

GRAPEVINE

Film on Pandemic in Bangladesh



Based on the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on Bangladesh, a film, *COVID-19 in Bangladesh*, is being directed by Syed Wahiduzzaman Diamond. The film will star actor Bappy Chowdhury and Adhora Khan as the leads. Currently, shooting for the film is happening in different places of Dhaka by maintaining all kinds of safety precautions. Bappy said, "I am aware of the risk involved during the shooting of this project, but as the story is based on this current crisis, I have decided to work for it. Everyone involved in this project is cautious and we are all maintaining the safety protocols." Adhora said, "The story is emotional. I believe the audience will be able to connect to it. I consider myself lucky to be part of this project."

Nurul Alam Atique's successful venture

A recent short film, *Coronar Ful*, directed by Nurul Alam Atique has been highly appreciated by the audience. The film was aired on *Depto TV*, and now can be watched on the online streaming platform *Bioscope*. Actor Swagata and Manoj starred in the film. Social media has been buzzing with praises about *Cor-*



onar Ful, and many prominent personalities shared their positive remarks regarding this project. Aside from this, under the banner of *Al-pha-I Studio*, directors like Giasuddin Selim, Shihab Shaheen, Animesh Aich, Shafayet Monsur Rana and Gautam Koiri are making short films for the audiences.



The Lockdown

Even though everything is at a halt due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, our artists are still finding ways to entertain their audience. Recently, a music video for the song, *The Lockdown*, was released on *GaanChobi Entertainment's* official YouTube channel. The song is composed by Kumar Bishwajit and the lyrics written by

Liton Adhikari Rintu. Singer Kishore gave voice to the song and also starred in the music video. Kishore said, "This is my fourth song composed by Kumar Bishwajit. I always feel privileged to sing on his tune. It was a unique experience to work for the music video, as I did the shooting at home using a mobile phone."

COVER STORY

INTO THE WORLD OF HUMOUR



Shaju Khadem is a renowned comedian and actor who started his career back in 1997 doing stage shows with 'Nagorik Natyangan'. He has also appeared on projects like 'Doll's House', 'Gohine' and 'Alok Nagar', among several others. Previously, in an interview with Rafi Hossain, he talked about comedy, his career and about the new generation of actors.

Rafi Hossain: Welcome to *Uncensored with Rafi Hossain*. According to many, Bangladeshis aren't capable of making people laugh, but today's guest, Shaju Khadem, breaks that stereotype. Shaju, thank you for giving us your time.

Shaju Khadem: Thank you for having me on your show, Rafi Bhai. About Bangladeshis people not being able to make others laugh, I don't think that's true. From the funny stories written by Jasimuddin to Gopal Bhaa, Bangladeshis have been known to have a good sense of humour.

Rafi: Has there been instances where people could not take a joke or misinterpreted it?

Shaju: Yes, that does happen a lot. There have also been times where a joke made by a foreign artist that gained popularity in Bangladesh got criticised when it was done by a Bangladeshi artist. What I want everyone to understand is that the jokes we say are not to attack anyone personally. They're just to make people laugh.

Rafi: How do you differentiate between a good and bad actor?

Shaju: I honestly cannot say who is a good actor and who is a bad one as every actor is different. The impact an actor has on our society or the number of fans an actor has determines their popularity. We can call them popular actors, but we can't say that that actor is a good actor. I think what makes an actor good is the acting they have studied and learned. Without acting training, actors will pretend to be instead of playing a character.

Rafi: So, do you think newcomers should do theatre or have institutional training to become a good actor?

Shaju: If they do theatre or gain institutional knowledge, it does not necessarily mean that they will become a good actor. One must practise and hone their skill as well. You must also have an understanding of what you are doing wrong and what you must improve: I can say this from my personal experience. Before I joined Charukola Academy, I already considered myself a great artist. When I first joined, I was given the task of drawing a picture of a bottle in seven days. I drew it in two minutes time and took it to the teacher, who ripped my drawing up and said that I hadn't even looked at the bottle properly

before drawing it. He then proceeded to show us how to properly look at something before drawing it and also about shading and lines which you use to draw. Within two or three months I understood that the artwork I used to do before wasn't proper. I was so ashamed of how I used to take pride in artworks which weren't even that great, so I burned all of them.

Rafi: You impersonate a lot of people. How do you pick them?

Shaju: There are some people who are very unique. You don't have to hear them

small role, I aim to do it as well as I can.

Rafi: What do you think is a problem in the industry?

Shaju: I think a big problem for us is that people who make projects try to play it safe. We have many experienced actors in our country, but we are not utilising them.

Rafi: What tips do you have for new actors?

Shaju: I think that the new actors are much more brilliant than we were at their age. Those who are doing well are working very intelligently. I just want to ask them to be more responsible about their personal lives.



They are in the public eye a lot, so they must maintain discipline. If they don't maintain this discipline, they cannot make a mark in the showbiz industry.

Rafi: Do you ever feel unsatisfied with what you have achieved?

Shaju: Not at all. I am happy with what I have done so far. The characters I do aren't inferior to any other character in a drama. Every character plays an important part. To me, the most important thing is to perfectly pull off the character I am doing. Even if I do a very

.....
Transcribed by Ridwan Intisaar Mahbub

POPCORN HIGHLIGHTS

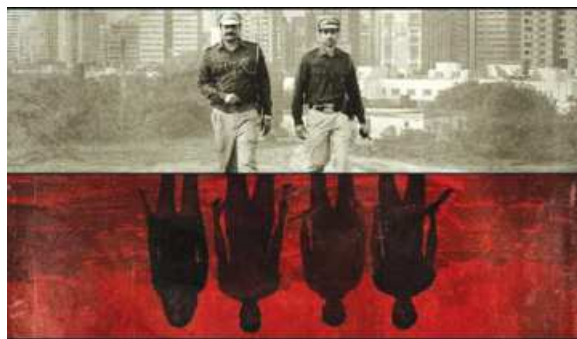
Here are some binge worthy movie and series you can spend your time watching while you stay at home social distancing, keeping yourself, as well as others, safe.

The Victims' Game

The Victims' Game is a Taiwanese thriller TV show on *Netflix*. It was directed by David Chuang and Allen Chen, and stars Joseph Chang, Ann Hsu and Jason Wang, among others. The storyline follows the life of a forensic expert who finds himself in a dilemma when his estranged daughter seems to be connected to murders. It was first aired on April 30, 2020.



PAATAL LOK



Paatal Lok is a Hindi crime-thriller TV series, first aired on May 15, 2020 on *Amazon Prime Video*. It was created by Sudip Sharma, directed by Avinash Arun and Prosit Roy, produces under the banner of *Clean Slate Films*, and stars Jaideep Ahlawat, Gul Panag and Neeraj Kabi, among others. The plot follows the life of a cop who finds himself entangled in a difficult assassination case.

AVATAR

The Last Airbender



Avatar: The Last Airbender is an animated television series. It has been created by Michael Dante DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko, produced under the banner of *Nickelodeon Animation Studio*, with the voices of Zach Tyler Eisen, Mae Whitman, and Jack DeSena, among others. The series takes place in a world where people can manipulate the elements on earth, and focuses on an Avatar and his friends who are determined to end the ongoing war once and for all. It was originally aired on *Nickelodeon* on February 21, 2005, but was released on *Netflix* on May 15, 2020.

Shreya Shomoyeeta & Amina Hossain

GUESS THE CELEBRITY

Guess who the celebrity is?
HINT: A FRIEND AND STYLIST OF PARIS HILTON



ANSWER FROM THE PREVIOUS ISSUE:
"REESE WITHERSPOON"



CONTROL Z

Control Z is a Mexican web television teen drama series on *Netflix*. It has been directed by Alejandro Lozano, produced under the banner of *Lemon Studios*, and stars Ana Valeria Becerril, Michael Ronda, and Andrés Baida, among others. It tells the story of a hacker who begins leaking the secrets of students in a certain high school, while one student tries to find the person behind it. It originally premiered on *Netflix* on May 22, 2020.