

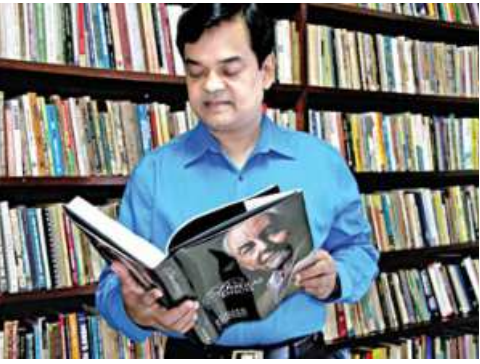
“We have to fight this war without any weapons” - Jewel Aich

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Jewel Aich is a pioneering magician in Bangladesh, and the first superstar in the craft. The artiste has performed in many countries, and is constantly travelling from one place to another with his caravan of tricks. He is a master flute artist as well, and gained popularity with it in BBC, VOB, China Radio, and German Radio and various platforms. Recently, in a candid chat with The Daily Star, the magician talks about troubling times and his activities at home.

How are you spending your time now?
I am currently at home, living the quarantine life. We are helpless in this situation, and the best we can do is stay home. I am very depressed about our current situation.

What are your current activities at home?
I am an avid reader. I make no compromise when it comes to reading -- be it poetry, stories, or novels. I even write short stories in my free time. I play the flute occasionally now. In these troubling times, I am mostly spending my time reading. I believe that life is a priceless resource, and our time here is



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

very limited. At the beginning of life and at the end of it, we are all spectators, what we can do in the middle is what counts.

What are you currently reading?
I have been studying *The Great Depression* recently. Usually, we do not see or feel anything beyond our world of knowledge. The world is going through many problems and I wonder -- when will all this end? What will be left when all this ends? Now that I am studying *The Great Depression*, I realise this has happened before. Mankind had to go through such troubling times in

the past as well. This virus is killing people, irrespective of their country, nationality, power, and status. Japan is still paying the price of the nuclear attack back in the time of the Second World War. The pandemic is more dangerous than any man-made weapons.

Do you have anything to say to the readers in these troubling times?
The Coronavirus should not taken lightly. This is a war we have to fight without any weapons. My advice to everyone would be to do the impossible. The most difficult task is to do nothing, and this is what we have to do. The best we can do for ourselves and others now is to stay home and not go out. We need to stay away from others for our good. Maintaining a minimum distance of six feet at all times is the best precaution. We need to maintain and practice proper hygiene, and wash our hands more frequently.

To stay happy in such distressing times is difficult, but I would advise everyone to try to enjoy the time at gine with our loved ones, because life is short but yet so beautiful.

‘Shatabdir Mahanayak’ portrays Bangabandhu’s 4,682 days behind bars

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Marking the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) produced a dance production, titled *Shatabdir Mahanayak* that premiered on March 17. The theatrical production shed light on the illustrious life of the Father of the Nation and his *Unfinished Autobiography*. Director General of BSA Liaquat Ali Lucky conducted proper research and was behind the art direction of the production.

13 prominent and promising Bangladeshi dancers-choreographers, including MR Wasek, Munmun Ahmed, Warda Rihab, Amit Chowdhury, Mehraj

Haque Tushar, Antar Dewar and Ariful Islam Arnab directed dances for the show. Among them, Ariful Islam Arnab highlighted Bangabandhu’s stay of 4,682 days behind bars during his political career, through dance. Nirjher Chowdhury directed the music for the *Karabash* part of the *Shatabdir Mahanayak*. Eminent elocutionist Asaduzzaman Noor, with Samiul Islam Poluck, recited in it.

Several talented dancers like Zuairiyah Mouli, Ishtiaq Hassan Imran, Anandita Khan, Parsa Evana, Taskin Anha, Sohan Arefin Nayan, Shawon Shan, Mati Siddique, Aviroop H Sharma, Airin Rahman Urmi, Sitab Khan, Priyanti, Prachi and Prapty participated in the production.



PHOTO: COURTESY



TVWATCH

Noted artiste Afzal Hossain directorial telefilm ‘Cox’s Bazaar e Kakatua’, based on the television series ‘Chotokaku’, written by Faridur Reza Sagar, will be telecasted on Channel i today at 3:05 pm.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Comforting shows to binge on Netflix in these troubling times

SHABABA IQBAL

With the rapidly spreading coronavirus forcing people to practice social distancing and in some cases, self-quarantine, we are all likely to have some leisure time on our hands as we stay at home in hopes of slowing the illness’s spread. One of the best ways to pass the time now is to stream some good television shows. While Netflix’s library is home to popular, contemporary comedies like *The Big Bang Theory*, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, *The Good Place* as well as classics like *Friends*, *That 70s Show* and *Gilmore Girls* that wrap us up in a nostalgia cocoon, there are several lesser-known feel-good shows that many may have missed out on.

The sitcom, *Schitt’s Creek*, has amassed a devoted following since it premiered in 2015. In the riches-to-rags story, the Rose family has to move to a tiny town



One Day at a Time

of Schitt’s Creek after losing their entire fortune. If you loved the eight-part book series, *Anne of Green Gables*, and the subsequent adaptations, you’ll find Netflix’s *Anne with an E* that much more entertaining. The titular orphaned character, Anne Shirley (Amybeth McNulty), is still mischievous as ever while coming into her own as a young woman. It’s that same spunk and the family dynamic with her, Matthew (R H Thomson), and Marilla (Geraldine James) that’ll make you want to watch this on repeat on bad days.

Kim’s Convenience is the kind of sitcom that will leave you with a warm and fuzzy feeling. The show follows a Canadian-Korean family that owns a convenience store (as the title would suggest). Expect idiosyncratic customers floating in and out of the store, funny and relatable intergenerational misunderstandings and a family you wish were real.

Moreover, *One Day at a Time* is a throwback family sitcom filled with brilliant comedic performances. This clever remake of Norman Lear’s ‘70s hit about a single mother raising two teenage daughters finds familiar laughs in the way generations clash and families wage war, but it’s also socially engaged and leisurely paced in a way that makes it stand out.

Lastly, Netflix’s *Virgin River* is comforting and a welcome respite. The story follows the protagonist, Mel, navigating the ins and outs of a town where everyone knows each other, and dealing with the old-fashioned views of Doc Mullins, both when it comes to medicine and gender roles.

These shows offer humour, heart and in some cases, just relaxation. Hopefully in these troubling days, they can provide you with some relief for a few hours.



Anne with an E



Schitt’s Creek



Kim’s convenience



Virgin River