

# Star Cowbiz

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## LOVE *Online*

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW  
**GONDI ALAP**

VALENTINE'S SPECIAL  
**SIAM, SABNAM &  
TASKEEN**

PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

# G-SHOCK

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## Giving their hearts away

Renowned director Nurul Alam Atique has recently released a new short film, titled *Donor*, this Valentine's Day. The film features actors Tariq Anam Khan, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Orchita Sporshia and Yash Rohan, among others. The shooting took place in various locations in Mymensingh last year. The film is only thirty-minutes long, and can be watched on the online video streaming platform, *Hoichoi*. The director said, "Even though the film was released on Valentine's Day, the story isn't a typical love story. I'm trying to portray a different kind of love through this." *Hoichoi* will feature four more such short films in their series, *Paanch Phoron*, directed by Bangladeshi and Indian directors.

## A different LOVE SONG

Singer Imran Mahmudul has recently released a new song, *Tumi Shudhu Amar*, for Valentine's Day. The lyrics of the song have been written by Kabir Bakul, and the music arrangement has been done by Sajid Sarker. The song also features Badhon Sarker Puja. A music video has been released where we can see

both singers, along with Tawsif Mahbub and Neel Hurerzahan. It has been directed by Vicky Zahed. Regarding this, Imran said, "I've worked with Puja after a very long time. I think the music video of *Tumi Shudhu Amar* is quite brilliant. I had to focus a little on my acting as well. I believe that the audience will be mesmerised."



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Surrounded by

LOVE

Tanjin Tisha has been seen in several Valentine's Day centric dramas. She played in *Sporshe Tumi*, directed by Mohidul Mohim, alongside Tahsan Khan. She was also seen beside Apurba in *Obuj Diner Golpo 2*, by Shihab Shahin. In Muhammad Mostafa Kamal Raj's directed *Shei To Ele Tumi*, she acted alongside Afran Nisho. Tisha said, "I'm selecting my work for special occasions

because audience especially love those dramas. They can see something unique in the dramas I'm playing in." She was also featured in Tahsan Khan and Shusmita Anis's song, *Smritir Fanush*'s music video.



us on /Sandalina

ঐতিহ্যের আর এক নাম আধুনিকতা  
ঠিক যেমন রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য মানেই

# স্যান্ডালিনা সোপ

রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য...

**KOHINOOR CHEMICAL**



GRAPEVINE

# 12-day Romance

Pamela Anderson's whirlwind romance with producer Jon Peters comes to a shocking end after just twelve days of marriage. According to sources, the actor got married right after a "one-month 'spiritual cleanse' in India" which meant that her "heart was open, but, in hindsight, too open." Reportedly, Anderson tied the knot three days after her trip and regretted her decision one and a half days afterwards. Supposedly, Peters was "trying to be too controlling over



her" and disliked her choice of financial independence. The duo weren't required to file for divorce or annulment as their marriage was not bound by proper paperwork. Anderson also said, "Life is a journey and love is a process. With that universal truth in mind, we have mutually decided to put off the formalization of our marriage certificate and put our faith in the process."



## A bundle of JOY

After a long and difficult pregnancy, actor Kalki Koechlin emerges victorious with a beautiful baby girl with partner, Guy Hershberg. According to reports, the baby was born on the 7th of February, during the evening. While she has been active on social media all throughout her pregnancy, sharing pictures of the baby bump among other things, she hasn't yet posted a picture of her baby. The last post on her *Instagram* was a picture of her touching her bump with a long caption regarding love, hate, creation, destruction and balance. Reportedly, Kalki wanted to give water birth to her daughter as she was born the same way. Whether or not she followed through will be found out soon enough, when the couple give their statements. Hopefully, we will be able to see many cute pictures of the baby as soon as possible.



## 'Friends' for life

Fans have been eager for a *Friends* reunion or reboot, and it has been reported that they are in for just that. Multiple sources claimed that the *Friends* actors will get a one-hour non-scripted reunion special on *HBO Max*, where all seasons of the show will be available from May. It is estimated that every main actor

will receive \$2.5 million for this. News about the reunion started on the day actor Matthew Perry joined *Instagram*, and posted "Big news coming", further fuelling the rumour fire. Allegedly, all the actors have kept close contact even after the end of the series. Fans are quite excited to see their favourite squad on screen again and laugh along to their antics with them.



# LOVE *Online*



Versatile artist Rafiath Rashid Mithila has always taken on different roles of her life gracefully. Recently, the beautiful actor got married to Kolkata director Srijit Mukherji, who has directed films like 'Mishawr Rawhoshyo'. He also has his own production company, 'Match-Cut Productions'. Since their marriage, the couple have managed to gain a lot of attention from fans and followers. In this interview with Rafi Hossain, the newlywed couple shares their love story and their future plans.

COVER STORY



**Rafi Hossain:** Welcome to *Uncensored* with Rafi Hossain. Today, I am joined by Srijit Mukherji and Rafiath Rashid Mithila. I would like to thank the both of you for giving us your time. How do you maintain a long-distance relationship?

**Srijit Mukherji:** I honestly wouldn't say that a long-distance relationship is sustainable. Fortunately, for us, since the distance between Kolkata and Dhaka isn't too much, we could manage to maintain the relationship. Still, there were issues. We are trying to find a way to reduce the distance between us.

**Rafiath Rashid Mithila:** We still haven't figured out a way, but we hope to do so soon. We plan on living together in the near future. Right now, whenever Srijit gets a break from shooting, he comes here, and whenever I get a leave from my work, I go visit him. That's how we're doing things now.

**Rafi:** Mithila, will you be moving to Kolkata or will Srijit be coming to Bangladesh?

**Mithila:** I think that I will be moving to Kolkata. We had lengthy discussions about this, and since we

both have careers, we had to see the pros and cons of each place. That's why I think that we might end up settling in Kolkata.

**Srijit:** I have a lot of love for Dhaka and Bangladesh. My father is from Bikrampur and my mother is from Mymensingh, so Bangladesh seeps deep into my roots. And even though I'm not from Dhaka, the people here always accepted me as one of their own. But, we probably will settle in Kolkata as Mithila's work can be done from any place, whereas mine cannot. She can continue doing her work even if we're in Kolkata, but I cannot continue doing the same here.

**Rafi:** How did your relationship begin?

**Mithila:** Social media has become an essential part of our lives nowadays, and that is how our relationship started after we talked on Facebook.

**Srijit:** What some people fail to understand is that like everyone else, celebrities are people too. But, for celebrities, it is a little difficult as they can't just use platforms like *Tinder*. That's why I spent my

time on *Facebook* and hoped to find someone. And one day, I saw Mithila's profile pop up on the people you may know option. After it started to appear regularly, I went through her profile and found that she is a person who has achieved a lot throughout her life. After that, I knocked her, and from there, our love story started. We used to talk almost every day, and after around three weeks of talking, I came to Dhaka just to meet her.

**Rafi:** What was it about Mithila that made you come to Dhaka?

**Srijit:** She is a well-spoken person, a very intelligent and educated woman and also a very attractive lady. It also amazed me how she could manage to get two Masters degrees, while being a single mother. That made me come to Dhaka just to meet her.

**Rafi:** When did you both start loving each other?

**Mithila:** I don't know exactly when I fell in love with him, but when I realised that I had, I knew that I wanted to marry him. We used to talk a lot, and would always help each other. Whenever I told Srijit about a problem, he would always give me a logical way to deal with it. He also got along very well with my daughter. This all made me certain that he is the man I want to marry. But, sometimes it feels like our marriage was arranged by our families as we haven't known each other for that long. We are getting to know each other better now though.

**Rafi:** Both of you are very popular figures. How did your fans react to this marriage?

**Srijit:** I haven't seen any bad reaction. As far as I know, everyone has given us their blessings. Maybe some were not happy about it, but I'm not aware of that. But, I have seen that many fans send Mithila messages asking how she could pick an old Indian, Hindu director over them. Whenever I see those, it makes me laugh a lot.

**Mithila:** Many also ask why I didn't marry someone from Bangladesh. They then follow up with how India took everything from us, and now they also took me.

**Rafi:** What are you planning to do in the future?

**Srijit:** In the future, we plan to live together and make sure that both our careers haven't been compromised. We will also make sure to prioritise Ayra. Ayra has grown to be a very good person, and it is obvious that her parents raised her well. She is also very social and well behaved. Ever since I met her, we have been able to form a good relationship.

**Mithila:** Ayra and Srijit are on very good terms. Whenever I scold Ayra about something, she tells me to call Srijit.

**Rafi:** How did your families take the marriage?

**Srijit:** My family was relieved because I couldn't find anyone

to marry for some time now, even though I tried. I have had many failed relationships, and my mother has seen many relationships fail which she thought would end in marriage. My mother and sister are very happy now that I got married, and they also love spending time with Mithila.

**Mithila:** They're amazing people. My mother-in-law is a very simple person. She is a doctor, and she has always been supportive and loving towards me. Since I have a daughter from a previous marriage, it is normal to worry how my in-laws would treat me, but I never got treated badly by them. Srijit's family always made me feel at home.

**Srijit:** Even though Mithila's family supported the marriage, her parents were very hesitant at first. I can't blame them as they are very simple people and are not very fond of the spotlight.

**Mithila:** After the news of the relationship went to the media, everyone would ask my mother about the details. Even my mother's colleagues at the school she teaches in would ask her. My father worries a lot about everyone, and especially about me. That's why we faced some problems at first.

**Srijit:** Later, my mother-in-law said that it would have been easier if the families had met each other earlier on. As of now, both mine and Mithila's mothers have become very good friends.

**Rafi:** Do you have any parting message for the readers?

**Srijit:** I have always considered Bangladesh to be my own country. Just because someone once drew a border to separate Bangladesh and Kolkata doesn't mean that it is separated. This is also my home. I am honoured to have received so much love and support here. I hope that I will keep on receiving this love and blessings in the days to come.

**Mithila:** I think that too many people are worried about me instead of focusing more on their own lives and trying to remain happy. We should all learn to be better people more than anything else.

.....  
Ridwan Intisaar Mahbub



*As the day of love passed by, our celebrity couples did not leave any effort behind to make their better half feel special on this Valentine's day. Our very favourite actors – Siam Ahmed, Sabnam Faria and Taskeen Rahman – shared how they spent their Valentine's with their beloved ones.*

## SIAM AHMED

"My wife, Abonti, finds happiness in little things. A flower or a pair of earrings can make her really happy. I feel one does not require grand gesture to express their love. As I was shooting for my upcoming film in Sundarban, I was not able to celebrate Valentine's day with my wife. But, I did leave her a surprise gift. I had someone deliver the gift to her, and she was elated upon receiving it. Even though I was not there to see her reaction, but I could feel her in my mind because of the bond of love that we share."

PHOTO: WEDDING 2ND CHAPTER



## TASKEEN RAHMAN

"Being together on the day of love is all that matters to us; other things are just simple gestures of expressing the affection we have for each other. We both love travelling, but due to our shootings in Dhaka, we could not plan a trip this year. So, this Valentine's, I took my wife, Anjali, for a special candlelight dinner."

## SABNAM FARIA

"We never have a big plan for Valentine's day. We usually go out for a dinner date, and this year, we did the same. As it was a Friday, we got to spend the entire day together, and as a special treat, I made lunch for my husband, Opu. When I was in Thailand, I got a watch for him, and that is what I gifted him. I was really happy to have spent Valentine's day on a Friday with my loving husband."





POPCORN  
HIGHLIGHTS



THE  
CIRCLE

*The Circle* is a reality competition on *Netflix*. It is presented by Michelle Buteau, and produced by Shane Byrne, alongside several others, under the banner of *Studio Lambert*. The show features contestants who move into the same building, but can only communicate via social media apps. It was originally released on January 1, 2020, and currently has twelve episodes.



His Dark Materials

*His Dark Materials* is a fantasy TV show, written by Jack Thorne, produced by Laurie Borg, and stars Dafne Keen, Ruth Wilson and Anne-Marie Duff, among others. The show, which is based on the eponymous novel by Philip Pullman, follows the life of a girl on the quest to free her world from the Magisterium, which represses people's magic. It was aired on November 3, 2019 on *BBC One*.



PANGA

*Panga* is a Hindi sports film, starring Kangana Ranaut, Jassi Gill and Richa Chadda, among others. It was directed by Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari, written by Tiwari herself, along with Nikhil Mehrotra, and produced under the banner of *Fox Star Studios*. The plot follows the life of a Kabbadi player as she strives to achieve her dream and the support she receives. The film was released on January 24, 2020.

.....  
Amina Hossain  
& Shreya Shomoyeeta

Locke & Key



*Locke & Key* is a supernatural horror series, based on the eponymous comic series by Joe Hill and Gabriel Rodríguez. It was developed by Carlton Cuse, Meredith Averill and Aron Eli Coleite, produced by Ra'uf Glasgow and Kevin Lafferty, and stars Darby Stanchfield, Connor Jessup and Emilia Jones, among others. The plot follows the lives of three siblings who find a magical key of their new home after their father's murder. It was aired on *Netflix* on February 7, 2020.

Stumptown

*Stumptown* is a crime-drama series, aired on September 25, 2019 on *ABC*. It was created by Jason Richman, distributed by *Disney-ABC Domestic Television*, and stars Cobie Smulders, Jake Johnson and Tantoo Cardinal, among others. The story, based on the eponymous comic series, follows a Marine veteran turned private investigator based in Portland, Oregon.



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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

# Gondi Alap



*The crossover of two Bengals was the highlight for the recently released film, 'Gondi'. The Fakhrul Arefeen Khan directed film starred iconic actors, like Suborna Mustafa, also Member of the Parliament, and Kolkata-based actor Sabyasachi Chakrabarty. Previously, for the exclusive edition of the series, 'Uncensored with Rafi Hossain', the duo shared their experiences of working with each other and more. Following that thread, we present our readers with insights to what these legendary stars think about the current scenario of their respected industries.*

**Rafi Hossain:** *Why do you think viewers in Bangladesh do not prefer to go to cinema halls to watch movies nowadays?*

**Suborna Mustafa:** The cultural scenario in Bangladesh is quite different from Kolkata. In India, watching films in cinema halls has become a part of their culture, and the government also helps develop more cinema halls for their audiences. They have well maintained cineplexes and even IMAX. Then again, in Bangladesh, no matter how much buzz you create on the social media platforms, without developing and increasing the number of cineplexes, audience will not go to watch movies.

**Sabyasachi Chakrabarty:** We had a similar problem in Kolkata as well. But, when we started to have better multiplexes, the number of movie goers increased. People became interested to go watch movies on the big screen because of the well maintained cinema halls. However, it has become harder to determine which types of films actually draw huge number of viewers to the halls. Sometimes, loud commercial films are well-received by the audience, and sometimes it's subtle and unique storylines. So, it is not always easy to understand or calculate which film is considered to be a good film for the masses.

**Rafi Hossain:** *With time, we have observed many changes in our television and film industries. Where do you think we are headed towards with the changes happening?*

**Suborna Mustafa:** I think that the Bangladeshi film industry will recover with time. We have a pool of young and rising filmmakers coming up with great stories. Even cineplexes are being made, and our

government will be working on renovating the halls. So, eventually, our film industry will revive. Unfortunately, I do not feel the same for our television industry.

**Sabyasachi Chakrabarty:** I beg to differ; I feel television will improve. The change is bound to happen because our audiences do not prefer to see the run-of-the-mill programs anymore. Viewers are not appreciating those storylines, and gradually, it will come to an end.

**Suborna Mustafa:** In Bangladesh, the problem does not lie in the stories, rather in the system. The agencies are the ones deciding on which show will go on-air.

**Sabyasachi Chakrabarty:** Even in Kolkata, the television channels are the decision makers, not the directors.

**Suborna Mustafa:** For our industry, the agencies are making all the final decisions.

**Sabyasachi Chakrabarty:** I agree. The agencies, as in the sponsors, do implement their marketing scheme in the stories in such ways that it becomes a little too extreme at times. For example, if a gold company is sponsoring the program, the show will have all the actors wearing their jewellery, even if the story may not ask for the actors to be all dressed-up.

**Suborna Mustafa:** I feel Bangladeshi television industry has lost its way. It's mostly the agency dictating the budget and the cast, neglecting the story of the drama.

**Sabyasachi Chakrabarty:** It is the same for Kolkata television programs. And because of this, I left the television industry and continued doing different kinds of films.

**Rafi Hossain:** *What do you think should be*

*done to overcome this situation?*

**Suborna Mustafa:** According to our country's context, agencies should stop interfering. Channels should outsource like before and carry out in-house productions. Agencies should only focus on selling the advertisements, rather than deciding on the cast.

**Sabyasachi Chakrabarty:** I am no one to give suggestions because those who passionately work for this industry will surely come up with a solution. I am indeed criticising and pointing out the negative sides, but sadly, I have no answer or advice on how to bring an end to this crisis. But, if I have to say something, the first step should be understanding the audience and bringing forth versatile stories.

**Rafi Hossain:** *'Gondi' was released on the 7th of February. Could you point out why the audience should go and watch the film?*

**Suborna Mustafa:** First of all, they should watch it for the story. The film will bring forward a different element of friendship: friendship without boundaries, since it narrates the story of an older couple and how the society responds to their relationship. Then, of course, for the cast, music, and location.

**Sabyasachi Chakrabarty:** The audience can relate to the story very deeply as the film tries to depict several aspects from our everyday life. The main attractions are the cinematography, music, location, and the biggest one for me is that viewers will get to see me share screen-time with Suborna Mustafa.

Joana Nomrata Mazumder