, we encountered precarious conditions at the site. Despite my initial concerns, I managed to navigate the treacherous landscape without a single fall.

As for my character, I prefer not to divulge too much in order to avoid spoilers.

He hails from a *Pir* (Muslim saint) family, possessing a well-educated background and a subtle touch of romanticism that adds depth to his persona.

Last year, you worked on many OTT projects. Which one did you find most challenging?

The most challenging experiences were during the filming of *The Silence* and *Virus*. In *The Silence*, the silent scenes may seem straightforward to the audience, but in reality, they were quite challenging.

The execution of staying quiet turned out to be remarkably tough. Conveying a message solely through actions and expressions demanded considerable skill.

In *Virus*, the makeup process added to the difficulty, especially with the overwhelming heat. Shooting with a shawl wrapped around the head was also physically taxing.

How was your dubbing experience for the Korean drama 'Hotel del Luna'?

Earlier, I lent my voice as a puppeteer in *Sisimpur*, but the experience of stepping into the role of a voice artiste for the first time, particularly for the popular Korean drama *Hotel Del Luna*, was truly intriguing. Exploring a different form of art enhanced my fascination for the process. Matching their lip syncing and capturing the intricacies of their emotions posed difficulties.



PHOTOS: SHEKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Mousumi Hamid to tie the knot today

On Wednesday, Actress Mousumi Hamid marked her holud ceremony in a gorgeous yellow saree and floral accessories, prior to her marriage to Abu Sayeed Rana.

Mousumi shared with The Daily Star, "Two years ago, during my involvement in a project directed by Golam Sohrab Dodul, I had the pleasure of meeting Rana. Our connection deepened as we collaborated on *Guti*, and love blossomed over time. I am thrilled to announce that our marriage is set to take place today with the blessing and consent of both our families."

Rana penned the screenplay for *Rupkotha Noi* and *Guti*, both featuring Mousumi Hamid. Beyond writing, Rana is actively involved behind the camera.



Mumbai Film Festival to screen 3 Bangladeshi films

The 20th instalment of the Third Eye Asian Film Festival is set to commence in Mumbai on January 12. This year three Bangladeshi films, namely *Saatao* by Khandaker Sumon, *Patalghor* by Noor Imran Mithu, and *Nona Pani* by Syeda Neegar Banu, have been chosen for inclusion in this festival – which will conclude by January 18.

Saatao depicts the narrative of joys and sorrows within a close-knit community. On the other hand, *Patalghor* explores the psychological tension between a mother and daughter. *Nona Pani* unfolds its story around characters from a village in the southern region of Khulna.

NEWS

NIPAH VIRUS Oxford starts human testing of vaccine

REUTERS

The University of Oxford said yesterday it had begun human testing of an experimental vaccine against the brain-swelling Nipah virus that led to outbreaks in India's Kerala state and other parts of Asia.

There is no vaccine yet for the deadly virus. Nipah was first identified about 25 years ago in Malaysia and has led to outbreaks in Bangladesh, India and Singapore.

Repression, abuses

FROM PAGE 12
human rights practices in more than 100 countries.

The Awami League-led government of Prime Minister Hasina arrested over 8,000 leaders and supporters of the opposition BNP ahead of the elections, in an overt attempt to incapacitate the competition and disqualify opposition leaders from participating, the HRW said, adding that many were allegedly "disappeared" when police arrested and kept them in unlawful detention for days or weeks before eventually producing them in court.

Citing Bangladeshi human rights monitors, the HRW said more than 600 enforced disappearances have occurred since 2009, and nearly 100 people remain missing.

Human rights monitors have also noted a disturbing rise in allegations of torture in custody, it said, adding that enforced disappearances reduced significantly after the US government placed the Rapid Action Battalion under sanctions.

The statement also criticised the government for sentencing Adilur Rahman Khan and ASM Nasiruddin Elan of the Dhaka-based rights group Odhikar.

It said that journalists faced increasing attacks for exercising their right to free expression and dozens were injured in pre-election protests raising concerns that the Cyber Security Act 2023, introduced in September 2023 to replace the 2018 Digital Security Act, maintains the same abusive elements.

Will anyone be held responsible for such a death?

FROM PAGE 12

fell on her, killing her on the spot.

Though nearby locals rushed her to Dr Sirajul Islam Medical College Hospital with a severe head injury, she was declared dead upon arrival.

Dipu's husband Tarun Kumar Biswas filed a murder case against unidentified persons with Ramna Police Station that night. He, however, said, he had no knowledge of anyone having any enmity with his wife.

"Dipu was posted at Bangladesh Bank's Sadarghat office. She would get off the bus in Shantinagar and walk for a kilometer to our house in Moghbazar. She would do so for exercise purposes."

Tarun, a software engineer, and Dipu would both leave for work and leave home their only son with Dipu's mother, who lived with them.

According to police, the CCTV footage showed a concrete block,

used to construct footpaths, falling but it did not know where it fell from.

"There are three buildings near that spot [where the accident occurred], and none of them were under construction. The Moghbazar flyover is just above the footpath [on which Dipu died]," Mofazzal Hossain, sub-inspector of Ramna Police Station, said.

Several police teams have been trying to determine where the block fell from, while CCTV footages from near the area are being collected to see if anyone was carrying a concrete block.

The SI added, "I strongly suspect it fell from the flyover. As its wall is high, it would be hard for anyone to throw a concrete block at a target."

Dipu Sana's body was taken back to her ancestral home in Khulna's Paikgachha yesterday for her funeral.

No licence, yet hospital running for about a year

FROM PAGE 12

Mohakhali around noon yesterday demanding those responsible for his death be brought to book.

Ayan's father Shamim Ahmed filed a case with Badda Police Station on January 9 accusing two doctors, unnamed employees, staffers and a director of the United Hospital and United Medical College Hospital.

The accused physicians are Saeed Sabbir Ahmed, an anesthesiologist, and Tasnuva Mahzabeen, a surgeon, of the medical college hospital.

On the same day, the DGHS formed a four-member committee to investigate the incident.

Shamim yesterday said his son was taken to the medical college hospital on December 31 for circumcision. As Ayan did not regain consciousness from anesthetic, he was moved to United Hospital and put on life support.

"The United Hospital handed a Tk 5.77 lakh bill to us. Doctors neglected to give treatment to Ayan. I want

exemplary punishment for those responsible for his death," Shamim told this correspondent.

Ariful Haque, manager of public relations at United Hospital, said they formed an inquiry committee on December 31 to probe Ayan's treatment.

The committee would submit its report within 10 working days and action will be taken if anyone is found responsible for negligence in duties, he told The Daily Star.

About the registration of the medical college hospital, Ariful said they applied for registration under the name of United Health Care Services, but the DGHS officials found it faulty.

He said the medical college started operations in 2020 and the college hospital launched services about a year ago.

The official, however, could not give the number of how many patients receive treatment at the college hospital every day.

Israel faces genocide charges

FROM PAGE 12
level of state."

South Africa asked the court for a preliminary order to demand Israel stop fighting now, while the court hears the full merits of the case in coming months.

Israel has dismissed the case as "atrocious" and "preposterous" and vowed to set out a robust defence today.

The case reveals stark international polarisation. Several Western

countries joined Washington in calling genocide accusations against Israel unjustified. Some developing states, including heavyweight Brazil, backed South Africa.

Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told Reuters: "We urge the court to reject all pressure and take a decision to criminalise the Israeli occupation and stop the aggression on Gaza."

The relative quiet in the north has let residents begin trickling

back into obliterated cities, finding a moonscape often with scant trace of where homes once stood.

Yousef Fares, a freelance journalist, filmed himself walking through a wasteland surrounded by scorched ruins that was once a part of Gaza City, home to nearly a million people. A few civilians passed by, some wobbling on bicycles over a track across the mud. "All the houses you see are destroyed, completely or partially," he said.

Khaleda returns home after 155 days

FROM PAGE 12

she had been in the hospital for a long time. Considering all these factors, she was allowed to go home."

"We've requested permission to send Khaleda Zia abroad for medical treatment five times, but we have not been granted it. Although she's currently feeling better, she requires medical

treatment abroad. So I'm pleading with everyone to come forward so that Khaleda Zia can get medical care abroad," Zahid told The Daily Star.

Hearing the news, party leaders and activists gathered at the BNP chief's Gulshan office.

The 78-year-old has been suffering from various ailments, including

liver cirrhosis, arthritis, diabetes, and diseases of the kidneys, lungs, heart, and eyes.

On February 8, 2018, Khaleda was sent to the Old Dhaka Jail after a lower court sentenced her to five years imprisonment in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case.

Later, she was found guilty in another graft case the same year.

Turnout swung between the two extremes

FROM PAGE 1

declared cancelled during counting, according to the EC data seen by The Daily Star.

AL pick Md Abul Kalam Azad won this seat with an overwhelming majority (201,171 votes). His closest contender, a Jatiyo Party candidate, bagged only 4,000 votes.

The average turnout in these two seats were shown 36.21 percent and 54.13 percent respectively.

Votes are declared cancelled mainly when the stamping is not clearly marked on a single symbol.

Some other centres reported extremely high turnout.

Tetaigaon Rashid Uddin High School of Kamalganj upazila at Moulvibazar-4 recorded a 98.12 percent turnout. Of the centre's 4,206 registered voters, 4,127 were shown to have voted.

Similarly, Mazaharul Ulum Gausia Fazil Degree Madrasa (north building) women's voting centre posted a 98 percent turnout. This polling centre in Fatikchhari under Chattogram-2 constituency had 4,094 registered voters, and 4,015 of them were shown

to have exercised their voting rights.

Here, too, a significant number of votes – 1,578 – were cancelled.

Six centres recorded about 95 percent turnout. They are Mirganj Government Primary School of Mirganj union in Sherpur-2, Chalitadanga Begum Bashirunnessa Bahumukhi High School of Chalitadanga union in Sirajganj-1, Moshakhali Dadosh Palli Secondary School of Moshakhali union in Magura-2, Tarapasha High School and College in Moulvibazar-3 and Kodalia Government Primary School in Mymensingh-2, according to EC data.

Five centres in Gopalganj-2, Lalmonirhat-2, Sirajganj-2, Bagerhat-1 and Gopalganj-3 posted about 94 percent turnout each.

One hundred centres recorded over 90 percent voter turnouts. Twenty-eight of these centres are in Gopalganj-3, from where Sheikh Hasina ran and won. Another 17 centres are in Gopalganj-2 from where Sheikh Selim contested and won, 10 in Sherpur-1 and seven in Sirajganj-1.

In two hilly districts of Rangamati and Khagrachhari, not a single vote was cast in 27 centres, where 52,241 voters were registered.

As many as 512 centres posted less than 10 percent turnout. These centres had 41,908 voters.

Most of these centres are in Kurigram-2, Cox's Bazar-1, Gazipur-1, Gazipur-2, Chattogram-10, Chattogram-5, Chattogram-3, Chattogram-11, Chapainawabganj-3, Dhaka-10, Dhaka-11, Dhaka-15, Dhaka-16, Dhaka-17, Dhaka-18, Dhaka-19, Dhaka-2, Dhaka-8, Narayanganj-4, Bogura-6, Bogura-7, Moulvibazar-3, Sylhet-1 and Sylhet-5.

Md Ashraf Hossain, a systems manager at the EC, said the 100 percent turnout in two centres was likely the result of human error on the part of the presiding officers.

Each centre gets as many ballots as the number of voters, he said, adding, "The presiding officers in these two cases took the slips of the ballots that were not cast and then declared them as cancelled by mistake. Afterwards, they declared the total ballots as the total vote cast."