



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Veteran actor Masud Ali Khan, a founding member of Bangladesh's pioneering theatre group Drama Circle, enchanted audiences across stage, screen, television, and radio, leaving a lasting impression on each medium. His career spanned decades, with countless roles that transcended time and captured the hearts of many. Recognised for his immense contributions, he was awarded numerous accolades, including the prestigious Ekushey Padak and the Meril Prothom Alo Lifetime Achievement Award, establishing his status as a legend in Bangladeshi acting.

Masud Ali Khan passed away peacefully at his residence on Green Road yesterday afternoon, leaving behind a legacy woven with memorable performances that will live on in the hearts of his admirers.

Among his most celebrated works was the BTV drama *Kul Nai Kinar Nai*, where he shared the screen with beloved actors Asaduzzaman Noor, Afzal Hossain, and Suborna Mustafa. His film debut in *Nadi O Nari* marked a pivotal moment in his career, with his portrayal of Asgar under Sadiq Khan's direction earning him widespread acclaim and establishing him as a cherished name in cinema. For over five decades, he entertained audiences with films like *Jonakir Alo*, *Dipu Number 2*, *Matir Moina*, *Dui Duari*, *Molla Barir Bou*, and *Shongkhonil Karagar*. His role as a teacher in *Dipu*

*Number 2* endeared him to children and young audiences alike.

The legendary artiste became a household name through his unforgettable roles in serial dramas like *Kothao Keu Nei* and *Ei Sob Din Ratri*. He also appeared in popular series such as *Ekanno Borti*, *69*, and *Poush Phaguner Pala*, alongside countless one-hour dramas. As a founding member

respect from those he worked with.

Reflecting on his immense impact, Ekushey Padak-winning actor Mamunur Rashid said, "Masud Ali Khan is our heritage, a significant part of theatre history in this country. His contributions are immense. I have known him for a long time; he once lived in Karachi before returning to Bangladesh and joining Drama Circle. We performed in many

of his passing weighs heavily on my heart. One by one, our seniors depart, and their absence is felt profoundly."

Actor Keramat Moula reminisced, "I met Masud Ali Khan in the 1960s at Drama Circle, where we celebrated the Rabindra centenary together and acted in productions like *Rokto Korobi*, *Taser Desh*, *Raja Rani*, *Oedipus*, and *Manchitra*. He was warm-hearted and treated me, though younger, like a brother. Such individuals are indeed rare."

Tariq Anam Khan also expressed his heartfelt sentiments, sharing, "We have lost an extraordinarily gifted actor, a true gem. My respect, love, and admiration for him run deep. He was a remarkable artiste from whom I learned invaluable lessons. His respect for others and his love for acting illuminated every stage he graced, as he devoted his life to his art. Today, as we bid him farewell, we will carry the memories of his immense contributions to theatre in our hearts. He shaped the very landscape of our artistic heritage. May the Almighty grant him a place in Jannah."

Masud Ali Khan is survived by his wife and two children. He will be laid to rest on Friday after Jumma prayers in his ancestral village of Paril, Singiar upazila, Manikganj district. His legacy endures through the countless memories, roles, and inspirations he leaves behind—a legacy that will forever be remembered and cherished in the theatre and film industry.

PHOTOS: STAR & COLLECTED



of Drama Circle, he starred in many of their landmark productions, including *Rokto Korobi*, *Raja O Rani*, *Bohipeer*, and *Oedipus*, showcasing his versatility and commitment to theatre.

He began his journey on stage at the tender age of 10, making his debut in *Rana Pratap Singh*. His legacy, as recounted by his friends and colleagues, reflects a life devoted to his craft, filled with cherished memories and deep

plays together, and his passion for acting has always inspired me. My deepest respects go to him."

Another Ekushey Padak-winning artiste Abul Hayat shared, "Masud Ali Khan was a guiding light in our theatrical journey. A man of refinement and true gentility, he embodied the essence of goodness. If a school for natural acting existed, he would undoubtedly be among its most distinguished alumni. The news

## TAMA MIRZA reunites with Nisho for his second film

Actors Tama Mirza and Afran Nisho are set to reunite in director Shihab Shaheen's upcoming movie *Dagi*.

This marks their second project together after having won over audiences with their performances in Raihan Rafi's popular film *Surongo*.

The film's title was officially registered with the Director's Guild on October 21, as confirmed to The Daily Star, by multiple sources in the film industry.

The filming of *Dagi* is set to begin in mid-November with it being scheduled for release during next year's Eid-ul-Azha.

Shihab Shaheen's first film was *Chuye Dile Mon*, making *Dagi* his second feature film.



## Anjan Dutt on his final act 'Aro Ekta Lear'

Renowned Bengali actor, musician, and filmmaker Anjan Dutt is bidding farewell to the theatre with his upcoming play *Aro Ekta Lear* (Another Lear), inspired by Shakespeare's *King Lear*. This will mark his final stage performance.

Set to premiere on November 25 at Kolkata's Gyan Mancha, the play signifies the end of an era for the beloved artiste.

Dutt's artistic journey spans over five decades, with his roots in theatre. Before finding fame in films, Dutt worked as a journalist, performing in theatre on the side.

His talent was discovered by the legendary filmmaker Mrinal Sen, who cast him in *Chaalchitra* in 1981.



# COUNTRYWIDE

## Illegal fish market on RHD land

MINTU DESHWARA

Influential quarters have continued constructing an illegal market by occupying a portion of land owned by the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in Habiganj town.

A group of people under the banner of Habiganj Fish Traders' Association are making commercial shops on the government land worth around Tk 10 crore near the Central Eidgah of the district town for over a year, defying law.

According to Habiganj Fish Traders' Association, the land remained unused for a long time until former Habiganj Deputy Commissioner Ishrat Jahan verbally allowed the association members to use the land for fish trading activities in 2022.

However, despite spending Tk 60 lakh, with contributions from its 122 members, the association leaders could not provide any valid document to support their claims.

Locals said over a year ago the association members forcibly occupied the land and started constructing a permanent structure there.

Meanwhile, deeming the structure illegal, RHD served an eviction notice in September this year, asking the association members to remove the illegal building, constructed along the highway.

During a recent visit to the site, this correspondent saw construction of the one-storey market, housing 20 shops,

along the Shayestanagar Eidgah Road has already been completed.

After the matter came to light, RHD served a notice to the president of 'Shayestanagar Machh Arot Samity' on September 2, asking him to stop the market construction work.

But surprisingly, the building construction work is still going on, violating the order.

Habiganj Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Ranjan Chandra Dey said the High Court (HC) has clearly instructed that no bazar (market) can be built on government land and this land belongs to RHD.

Local people, however, alleged that although the notice, served on September 2, asked the grabbers to remove the illegal structure within the next three days, but no further step has been taken so far.

Contacted, Habiganj RHD Executive Engineer Shakil Mohammad Faisal said a letter has been sent to the authorities concerned, requesting appointment of a magistrate in order to start the eviction process.

Abdur Razzak, president of Habiganj Fish Traders' Association, expressed his uncertainty over the overall situation of the construction work.

Advocate Trilok Kanti Chowdhury, president of Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujan), Habiganj unit, urged the authorities concerned to take immediate step and demolish the illegal structure on government land.



Grabbers constructing this illegal market on Roads and Highways Department land in Habiganj town as there is hardly any action against grabbing of government land.

PHOTO: STAR

### Only elected

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proposals. So, the sooner the election is held, the better it will be for the country," he said.

Fakhrul also said the earlier the elections take place, the quicker the state can be reformed.

The BNP leader said the enemies of the nation are setting various traps to seize everything and undermine the uprising. "They'll do it if they find opportunities to do so."

He noted that various groups are raising their demands in different places as part of the plots to destabilise the country. "Why haven't they done this before? Why are they bringing it up now? They should wait for a government of the people to come."

The Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rob) organised the programme at the Jatiya Press Club, marking the 52nd founding anniversary of the party.

Fakhrul said foreign journalists, especially journalists from India, now ask him whether Prof Muhammad Yunus has failed and is unable to run the state. "I tell them there is no question of it. The people of the whole country trust him. He is running the country wonderfully."

He, however, said they get a little worried with the remarks of some advisers. "The advisers who are in the government shouldn't say anything or do anything that can mislead the people."

The BNP leader voiced annoyance over local government Adviser Hasan Arif's comment that the term of the government should be four years.

"That's not what he should say. They [the government] have formed commissions that would propose, and then the people will decide if they accept. But if the person sitting in power says that the tenure of the government will be four years, then there is pressure," he observed.

### Tigers humiliated

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can be summarised by dissecting the performance of their most successful batter of the day - Mominul Haque.

The left-hander made 82 off 112 balls in the first innings and his 103-run stand with Taijul Islam was the only reason why the Tigers could cross the 150-run mark after being reduced to 48-8.

The Southpaw's resistance ended when he got trapped in front by Senuran Muthusamy in the second session on the third day.

### A thespian's final bow

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Born into a world of artistic passion, Khan began his theatrical journey at the tender age of 10, making his debut in "Rana Pratap Singh". This early start would herald a career that would fundamentally reshape Bangladesh's performing arts. His filmography includes timeless classics like "Jonakir Alo", "Dipu Number-2", "Matir Moina", "Molla Barir Bou" and "Dui Duari", each performance etching his name deeper into the national cultural consciousness.

Television audiences fondly remember him for landmark serieses like "Kothao Keu Nei" and "Ei Sob Din Ratri", where his nuanced portrayals

Bangladesh were soon bundled out and had to come out to bat again after the Proteas enforced the follow-on. Two quick wickets fell soon after and Mominul was once again at the middle in the same session.

Unlike the first innings, where he had to chance his arm and play some shots as Bangladesh only had two wickets in hand, now the situation required Mominul to show some resilience with the hosts still trailing by 388 runs with almost two-and-a-half days left.

Instead, the experienced batter, yet to get off the

mark, played a lofted shot in the second ball he faced and found the only player stationed in the deep square leg. Muthusamy completed a regulation catch while the bowler Keshav Maharaj was laughing, almost in disbelief.

The same disbelief was also palpable in the responses of the Proteas stand-in skipper Aiden Markram during the post-match press conference where he admitted that he did not envision this game to end inside three days.

"No, not at all. We were mentally prepared to go the

long haul, to late into Day 5... Didn't think I would be sitting here at night at the end of today [Thursday] and that the game would be done," said Markram.

Neither the condition nor the wicket can be used as an excuse for this defeat. In their own backyard, Bangladesh were completely annihilated by a mostly inexperienced South Africa team. The players need to either pull up their socks very quickly or come up with better excuses as more humiliations seem to be on the cards in the coming days.

was honoured with many accolades during his lifetime, including the prestigious Ekushey Padak Award, Khaled Khan Award and Meril Prothom Alo Lifetime Achievement Award, among others.

Fellow artistes spoke of him with deep reverence.

Mamunur Rashid described him as "our heritage," while Abul Hayat called him "a guiding light" and "a man of refinement." Keramat Moula remembered him as warm-hearted, and Tariq Anam Khan praised his profound respect for the art and fellow artistes.

In his later years, despite physical limitations, Khan's love for performance never diminished. Even when confined to a wheelchair,

he maintained an infectious passion for the arts, once movingly stating, "I request the Almighty to not take away my ability to see others perform."

Khan is survived by his wife and two children.

He will be laid to rest today after Jumma prayers in his ancestral village of Paril in Manikganj's Singiar upazila.

The curtain may have fallen on Masud Ali Khan's mortal performance, but his artistic legacy will continue to inspire generations of performers.

In the grand theatre of life, he was a leading actor whose final bow leaves an irreplaceable void in Bangladesh's cultural landscape.

### Student union polls

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students must be kept in mind, and they should be given the utmost priority."

The adviser said no one should forget that students launched the protests in July over jobs.

Notably, the last elections to the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DU-CSU) and 18 hall unions were held in 2019 after a break of 28 years. There had been discussions over conducting polls to students'

unions in other educational institutions, but those did not take place for many years.

At Rajshahi University, the last student union elections were held in 1989. Discussions have recently started about holding a new election within the next five months.

Chittagong University last held a student union election in 1990, while Jahangirnagar University's last polls were conducted in 1992, and Buet's in 2001.