



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

I tune out communication to focus on my role: Sariful Razz

ZAHID AKBAR

Sariful Razz's latest film, *Insaf*, directed by Sanjoy Somadder, was released this Eid-ul-Azha initially across 16 theatres in Bangladesh. With Tasnia Farin also in a leading role, the film features Mosharraf Karim in a key role.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Razz described the joy of witnessing viewers connect with his work. "What could be more joyful for an actor than witnessing people connect with their film? After all, it's cinema that made me who I am," he shared, reflecting on his Eid day spent with the *Insaf* team.

Positioned among six major Eid releases, *Insaf* offers the complete commercial package—songs, action, and emotional depth. "Portraying my character was quite challenging. Our director, Sanjoy, directed it with great care, and the entire team was fantastic. Tasnia Farin also delivered a stellar performance. All of these factors, I believe, make the film worth watching," said the actor.

On working with Farin, Razz was full of praise. "Farin is a brilliant actress, and I was

really impressed while working alongside her. Every actress I've worked with in my films has been remarkable. Their strong performances made my job as an actor much easier," he noted. He also welcomed the entry of actresses like Farin and Sabila Nur into commercial cinema, calling it "a great sign".

Known for being difficult to reach during shoots, Razz explained his reasoning: "Whenever I start working on a film, I try to immerse myself fully in my character. I isolate myself from everything else and focus on the role. That's why I don't use my phone much—nothing more than that."

When asked about his son Shahim Mohammad Rajya, Razz confirmed they meet from time to time. "We live in the same city. It's not like I live abroad. We met just a few days ago," he said.

Among the other Eid releases, Razz expressed interest in watching Raihan Rafi's *Taandob*, Tanim Noor's *Utshob*, and Neelchokro, starring Arifin Shuvoo. "Quite a few of my close friends have films out this Eid," he added, noting his intention to catch the rest of the releases as well.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Stand-up Avenue'

Live2web, powered by Get Amped Series, presents *Stand-up Avenue* this Friday evening. The show will feature performances by comedians such as Ahmad Ashik, Ashir Ismum, K Zubayer, and Makhzum Khan Shadid.

Notably, it is an adults-only event, strictly for audiences aged 18 and above, so it's best to attend without children or elders in tow. However, only those who receive a confirmation message on June 11 or 12 will be granted entry, with tickets priced at Tk 200.

Date: Friday | June 13

Time: 7pm onwards

Venue: Chefs Avenue, Uttara



Actress Tanin Subha passes away

Actress Tanin Rahman Subha passed away last Tuesday evening while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Dhanmondi. She was 31 years old.

Sony Rahman, a member of the executive committee of the Film Artistes Association, confirmed the news of her passing to The Daily Star.

Subha had suddenly fallen ill on June 2 and was initially treated at a local hospital near her home in Altanagar. As her condition deteriorated, she was transferred to the

private facility in Dhanmondi, where she had been on life support for several days before her demise.

Tanin Subha began her journey in the entertainment industry with a television commercial. She later made her small-screen debut opposite Mosharraf Karim in the popular drama *Jomoi*.

Her film career began with *Obastab Bhalobasha*, an unreleased project. However, her breakthrough role came with the film *Matir Pori*.



'Bachelor Point Season 5' sets new OTT record



Bachelor Point Season 5 has set a new record on local OTT platform Bongo, with over 3.5 million paid views in just three days of release. Directed by Kajal Arefin Ome, eight new episodes of the popular series were launched on Eid-ul-Azha, drawing viewers from over 100 countries.

According to Bongo, audiences have spent more than 25 million minutes watching the new season. Director Ome expressed gratitude for

the overwhelming response, noting the unprecedented level of pre-booking.

Bongo's Chief Content Officer Mushfiqur Rahman Manzu highlighted the strong engagement and announced a 120-episode season pass and additional subscription packages.

The cast includes Marzuk Russell, Chashi Alam, Ziaul Hoque Polish, Monira Mithu, and others.

Maldives names Katrina Kaif as its global ambassador

Bollywood star Katrina Kaif has been announced as the global tourism brand ambassador for the Maldives, as per a post by the country's official tourism page on Instagram.



The post described Kaif as "a true icon of grace and elegance," embodying the Maldives' essence of luxury and serenity. Her appointment coincides with the launch of Visit Maldives' Summer Sale Campaign, aimed at attracting more tourists to the island nation.

Known for her successful film career and entrepreneurial ventures, Katrina Kaif is a globally recognised figure and a Forbes Icon of Excellence awardee, making her a fitting representative for the tropical paradise.

NEWS

1 killed, 5 hurt

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brother Saidul Islam, 45, and other family members Habibur Rahman, 32; Samrat, 55; and Khadija, 32.

Khadija was also one of the women harassed earlier in the day.

Anisul, who was critically injured, was taken to the Kendua Upazila Health Complex, where he died around 8:10pm.

"The attackers harassed the women in our family without provocation," said the injured Khadija.

"When we objected, they launched a planned assault, destroyed our house, and beat up everyone. We want them to be sentenced to death."

OC Mizanur said, "An investigation is underway... and efforts to arrest the attackers are ongoing. It is deeply unfortunate that a social offence escalated into a deadly clash. Police are on high alert to maintain law and order."

Anisul's autopsy was completed last evening, and the body was sent back to the village for burial, police said.

No case had been filed as of the filing of this report at 7:30pm. Locals, however, have been demanding a swift investigation and exemplary punishment for the perpetrators.

1 dies

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Badal Hossain, organising secretary of Bhulta Jubo Dal, told reporters that his brother got shot when a group of Chhatra Dal men led by Jayedul Islam Babu opened fire to free a local Chhatra League leader, Sabbir Hossain Khoka, who was caught by locals.

He added that Mamun was walking on the street when he got shot in the head.

Quoting locals, police said Mamun's elder brother Badal's supporters were among the people who caught Khoka on Wednesday.

They were taking Khoka towards Badal's house when Babu and his men opened fire and the two groups clashed.

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal in a statement yesterday afternoon said it permanently expelled Babu from the organisation.

Babu told The Daily Star that allegations against him were false.

Liakat Ali, officer-in-charge of Ruppang Police Station, said a case had been filed over the matter. He added that the Chhatra League leader had been detained.

Dengue cases surge

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In the last 24 hours, Barishal division (excluding city corporation areas) reported the highest number of cases at 2,275, making it the most affected region. Within Barishal, Barguna has emerged as a hotspot, logging 1,406 cases—the highest of any district.

Other regions also saw a rise in cases: Chattogram reported 836, Dhaka 535, Khulna 165, Mymensingh 96, Rajshahi 87, Rangpur 19, and Sylhet 19. These figures exclude city corporation areas.

Experts attribute the surge in cases outside Dhaka to inadequate mosquito control, low public awareness, and the presence of multiple dengue serotypes.

Entomologist GM Saifur Rahman noted that Barguna's coastal geography contributes to its vulnerability. "In coastal areas, people often store water, which creates ideal breeding grounds for Aedes mosquitoes," he said.

He also suggested that improved connectivity via the Padma Bridge, linking Barishal with the rest of the country, may have contributed to the spread.

Rahman stressed the importance of strengthening surveillance and eliminating mosquito breeding sites. "Many people still believe dengue is primarily a Dhaka-centric problem, which results in negligence in other regions. This perception must change," he added.

Prof Kabirul Bashar, an entomologist at Jahangirnagar University, identified Barishal, Barguna, Chattogram, and Cox's Bazar as the most affected districts. He pointed to several contributing

factors, including poor mosquito control, limited public awareness, and infections from multiple dengue serotypes.

He also noted that while mosquito control in Dhaka has been inadequate, conditions outside the capital are even worse.

"Residents of Dhaka are generally more aware of dengue prevention measures, which partly explains why rural and suburban areas are seeing more cases," he said.

He explained that about 50 percent of Dhaka's population has been exposed to different dengue serotypes since 2000, providing some level of immunity. In contrast, populations outside the capital have had far less exposure, making them more vulnerable. He also cited rapid urbanisation in non-Dhaka areas as a factor, as Aedes mosquitoes thrive in expanding urban and semi-urban environments.

Prof Bashar emphasised the urgent need for comprehensive mosquito control across the country. "The government must ensure equal attention and resources for all districts to effectively control the spread of Aedes mosquitoes," he said. Meanwhile, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) held an emergency meeting yesterday at Wasa Bhaban, where it decided to double the application of adulticide starting June 14. The meeting, chaired by DSCC Administrator Md Shajahan Miah, also resolved to form zone-based monitoring teams.

An official of Dhaka North City Corporation said regular drives are being conducted within its jurisdiction to destroy dengue larvae.

visited the spot and spoke to the locals.

The UNO said, "As the spot is not regulated, we're planning to put up some information signs, providing clear instructions and rules to ensure a positive and safe experience for visitors."

Besides, the construction of a road connecting to the spot will begin soon. Once the road is built, it will make it easier for tourists to reach the spot."

'Taandob' will not return

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Ulama Imam Parishad, said, "Upon request from the upazila administration, we have agreed that the film screening can be continued obeying all the conditions set by the administration."

Despite this, Kamruzzaman Saiful, head of marketing at Jaaz Multimedia and organiser of the screening, expressed doubts about the audience turnout due to the unrest surrounding the film.

"People will not come to the shows. We are incurring financial losses. We are not interested anymore to

continue the shows here [in Kalihati]," he said last night.

Saiful, a resident of Hasra village in the upazila, and his partner Sajju Mehedi of Tokai Theatre Group, had rented the Auliabad Community Centre-cum-Multipurpose Hall for Tk 10,000 per day from the Tangail Zilla Parishad, and obtained permission to screen the movie for a month starting from Eid day. They also paid five days' rent in advance.

Opposing the screening, groups under the banner of Parkhi Union Ulama Parishad and Alem Samaj had marched to the community

centre demanding a ban. Posters and banners promoting the film were also torn down.

Nevertheless, the film was screened from Eid day till Tuesday night, when the organisers stopped the shows and vacated the venue.

"We have wrapped up everything and left the area," Saiful confirmed.

Earlier on Tuesday, Hazrat Ali had told The Daily Star they protested the screening out of concern that the film could promote obscenity and negatively influence students of the area's many religious institutions.

Thousands denied treatment

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said they would leave once they receive clear directives regarding their treatment plans. They also accused the hospital authorities of neglect and malpractice.

This correspondent yesterday found six of them in Room 415 of the dedicated care unit for the July injured on the third floor. They said others had left ahead of Eid but would soon return.

Among them was Raju Islam from Thakurgaon, who lost vision in his right eye during the July uprising.

He claimed that 56 injured individuals had remained admitted at the hospital, with eight staying through Eid and six still present. "The rest will return too," he said, dismissing the allegations by hospital staff as "fake".

"They're spreading falsehoods through the media, saying we're occupying the hospital and have locked the unit. If we locked the unit, how could you reach us?" he asked this correspondent.

Hospital sources, meanwhile, said that 55 of the July protesters are still officially admitted.

According to 2023 government data, the 250-bed hospital — the country's largest government eye care facility — typically serves around 1,800 outdoor and emergency patients daily, with about 40 new admissions every day.

A doctor, however, said the hospital was seeing over 3,000 outpatients daily before services

were suspended.

Following two untoward incidents, doctors, nurses, and other staffers began a work stoppage on the morning of May 28, citing safety concerns.

Around 11:00am that day, a group of injured protesters allegedly attacked hospital staff, sparking a tripartite clash involving other patients and their attendants, Prof Khair Ahmed Choudhury told The Daily Star later that evening.

Several doctors and nurses were injured, and their residential quarters were also attacked, he added. Meanwhile, the July protesters claimed they too were assaulted by hospital staff and police during the incident.

The protesters later demanded that four doctors, including the hospital director, who is currently on leave, be barred from serving at the facility.

Following the clash, all medical services at the hospital were suspended for a week. Limited emergency services resumed on June 4 after a series of meetings involving the health ministry, the Directorate General of Health Services, hospital authorities, and representatives of the injured July protesters.

That same day, a four-member medical board — formed by the health ministry and comprising ophthalmologists from four major hospitals — assessed the conditions of the injured protesters.

The board, led by Prof Mostak

Ahmed, head of the Ophthalmology Department at Dhaka Medical College, examined 31 individuals and recommended that they be discharged, a NIOH doctor said on condition of anonymity.

Based on the board's recommendations, hospital authorities issued discharge letters to those cleared. But tensions flared again when some protesters allegedly confined NIOH acting director Dr Zane Alam to his office and tore up the discharge letters, the doctor said.

Some of the injured protesters, however, claimed they were not even informed about the formation of the medical board.

This correspondent was unable to reach Acting Director Dr Zane Alam for comments.

Yesterday, this correspondent observed patients being treated at the emergency unit, and by 2:30pm, 76 patients had received care. Several surgeries were conducted, and 29 patients were newly admitted, mostly after receiving emergency treatment, a nurse said.

However, not all seeking care were accommodated. Priya Akhter, who came with a swollen eye, said she was denied treatment as her condition did not "qualify as an emergency" according to the doctors.

"They asked me to return to the outdoor unit on Saturday. But the pain is unbearable, so I'll have to go to a private hospital," she said.