

I'm currently prioritising family time

TAUQUIR AHMED

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Known for his remarkable performances on the small screen, Tauquir Ahmed rose to prominence after the resounding success of the drama *Rupnagar* in the '90s. Yesterday (March 5) marked the 58th birthday of this celebrated artiste who has also made his mark as a brilliant filmmaker.

In a conversation with The Daily Star from the US, Tauquir shared his plans for the day, his vision towards life, career, and more.

"With each passing day, my passion for engaging in quality projects and dedicating myself further to the arts deepens," he expressed.

Reflecting on his birthday plans, the National Film Award-winning artiste mentioned, "I'll be spending the day with my family." Despite being abroad, he expressed gratitude for the numerous well-wishes he received, stating, "Even though I am outside the country, many people remembered me today and conveyed their good wishes. I'm truly touched by the outpouring of affection."

Director Tauquir's television dramas *Jochhonakal* and *Tomar Boshonto Diney* were two of his most acclaimed works on the small screen. He marked his transition to the silver screen with the directorial debut *Joyjatra* in 2004. Subsequently, his directorial films *Daruchini Dip* (2007) and *Ogyatonama* (2016) earned praise, of which the latter engaged audiences both locally and internationally. Notable films in his repertoire include *Rupkothar Golpo* (2006) and *Fagun Haway*, (2019) amongst others.

When questioned about his return, Tauquir revealed, "Last August, I directed the stage play 'Tirthojatri' and also acted in a web-series. I plan to return soon."

The *Halda* famed director shared plans for another feature film, while currently prioritising family time. "I am spending quality time with my family, alongside indulging in extensive reading and scriptwriting," he concluded.



PHOTOS: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL



Farin sings with Tahsan, acts with Yash Rohan

Tasnia Farin consistently made headlines with her work. Recently, the actress has recorded a duet song *Ronge Rongin Hobo* alongside Tahsan for *Ityadi* and also paired up with Yash Rohan for a telefilm directed by Potthik Shadhan – *Ei Din Sei Din*.

Farin, who had been a Nazrul Sangeet student until her higher secondary years, expressed excitement about collaborating with Tahsan, especially for *Ityadi*.

On the other hand, her project with Yash Rohan centres on how two characters change their present with the help of past experiences.

Ei Din Sei Din was released on SBE Youtube channel yesterday.

Jay Shetty faces scrutiny over alleged fabrications

Life coach, influencer, and podcaster Jay Shetty faces scrutiny for allegedly fabricating aspects of his background and plagiarising content. Known for his popularity amongst Hollywood and Bollywood celebrities, Shetty shares life philosophies on social media platforms.

The allegations against Shetty stem from claims that he misrepresented his past, including false assertions about spending three years in a temple in India. Despite his official website's assertion of immersing himself in monk teachings, an investigative report by The Guardian disputes this narrative.

The report challenges Shetty's life story accuracy, alleging manipulation to boost fame, including misrepresenting educational credentials and exploiting spiritual identity for wealth gain.



NEWS

11 yrs on, probe yet to be completed

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Police Station. Later, on March 18 that year, he submitted a supplementary complaint to the superintendent of police against seven people, including Shamim Osman, and 8-10 unnamed others.

The home ministry on June 20, 2013, handed the case to Rab upon a High Court order following an appeal by Rabbi.

According to the Rab report, Azmery killed Taqi as his father Rabbi, along with his supporters, actively campaigned for Selina Hayet Ivy ahead of the Narayanganj City Corporation election.

On August 7, 2013, Rab officers raided Azmery's "Winner Fashion" office in Narayanganj and seized a pair of blood-stained jeans, a pistol butt and equipment used for yaba consumption. Officials also found numerous bullet marks on the walls, an almirah and a sofa.

The leaked report also mentioned the role of each of the 11 accused in the murder.

The other accused are Yusuf Hossain Liton, Sultan Shawkat alias Bhromor, Tayebuddin Jaky, Rajib, Kalam Shikder, Mamun, Apu, Kajol, Shipon, and Jamshed Hossain.

Rab had arrested Liton, Bhromor, Jaky and two other suspects – Rifat Bin Osman and Salah Rahman Simanta. All of them are now out of jail on bail.

Liton and Bhromor made confessional statements before courts under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in July and November 2013, narrating details from the murder planning to the execution.

Bhromor, however, appealed to the magistrate concerned later, seeking withdrawal of his statement.

Now all the accused including

Bhromor and Liton are absconding after securing the bail from the court.

Asked about the progress of the investigation, Lt Col Tanvir Mahmud Pasha, commanding officer of Rab-II, said the case is "still under investigation" and it will take more time to complete the investigation.

He, however, said Rab headquarters is pressing to submit the probe report after completing the investigation quickly.

"We in coordination with the Rab headquarters' investigation wing are now investigating the case," Tanvir told The Daily Star.

Replying to a query, he denied facing any influence by anyone.

However, Rabbi is still hopeful of getting justice. "Hopefully the trial will take place someday; if not the tenure of current government, then maybe later, and the killers will be punished," he said.

WHAT SHAMIM OSMAN SAYS
Shamim Osman yesterday told The Daily Star that neither he nor any member of his family was involved in the Taqi murder. Yet, their names were linked to the killing to damage his family politically, he added.

"Being a father, I want a judicial inquiry into the murder. I want the investigation to be conducted in the way Taqi's family feels satisfied with it. If the government forms such an inquiry committee and it is suspected that I will influence the investigation process, my position as an MP can be suspended during the investigation," he said.

"Taqi's murder case has been politicised just like the seven-murder case," he claimed.

Referring to the seven murders in Narayanganj in April 2014, Shamim said, "How authentic the investigation was, which was carried out by Maj (sacked) Arif and other Rab members

who killed seven innocent people?"

They talk about the findings of a draft charge sheet, but in law, there is no place for a draft charge sheet. Besides, the draft charge sheet does not prove our involvement in this incident, he added.

Referring to the supplementary complaint submitted to the SP by Rabbi, the lawmaker said at the time of the incident he was in Dubai and his son was in Delhi.

"Then they accused my nephew (Azmery). It was claimed the blood-stained pants recovered from my nephew's office belonged to Taqi, but when the body was recovered Taqi had his pants and shirt on," he said.

After the pant was recovered, the family of Ashiqul Islam Ashiq, who was murdered on May 11, 2011, claimed the pant was of Ashiq and alleged that Azmery was involved in the murder.

Asked, Shamim said, "How can it be claimed that the pants were Ashiq's without a DNA test?"

"I believe Taqi's father has been misguided politically," Shamim also said.

Azmery could not be reached despite repeated attempts through phone calls and text messages.

Rabbi did not want to make any comment over Shamim Osman's remarks, saying, "In the last 11 years, he (Shamim) has made different statements. I do not want to make any comment."

Prosecution lawyer Pradip Ghosh said the law allows a victim's family to file a supplementary complaint mentioning suspects' names and Rab's investigation has already found their links.

"Now the accused are trying to divert the case by making various statements, as the charge sheet was not pressed all these years," he added.

Meta suffers

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October 2021 which was attributed to technical issues, not a security hack as originally leared.

At the height of the incident yesterday, Facebook's status page, intended for advertisers, said the site was suffering "major disruptions" and that "engineering teams are actively looking to resolve the issue as quickly as possible."

Users trying to access Facebook were asked to log in but were unable to sign in using the correct password.

Yahya blames Mujib

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March 25, 1971.

Earlier in the day, a meeting of the members of the Awami League Working Committee had been convened at Bangabandhu's residence to determine the party's stance at the Racecourse meeting on March 7. Following the conclusion of the radio broadcast, Bangabandhu adjourned the meeting until late that evening, when the Awami League would decide their response to Yahya's speech. Attending the evening meeting were Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Tajuddin Ahmad, Syed Nazrul Islam, Khandaker

Mushtaque Ahmed, Capt. Mansur Ali, AHM Kamruzzaman, and Dr Kamal Hossain.

TIKKA KHAN APPOINTED GOVERNOR

The appointment of Tikka Khan as the governor of East Pakistan was officially announced on March 6, 1971. Rehman Sobhan, in the March 6, 1971 issue of Forum, remarked, "Bangla Desh's demands were now confronted with the language of weapons as one of the reputedly most hawkish elements in the power elite was pulled in as governor to replace Admiral Ahsan, who had refused to bear the responsibility for the

consequences of the postponement any longer."

PEACEFUL STRIKE CONTINUES

On the fifth day of the non-cooperation movement, a peaceful strike continued in Dhaka. Processions were organised in Dhaka and Narayanganj.

Around 11:00am, 321 prisoners broke out of the central jail in Dhaka in an escape attempt. Seven of them were shot dead, and 30 were injured.

A group of senior civil servants, led by Sanaul Haque, called on Bangabandhu and formally declared their allegiance to comply with the directives of the Awami League.

Waterbodies in capital

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ruling Awami League MP Morshed Alam from Noakhali-2.

In his question, Morshed wanted to know whether the government would take any measures to increase the number of water reservoirs, which are shrinking.

Tazul responded by saying that, under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's directive, efforts are being

made to revive Dhaka's waterbodies. The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), the two city corporations, and the Dhaka deputy commissioner are actively working to carry out these initiatives.

The minister added that efforts are underway to renovate canals and free them from grabbers to expand the availability of water sources.

While replying to another query

of AL MP Nizam Uddin Hazari from Feni-2, Tazul said no sustainable or coordinated programme was taken by the two city corporations to resolve the waterlogging in the capital.

In response to a question from independent MP Saiful Islam of Dhaka-19, the minister said that Dhaka Wasa currently has 40 water supply vehicles and that there are plans to buy an additional seven.

Teacher sent to jail after court confession

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of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), said Julhas Uddin, officer-in-charge of Detective Branch (DB) of police in Siraganj.

Later, the court sent the teacher to jail, the DB OC told this paper.

Earlier, the police produced Rayhan Sharif before the court in a case filed by Md Abdulla Al Amin, the

victim's father.

On Monday afternoon, Rayhan opened fire during a viva exam, leaving Arafat Amin Tamal, a third-year student, injured.

Tamal is now receiving treatment at the college hospital with a bullet wound in his right thigh, police said.

After the incident, police seized two foreign-made pistols, 81 rounds

of bullets, and 12 sharp weapons from the teacher's possession.

Later, two cases were filed with Siraganj Sadar police station against the teacher on behalf of the victim's family and police.

Meanwhile, agitated students of the medical college brought out a protest procession on the college campus, demanding punishment for the teacher.

Win or bust

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If the Najmul Hossain Shanto-led team lose today, Sri Lanka will take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series and extend their undefeated streak in bilateral T20I series against the Tigers to five.

In the previous four meetings between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in a T20I series, the Tigers have tasted defeat thrice and drew once in 2017 in an away series.

On Monday, Bangladesh paid the

price for leaving 64 runs in the final four overs, with Mustafizur Rahman going for 24 runs in the 20th, finishing with 42-0 in his four overs.

The other Bangladesh frontline pacers – Shoriful Islam and Taskin Ahmed – also went for a lot of runs, giving away 47 and 40 runs respectively in their quota of overs. Bangladesh have the option of swapping one of the pacers with Tanzim Hasan Sakib, who made his T20I debut against New Zealand in last year's December.

Currently, there are 108 factories, 43 shipyards, 23 small factories, 22 industrial establishments, 19 warehouses and 17 brick kilns on the banks.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, said, "The river restoration efforts of government agencies are expensive and ineffective."

Urging the government to take action against encroachers, she said, "If the rivers are handed over to

Encroachers cut Buriganga's length by 16km

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The government has eight projects worth TK 3,294 crore for restoration of the Buriganga, but no result is visible yet.

By comparing satellite images of the Buriganga from between 1990 and 2020, the study found a 37.67 percent increase in settlements on the river. The area occupied by residential and commercial buildings grew from 176.46 square kilometres in 1990 to 201.67 square kilometres in 2020.

land grabbers and encroachers, then we have to say that the development philosophy of the state needs to be changed."

Drik Managing Director Shahidul Alam said, "The responsibility of protecting the rivers is not that of one person alone; we all have something to do."

The study recommended identifying the Buriganga's length, width, and depth, evicting river grabbers, ensuring water flow, and stopping sources of pollution.