

Will Badhan bring magic to 'murder'?

"I underwent training in combat techniques and spent approximately two months closely observing the work and behaviour of several police officers."

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

In the wake of her revered performance in *Rehana Maryam Noor* (2021), Azmeri Haque Badhan is set to grace the silver screen once again in Sunny Sanwar's *Esha Murder*. The thrilling teaser for her upcoming film has already captured the interest of audiences.

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

Additionally, venturing beyond borders, Badhan gained acclaim for her Bollywood debut in Vishal Bhardwaj's *Khufiya* and is poised to feature in two more Indian films.

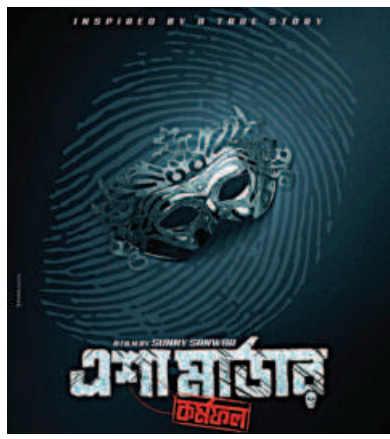
an extra layer of excitement. *Rehana Maryam Noor* received praise both nationally and internationally. I am optimistic for the success of *Esha Murder* as well.

How challenging was it for you to portray a police officer?

It was undeniably challenging. I underwent training in combat techniques and spent approximately two months closely observing the work and behaviour of several police officers. Typically, such roles are portrayed by male actors, but this role will showcase a real-life female police officer.

How supportive was the team and those involved in the project?

I must express my gratitude to the film's director, Sunny Sanwar *bhai*, who has been incredibly supportive. I am thankful to him for selecting me for this role.



In a recent interview with The Daily Star, the National Film Award-winning actress shared insights into her character in *Esha Murder*, as well as her forthcoming projects in India and more.

When will 'Esha Murder' hit the screens?

The teaser has just been revealed and the response is phenomenal. The film is scheduled to hit theatres during the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha festivities.

Releasing films during festivals adds

Additionally, female officers provided invaluable support, greatly boosting my confidence in portraying the character.

Can you tell us about your upcoming projects in India?

I have signed on for two projects there, one in Hindi and the other in Bengali. I always find it thrilling to embark on new projects and collaborate with new directors, whether in my home country or abroad. Hopefully, we will wrap up both projects within the year.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MOKSHED

Tollywood actor Partha Sarathi Deb no more



Actor Partha Sarathi Deb, aged 68, passed away after 42 days of staying under ventilation. Despite medical efforts, he succumbed to his illness. Actor Rupanjana Mitra shared the news of his demise via a Facebook post on Friday (March 22) night.

Partha Sarathi Deb was hospitalised on February 9 due to a lung infection, after battling various physical ailments for a long time.

With a 40-year career in West Bengal's entertainment industry, he portrayed significant roles in numerous serials and over 200 films. Additionally, he made a notable mark on the theatre scene.



Zainul Abedin's painting sold for record \$381,000

In New York, the renowned art auction company Sotheby's organised an auction titled *Modern and Contemporary South Asian Art* last week and notably auctioned two paintings by Zainul Abedin.

The painting titled *Santal Couples* fetched a staggering amount, showcasing the profound value of Abedin's artistic contributions. Another of his paintings depicting a seated woman was also sold during the same auction.

According to information provided on Sotheby's website, *Santal Couples* was sold for USD 381,000. The second painting portrays a weary woman sporting red bangles and draped in a sky-blue saree was sold for USD 279,400.

Both the paintings were previously owned by the Marker family, known to be close friends of Abedin.

NEWS

Blocked aid for Gaza a moral outrage

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closed. It opened its Kerem Shalom crossing close to Rafah in late December and denies accusations by Egypt and UN aid agencies that it has delayed deliveries of humanitarian relief, saying the UN has failed to distribute aid within Gaza.

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz criticised Guterres in a social media post for blaming Israel "without condemning in any way the Hamas-ISIS terrorists who plunder humanitarian aid".

This week, a global food monitor warned that famine was imminent in northern Gaza and could spread to other parts of the territory if a ceasefire was not agreed.

"It's time for an ironclad commitment by Israel for total,

unfettered access for humanitarian goods throughout Gaza," said Guterres, Reuters reports.

More than 32,000 people have been killed by Israel's military campaign in Gaza, many of them women and children, according to local health authorities.

Guterres, who made one previous trip to Egypt's border with Gaza shortly after the war broke out, is visiting Egypt and Jordan as part of an annual "solidarity trip" to Muslim countries during Ramadan.

Gaza health ministry said, "At least nine martyrs and dozens injured by Israeli occupation army tank fire and shells.

They were waiting for aid trucks at the Kuwait roundabout" on the outskirts of Gaza City, a health

ministry statement said, reports AFP. Israel's military said it was looking into the report.

Just over a week ago Gaza's health ministry blamed Israeli fire for the death of 20 people seeking aid at the Kuwait roundabout, but the army later said "armed Palestinians" and not soldiers had opened fire on the crowd.

Half of Gazans are experiencing "catastrophic" hunger, with famine projected to hit the north of the territory by May unless there is urgent intervention, a United Nations-backed food assessment warned Monday.

With aid agencies reporting huge difficulties gaining access to Gaza, particularly the north, the UN has warned for weeks that a famine is looming.

Final meeting

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Bangladesh: Quest for Freedom and Justice, UPL, 2013, pp.102-103]

MUJIB WARNS AGAINST CONSPIRACY

From morning to night without any rest, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman continued to give speeches for the many processions that arrived at his doorstep. "We don't want any more discussions; now we want an announcement," said Bangabandhu. If there was no solution by tomorrow, he said, Bangladeshis would find it themselves. No conspiracy could hold them back, and they were united. Any decision, if forced on them, would not be accepted in any way. He asked people to be vigilant against attempts to create communal tension.

FACE-OFF AND FIRING

From March 23 to March 24 morning, the Pakistani army surrounded and held the Saidpur cantonment and neighbouring Botlagari, Golahaat, and Kundul villages and used excessive force, killing almost 100 people and leaving 1,000 injured. A curfew was imposed in the city. The army along with non-Bangalees carried out arson and carnage in the houses of Bangalees.

In Rangpur, a curfew was imposed following a clash between the army and the general people.

In Chittagong, people resisted the offloading of the MV Swat which was carrying seven thousand tonnes of ammunition. The army opened fire on the people and dozens were killed.

In Mirpur, tension was also being fomented.

Referring to these incidents, Tajuddin Ahmad said in a press statement tonight, "We would like to emphasise once again that any attempt to frustrate the efforts of arriving at a political solution would be reckless. The awakened people of Bangla Desh would not allow this to be done."

Maj Gen Farman and Maj Gen Khadim, two planners of "Operation Searchlight", boarded two helicopters to pass the instruction of the military action to the Brigade Commanders outside Dhaka.

'WE ARE MAKING SOME PROGRESS' Bhutto, talking to newsmen on his return to the hotel after a brief talk at the President's House today, said progress was being made at the talks. Replying to a question, Bhutto said a joint session of the Advisers of the President, Awami League, and his party would have expedited the arrangement. But at the moment it was not possible, he said. Bhutto further added, "I am passionately devoted to one Pakistan."

Taiwan calls for return of military officer China rescued

AFP, Taipei

Taiwan called yesterday for the swift return of one of its military officers who was rescued by Chinese authorities after losing contact during a fishing vacation.

Two men from Taiwan's outlying Kinmen island were found on March 18 by the coastguard of China's Fujian

province after the engine of their boat failed.

Chinese authorities said one of the anglers, surnamed Hu, was an active member of Taiwan's military, accusing him of intentionally concealing his identity.

Taiwan's defence ministry confirmed yesterday that Hu was part of Kinmen Garrison Brigade.

Tonko Rebellion leader

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She will be cremated today at the local cremation ground, Mati said.

Prominent communist leader Moni Singh led the Tonko Rebellion in 1930-40s against the British Raj and Kumudini's husband Lonkshwer Hajong and his brothers also got involved with the movement.

In 1946, British police, as they did not find Lonkshwer, detained the newly married Kumudini and were about to take her to the Durgapur army barracks, Mati Lal Hajong said citing historical documents and locals with knowledge about the incident.

At that time, Rashmoni Hajong of the same Baheratoli village, along with over a hundred men and women, intercepted the police force with local weapons. At one stage, Rashmoni, who hacked a policeman to death, was shot dead by the police, Matilal said.

Policemen killed 22 other Hajong people on the day but were forced to leave the village, he added. Kumudini and her husband survived.

In her later life, Kumudini was

involved in different movements for indigenous rights and secular movements.

Although different organisations, on different occasions, honoured her with crests and awards, she lived a life of financial crisis, Mati said.

Various organisations and individuals expressed deep shock at her death.

Delhi HC

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said the matter will be listed for reopening on Wednesday, the first working day after the two holidays for Holi.

The ED, India's main financial crimes investigation agency, is investigating allegations that the Delhi government's 2022 policy that ended its control over liquor sales gave undue advantages to private retailers. It says Kejriwal is directly involved in formulation of the liquor policy.

Another case

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On March 21, the chamber judge gave an order after a hearing on the appeal. It granted the three top executives of Transcom Group a 72-hour protection upon their return from abroad and until their surrender before a lower court in connection with the cases filed over property disputes.

According to police sources, around Thursday midnight, Shahzreh filed the latest case with Gulshan Police Station, accusing 11 people, including Simeen and Zaraf.

Contacted yesterday, Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Gulshan Division Deputy Commissioner Rifat Rahman Shamim said, "A case has been filed and we are investigating it."

Putin vows retribution

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televised address to the nation on Saturday.

Calling the attack a "barbaric, terrorist act", he said "all four direct perpetrators... all those who shot and killed people, have been found and detained".

"They tried to escape and were travelling towards Ukraine, where, according to preliminary data, a window was prepared for them on the Ukrainian side to cross the state border," he added.

Putin also compared the attackers to "Nazis" and said the attack was an "atrocious, a strike against Russia and our people".

He named today a day of national mourning.

Russia arrested 11 people in connection with the attack yesterday, the FSB security service said.

"All the perpetrators, organisers and those who ordered this crime will be justly and inevitably punished," Putin said.

The FSB said earlier that the assailants had "contacts" in Ukraine, without providing further details.

Kyiv, facing a Russian military offensive for the past two years, had "nothing to do" with the attack, presidential aide Mykhailo Podolyak said in a statement.

The governor of the Moscow region said rescuers would continue to scour the site for "several days."

Some 107 people were still in



This handout photograph taken and released by Russian Emergency Ministry yesterday shows rescuers working inside the Crocus City Hall, a day after a gun attack in Krasnogorsk, outside Moscow.

PHOTO: AFP

hospital, many in a critical condition, Deputy Prime Minister Tatyana Golikova said.

IS had first claimed responsibility for the attack on Friday night, repeating its claim again yesterday.

Some witnesses filmed the gunmen from the upper floors as they walked through the stalls shooting people, footage shared on social media showed.

Then "the terrorists used a flammable liquid to set fire to the concert hall's premises, where spectators were located, including wounded," the Investigative

Committee said.

Investigators said people died both from gunshot wounds and smoke inhalation after a fire engulfed the 6,000-seater venue.

Flames quickly spread through the venue on Friday, with screaming concert-goers rushing to emergency exits.

Investigators also said they would issue an award to a man who had jumped on one of the attackers while he was shooting at the concert goers, "immobilising" the gunman and "saving the lives of people around him".