

Excited but nervous as well: APURBA ON 'GOLAM MAMUN'

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Popular actor Ziaul Faruq Apurba is returning to Hoichoi with a significant bang by starring in Shihab Shaheen's directorial *Golam Mamun* on June 13.

The project, which is the spin-off of the much-acclaimed series *Buker Moddhye Agun*, directed by Taneem Rahman Angshu, will see the actor playing the titular role.

Earlier in *Buker Moddhye Agun*, Apurba portrayed the role of a fierce police officer and earned many accolades for his role.

Prior to the upcoming release of the series, Apurba spoke to The Daily Star about his expectations and experience of working in the spin-off.

"Although I am hopeful about the series, I am also undeniably nervous. I feel like the results for my exams are going to be out on June 13, which is the release date of the series," said the actor.

Apurba mentioned that the team had put much effort into this production. "Shihab Shaheen and I collaborated many times, and most of my remarkable projects have been directed by him. He is a great director, and working on this project was a really great experience as well," he shared.

The actor assured that this action thriller would feature a more diverse plot than the typical ones in the genre. "I must thank the director for this. The character Golam Mamun has definitely been a challenging role, for which I had to take a lot of preparation," he added.

In this project, actress Sabila Nur took on the helm of a daring police officer named Rahi, opposite Apurba. The actor appreciated her work, stating, "As a co-actor, Sabila is very comfortable to work with, and she portrayed the role very well."

Apurba mentioned being happy with people appreciating him in *Buker Moddhye Agun* and he hopes that they will love him in the upcoming season too.

Reportedly, Apurba has recently suffered serious injuries to his hand and back while

filming an action scene outdoor for the series. The incident exacerbated his existing back pain and the combination of muscle and back pain rendered him nearly unconscious.

A physiotherapist promptly delivered first aid, and despite the doctor's advice for complete rest, Apurba returned to the set after receiving temporary treatment.

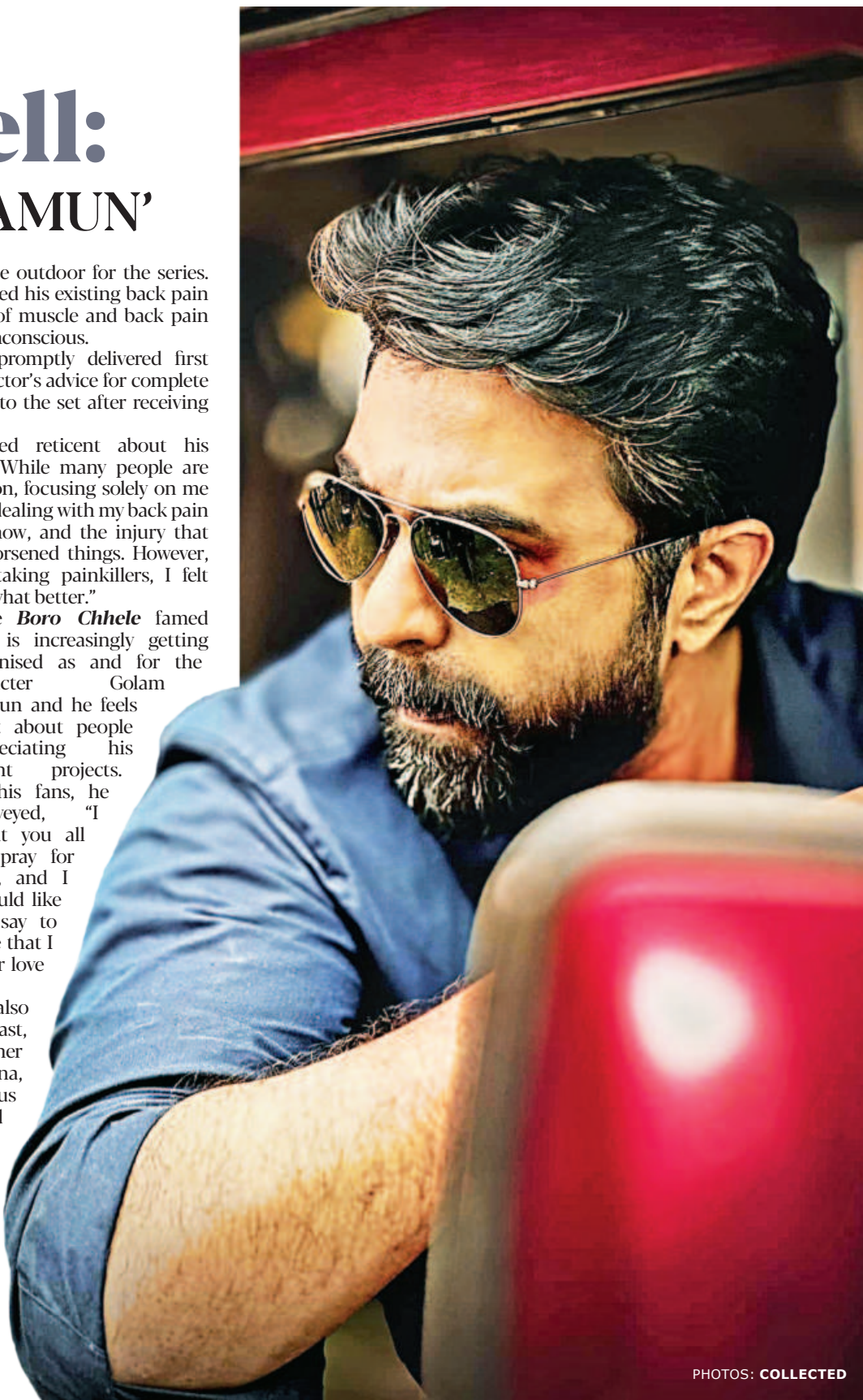
The actor remained reticent about his decision, remarking, "While many people are involved in a production, focusing solely on me isn't feasible. I've been dealing with my back pain for quite some time now, and the injury that day worsened things. However, after taking painkillers, I felt somewhat better."

The *Boro Chhele* famed actor is increasingly getting recognised as and for the character Golam Mamun and he feels great about people appreciating his recent projects. To his fans, he conveyed, "I want you all to pray for me, and I would like to say to everyone that I

am grateful for all your love and support."

Golam Mamun also features an ensemble cast, including Fakhru Basher Masum, Sharlin Farzana, Sharif Siraj, Syed Nazmus Sakib, Nafiz, Rashed Mamun, Sushoma Sarker, and Deepak Kumar Goswami.

In regard to his silver screen venture, Apurba is poised to make his Tollywood debut with the film *Chalchitro*, directed by Pratim D Gupta. The thriller film is set to be released soon.



PHOTOS: COLLECTED

Kangana Ranaut wins in Mandi in Lok Sabha Election 2024



Prominent Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut's leap into politics has proved to be a remarkable success. The acclaimed *Queen* actress clinched a Lok Sabha seat from the Mandi constituency in Himachal Pradesh, winning by a substantial margin of 74,755 votes.

This victory saw her defeat Congress candidate Vikramaditya Singh, who had previously contested in two assembly elections but was vying for a parliamentary seat for the first time.

On the professional front, Ranaut is set to star in *Emergency*, a biopic on former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, which delves into a pivotal period in Indian history.

'Peaky Blinders' returns as film with Cillian Murphy



Netflix has officially announced a *Peaky Blinders* film with Oscar winner Cillian Murphy reprising his iconic role as the fearsome gangster, Thomas Shelby.

Directed by Tom Harper, who helmed episodes

of the series' first season in 2013, the film promises to be a thrilling continuation of the beloved saga, reported Deadline.

Additionally, Murphy will also serve as a producer on the project.

"It seems like Tommy Shelby wasn't finished with me...It is very gratifying to be re-collaborating with Steven Knight and Tom Harper on the film version of *Peaky Blinders*. This is one for the fans," shared Murphy.

NEWS

Amanullah

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After the killing at a flat in New Town, Kolkata, Amanullah returned home on May 15, according to sources at the court and the Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

After recording his statement, the court sent him to jail.

Amanullah, who goes by the alias Shimul Bhuiyan, was in charge of controlling the activities of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) in Khulna, Jhenidah, and Jashore.

Azim was also involved with the PBCP, and as Amanullah and Azim had a dispute over PBCP factions, the former readily agreed to kill the lawmaker.

As per Amanullah's statement, the accused tried to kill Azim on two occasions in January and March this year, but failed.

On April 25, Aktaruzzaman rented the New Town flat where Amanullah and Celesty met the other accused five days later to make a plan. Aktaruzzaman returned to Bangladesh on May 10.

As per the direction of Aktaruzzaman and Amanullah, the other accused took Azim to the flat, saying that they would discuss and settle the business matters.

Amanullah with the help of the other accused then killed the lawmaker there.

The accused dismembered the body and flushed part of it down the toilet. Some remains were put in a trunk which was discarded in the Krishna Mati area of Kolkata.

Accused Faisal, Mustafiz, and Jihad Howlader were directly involved in the killing, Amanullah said in the statement, adding that accused Jihad and Siam, arrested in Nepal, were involved in getting rid of the remains.

Jihad Howlader, who is in custody of West Bengal CID, was placed on a fresh two-day remand after the end of a 12-day one.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said until the DNA verification was done, law enforcers would not be able to tell for sure that they found Azim's remains.

"We have come to know from the arrestees that he was killed. Investigations and interrogations are underway in the two countries. Both countries will reach a decision," he added.

Ansar Al Islam raised

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report submitted to the court, the arrestees admitted their involvement in Ansar Al Islam and the coordinators of Deen Islam Foundation. The outfit remains active on different online platforms, including social media, with the aim to recruit new operatives.

The arrestees said four to five other Ansar Al Islam operatives were also involved in fund raising, reads the report.

Deen Islam Foundation opened its Facebook page on April 19, 2022, and it has already attracted some 9,700 followers. These is a link of its website on the Facebook page, but The Daily Star could not access the website on Tuesday. There are two mobile phone numbers listed on the page, but both of those phones were found switched off.

A high official of the CTTC unit said that the foundation is not a registered platform.

"During interrogation, the arrestees could not provide information about the destination of the money. The statements regarding the transfer of the money were inconsistent," the official told this newspaper requesting anonymity.

In March this year, The SecDev Foundation, a Canadian NGO, in its monthly digital harms report said that AQIS in a digital booklet called upon the Bangladeshi Muslims to fund "the ongoing Palestine war".

Not much surprise

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Najmul Hossain-led side have had a taste of playing at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York, where their batting against India in a warm-up match left a lot to be desired.

There is also the advantage for the Tigers, having already seen all of their group stage rivals play in the tournament so far. South Africa defeated Sri Lanka heavily, while Nepal and Netherlands played out a tight contest in Grand Prairie International Stadium in Dallas, the venue for Bangladesh's opening World Cup game against Sri Lanka on June 8.

In terms of conditions, there will be little surprise for Bangladesh heading into their upcoming matches in the USA. Sri Lanka have shown chinks in their armour, especially with the bat against the Proteas. But in trying to chase down a small total, South Africa batters did not look comfortable either. If the wickets do turn out to be on the slower side in New York, it

"The booklet provided a detailed calculation of how Hamas had to spend Tk 100 crore to launch 12,000 rockets during October-December. They called it a real shame that the war is being funded and supported by Shiite Iran and asked Muslims to send donations to the global jihad frontiers," reads the report.

"The group likely has already increased its fundraising inside the country," the report added.

The SecDev Foundation works globally to help at-risk people and organisations use digital technologies more safely and effectively.

Ahamedul Islam, deputy commissioner of the DMP at the CTTC unit, said there is no evidence indicating that Ansar Al Islam has sent funds for the Palestinian people.

"Collecting funds in the name of Jakat, building mosques, and aid for Qurbani is a common practice of the militant outfit. Some funds also came from abroad," he told The Daily Star.

In September 2022, the CTTC had found that Ansar Al Islam received about Tk 15 crore from people in the UK and Australia for carrying out its activities.

Ahamedul said the banned militant outfit is trying to make a comeback and it has adopted the crowdfunding tactic to dodge the law enforcers.

"We have already stepped up vigilance and taking lawful action," he added.

might aid Bangladesh bowlers even though the batting unit has looked awkward on all surfaces so far.

Moreover, the game between Netherlands and Nepal showed that they will not be easy fixtures for the Tigers, but those matches will be in the West Indies. Bangladesh vice-captain Taskin Ahmed was expecting Dallas wickets to be a little different.

"The wicket of New York was a little low-scoring. I think the wicket in Dallas will be different. We need to play according to the conditions and situation. Whether it's a low-scoring or high-scoring match, if we can play according to our style, I think we can do well on that day," Taskin told reporters at the Mustang Cricket Academy on Tuesday.

With not much time left to prepare, Bangladesh will now be hoping to be in the right frame of mind as they gear up for their World Cup opener, which could potentially make or break their campaign.

People

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go abroad with the help of brokers get into trouble.

Despite getting clearance from the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), a total of 16,970 migrant workers could not reach Malaysia before May 31, when the deadline for workers to enter the Southeast Asian country ended.

Responding to another query from ruling Awami League MP Alauddin Ahmed Chowdhury, the premier yesterday said if a project is not completed on time, the project cost increases, which ultimately puts an adverse impact on the socio-economic development of the country.

"As a result, almost all projects are modified once or more after approval without increasing the duration or cost. This hinders the implementation of the Annual Development Plan," she said.

Hasina said many projects are not completed on schedule due to various errors and deviations, she said.

"As a result, the progress of the project is hampered and the beneficiaries are deprived of receiving the benefits on time."

Replying to a query from AL MP Mahfizur Rahman, Hasina said experts have stated that traffic snarl-ups in Dhaka city and their resulting impacts are leading to annual financial losses of about \$3.8 billion.

"This money will be saved if the metro rail lines are opened under the Time-bound Action Plan 2030, and an opportunity will arise to invest the full amount in the economy," she added.

The premier said a study has found that once the entire section of MRT Line-6 (Uttara to Kamalapur) of Dhaka metro rail is made operational, about Tk 8.38 crore will be saved in terms of daily travel time cost and around Tk 1.18 crore in terms of vehicle operations cost.

Responding to another question from AL MP Faridun Nahar Laily, the leader of the House said it is unfortunate that a clique of communal forces and war criminals and the BNP-Jamaat were continuously spreading rumours through social media.

"Many of them are staying in different developed countries. They are mainly spreading false and distorted news against Bangladesh and its government through social media outlets like Facebook, X [formerly Twitter], and YouTube."

She said legal, technical, and diplomatic steps have been taken at home and abroad to stop the spread of misinformation and rumours.

Trend of low voter

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in upazila polls since 2009, said EC sources.

The turnout was 36 percent in the first phase of upazila elections held on May 8, 38 percent in the second phase on May 21, and 36 percent in the third phase held on May 29.

The figure was 70.57 percent in the 2009 upazila polls, which dropped to 61.23 percent in 2014. On average, it stood around 40 percent in the 2019 upazila polls conducted in five phases.

In the January 7 national election, the turnout was 42 percent.

The BNP and many other political parties have stayed off the upazila polls, like they did in the January 7 national election saying that the EC is "not capable of holding the elections in a free and fair manner".

The battle of ballots took place among independents, mostly from the ruling Awami League, as other political parties did not field any candidates.

In Chattogram, a voter was injured when activists of two vice-chairman candidates clashed at East Pingala Government Primary School polling centre in Patiya upazila.

A mobile court fined four people Tk one lakh over attempting to

influence voters at Baharchhara Ratnapur High School Polling Centre in Banskhali upazila.

In Patuakhali, a mobile court sentenced a man to six months' imprisonment for trying to cast fake votes at Gangipara Government Primary School polling centre in Rangabali upazila.

A chairman candidate sought a re-election to Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila, alleging "massive irregularities" committed by supporters of his rival.

In Dinajpur's Phulbari upazila, a thin presence of voters was seen at different polling stations throughout the day.

In flood-hit Zakiganj and Kanaighat upazilas of Sylhet, many voters came to polling stations on boats.

"The road to the polling station has been submerged. So, I have come to cast my vote on a boat," said Saju Uddin, a voter of Konagram Government Primary School polling centre in Kanaighat upazila.

Elections to 22 upazilas, which were suspended due to Cyclone Remal, will be held on June 9.

[Our correspondents from respective districts contributed to this report.]

Identify those responsible, take action

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was tortured by police before her death.

It is a gross violation of human rights, and the activities of Bangladesh police is being questioned at home and abroad because of the irresponsible action of a few.

Those who are involved should face legal action, it added.

Afroza Begum, 40, died on Sunday morning hours after she was picked up by Abhaynagar police from her home in the Nawapara area, according to her children.

Her son Sabbir Mollah, a 9th grader, told reporters that police threatened to frame his mother in a narcotics case unless she paid them Tk 2 lakh.

A team of police led by Assistant Sub-Inspector Silon Ali went to their home near midnight on Saturday

and a woman constable frisked his mother.

"Then the ASI started hitting her. At one stage, she fell to the ground. He then tied my mother's hair to a ceiling fan and tortured her," Sabbir said.

As Afroza's condition deteriorated, she was taken to Jashore General Hospital where doctors declared her dead around 11:30am on Sunday.

ASI Silon earlier told The Daily Star that the allegations of torture were baseless.

Akikul Islam, officer-in-charge of Abhaynagar Police Station, said police detained Afroza with 30 yaba pills. She later fell ill and died on the way to a hospital.

On Monday, police formed a three-member committee, led by an additional superintendent of police in Jashore to investigate the matter.