

# Bangladeshi celebs living abroad WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



PHOTOS: STAR AND COLLECTED

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**SHAH ALAM SHAZU**

Once, they were some of the most popular stars in the country's showbiz scene—some in films, some in television dramas, others in music. Eventually, they left the country and settled abroad. Among the stars who have moved overseas, most now live in the United States. A few are in Canada, Australia, or London. How are these cultural icons doing in their adopted countries, years after leaving the limelight?

Shabana, hailed as the "Beauty Queen" of her era, was a powerhouse on the silver screen, with a filmography that touched audiences from bustling cities to villages and towns nationwide. Her movies still grace TV screens, reminding fans of her cinematic legacy. Years ago, Shabana relocated to the United States with her family. Though she makes occasional visits back to Bangladesh, sources say she's doing well and enjoying a peaceful life abroad.

Singer Kaderi Kibria, famed for his rendition of the song *Boro Asha Kore Esechi*, has been living in the United States for more than two decades. The Ekushey Padak-winning artiste came to Bangladesh to accept the award. After

returning to the country on several occasions, he spoke to The Daily Star. He had mentioned that he is doing well, stating, "I am doing well because of everyone's love. However, I do miss my country."

Former actor Tony Dias and his wife, dancer Priya Dias, have been living in the US for over 15 years. Tony now teaches theatre and is involved in business. He shared, "I market Bangladeshi products here. It feels great when I see young people proudly wear clothes made in Bangladesh. I also teach theatre at an English school. It keeps me connected to my roots." Priya continues to promote classical dance there. Their daughter, Ahona, is involved in both academics and performance arts.

Veteran actor Shamim Shahed, known for his work with Nagorik Natya Sampradaya and Humayun Ahmed's dramas, is also based in the US, where he is involved with radio while preparing to direct three English-language films.

Moreover, actor and filmmaker Tauquir Ahmed and his wife, actress Bipasha Hayat, are also based in the US with their children.

While Tauquir continues working in theatre and film, Bipasha has earned recognition as a painter abroad.

Singer-songwriter Ashiquzzaman Tulu, renowned for the song *Ore Amar Pagol Mon*, now resides in Canada. Veteran actors Ariful Haque and Kazi Utpal have also settled there.

The ever-beloved film actress Shabnur, known for her blockbuster hits, resides in Australia and makes occasional visits to Bangladesh.

Former theatre activist Shamsul Alam Bokul, once a pillar of Desh Natok, continues his work in stage theatre from the US. TV personalities Nawsheen Nahreen Mou and Adnan Faruque Hillol have settled in the US, where Nawsheen runs a migration support agency. She frequently reunites with fellow expats like Nadia Ahmed, Romana, and Tamalika Karmakar.

Tamalika, who earned acclaim for her role in *Kothao Keu Nei*, frequently hosts intimate gatherings for Bangladeshi artistes in her US home.

Actress-model Monalisa, singer Biplob of Prometheus band, and musicians like SI Tutul and Sonia (of Close-Up fame) are all thriving abroad. Monalisa shared, "I've built a new life here, but I miss my country and especially my mother every single day."

Notable names like Sabina Bari Lucky, Majnun Mizan, Khairul Islam Pakhi, Anisur Rahman Milton, Bindu, Riya, Romana, and Tamanna have also settled overseas—some continuing cultural engagement, others focusing on family life.

Former actress Nova Firoze, now in the US, balances business with cultural hosting, while Agnila lives in Canada.

Stars like Richi Solaiman, who once dominated television productions, is now settled in the US.

Esteemed actor Jamal Uddin Hossain spent many years living in the US. Sadly, he passed away while visiting his son's home in Canada. His wife, fellow actress Roshan Ara Hossain, continues to live in the United States. Another familiar face from television, Lutfun Nahar Lata, has also made her home in America.

Despite being far from home, these stars continue to carry Bangladesh in their hearts—some keeping cultural traditions alive abroad, others finding new identities while cherishing their roots.

## 'Fyakra' set to premiere on Bongo this week



Director Asif Chowdhury's web series *Fyakra* will premiere on Bongo on May 8. Shot during last August's nationwide unrest, the seven-episode series follows Samad, who, desperate for money to win his love, Golapi, becomes entangled in a botched robbery that turns deadly.

Written by Neyamoth Ullah Masum and Ahmamad Saad, the series explores consequence of a crime. Partho Sheikh and Nidra Dey Neha lead the cast, alongside Shamol Mawla, Mir Rabby, Nishat Priom, and others.

## URDU-DUBBED 'Jongli' set for release in Pakistan

Bangladeshi cinema is gaining ground in Pakistan, with *Jongli* set to become the first film to be dubbed in Urdu for its release there.

*Jongli's* Pakistani distribution is being handled by a Lahore-based company, Cine Entertainment, which confirmed the release plans to The Daily Star.

Zahid Hasan Abhi, one of the producers of the film, said they're aiming to release the film there for the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha.

"*Jongli* will be released in Urdu in Pakistan. We've already sent over the film, and local voice actors are currently working on the dubbing. We're optimistic that the movie will do well there," he shared.

He also noted that this follows their previous release *Devaler Desh*, though that film was not dubbed in Urdu.

*Jongli*, directed by M Raahim, features a cast that includes Siam Ahmed, Shobnom Bubby, Dighi, and child actress Nairita among others.



# NEWS

## ACC probing 3 aides to 2 advisers

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The ACC's intelligence unit conducted a preliminary inquiry, following which the commission decided to initiate a full investigation.

Moazzem, APS to Asif Mahmud, was officially dismissed through a government notification on April 22, although the adviser had instructed his removal earlier on April 8.

In a recent interview with Prothom Alo, Asif called for a thorough ACC investigation into the allegations against his former APS.

Similarly, the health adviser's OP Tuhin Farabi was relieved of his duties following complaints of corruption, although the ACC has not disclosed further details of the allegations.

In a separate development, the NCP

temporarily suspended Tanvir from his post on April 21 following allegations of interfering in the appointment of deputy commissioners and taking a commission from the procurement of paper for textbooks under the National Curriculum and Textbook Board.

Case against Bengal Group chairman, 2 others

The ACC has filed a case against former lawmaker Morshed Alam, chairman of Bengal Group and National Life Insurance Company Limited, along with two others from Bengal group.

ACC Deputy Director Sheikh Golam Mawla filed the case yesterday, alleging the accused embezzled a large sum of money under the guise of purchasing land.

Confirming the development, ACC

DG Akhter Hossain said the other accused are Morshed's son Saiful Alam, managing director of Bengal Concept and Holdings Limited; and Morshed's brother Md Jasim Uddin, chairman of Bengal Commercial Bank.

He said Morshed and Jasim concealed a conflict of interest in selling land they personally owned to the company for the establishment of a regional office. "By hiding this conflict and selling the land at an unusually high price, they embezzled Tk 2.86 crore," the case statement read.

Akhter added that Morshed is accused of embezzling over Tk 400 crore. "A preliminary inquiry found evidence of the embezzlement of Tk 2.86 crore. If further proof emerges during the investigation, it will be included in the charge sheet."

## No deal on humanitarian channel India cuts water flow

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He went on to say that China itself has supported Bangladesh in engaging with the Myanmar government and other stakeholders.

Khalilur, also the chief adviser's high representative for the Rohingya issue, made the remarks at a seminar titled "Repatriation of Rohingyas in Bangladesh: Strategic Implications on Regional Security and Ways Ahead".

The event was hosted jointly by the Armed Forces Division (AFD) and Bangladesh University of Professionals at BUP.

Khalilur said Bangladesh respects Myanmar's territorial integrity and is not supporting any separatist agenda. "We made it very clear to Myanmar that we do not support the dismemberment of the country. We respect its sovereignty."

Recently, various political parties have expressed concerns over the humanitarian channel to Rakhine after Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain last week told media that the government agrees in principle to provide "humanitarian passage" to Rakhine, but with certain conditions.

He said stability in Rakhine could help Rohingya repatriation, but foreign policy analysts said a guarantee of secure Rohingya repatriation must be the precondition for any such move. Some even expressed concerns over the possible intervention of foreign powers in the region in case any such humanitarian corridor is established.

Khalilur said that Bangladesh has not discussed anything about the "humanitarian corridor", nor has there been any agreement with any parties, and added that the very phrase "corridor" carries specific implications.

"The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, previously used the term 'humanitarian channel', which is completely different from a humanitarian corridor."

Earlier, Khalilur told The Daily Star that a "humanitarian corridor" may mean that people can travel using it. He also said Bangladesh was in contact with the Myanmar government directly and with the Arakan Army via the UN.

While noting that the current pause in fighting in Rakhine, if sustained, could pave the way for peace and repatriation, he warned, however, that peace would not be sustainable unless Rohingyas were included in the evolving administration in Rakhine.

"Bangladesh, through the UN, has conveyed its demand for the inclusion of Rohingyas in the leadership

positions of Rakhine and is awaiting a response."

Also speaking at the event, Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain said the prospect of Rohingya repatriation remains grim due to Myanmar's ongoing civil war, fragmented authority, and the continued absence of security and citizenship guarantees.

There are some 1.4 million Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh, and the repeated repatriation attempts have failed since 2017.

"We cannot abandon diplomacy, but we must stop hoping that bilateral talks alone will succeed."

He stressed that any lasting resolution must involve all three entities – the Myanmar government, the National Unity Government and the Arakan Army.

Addressing the seminar as the keynote speaker, Professor Shahab Enam Khan of International Relations at Jahangirnagar University said the protracted Rohingya crisis has become a major national security concern for Bangladesh, with ramifications far beyond humanitarian aid.

"The Rohingya issue is no longer confined to humanitarian assistance—it is now deeply entwined with our national security architecture," he said.

Prof Shahab cautioned that while Bangladesh has made notable progress in counter-terrorism, these achievements could be undermined if root causes such as inequality, marginalisation, and protracted displacement remain unaddressed.

Speaking as the special guest, AFD Principal Staff Officer Lt Gen SM Kamrul Hassan stressed that the Rohingya crisis is no longer a bilateral issue but a tangible threat to regional stability, contributing to border stress, instability within refugee camps, and diplomatic tensions with neighbouring countries.

Despite official confirmation from Myanmar authorities that 180,000 Rohingyas are eligible to return, the ground reality tells a different story, he said, pointing to the absence of Myanmar government officials in border areas, and the Arakan Army's ambiguous stance on the Rohingyas raises serious concerns.

He called for strong regional cooperation and sustained international support to ensure a safe, dignified, and sustainable repatriation of the Rohingyas.

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maritime sovereignty, economic interest and national security enforces following measures with immediate effect: Indian flag carriers shall not be allowed to visit any Pakistani port, Pakistani flag carriers shall not visit any Indian port (and) any exemption or dispensation shall be examined and decided on case to case basis," the Dawn reported, quoting an order by Pakistan's Ministry of Maritime Affairs' Ports and Shipping Wing.

Meanwhile, Chief of Indian Air Force Air Chief Marshal A P Singh yesterday met Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and is understood to have discussed the security situation arising out of the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan.

Singh's meeting came a day after Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi met the Prime Minister on Saturday and briefed him on the overall situation in the critical sea lanes in the Arabian Sea.

India's Border Security Force (BSF) has taken into custody a Pakistani Ranger from along the international border in Rajasthan on Saturday. The development follows the detention of BSF constable Purnam Kumar Sahu by the Pakistan Rangers. Sahu was apprehended on April 23 after he inadvertently crossed the international border while escorting farmers along the Ferozepur sector in Punjab.

The apprehended Pakistani Ranger, whose identity is yet to be disclosed, is currently in the custody of the BSF's Rajasthan Frontier.

## Unconstitutional

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including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

The forum emphasised that any effort to eliminate gender-based inequality must include equal participation and consideration of both women and men.

HRFB expressed concern that certain political and ideological groups have revived hostile rhetoric following the submission of the commission's report, echoing previous attempts to obstruct women's rights and freedoms.

These actions, HRFB argued, not only harm women but also impede the nation's overall development.

The forum called on the government to clarify its stance and take a firm position on these matters.

HRFB further urged all democratic and equality driven political forces in Bangladesh to unite against these regressive demands and to resist any attempts to exploit religion for narrow political purposes.

The statement was endorsed by 23 prominent human rights activists and organisational leaders, including Dr Hameeda Hossain, human rights expert and HRFB member; Adv Sultana Kamal, human rights expert and HRFB member; Raja Devasish Roy, chief of Chakma Circle and human rights expert; Adv ZI Khan Panna, chairperson of Ain o Salish Kendra and acting convener of HRFB; Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation and HRFB Steering Committee member; Zakir Hossain, chief executive of Nagorik Uddyog and HRFB Steering Committee member; Sara

Hossain, honorary executive director of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust and HRFB Steering Committee member; Ranjan Karmakar, executive director of Steps Towards Development and HRFB Steering Committee member; Shale Ahmed, executive director of Bandhu Social Welfare Society and HRFB Steering Committee member; Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum and HRFB Steering Committee member; Dr Iltekharruzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh and HRFB member; Dr Fauzia Moslem, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and HRFB member; Shamsul Huda, executive director of Association for Land Reform and Development and HRFB member; Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori and HRFB member; Sarder Jahangir Hossain, executive director of Acid Survivors Foundation and HRFB member; Shipon Kumar Robidas, general secretary of Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement and HRFB member; Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, executive director of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies and HRFB member; Devan Akhtaruzzaman, director of FAIR and HRFB member; Pallab Chakma, executive director of Kapaeeng Foundation and HRFB member; Rokeya Rafique, executive director of Karmojibi Nari and HRFB member; Geeta Das, president of Naripokkho and HRFB member; Abdus Sattar Dulal, founder and CEO of Bangladesh Protibandhi Kallyan Somity and HRFB member; and Ashrafun Nahar Misti, executive director of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation and HRFB member.

## Meeting with IMF

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meet an additional revenue target of Tk 12,000 crore for the current fiscal year. However, many of those increases were rolled back after facing widespread public concern.

Achieving an additional 0.7 percent of GDP through new tax measures would be challenging given that the NBR had previously failed to meet a 0.5 percent target, said Nasiruddin Ahmed, a former NBR chairman.

However, he expressed confidence that more than Tk 10,000 crore could be raised through administrative measures.

"This would require significant strengthening of the NBR's reform initiatives and enforcement mechanisms," he said.

Despite failing to meet revenue collection targets for the December and March quarters – and with the June target also appearing out of reach – the IMF has agreed to waive the revenue ceiling requirement for the fourth and fifth tranches of its \$4.7 billion loan programme.

Meanwhile, the Asian Development Bank has enquired about Bangladesh's negotiations with the IMF, Salehuddin told journalists after his meeting with the Manila-based multilateral lender's Vice-President Yungming Yang.

The government is also trying to get budget support from the ADB by June.

To get budget support from other multilateral lenders, a "comfort letter" is required as the IMF conducts the economic due diligence, Salehuddin said after the meeting on the sidelines of the ADB's annual meeting in Milan.

## Maldives president

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During the lengthy session, Muizzu also responded to questions submitted by members of the public via journalists.

The statement said Muizzu, who came to power in 2023, was also marking his island nation's rise by two places to 104th out of 180 countries in the 2025 World Press Freedom Index, published by Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

During Saturday's session, he answered a wide range of questions, the statement said.

Around two dozen reporters attended and were served food.

A predecessor of Muizzu set another world record by holding the first ever underwater cabinet meeting in 2009, to highlight the threat of rising sea levels that could swamp the low-lying nation.