

# MASUD ALI KHAN AT 95

## No one lives forever, I want to be remembered fondly

**"I have no regrets. I don't dwell on what I couldn't achieve. Instead, I'm grateful for what I have," said Ekushey Padak awardee Masud Ali Khan in an interview with The Daily Star two years ago.**



**"Masud Ali Khan is a true gentleman and an extremely talented actor. He's one of the pioneers of acting, dedicating his entire life to the craft. My love and respect go to him."**

PHOTOS:  
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Today, we celebrate the 95th birthday of the esteemed actor Masud Ali Khan. As he reaches this milestone, friends and colleagues from the industry have sent their heartfelt wishes, honouring his remarkable journey.

Born in Manikganj, Masud Ali Khan began his acting career at just 10, performing in the stage play *Rana Pratap Singh*. He was a long-time member of Bangladesh's first theatre troupe, Drama Circle, and balanced acting with his regular job. Over the years, he starred in notable plays like *Rokto Korobi*, *Raja O Rani*, *Bohipir*, and *Oedipus*. In 1965, he appeared in *Tasher Desh* at Bangla Academy and also took on directing roles in theatre. In his illustrious career, he has made his mark in every entertainment medium such as theatre stage, radio, television, and films. He was



honoured with the Ekushey Padak for his immense contribution to cinema in 2023.

For over a decade, Masud Ali Khan has stepped away from acting due to declining health and age-related issues.

Some of his remarkable television works are— *Kothao Keu Nei*, *Eishob Dinratri*, *Ekjannoborti*, *Poush Phaguner Pala*, *Kul Nai Kinar Nai*, and *Ghor*.

In 1964, Masud Ali Khan made his film debut in the black-and-white classic *Nodi O Nari*. He later appeared in the beloved children's film *Dipu Number 2*. Among his notable cinematic works are *Dui Duari* and *Shongkhoni Karagar*, regarded as some of his finest performances.

Eminent theatre personality Mamunur Rashid wished Masud Ali Khan on his birthday, saying,

"Masud Ali Khan is a true gentleman and an extremely talented actor. He's one of the

pioneers of acting, dedicating his entire life to the craft. My love and respect go to him."

Noted actor Tariq Anam Khan praised Masud Ali Khan as an exceptionally talented performer, stating, "His performances have always mesmerised everyone. I have rarely encountered an actor as humble as him."

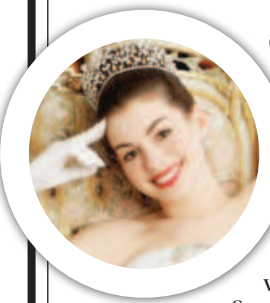
Renowned director and actor Salahuddin Lavlu expressed his good wishes for Masud Ali Khan's health, saying, "He is a gifted artiste. I grew up watching his performances and had the opportunity to work with him on my directorial project. I sincerely pray for his good health and hope he enjoys many more years."

As he approaches the age of 95, Masud Ali Khan reflects deeply on life. When he recently spoke with The Daily Star, he said, "People's desires never really end. I've grown old, and now I have nothing more to ask for. There's just one wish—I hope people remember me as a good person. That's all I want. There's nothing greater than being a good human being."

In conclusion, he added, "Many of my peers are no longer alive, and I, too, will not be here for long. None of us will remain. Nevertheless, my heartfelt gratitude goes to everyone."

## 'The Princess Diaries 3' is officially in the works

The making of the third *Princess Diaries* installment was officially announced on Friday, with Anne Hathaway confirming her return as Princess Mia of Genovia, delighting fans.



Variety reported that Debra Martin Chase, the original producer of *The Princess Diaries* films, will return to produce the third one, with Hathaway also producing through her company, Somewhere Pictures.

Late Friday night, Hathaway announced the news on Instagram through a selfie video that included clips from the first two movies, where she playfully repeated the iconic "Shut up!" line.

Filmmaker Adele Lim, known for *Crazy Rich Asians*, will notably direct *The Princess Diaries 3*, with filming set to begin this year. However, no release date has been announced yet.

## 'Tribhuj' to premiere on Deepto Play this week

The upcoming Aalok Hasan directed web-film, *Tribhuj*, is all set to release on Deepto Play on October 10, with its teaser unveiled last Friday on the platform's Facebook page.

Hasan revealed that *Tribhuj* is a social drama exploring the dreams and struggles of three couples from different backgrounds. The story revolves around an incident involving one couple that affects the

other two.

The cast includes Shahriar Nazim Joy, Anika Kabir Shokh, Imtiaz Barshon, Farin Khan, Shohel Mondol, and Mousumi Mou in key roles. Urmila Srabonti Kar also features as a lawyer.



# NEWS

## 2nd oil tanker fire sparks sabotage concerns

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after jumping off.

The incident took place just five days after three people died in a deadly explosion in another BSC oil tanker – Banglar Jyoti – on September 30.

Both the tankers were used for lightening bigger tankers anchored at the outer anchorage, and bringing crude oil to the Eastern Refinery Limited plant.

Early yesterday, Banglar Shourabh had loaded 11,055 tonnes of crude oil from Omera Legacy, a bigger tanker, and was supposed to head towards the jetty.

According to witnesses, the fire started on the ship's deck near the mid-point around 12:30am and spread fast.

Upon information, the Bangladesh Coast Guard's fire-fighting boat rushed to the spot and started work to extinguish the fire. At least six boats from the coast guard, Bangladesh Navy and CPA followed.

After the ship master called "abandon ship", at least 12 crew members jumped into the water. A joint rescue team rescued 36 from the vessel. The other 12 were fished out of the water by nearby fishing trawlers and the coast guard.

The fire was completely brought under control by 4:00pm.

### ACT OF SABOTAGE?

BSC Managing Director Commodore Mahmudul Malek at a press briefing at the BSC headquarter in Chattogram said, "Sabotage may be the top concern now as the second fire incident occurred within a short period despite strict

preventative and cautionary measures taken after the first incident."

He said the two back-to-back incidents might be acts of sabotage to harm the country's energy security.

Quoting crew members, Mahmudul said they first noticed sequential ignitions at four points on the ship, which is "very unlikely to happen".

He said they also noticed a speedboat passing by at the time.

The BSC MD further said that following the explosion on Banglar Jyoti and amid criticisms of using two old ships for lightening, preventative measures were taken over the last few days, including carrying out daily fire drills, checking the ventilation system and looking out for any leakage on the Banglar Shourabh to avert a repeat incident.

He added that there was no physical activity going on on the ship when the fire began.

Mahmudul said both the ships were supposed to be phased out after Banglar Shourabh's last trip yesterday, adding that they were working to hire a foreign oil tanker for lightening.

Senior officials of the CPA, the navy and coast guard were present at the briefing.

CPA Member M Fazlar Rahman said an order was issued to strictly follow the port's security system at the jetties as well as within the port limits till Matarbari.

The navy and coast guard, who are dedicated to maintaining the security at the outer anchorage and port limits, have been requested to enhance round-

the clock patrols.

Contacted, BPC Managing Director Amin Ul Ahsan said consecutive fire incidents on two tankers was not a "mere accident".

"It could be sabotage".

He said directives were given to ensure special cautionary measures in all depots and installations of the energy sector across the country.

### FURTHER MEASURES

Following the fire incidents, the BPC authorities are now actively trying to launch a single point mooring (SPM) with a double pipeline project, which will enable the discharging of imported crude oil through underwater pipelines.

The commercial operations of the SPM project have not yet started, despite trial operations three months ago.

Amin Ul Hasan said the operator appointment process for the SPM project, located in the middle of the sea, is currently ongoing.

He said the energy ministry has also asked for the completion of the process as soon as possible.

"We're trying to start commercial operations of the SPM at the earliest. Safety will be ensured to a large extent if oil is transported through SPM."

Meanwhile, the BSC formed an eight-member probe committee, led by its Executive Director Engineer Mohammad Yousuf, to investigate the fire incident and were asked to submit a report within five days.

The shipping ministry and department of shipping formed two separate committees in this regard as well.

## Reforms needed in forces too

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army officers are routinely subjected to punishment without adequate proof just to serve political purposes.

"A due process must be followed to investigate accusations against army officers. But we have seen that officers have been pronounced guilty without adequate grounds, just to serve political interests. The government should review all such convictions, provide justice and rehabilitate such officers," he said.

"There is no process to appeal [against] the verdicts of court-martials. This must change," said Brig Gen (ret'd) Nasir.

Speakers said that the kinds of "black laws" that exist in the army are not present anywhere else.

Two former army officers described their ordeal within the army's secret detention cells, colloquially known as "Aynaghor".

"Every single general in the army knows where the Aynaghor are and how many there are. Why does the military operate these cells? Why have they never protested against these? Why did they not protest when I was forcibly detained? No matter what my crime is, you cannot forcibly make me disappear," said former Rab commanding officer Lt Col Hasinur Rahman. He was picked up and held illegally twice, once in 2011 and then on August 8, 2018. The second illegal detention lasted almost two years, and he was released on February 22, 2020.

Ambassador Captain (ret'd) Maroof Zaman said he was kept inside the cantonment and questioned how the army could be used for such purposes.

"When the entire bureaucracy is undergoing reforms, why is the army being spared? How many

generals have been sacked so far for supporting and propping up the previous regime?" he asked.

Speakers also called for a reform in the intelligence agencies, saying that they are abusing their power.

Coordinators of the student movement Sarjis Alam and Hasnat Abdullah both thanked the retired army officers saying that they could remain on the streets against the autocratic regime because of the support of the army.

"We got confidence because of the meeting led by former army chief Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan in this complex on August 4," said Hasnat.

The speakers demanded an amendment to The Army Act, calling it a remnant of colonial times. They also demanded formation of a commission to investigate the BDR mutiny.

## Rains, supply

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from Tk 4,850 to Tk 6,000 in the last week, said Abul Hossain, a wholesale trader at Khatunganj's in Chittagong, a wholesale hub for essential commodities.

The price of soybean oil has increased from Tk 6,000 to Tk 6,200 a maund, he said.

The conflict in the Middle East has affected the international oil market and this has also affected the local retail market, said Taslim Shahriar, deputy general manager of the Meghna Group of Industries, one of the leading importers and processors of commodities.

Apart from this, the production of global palm oil has also decreased this year, he said.

In the last week, the price of a sack of medium-sized rice weighing 50 kg has increased by Tk 50, said Nirod Baran Saha, president of the Paddy and Rice Stockists and Wholesalers' Association in Naogaon.

Due to the end of the season, the price of paddy has increased slightly in the market, he said.

The recent past government has not played any effective role in keeping the prices of essentials bearable and the current government is also not paying attention to the issue, said Billal Hossain, who came to buy groceries at the capital's Kawran Bazar kitchen market.

"It is very disappointing," he said.

However, on paper, inflation eased in September, according to data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

Around 38 percent of low-income households were food insecure in August as essential commodity prices dropped slightly after the interim government took office on August 8, according to the World Food Programme.

## Hasina

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Azad was elected member of parliament (MP) from Jamalpur-5 constituency in the last general election. The parliament was dissolved following the student-led mass uprising.

He also served as the principal secretary and principal SDG coordinator, as well as the prime minister's office secretary, and secretary to the Power Division and Economic Relations Division, reports BSS.

## Appointment of HC judges

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of cases and delays in the judicial process under the current system.

Tanim Hussain Shawon, a Supreme Court lawyer and a member of the newly formed Judiciary Reform Commission, emphasised the court's counter-majoritarian role in protecting citizens from the state.

"Over the years, we've seen how this role has eroded. The erosion of democratic culture is directly proportional to the Supreme Court. When democracy backslides, so does the judiciary. One acts as a catalyst for the other."

He further blamed the higher court for contributing to the lack of democracy in the country over the past 15 years.

"When the higher court is politically controlled, how can we expect the lower courts to stand strong?" he asked.

Shawon added that if control of the lower courts were transferred to the Supreme Court, the judiciary could function independently.

"Sheikh Hasina's government first politically manipulated the Supreme Court, and the lower courts naturally followed suit. These are our past experiences."

He mentioned that he would convey the broader concerns and expectations of all stakeholders to the commission.

Barrister Rumeen Farhana, a former lawmaker and the assistant secretary of the BNP's international affairs, said the judiciary cannot be strong when the country is governed by ill politics and politicians.

She said the judiciary, like other important institutions, has been destroyed.

She added that although the judiciary has deteriorated over the last 15 years, the process started at the birth of Bangladesh.

"The constitution has been amended by every government to suit their own agenda..."

Saying the judiciary has been corrupted by politics and money, she blamed lawyers for failing to implement the decentralisation of the higher courts.

To address these issues, Rumeen made several recommendations, including establishing a separate secretariat for the judiciary, enacting a distinct policy for judge postings, introducing a law for appointing High Court judges, and providing a separate budget for the judiciary.

Writer and activist Firoz Ahmed called for reforms in the police, public administration, and prison systems.

"Police are a vital part of the judiciary. If the police aren't reformed, the judiciary will not be independent," he added.

In his welcome speech, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said the newspaper's editorial stance is that laws are the invisible infrastructure of society.

"We are advocating for the independence of the judiciary because we want justice... The goal of judicial reforms should be to ensure justice for all."

Anam added that when the judiciary is free from political and party influence, an environment is created that allows it to function independently, ensuring that people receive justice.

The event, moderated by constitutional expert Arif Khan, was addressed by speakers including Dhaka University Law Department lecturer Pymhe Wadud, Supreme Court Advocate MM Khalekuzzaman, Barrister Asaduzzaman Fuad, constitutional researcher Snehardi Chakrabarty, Assistant Professor of Law at Bangladesh University of Professionals Emraan Azad, Assistant Professor of Law at Dhaka International University Imtiaz Ahmed Sajal, writer-researcher Kajal Rashid Shahin, and Jagannath University student Khadijatul Kubra, among others.

## Israel readying

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A high-level Hezbollah source said that the group had lost contact with Hashem Safieddine, widely tipped to be the next Hezbollah leader, after air strikes this week in Beirut.

A second source close to the group also said communication had been cut off.

The movement has not yet named a new chief after Israel assassinated Hassan Nasrallah late last month in a massive strike in the Lebanese capital, triggering in part Iran's missile attack.

The Israeli military official, speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity as he was not authorised to discuss the issue publicly, said the army "is preparing a response to the unprecedented and unlawful Iranian attack".