



I compete only with myself: APURBA

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For nearly two decades, famed actor Ziaul Faruq Apurba has consistently won the hearts of viewers and earned widespread acclaim. He has excelled in TV dramas and OTT platforms. Marking a new milestone, he is set to make his Tollywood debut this year. Additionally, he will soon start filming for an upcoming web-project.

The actor's Kolkata based film, titled *Chalchitra*, is scheduled for release on December 20 this year in Kolkata. Directed by Pratim D Gupta, Apurba will share the screen with Raima Sen in this film.

In a recent interview with The Daily Star, the actor shared, "Thanks to YouTube, many of my dramas and web-series have already reached the audience in Kolkata. They have appreciated my performances, which certainly makes me feel good."

He further mentioned, "My film is releasing in Kolkata this December, and I am quite optimistic about it. I believe the audience there will watch the film."

Meanwhile, the actor will start shooting for a new web-film directed by Aamir. It is expected to be released on Valentine's Day. Tasnia Farin will act opposite him in this project.

Speaking about his co-star Farin, Apurba remarked, "Farin is doing exceptionally well. Her work has already gained popularity with the audience. I hope our pairing will also be well-received."

The new web-film *How Sweet* will be directed by Kajal Arefin Ome. Regarding the director, Apurba shared, "Ome has captured everyone's attention with his unique style of work. His approach is different, and I feel like this project will be no exception."

Many believe the actor has far surpassed many of his contemporary male co-stars, considering he maintains his position of popularity just as before. When asked if he sees anyone as a competitor, he replied, "I don't see anyone as a competitor. I consider myself my own competition. I believe the competition should always be with oneself."

Apurba further remarked, "Everyone is my colleague. We work together and we are like one family. Some are friends, some are even like brothers to me — nothing more or less than that. We are all artistes. The competition here is really with oneself, not with others. Being able to compete with myself, to see how I can deliver better performances, leads to better work."

Throughout his nearly two-decade-long career, Apurba has taken on numerous roles across countless dramas, portraying a wide range of characters. When asked about his aspirations moving forward, he responded, "I always focus on what the audience desires. They are the heart of everything I do. That's why I am able to stay close to them." He further added, "I am immensely grateful to my audience."

Reflecting on his devotion to acting, the widely admired actor expressed, "My passion and commitment to the craft are profound. It's this deep connection to acting that allows me to continue delivering my best efforts."

The telefilm *Boro Chele*, along with several other dramas, brought widespread recognition and praise to Apurba. Last month marked the seventh anniversary of the telefilm's broadcast, and even now, audiences continue to praise this work.



PHOTOS: COLLECTED



Sumon returns with 'Roid' featuring Nazifa Tushi and Mostafizur Noor Imran

Director Mejbaur Rahman Sumon, known for his success with *Hawa*, is now preparing for his next project, titled *Roid*, featuring Nazifa Tushi and Mostafizur Noor Imran in lead roles.

Hawa, Sumon's directorial debut released in 2022, made a significant impact, attracting large audiences to both multiplexes and single-screen cinemas.

As per the director, *Roid* will proceed with production under new terms having returned the grant money it received during the FY 2020-21. True to his word, the team has begun filming, with production recently kicking off in Sreemangal.

Sumon is intent on keeping further details about *Roid* under wraps until filming concludes and an official announcement is made.

Luca Guadagnino in talks for fresh adaptation of 'American Psycho'



The *Call Me by Your Name* famed director Luca Guadagnino is close to finalising a deal with Lionsgate to direct a fresh adaptation of Bret Easton Ellis' novel *American Psycho*.

This movie, penned by screenwriter Scott Z Burns, will not be a remake of the 2000 version but rather a fresh adaptation of Ellis' original novel.

The initial film adaptation, featuring Christian Bale, was directed by Mary Harron, who adapted it from a screenplay co-written by herself and Guinevere Turner.

NEWS

Harris, Trump deploy star power

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Twitter, now known as X.
The Tesla and SpaceX CEO has taken an increasingly visible role in Trump's campaign and has donated almost \$75 million to his political organisation America PAC.

Harris has deployed high-wattage surrogates, from ex-president Barack Obama to Megan Thee Stallion since replacing Biden as the Democratic nominee in July.

EARLY VOTING UNDERWAY
Seeking to shift the polls in a desperately tight White House race, Harris has ramped up attacks on the mental fitness of the 78-year-old, who is the oldest presidential candidate in US history.

She questioned Trump's ability to

be president after he faced speculation that he was "exhausted" after backing out of a spate of interviews.

Politico reported that a Trump aide had told producers at a website negotiating an interview that the ex-president was "exhausted" and refusing some appearances — a claim described by his campaign as "detached from reality."

Beyond the accusations, both candidates are spending their final campaign days in pivotal battleground states where early voting is already underway.

With less than three weeks to go, Harris has seen encouraging signs in her push for supporters to vote as soon as possible, as a bulwark against the traditional Republican edge among

Election Day voters.

Almost 12 million votes had been cast by Friday evening — around a third of them in the seven swing states expected to decide the election — according to data tracked by the University of Florida Election Lab.

Georgia has been smashing records, while North Carolina reported a first day of voting Thursday that beat 2020, when there was a pandemic-linked surge in early ballots.

Where party breakdowns were available, registered Democrats accounted for roughly half of the total, while Republicans — who have spent much of the Trump era casting aspersions over drop boxes and mailed ballots — were responsible for around a third.

NYT report on Aynaghar details torture

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The NYT report also featured the account of Maroof Zaman, a former diplomat, who was in prison for 467 days. He described the physical assault he faced, being hooded and punched repeatedly in the face. He was questioned over his social media and blog posts, where he had been critical of Hasina's treatment of India.

Similarly, Mikel Changma, the indigenous rights activist who was abducted in 2019 and released following August 5, described his time at Aynaghar.

He was told during interrogation, when he kept asking why he was there, that this was "political retaliation", for when Hasina went to the Chittagong

Hill Tracts to hold a party rally, and Mikel Changma's party activists blocked the road, reports NYT.

The report goes into details about the psychological difficulty of being kept in an underground prison faced by the survivors the NYT interviewed. Amaan Azmi recounted praying for a dignified death: "Please don't let cats and dogs eat my body, please have them send my body to my family, my loved ones."

Family members of the victims of enforced disappearance, as well as survivors, went to the army headquarters on August 5 to finally unearth the mystery of this injustice, according to NYT. They were told to give the army 24 hours, with the

assurance that "if anyone is left, we will ensure they will be released as early as possible".

The report ends with a description of a meeting between Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and the mother and sister of Sajedul Islam Sumon, who had disappeared in 2013.

"We are done waiting, what we want is something concrete," Sanjida Islam Tulee, Sumon's sister, told Yunus, according to NYT.

In response, Yunus reportedly told them that their protest is what brought this new government into power, and that it served as inspiration for the student protests. He reassured them the interim government would pursue justice for them.

This year's HSC examinees have tough times

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to two hours instead of three as the syllabi were abridged.

This means that these students are entering higher education without a thorough evaluation process after effectively bypassing major public examinations.

Education experts said that while adjustments during the pandemic were necessary, cancelling the postponed HSC exams this year was not the right decision, especially since alternative options were available.

Speaking to this newspaper, Professor Mohammad Mojibur Rahman of Dhaka University's Institute of Education and Research said, "It's true that the protesting students experienced trauma and were not ready for exams."

"But for that, the government could have allowed colleges to assess how many of their students were affected by the protests and arranged exams for them accordingly. Instead, the decision was taken like an administrative order, without consulting experts, which set a bad precedent."

Prof Mojibur warned that these students might face challenges during university admission, as the shortened SSC syllabi and cancelled HSC exams left them unprepared for tests requiring comprehensive preparation.

There are also concerns that foreign universities may not recognise these results, potentially impacting students seeking higher education abroad.

"These students have already fallen into a learning gap. By cancelling the exams abruptly, we've put them in a difficult situation," Prof Mojibur said.

He called for urgent attention to the education sector and the formation of a high-powered commission including educators, experts, and other stakeholders to ensure better decision-making.

Contacted, Rasheda K Choudhury, educationist and executive director of the Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), shared similar concerns.

The way these students were promoted in SSC, and now in HSC using a compromised formula, is unlikely to benefit their future, she said.

Rasheda criticised the cancellation of exams for around 14 lakh students in response to a small group's demand. Many students who hoped to improve their performance through the HSC exams have been unfairly disadvantaged, she said.

She believes students could face learning losses while seeking education in specialised fields like medical or engineering studies. Even those preparing for Bangladesh Civil

Service and other competitive exams might struggle because of this gap.

Rasheda expressed disappointment at the government's handling of the education sector. "The education sector is foundational, but we don't know why the government has deprioritised this sector."

"We are deeply concerned as no discussions have been held with the stakeholders, and we are doubtful about the education budget for the next fiscal year."

Prof Tapan Kumar Sarkar, head of the Inter-Education Board Coordination Committee, recently said that the students who passed HSC this year did not face learning gaps.

"They had taken the necessary exam preparations, but certain circumstances prevented them from sitting for the tests. It would not impact their foundation," he said.

Prof Tapan, also chairman of Dhaka education board, said that while the results were determined through subject mapping, this method would not be mentioned on their transcripts to ensure that foreign universities accept their certificates.

The government on October 15 published the results of this year's HSC and equivalent exams. The passing rate was 77.78 percent while a total of 1,45,911 students achieved GPA-5.

Royal Enfield launches

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until September last year when the government raised the bar to 375cc.

According to the company website, the first prototype Royal Enfield motorcycle was developed all the way back in 1901 by Frenchman Jules Gobiet, working

together with Royal Enfield's co-founder and chief designer, Bob Walker Smith.

In 1949, KR Sundaram Iyer launched Madras Motors to import British motorcycles within India's territory. In 1952, Madras Motors received an order from the Indian Army for 800

units of 350cc Bullets and in 1955, the Redditch company became a partner of Madras Motors, and they founded 'Enfield India'.

In 1994, the Eicher Group acquired Enfield India Limited and was renamed Royal Enfield Motors Limited.

If you don't cooperate, we will replace you

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had sent me three day's reports on the nationwide operations of the taskforce, and Chattogram was mentioned in only one report.

"There is stagnation in the administration due to non-cooperation from you [officials in Chattogram]," the adviser said.

He warned that the government may take stern actions against the officials.

Mentioning that nothing functions according to the previous system after a revolution, he said

the interim government have so far maintained the system, and it hopes the officials will cooperate with it to continue the system.

"If necessary, we will break the system. We will give new appointments and bring in new faces in your positions," he said.

Labour Secretary AHM Shafiquzzaman, Chattogram Divisional Commissioner Tofayel Islam, and Deputy Commissioner Farida Khanam, among others, were present in the meeting.

In the afternoon, the adviser

attended a views-exchange meeting with business leaders, workers' leaders, and officials of the Chittagong Port Authority and the Customs House.

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) hosted the meeting at its conference room, with CCCI Administrator Muhammad Anwar Pasha in the chair.

Before the start of the meeting, some pro-BNP businesspeople forcefully expelled former chamber director Mahfuzul Hoque, a pro-Awami League businessman, from the venue.

Netanyahu residence targeted

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The Iran-backed group said it launched a large salvo of advanced rockets at a military base in Israel's Haifa region.

A man in the northern Israeli port city of Acre died after being struck by shrapnel, the Magen David Adom emergency service said, while shrapnel also wounded five people in the Haifa city of Kiryat Ata.

Late last month Israel ramped up air strikes on Lebanon and deployed ground forces after nearly a year of cross-border exchanges.

The fighting in Gaza came after the

Israeli military killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar on Wednesday.

Sinwar, accused of masterminding the October 7 attack on Israel, was seen as pivotal to ending the Gaza war and securing the release of Israeli hostages.

On Friday, Qatar-based Hamas official Khalil al-Hayya reiterated no hostages would be freed "unless the aggression against our people in Gaza stops".

Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, whose country also backs Hamas, said the group "will not end at all with the martyrdom of Sinwar".

Maiden glory

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by England in 2009 and Australia in 2010.

Only three teams have ever won the Women's T20 World Cup across its eight previous editions.

England won the inaugural event on home soil at Lord's, and West Indies triumphed at Eden Gardens in 2016, whereas beaten semi-finalists Australia have won the other six titles, including at each of the three previous tournaments.

Neither New Zealand nor South Africa have won a T20 World Cup title across the men's and women's tournaments.