



Arefin Shuvoo



Nusraat Faria



Zahara Mitu

PHOTOS: STAR &amp; COLLECTED

## Stars in home-quarantine upon returning from abroad

SHARMIN JOYA

With shootings and stage programmes pushed back due to concerns over the rapidly spreading coronavirus, many artistes in Bangladesh are trying their best to raise awareness on the pandemic over social media from their homes. Recently, few stars came back from abroad and have been in self-quarantine, for the safety of their families and loved ones. They are also urging their fans to stay home.

Arefin Shuvoo returned to Bangladesh on March 13 after shooting a commercial for a mobile brand. "I travelled to Dubai, Mumbai and Kolkata before returning to Dhaka," says the actor. "When I reached, I was already aware of the situation and took all the necessary precautions. I already knew that all of my projects have been postponed."

Shuvoo is now spending his quarantined time with his family, reading books and working out at home. "I am maintaining the social distance and enjoying

some time alone," he says. "The pandemic is spreading like Tsunami. We have to protect our self from the infection and prevent it from spreading it any further. I would like to request everyone to stay at home, maintain cleanliness on all grounds, and spend some quality time with their loved ones, which has become rare these days."

Meanwhile, Nusraat Faria landed in Dhaka from Mumbai on March 10. "After landing in Dhaka, I went to a different home and isolated myself from everyone, as this was the primary step for returnees," she says. "Although with the grace of the Almighty, I was doing fine, I had to follow the instructions, so that there is no chance of putting someone else into danger."

The actor performed in open air stage shows in Mumbai and before that, she was in Kolkata. "I have completed my 14 days of quarantine yesterday. I have spent my time by working out at home, reading books, watching YouTube shows."

Another promising artiste, Zahara Mitu, was

shooting for the Shamim Ahmed Roni directorial, *Commando*, opposite Dev, in Kolkata. It is a Bangladeshi movie. She returned to Dhaka on March 18 from Kolkata. According to Mitu, the day she came back, there was not a single case of coronavirus detected in Kolkata. "Yet, I was fully aware of the situation. I travelled by plane with people from different countries. So, I did not take any risks," she explains. After landing, she isolated herself and will remain quarantined at home until two weeks of her return. "I am doing absolutely fine. Nonetheless, I can't put the health of my family members and loved ones at risk. Subsequently, I am staying at a different home. My family is providing me with daily meals in disposable boxes and we are taking all possible precautions," she says. "It was my sister's birthday on March 22 and I couldn't do anything special for her. I could not even hug her! However, I know it is just for the time being, and this will pass."

"We need to keep ourselves safe right now"

- Zahid Hasan

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Zahid Hasan has been a favourite of audiences for many years. Throughout his career, he has been a part of several television shows, films and commercials. He is also an experienced television director. The National Award-winning actor shares his thoughts on the coronavirus pandemic and the importance of staying at home with *The Daily Star* in a recent chat.

**What were the last projects you worked on?**

I was working on a television project, directed by Milan Bhattacharya. Today, I was supposed to start the shooting of a production that I directed. All of my projects have been postponed until further notice.

**How does it feel to stay away from your work right now?**

Acting is an integral part of my life, but given the current situation, I am staying at home. It feels as though the whole world has come to a stop, but staying indoors is important for our safety right now. My family members and I are doing our best to stay safe.

**How are you spending your time at home?**

I am spending my time with my wife, son and daughter. We are spending more time as a family - chatting, watching television and playing board games every day. We are trying to enjoy this time at home and not stress too much. I am cooking a lot as well.

**How would you describe yourself as a cook?**

Usually, I used to cook on special occasions, and now as I have a lot of free time, I experimented with beef recently. My wife, Mou, and my kids are also trying out different dishes these days. We are trying to have fun together as a family.

**Do you have anything to say to our readers in these troubling times?**

First of all, we need to keep ourselves safe right now. I would request people to stay at home as much as possible and go out only when it is absolutely necessary. We should also maintain proper hygiene and cleanliness.



PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: STAR

## Hanif Sanket

shares video message in 'Coronay Koronio' on social media

ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Hanif Sanket has been raising social awareness among the public as the host of the popular television show *Ittyadi*, for decades. For the first time, he shared a video on social media to raise awareness about the coronavirus pandemic. He shared the video, *Coronay Koronio*, on his verified fan page on Facebook. In the video, he mentioned that the Technical Officer to Bangladesh from World Health Organization (WHO), Ai Tanimizu, requested him over an email to raise awareness about COVID 19, as Hanif Sanket has a prominent fan following. As of this writing, he has 4.4 million followers on his page. "Anyone can get infected at any time. So, unless it is absolutely necessary to go out, please stay home," says Hanif Sanket in the video. "It is important to keep our community aware and alert, as it is a contagious disease." He also shared a screenshot of the email sent to him by the WHO representative. He further added that everyone needs to protect themselves and keep their surroundings clean, stressing on the fact that a lot of people are spreading rumours on social media, which can eventually have dire consequences. As of now, the video has been shared 69 thousand times. Hanif Sanket also shared the guidelines WHO has provided on combatting the coronavirus.

## Live performance art 'Raag Rang' postponed

ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT DESK

A solo painting exhibition titled, *Serenading Soul*, by Zahangir Alom began at Dhaka Gallery from March 18.

On March 26, the artist, Zahangir Alom, was scheduled to put up a collaborative and interactive performance art, titled, *Raag Rang*. Renowned vocalist Alope Kumar Sen, eminent instrumentalists, Firoz Khan (sitar), Yousuf Khan (sarod), Sabuj Ahmed (tabla), along with five celebrated dance artistes, Snata Shahrin (Kathak), Rachel Priyanka Perris (Gaudiya), Sudeshna Swayamprabha (Manipuri), Arthy Ahmed (Bharatanatyam) and Alka Das Pranti (Odishi) were supposed to participate in the performance.

Due to public health concerns and as a precautionary measure against the coronavirus, the performance has been postponed until further notice. Zahangir Alom, along with the other performers, expressed their deepest condolences for families affected in this crisis and urged everyone to stay at their homes for their own safety.



PHOTO: STAR

## 'Painters Ever After' concludes today at Gallery Chittrak

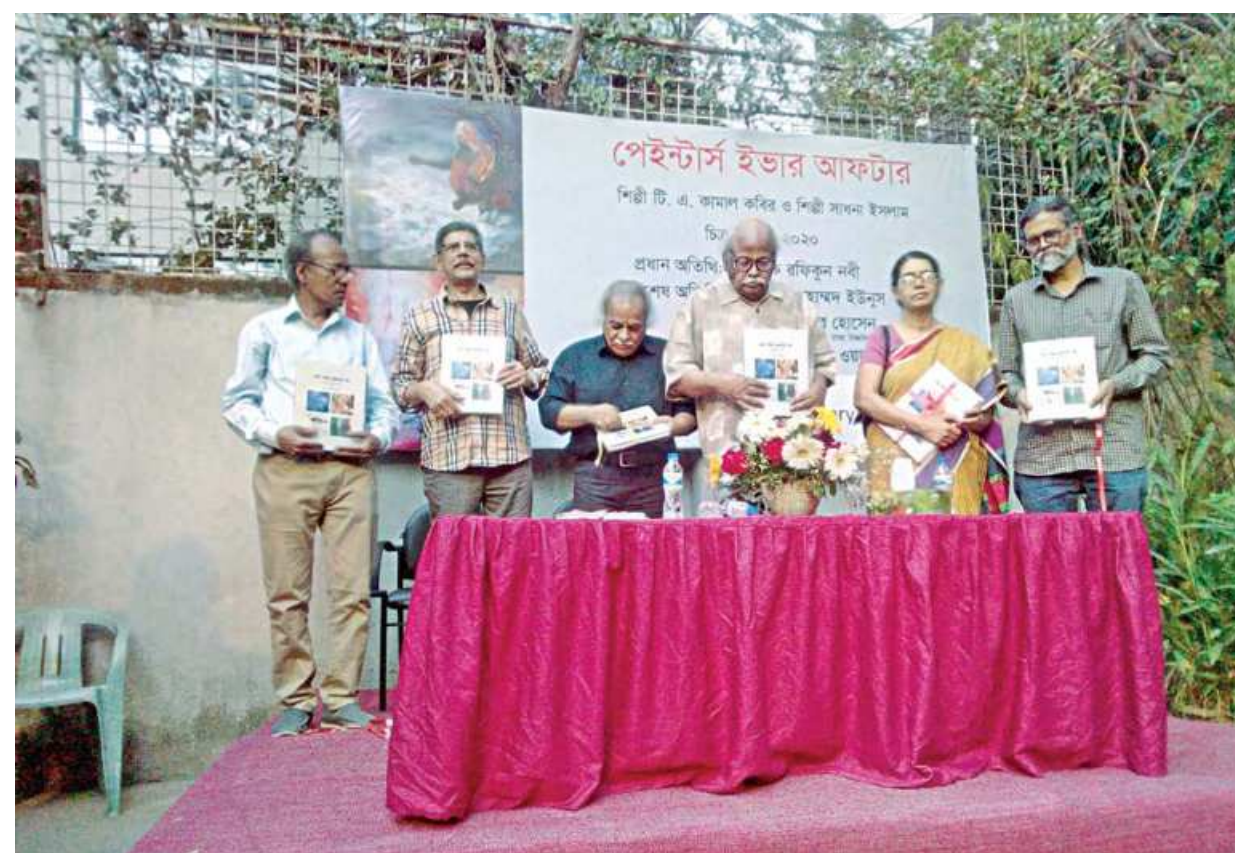


PHOTO: COURTESY OF GALLERY CHITTRAK

ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT DESK

A duet exhibition, titled *Painters Ever After* by illustrious artists TA Kamal Kabir and Sadhana Islam is taking place at Gallery Chittrak, Dhanmondi in the capital.

Eminent artist Rafiqun Nabi inaugurated the 12-day exhibition as the chief guest on March 13. Renowned artists Professor Mohammad Eunos and Professor Nisar Hossain, Dean, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, attended the opening ceremony as special guests. Prominent architect and art critic Professor Shamsul Wares presided over the programme.

TA Kamal Kabir and Sadhana Islam are prolific artists of the 70s. The exhibition is showcasing 60 artworks on diverse media. Marking the exhibition, a book on the title *Life and Works of Sadhana Islam and TA Kamal Kabir* was unveiled at the inaugural event. The show, opening from 10am to 8pm, ends today.