

Apu aces as antagonist this Eid

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Rashed Mamun Apu has carved a niche for himself in Bangladesh's entertainment industry with his compelling portrayals of negative characters in films like *Poran*, *Damal*, and *Prohelika*. Known for his strong presence on both cinema and OTT platforms, Apu is set to captivate audiences once again with his upcoming web-series *Golam Mamun*, premiering on June 13.

With several projects lined up for release after Eid-ul-Azha, including M Raahim's directorial *Jongli*, his career shows no signs of slowing down. Fresh from an enriching trip to Bulgaria for the screening of his film *Kath Golap*, Apu sat down with The Daily Star for an exclusive interview to discuss his recent experiences, upcoming projects, and future aspirations in the world of showbiz.

You recently visited Bulgaria. How was the experience?

I went to Bulgaria for a film festival, which featured my film *Kath Golap*. It was an incredible experience—meeting directors, producers, and artists from around the world. I received a lot of positive feedback



I received an overwhelming amount of love from the expats. It was an unforgettable experience, and the affection from people is truly a treasured memory.

What are your expectations regarding your upcoming web-series 'Golam Mamun'?

I'm quite optimistic about the Shihab Shaheen directorial web-series. The director needs no introduction here. I play a negative character

in this series as well. It was a challenging role that provided me with a lot of new experiences. We shot in various locations during an intense heatwave.

How frightening is your character in 'Golam Mamun'?

It's quite terrifying. Everyone in the cast performed exceptionally well, and my character, though appearing intermittently, is very menacing. There are moments where my

expressions alone will scare the audience. I've had to portray various terrifying expressions throughout the series.

Is it true that your film 'Jongli' won't be released during Eid?

Yes, initially, I was told it would be released during the Eid festivities. However, now, it is slated for release a month after Eid. *Jongli* is a highly engaging film with a gripping plot. Viewers will see me in a very different role, and there is a big surprise in store for them.

Tell us more about your other upcoming film 'Writer'. When is the premiere?

In *Writer*, I play the role of a dangerous murderer who is the overseer of a crocodile conservation project but is actually a killer. I tried to bring a different look and feel to this character. I always strive to immerse myself deeply in each role so that it leaves a lasting impression on the audience. Initially, *Writer* was scheduled for release during Eid, but apparently, it has been postponed as well.

What are your plans for this Eid?

I will be in Dhaka for this Eid. Having just returned from Europe, I haven't made any specific plans yet. Honestly, the joy of Eid is something I associate with my childhood. Nevertheless, I still look forward to it. I wish all my fans and everyone else a joyous Eid in advance. May the happiness of Eid bless everyone.

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PHOTOS: COLLECTED

about the film, which was very gratifying. I also had discussions about future projects with several directors. Overall, it was a fruitful trip.

You travelled to several European countries as well. How was the response from the Bangladeshi diaspora there?

Daniel Craig stuns with long hair in 'Knives Out 3' teaser



The knives are out, but the scissors are sheathed as Daniel Craig debuts a long hairdo in a first look from Rian Johnson's next mystery movie.

Rian Johnson shared a photo marking the first day of shooting for *Wake Up Dead Man*, the third film in his *Knives Out* series, set for 2025.

The image features Daniel Craig as Detective Benoit Blanc in a three-piece suit.

Wake Up Dead Man will be distributed by Netflix as part of Johnson's USD 450 million two-sequel deal. The possibility of a thorough theatrical release for the film, by the streamer, is still uncertain.

Tanjin Tisha makes web-film debut with 'Poison'



Actress Tanjin Tisha makes her debut in a web-film with *Poison*, directed by Sanjay Samaddar. The film, which premiered on June 10 on Deep Play, follows the tumultuous journey of a heroine named Rupa Mirza, played by Tisha.

Director Samaddar skillfully portrays a complex narrative, offering a raw look at a heroine's struggle for success in a ruthless industry.

Initially hesitant about taking on the lead role, Tisha confessed, "Becoming Rupa Mirza required thorough dedication. I hope the audience appreciates my performance and isn't disappointed."

The film also stars actor Abu Hurayra Tanvir as a struggling hero, marking his first collaboration with Samaddar and Tisha.

Poison is now available for streaming on DeeptoPlay.

NEWS

No competitive politics left in Bangladesh

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by providing tiny loans of sums less than \$100 to the rural poor, angered Hasina with a 2007 plan to set up a political party.

The 2006 Nobel laureate accused the ruling Awami League of being involved in corruption, saying Bangladesh lacked a genuine political opposition.

"Bangladesh doesn't have any politics left," Prof Yunus, 83, said last week in his office in Dhaka. "There's only one party which is active and occupies everything, does everything, gets to the elections in their way."

"They get their people elected in many different forms — proper candidates, dummy candidates, independent candidates — but all from the same party," he added.

However, Law Minister Anisul Huq said he completely disagreed with Prof Yunus' comments.

"It's not only I who disagree, but the people of the country will also disagree," he told Reuters by telephone, calling the remarks an "insult" to the people of the country.

"Democracy is fully functional in this country," he added.

Prof Yunus, an economist who won

the Nobel for his work on microcredit, was forced out of Grameen Bank in 2011 by Hasina's government, which said he had stayed on past the legal retirement age of 60.

As Bangladesh's longest-serving prime minister, Hasina has been credited with turning around the economy, though critics have also accused her of human rights violations and suppression of dissent.

The US State Department said January's elections were not free and fair while the British government's foreign office also condemned acts of "intimidation and violence."

At the time, the main opposition BNP denounced the exercise as a "sham" election, calling for its cancellation, Hasina's resignation and the formation of a non-party neutral government to hold a fresh one.

Just before the election, a court in Bangladesh had sentenced Prof Yunus to six months in prison for violations of labour law, which he denied.

Although he is not in prison after securing bail in that case, Prof Yunus faces more than 100 cases regarding the violations and graft accusations,

which he dismissed as "very flimsy, made-up stories".

Huq denied the accusations against Prof Yunus were false, however, adding, "He has gone to the highest court of the country, which found there was a case against him."

As an example, Huq cited taxes paid by Prof Yunus after the Supreme Court ruled against him in a tax-evasion case, but declined comment on others as being sub-judice.

Prof Yunus' supporters say Hasina's government has sought to discredit him because he once considered setting up the political party, called "Citizens' Power".

Hasina, who denies the contention, called Prof Yunus a "bloodsucker" of the poor in 2011.

"Is it a crime for a citizen to try to make a political party?" Prof Yunus asked, saying he dropped the idea of such a party after just 10 weeks, on realising that he was not suited to politics.

Reviving a competitive political landscape in Bangladesh will be difficult, Prof Yunus said.

"Restarting will be very painful because we have brought it to a point where it has completely disappeared."

Hamas accepts

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Israeli Army Radio said the soldiers died in an explosion in a building in Rafah's Shaboura neighbourhood. Hamas said it had ambushed troops by detonating explosives previously planted in the building.

At least 37,164 Palestinians have been killed and 84,832 have been injured in the offensive that began on October 7, the Gaza health ministry said in a statement yesterday. Some 40 Palestinians were killed and 218 injured in the previous 24 hours, the ministry added.

In Jordan, King Abdullah told a conference on the humanitarian response for Gaza that access for aid to its 2.3 million population, most of whom are now homeless, could not wait for a ceasefire or be subject to a political agenda.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi told the gathering on the Dead Sea that nations should force Israel to stop what he called the use of hunger as a weapon and remove obstacles to the distribution of humanitarian aid in Gaza.

Police detain Jhenaidah AL general secy

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He will be arrested if any involvement is found during interrogation, they said.

Harun Or Rashid, additional commissioner (DB) of the DMP, yesterday said, "The killing took place in India. But the criminals are Bangladeshis. They came back after the murder. We are investigating whether they shared pictures of the murder after their return."

He also said, "We are also probing whether they [killers] got financial benefits from anyone by sharing the pictures."

Meanwhile, detectives have sent mobile phones of arrestees Amanullah alias Shimul Bhuiyan, his nephew Tanvir Bhuiyan, Celesty Rahman, and Babu for forensic examination following a court order.

In the application to the court, detectives mentioned that Shimul, Babu, Tanvir, and Celesty exchanged various information among

themselves through WhatsApp after killing Azim.

Apart from this, it is necessary to know whether any information related to abduction and murder, including photos and videos, has been deleted, it said.

According to detectives, lawmaker Azim was killed in a flat in New Town of Kolkata on May 13.

On May 18, his daughter informed the detectives about the lawmaker missing.

In response to a query about Azim's involvement in smuggling, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said, "We have always been saying that the MP's constituency is a crime-prone area. We need to know what happened there. We are investigating, we will tell you everything after the probe."

In another development, the preliminary forensic report has confirmed that the body parts recovered from the septic tank of

Kolkata's flat on May 28 and the bones recovered near a canal in South 24 Parganas district are those of a man.

Akhilesh Chaturvedi, inspector general of West Bengal CID, told media yesterday that they will now

49 migrants die

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deaths and disappearances along the migration route since 2014, including 480 due to drowning.

The latest "tragedy is another reminder of the urgent need to work together to address urgent migration challenges and ensure the safety and security of migrants along migration routes," said agency spokesperson Mohammedali Abunajela.

Those migrants who successfully reach Yemen often encounter further threats to their safety. The Arabian Peninsula's poorest country has been mired in civil war for a decade.

It's service charge, not extortion

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In response, the home minister said the scope for extortion was widespread.

Extortion is taking place in many places, he said, adding, "We have repeatedly asked you [transport leaders] for a list of places from where you take the service charge, we will not allow any charge outside those places."

He said, "We have taken measures regarding the operation of Nasimom-Karimom on highways. We don't want

any illegal vehicles to run on highways. We are working to make the highways safe. Our Highway Police is working."

Talking to reporters after the discussion, the minister claimed that police "do not stop vehicles to extort". "Our police personnel stop vehicles at different times to check their fitness. If they find a vehicle has mechanical issues or is carrying something illegal, they stop it. It is not extortion; it's part of their regular duty."

Additional Inspector General of

Police Md Shahabuddin Khan, also the chief of Highway Police, said their goal is to ensure safety on roads. "Discipline on the highways should be ensured by enforcing the law."

Inspector General of Police Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, who presided over the discussion, said police will perform their duties to make this year's Eid journey safe and smooth. No vehicles carrying sacrificial animals would be stopped on roads without specific information.

Govt approves price for 40MW power import

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Nepal had asked \$0.700 per unit while Bangladesh wanted to pay \$0.500 during the negotiation on "40MW power import for five years under the tripartite agreement among Nepal Electricity Authority, NTPC Vidyut Vapar Nigam Limited, and Bangladesh Power Development Board".

The agreed power import price from Nepal is lower than the price the BPDP has been paying for power from India's Adani Power Plant and the country's private power plants.

The unit power price of Adani's coal-fired Godda Power Plant was Tk 14.02, independent power plants Tk 14.62 and rental power plants Tk 12.52, according to BPDP's annual report of fiscal year 2022-23.

The Power Division official said purchasing price of power has increased over the last one year

mainly due to devaluation of taka. He said import of power from Nepal for the first time would boost Bangladesh's commitment to increase the share of green energy in the gas and coal-fired energy mix for power production.

Bangladesh has been interested in purchasing 500MW from Nepal.

Power from the Himalayan nation will be transmitted via the Nepal-India Dhalkebar Muzaffarpur Cross Border Transmission Line and the India-Bangladesh Barampur-Bheramara Cross Border Transmission Line, reports the Kathmandu Post.

On December 6 last year, the government approved the purchase of 40MW of power from Nepal using the power grid of India.

Mahmudul Hossain said the import of hydropower from Nepal would start after the final agreement involving the three parties.

Police knew about shooter cop's mental illness

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in 2010.

Meanwhile, a police team on Monday night collected Kawsar's prescriptions and medicines from his village home in Doulatpur, Kushtia.

Contacted, his wife Nilufar Yasmin Sathi said, "He was supposed to come home on Eid. That's why I bought his medicines. Policemen came at night and took all the medicines."

Nilufar said she took some photos of the medicines and the documents, but the officers made her delete those from her phone.

However, Mahbubur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Daulatpur Police Station, said the police team visited the house to see if the family was okay. "We did not take medicines or prescriptions," he said.

Close to midnight on Saturday, Kawsar was on duty near the Palestine embassy when he fired 38 shots from his service SMT 9 submachine gun, killing constable Monirul Islam and injuring another man who happened to be there.

He was arrested later and a court placed him on a seven-day remand. STRESS MANAGEMENT TRAINING

IGP Mamun said, "Bangladesh Police is a professional force. They receive basic training on stress management from both experienced police officers and psychiatrists."

Before they are deployed, members of the force are briefed about the job location and conditions, he said.

In the orientation course, recruits are briefed about the stress they may face at work, he added.

"If needed, we will enhance the training."

[Our Kushtia correspondent contributed to the report.]