

Star Showbiz

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SPECIAL FEATURE
SAHASA

CENTRE STAGE
GIASUDDIN SELIM

A Beautiful **PATH**

PHOTO:
SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL



MONTREX

“Make each day
your masterpiece.”

– John Wooden

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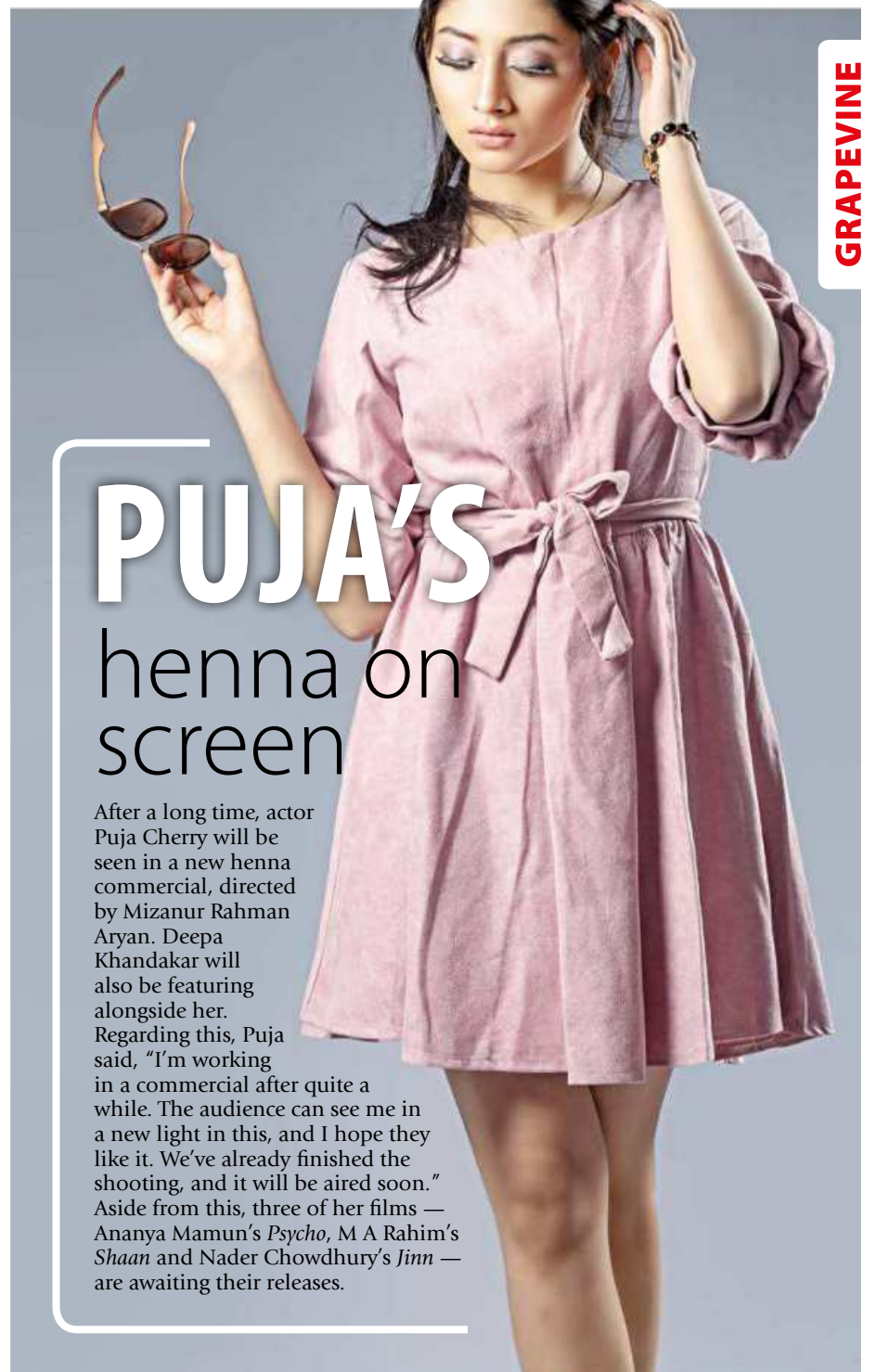


SHUVOO'S teaser

Popular actor Arifin Shuvoo's *Mission Extreme* has been in the talks for a while now. Recently, the much awaited film's teaser was released where we can see him in most of the scenes. Alongside him, we can see the likes of Taskeen Rahman, Jannatul Ferdous Oishee and Misha Sawdagar making important appearances. The movie is being co-directed by Sunny Sanwar and Faisal Ahmed. It is set to hit the theatres this Eid-Ul-Fitr. Shuvoo said, "I have received a lot of praise for the teaser. I am elated by the amount of love I have been showered with. Many were upset for not being able to see my toned body in the teaser. But, I feel that if we show everything in the teaser, there won't be any element of surprise left for the movie. I request everyone to come and watch it in theatres once it is released."

Habib's Lyrical Video

Singer and music director Habib Wahid's new song, *Shitol Sporsho*, was recently released on his official YouTube channel. A lyrical video for it was released instead of a music video. Habib Wahid said, "Music is meant to be felt, so I feel that it is not necessary to have a video for every song. Since I released it on my own channel, I decided to release it as a lyrical video." Apart from this, he released another song, *Harale Kothay*, a month ago.



GRAPEVINE

PUJA'S henna on screen

After a long time, actor Puja Cherry will be seen in a new henna commercial, directed by Mizanur Rahman Aryan. Deepa Khandakar will also be featuring alongside her. Regarding this, Puja said, "I'm working in a commercial after quite a while. The audience can see me in a new light in this, and I hope they like it. We've already finished the shooting, and it will be aired soon." Aside from this, three of her films — Ananya Mamun's *Psycho*, M A Rahim's *Shaan* and Nader Chowdhury's *Jinn* — are awaiting their releases.

us on /Sandalina

ঐতিহ্যের আর এক নাম আধুনিকতা
ঠিক যেমন ঝুপচাঁয় আভিজাত্য মানেই

স্যান্ডালিনা

সোপ

ঝুপচাঁয় আভিজাত্য...

BEN'S tropical PDA

With speculation on the rise, popular actor Ben Affleck has been creating quite a buzz about his relationship with co-actor Ana de Armas. The stars play husband and wife in the upcoming psychological thriller, *Deep Water*. Recently they were spotted spending time together in Costa Rica, and paparazzi's managed to capture quite a few PDA moments while they were taking a walk by the beach. Judging the looks in the photos, Ben seems to be very much into Ana. Even though the photos clearly suggest everyone that they are dating, the duo is yet to make a public confirmation. The former Dark Knight actor was previously married to actor Jennifer Garner.



NORA

breaking stereotype

Bollywood's bombshell actor Nora Fatehi wants everyone to recognise her versatility as an artist and not just praise her dancing skills. After her role in *Street Dancer 3D*, alongside Varun Dhawan, Shraddha Kapoor and Prabhudheva, Nora is set for her next project, *Bhuj: The Pride of India*. She will be playing the role of a spy, and has learnt mixed martial arts as a part of her preparation for the action sequences. She said, "Typecasting hinders the growth of an artiste. Talent and versatility will bloom when this idea of people doing just one thing disappears, but things are changing." We hope her optimistic attitude and hard work will elevate her career goals.



Prediction or Hoax?

We've all heard this conspiracy circling around the Internet that the show, *The Simpsons*, has the innate ability to predict major events in the future. We're talking about 9/11, Trump's presidential campaign, the discovery of the God Particle, *Disney* buying out *Fox*. Now, they have apparently also predicted the new big thing in town: Coronavirus and Tom Hanks' quarantine after contacting it. In *The Simpsons Movie*, there is a scene with Hanks at Grand Canyon saying,



"The U.S. government has its credibility so it's borrowing some of mine.... This is Tom Hanks saying if you see me in person, please let me be." While some fans are convinced this was a prediction of Coronavirus, others seem sceptical. We wouldn't blame them since there wasn't a single mention of a global pandemic of any sorts. Unless more credible theory and clips resurface, perhaps this one won't fall into *The Simpsons'* epic clairvoyance.

COVER STORY

A Beautiful PATH



'Gondi' actor Aparna Ghose is a dear face in the entertainment industry, and till date, has managed to offer her fans with quite a few memorable roles. She began her journey into acting through theatre in Chittagong and still is an active thespian for 'Nandikar' theatre troupe. Her baffling portfolio includes the achievement of winning the 'Bangladesh National Film Award' for 'Best Supporting Actor' for her role in the film, 'Mrittika Maya' in 2013. In this interview with Rafi Hossain, she talks about her thoughts on beauty pageant competitions, new platforms, theater and her personal life.



Rafi Hossain: Welcome to Uncensored with Rafi Hossain. Today, we have Aparna Ghose with us. Thank you for giving us your time.

Aparna Ghose: I am happy to be here.

Rafi Hossain: You started your career with a beauty pageant. Generally, people starting like that don't go too far in the industry. What is your take on that?

Aparna Ghose: I do not agree with that. I, being an example, am doing well. I wanted to work in the media, but I couldn't find any proper platform to start my journey. Back then, the Lux Channel i beauty contest was looking for a new face for the film, *Daruchini Dwip*. When I saw the newspaper advertisement, I decided to try out. From there, I gradually understood the ins and outs of the industry. I credit my success to this beauty pageant. In our time, the focus was the acting, but now, perhaps the main focus is beauty or modelling. People who have come this far and are still thriving. Bidya Sinha Mim, for example, is still doing well. This is a platform for those who want to learn.

Rafi Hossain: Even though it is a big event, we only see a few faces working in the long run. Why is that so?

Aparna Ghose: Willpower is very important. I feel that those who come to this industry need the passion and resilience to work hard. I love acting. I think I am lucky enough that people recognised me because of the competition.

Rafi Hossain: Are you still involved with any theatre group?

Aparna Ghose: Yes, I am still involved with *Nandikar* from Chittagong.

Rafi Hossain: Do you have to mostly stay in Dhaka for your work?

Aparna Ghose: I have to stay in Dhaka for shooting, but when I have a show, I go to Chittagong. I have a show



every two months.

Rafi Hossain: Why can't media personalities be friends?

Aparna Ghose: I believe that there is too much competition going on here.

Rafi Hossain: Who do you consider your friends from the entertainment industry?

Aparna Ghose: I consider Shafayet Mansoor Rana and Jon Kabir as my closest friends. I also have a good relationship with Mishu Sabbir.

Rafi Hossain: Are currently in a relationship? If not, what qualities do you seek for in a partner?

Aparna Ghose: No, I am not in a relationship; it's only a rumour. I want a partner who I can share everything with; someone I can consider my closest friend. *Gondi* is a movie about friendship, that's why I want people to watch it in theatres.

Rafi Hossain: When are you planning on getting married?

Aparna Ghose: My parents are insisting on it, but I'm not ready yet. I prefer working more now.

Rafi Hossain: Do you not want to work after your marriage?

Aparna Ghose: It's not like that. I think that my family will be the most important thing to me then, and I would want to prioritise them. I am not a good multi-tasker, so I cannot balance both aspects of my life.

Rafi Hossain: What are your thoughts on the current situation of the television industry?

Aparna Ghose: A change is coming, I believe. New web platforms are coming out and other platforms like *YouTube* are gaining traction. I also feel that people who have been in this industry for a long time are gradually adapting to the changes.

Rafi Hossain: Do you think this is a positive step?

Aparna Ghose: Yes, of course. We have to look at the bright side. Once upon a time, we only had one channel. Now we have so many options, giving viewers the liberty to choose from a large variety of contents. Now we have platforms like *YouTube*, so content is being made based on that kind of viewership. Many new directors are coming in who are bringing good content. So, I believe that we are heading towards something new.

Rafi Hossain: Who are some female actors that are doing well?

Aparna Ghose: I would say Mamo, Arsha, Mehzabien and Sabila Noor. I love their performances.

Rafi Hossain: How do you consider your acting?

Aparna Ghose: I don't like my acting at all. Every time I look at myself onscreen, I feel that there is always room for improvement.

Rafi Hossain: Whom do you prefer as your co-artists?

Aparna Ghose: There are many: Mosharrarf Karim, Nisho and Jon are to name just a few. Tariq Anam Sir is my very favourite. I have learnt many things from him. I would also like to mention Humayun Faridi Sir.

Rafi Hossain: Who are your favourite directors?

Aparna Ghose: I love the work of Iftekhar Ahmed Fahmi. I have not yet met a director as creative as him. I am also fond of the works of Shafayet Mansoor Rana and Ashiq Mahmud. Mostafa Sarwar Farooki's work is my favorite. Zahidur Rahman Anjan and Arefin's works are also my favourites.

Rafi Hossain: I had a great time talking to you. I believe that the next time we meet, you will have more stories and experiences to share with us. Thank you.

Aparna Ghose: Thank you so much.

Star Showbiz Desk



PHOTO: FEMMA A'S PHOTOGRAPHY

UK-Bangladesh joint production 'Sahasa' gets standing ovation in England

For the first time ever, in collaboration with 'Sonia Sabri Company' and 'Shadhona', two respected internationally renowned art organisations from the UK and Bangladesh, presented mesmerising live dance and musical performance 'Sahasa', at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery as a part of the 'Transforming Narratives' project on February 28 and 29 this year.

Transforming Narratives is an initiative that aims to establish Birmingham as a global centre for contemporary arts from Pakistan and Bangladesh. The three-year project, initiated in 2018, brings different artists and cultural organisations located in Birmingham, Pakistan and Bangladesh together. *Sonia Sabri Company* is one of the leading contemporary South Asian dance and music organisations in the UK, and has an international reputation for presenting Kathak in a contemporary context. *Sahasa*, which means 'The Brave', continues the award-winning company's strive for female empowerment, and their new research and development project focused on women's stories, particularly from the Bengali community in the UK and cities in Bangladesh.

As a part of the two-day event, Sonia Sabri and Arthy Ahmed performed an open rehearsal on February 28 in the museum's Round Room. On the following day, they presented two separate one-hour performances in the museum's Gas Hall. These afternoon performances consisted of short solo recitals from each of the dancer to give the audience an understanding of their different styles of Kathak and Bharatanatyam respectively, before they moved on to *Sahasa*. They were

accompanied by music from Sonia's husband and director of the company, Sarvar, an internationally renowned tabla player and composer who created the musical score, and Sanchita Pal on vocals. Each performance of *Sahasa* was followed by a question and answer session with the audience. Many reacted to the powerful and moving performances with a standing ovation.

Sahasa was conceived during Sonia's trip to Dhaka in April 2019, as a part of a research and development project supported by *Transforming Narratives*. She visited various organisations and connected with women from different backgrounds during that time. She intended to find out about the experiences of women from communities in Bangladesh and see how women who were born and brought up in the country were different from those who immigrated to Birmingham and how their opportunities and challenges were similar. While in Bangladesh, she met Arthy and visited *Naripokkho*, an organisation that gives refuge to women from challenging backgrounds and restores their confidence by enabling them to find jobs through art and literature. The women shared their stories with Sonia. Arthy came to Birmingham for two weeks and worked

at the *Sonia Sabri Company's* studio to craft together a piece that would reflect the stories they collected from the interviewees.

The two dancers and their team talked about the stories, their personal experiences and observations. All the artists involved in *Sahasa* are from different backgrounds. "We all took the responsibility to ensure that artistically, we pushed our respective forms outside of the norm, challenge our own selves as artistes and grow as a team," says Sonia.

Sahasa uses the play of symbolism, abstract sketches, subliminal imagery and music to evoke emotions. "There were a lot of teary eyes in the audience, and several people eagerly came up to speak to us at the end. Many of them were emotional and clenched our hands to say thanks," says Sonia.

For Sonia, *Sahasa* is the start of what she envisions will be an international touring production of dance and music in the future. This project from the UK and Bangladesh proved to be a huge success for social dialogue, cultural inclusion and international collaboration.

Adrian Murphy

POPCORN HIGHLIGHTS



The Invisible Man

The Invisible Man is a sci-fi thriller film, following the life of a woman with a dead former lover who is hunted by an invisible man. It is an adaptation of the eponymous novel by H. G. Wells. The film was written and directed by Leigh Whannell, distributed by *Universal Pictures*, and stars Elisabeth Moss, Aldis Hodge and Storm Reid, among others. It was first released on February 27, 2020.



The Way Back

The Way Back is a sports-drama film, first released on March 6, 2020. It was directed by Gavin O'Connor, written by Brad Ingelsby, distributed by *Warner Bros. Pictures*, and stars Ben Affleck, Al Madrigal and Michaela Watkins, among others. The storyline follows the life of an ex high school basketball star who, upon becoming a coach, is able to associate with basketball yet again.

Gentefied

Gentefied is a comedy-drama web television series on *Netflix*. It has been created by Marvin Lemus and Linda Yvette Chávez, produced by Wileen Dragovan, and stars Karrie Martin, Joseph Julian Soria and

Carlos Santos, among others. It tells the story of three Mexican-American cousins and the struggles they face while chasing their dreams. It was originally released on February 21, 2020.



EMMA

Emma is a comedy-drama film, starring Anya Taylor-Joy, Johnny Flynn and Josh O'Connor, among others. It has been directed by Autumn de Wilde, distributed by *Focus Features*, and is based on the eponymous novel by Jane Austen. The plot follows the life of a young woman who, although has good intentions, meddles with the love-lives of her friends. The film was first released on February 14, 2020.

ANGREZI MEDIUM

Angrezi Medium is an Indian comedy-drama film. It has been directed by Homi Adajania, produced by Dinesh Vijan and Jyoti Deshpande, under the banner *Maddock Films*, and stars Irrfan Khan, Kareena Kapoor Khan and Radhika Madan, among others. The film revolves around the life of a father, who owns a sweet shop, with the dream of giving his daughter a chance to study in London. It was released on March 13, 2020.

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Amina Hossain & Shreya Shomoyeeta



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CENTRE STAGE

GIASUDDIN SELIM

A passionate writer turned director, Giasuddin Selim stepped foot in the world of filmmaking with his debut film, 'Monpura'. His directorial ventures may not be many, but he has left a mark in the hearts of the audience with everything he has directed so far. His accolades include two 'National Film Awards': 'Best Story' for the film 'Adhiar' and 'Best Screenplay' for 'Monpura'. In this interview with Star Showbiz, he talks about his new film, 'Paap Punno' and about how he came where he is today.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Can you tell us about the shooting for your upcoming film, 'Paap Punno'?

It was a great experience shooting the film. We shot it in a village in Chandpur in an abandoned house. While shooting, the whole team stayed in Chandpur. We used to drive for one hour each day to go to the shooting spot.

Can you reveal anything about the plot of the film?

I cannot reveal too much about the plot, but it is a story which incorporates love, ego and basic instinct.

What inspired you to start direction?

I used to be a professional writer, and while writing, I saw how many directors were unable to visualise my writings in a proper way. I used to think that they could've done a better job, and when I got the opportunity, I started directing. In 1999, I got the first opportunity when I directed my first television serial, called *Biprotip*. That gained a lot of popularity among the audience.

What struggles have you faced as a director?

I didn't face any struggle as a director. I faced more struggles as writer. A writer has to do everything alone, by sitting down by themselves and coming up with an original story. But, as a director, I get a lot of assistance whenever I go to the shooting spot.

'Swapnajaal' and 'Paap Punno' were both shot in Chandpur. Is that your favourite

shooting spot?

It is by pure coincidence that the shooting spot for both films happened to be Chandpur.

What is your advice for upcoming directors?

The advice I have for upcoming directors is to enjoy the work they are doing. Without that, they cannot do great projects.

I cannot reveal too much about the plot, but it is a story which incorporates love, ego and basic instinct.

What expectations do you have from 'Paap Punno'?

I hope that when the audience sees the film, they will enjoy it. That is all that I expect and hope from the movie.

Do you have any message for the readers?

I would ask everyone to support Bangladeshi cinema and dramas as our showbiz industry is in a state of crisis. I would ask them to come and watch our movies in theatres.

Ridwan Intisaar Mahub

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- ii. Bonnet Ornament
- iii. Plane Blade
- iv. Mountain v. Propeller