

CENTRE STAGE

Popular actors Jaya Ahsan and Masuma Rahman Nabila have been maintaining social distance and staying indoors. In this interview with Star Showbiz, the talented actors shared what they miss the most during quarantine and what they have been doing for their physical and mental healths.



JAYA AHSAN

Have you been working on any short film or project during this lock-down?

A few artists have been working from home, but I have not done anything of that sort. There are a few reasons behind that. Firstly, everyone has been under a lot of mental stress due to the current state of the world, which is why it is not possible to take on any such project. Secondly, shooting is not a one-man job. Every single person, from light technicians to hairdressers, play a crucial part on set. Without them, no one can make it as a star.

Did you undertake any activity, such as donating to charities, during these difficult times?

I don't want to discuss this in detail as this crisis has affected the entire world. So, I believe that any contribution I have made are insignificant. However, I have been trying to reach out and provide some support to street dwellers, especially children. I have also made an effort to help stray dogs during these times.

Have you participated in any awareness campaign?

I have appeared in a few awareness videos

in both Bangladesh and India. For instance, I took part in an event during Eid which was aiming to collect funds for artists. There will be an event in Kolkata called *Concert for Bengal*, which I am a part of as well.

How have you been taking care of your physical and mental health?

Initially, I didn't have a routine. However, I felt distressed and realised that working-out helped me. I try to do it regularly now as it helps both my physical and mental state. Like I mentioned earlier, I am under a lot stress, which has been making it difficult for me to focus on reading books. So, to pass my time, I have been watching a lot of movies.

Do you have any message for the readers?

Fear of death has currently occupied all our minds. While it is difficult, I would want everyone to focus on the good aspects of life. The crisis has also created a setback for the goals we may have set to achieve within this year. However, it is important to remember that staying safe is our biggest priority and surviving this global pandemic is an accomplishment in itself.

Shreya Shomoyeeta

Nabila

What have you been doing in quarantine?

I think I'm just doing what everyone else is doing; nothing special. I'm doing household chores. Mostly, I'm just waiting and praying for all of this to be over so that we can go back to our previous way of life.

Have you acquired a new skill?

Since my childhood, I have known that I can recreate the human face on paper. When my husband found out about this, he persuaded me to practise it. So, I've spent some time drawing his face. This isn't honestly a new skill; it's an old skill that I've began working on again. I've also been trying out new recipes which I haven't been able to do before. For example, I had made a cake for the first time for my husband's birthday.

What aspect of life before are you missing the most?

I'm basically missing everything. I miss going to work on shoots. I terribly miss acting. I haven't been able to spend time with my friends, so I'm really missing that. I love travelling. Now I don't even know when I can go abroad or even outside of Dhaka. What is the first thing that you'll do when quarantine ends? The first thing I want to do is go on a shoot, so I'll look for a good project. I also want to travel somewhere, no matter how near or far, so that I can feel that everything is back to normal and we've overcome a deadly pandemic.

Do you have any message for the readers?

I would request all the readers to be safe and cautious. We all know what to do to keep ourselves and others safe, so we should maintain them strictly. I know that many people are tired of this. I want them to know that they're not alone. Even I become depressed sometimes. I would like to ask you to be patient. We have waited before, and we have to wait some more. Only then can we overcome this. If you are feeling depressed, you should definitely talk to family and friends and share any problem you have. This pandemic has shown us that people are there for each other, so we should all be open about whatever we're going through.

Amina Hossain



GRAPE VINE

Fortunate Farooki

Legendary Indian composer A R Rahman has joined Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's directorial venture, *No Land's Man*, as co-producer and music composer. Farooki said, "I feel that A R Rahman is the only person fit to match the global standard for the film. After completing the shooting, I showed him the rough draft of the film. He liked it and we had several conversations and idea-sharing sessions. I feel fortunate to have him associated with this project, not just as the music composer, but also the co-producer." *No Man's Land*, a joint production of the US, India and Bangladesh, stars Indian actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Australian theatre actor Megan Mitchell and



Bangladeshi musician-actor Tahsan Rahman Khan. Eighty percent of the shooting has been completed in India, New York and Australia. The post-production of the film was suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic.



ACTOR TURNED DIRECTOR

After presenting *Monta Bojhena* to his audience, popular actor Arifin Shuvoo is coming up with a documentary film, *The story behind the hard work for Mission Extreme*, this Eid-ul-Adha. Besides acting for the film, he is also directing it. Shuvoo said, "I have worked hard for *Mission Extreme*. I have not taken any other work over the past two years as I dedicated my full focus on this project. Before shooting for the film, I trained myself for nine months and reduced my weight from 98 kg to 82 kg. On-screen, the

audience will notice my weight loss, but the change of food habit, sleep cycle alteration, getting injured and all the struggles I have been through for this project will remain untold. The purpose of this documentary is to bring forth my journey with *Mission Extreme*." The documentary will be released on Arifin Shuvoo's official YouTube channel. *Mission Extreme* is co-directed by Sunny Sanwar and Faisal Ahmed. The cast also includes Jannatul Ferdous Oishee, Sadia Nabila and Taskeen Rahman.

Bubly's Bidrohi

Bidrohi, starring popular actor Shakib Khan and Shobnom Bubly, will be released for the audience this Eid-ul-Adha. The movie was supposed to be released during Eid-ul-Fitr, but the ongoing crisis delayed the release. As an alternative to the cinema hall, the director Shahin Sumon is planning to release the film on the production house's online streaming app. Regarding the film, a representative from the production house said, "The app is being made based on the current crisis and the sustainability of the entertainment industry. Ninety-nine per cent of the work has already been developed and currently, it's going through the trial process. The application will be launched by the end of June."



GUESS THE CELEBRITY

Guess who the celebrity is?

HINT: HE IS A VERY STRANGE DOCTOR



ANSWER FROM THE PREVIOUS ISSUE:
"KIM KARDASHIAN"

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.

Sweet Magnolias

Sweet Magnolias is a romance drama web television series on Netflix, which has been based on the eponymous novels by Sherryl Woods. It has been developed by Sheryl J. Anderson, produced by Matt Drake, and stars JoAnna Garcia Swisher, Brooke Elliott and Heather Headley, among others. It tells the story of three childhood friends as they navigate their way through life and balance their family, relationships, and careers. The series premiered on Netflix on May 19, 2020.



I Know This Much Is True

I Know This Much Is True is a tragedy-drama miniseries, based on the eponymous novel, written by Wally Lamb. It was written by Derek Cianfrance and Anya Epstein, directed by Derek Cianfrance, produced by Jeffrey T. Bernstein, and stars Mark Ruffalo, Melissa Leo and John Proacciano, among others. The story follows Dominick Birdsey, as he narrates his relationship with his schizophrenic twin brother. It was aired on May 10, 2020 on HBO.

Shreya Shomoyeeta & Amina Hossain

U P L O A D

Upload is a science fiction comedy web television series on Amazon Prime Video. It has been created by Greg Daniels, who also produced the series alongside Howard Klein, and stars Robbie Amell, Andy Allo

and Allegra Edwards, among others. It is set in a futuristic world where people can choose their own virtual afterlife, and tells the story of a man who chooses to do so. The series premiered on May 1, 2020.

