

"Women should have every opportunity to compete as equals"

... LUVA NAHID CHOUDHURY

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Luva Nahid Choudhury is a personality of many talents. She is an architect, a serious practitioner of music, an avid art aficionado, and holds the position of Director General at Bengal Foundation -- a monumental organisation working tirelessly for the progress of arts in various forms. The extraordinary artist-administrator recently spoke to The Daily Star, about the position in various fields of arts in the country, and more.

Holistically, how do you think girls are doing in the various forms of art in the country right now?

Luva Nahid Choudhury: We have always focused on the quality of the work and its programmatic fit - regardless of gender. I can attempt to answer from our experiences in our various programmes but, of course it would not necessarily reflect exactly the general status of things in the country.

At the classical music school, three young girls are taking lessons in the tabla out of a total of 22 students. The tabla, as I am sure you know, has typically been considered a male domain. In the dhruwad - another highly male dominated practice, female participation is over 50 percent. We also have a balance between the genders in the kheyal section, but kheyal is generally performed by both men and women.

In the case of recording Bangla



PHOTO: STAR

(traditional) music over the past twenty years, there is an overwhelming majority of female singers. We have been showing fine art in our galleries for the last 15 years, and there the percentage of female practitioners would not exceed a fifth. We have just awarded a film-making grant to first-time film directors, and it has turned out that two out of the five who were awarded, are women. I must add that the jury had blind copies of the script. As

I mentioned earlier, gender is not a factor that we generally consider in our deliberations.

However, in our publishing wing, there is a separate category for 'writing on women'. Of the 70 titles that have been published in total, five fall into this category. Of the 50-odd writers who we have published, about 10 are women.

You are at a decision-making position of possibly the biggest patron organisations of arts in

the country. How important do you think it is for women to be in administrative positions -- particularly in the field of arts and entertainment?

Luva Nahid Choudhury: At Bengal Foundation we do seem to have more women than men in leadership positions. The Chairman, Abul Khair, is a strong believer in the capacity of women to deliver better. The majority of our management and executive positions are held by women. I do not think women should be confined to holding specific kinds of jobs. They should have every opportunity to compete as equals. What is most important is the capacity for development. I think women can demonstrate their capacity to develop, learn intelligently, accommodate and internalise knowledge very early in their lives, except that not many people seem to want to notice.

People express themselves through artistic and literary pursuits. Therefore, when there is room and the liberty to express oneself, both men and women will naturally gravitate towards art, music, writing, and other forms of the arts. The conventional ways of creating room are through education, bringing about social change and strengthening values. Such things require community engagement and cannot be done alone. The individual can however value and believe in herself. I have found the latter path more useful.

Oloshpur on Rtv

A CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Oloshpur" airs every Thursday to Sunday at 9:05pm on Rtv. Written by Muhammad Mamun-ur-Rashid, the drama serial is directed by Al Hazen. The story is located in the fictitious land of Oloshpur, inhabited by a group of lazy people engaged in unproductive activities. There are only two working persons in the land.

Dolly Zahur, Anisur Rahman Milon, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Lutfar Rahman



George, Arfan Chowdhury, Mousumi Hamid, Chitralkha Guha, Nadia and others are in the cast.

Deshghor'er Gaan at Chhayanaut today



PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chhayanaut, one of the leading cultural schools of the country, is hosting "Deshghor'er Gaan" today, in loving memory of Waheedul Haq -- the founder of the school -- on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

The programme, set to be held at the Chhayanaut auditorium at 5:30pm, will be opened by folk researcher Shamsuzzaman

Khan. Shusen Chandra Saha Roy and his troupe from Netrokona will perform Ghatu Gaan, while dance-drama "Bon-Paharer Nrityoget" from Chittagong Hill Tracts will also be presented. Dinbondhu Sarkar and his troupe from Norail will present "Pala - Behula Lokhindor", while artistes of Chhayanaut will present solos.



The director questioned my heavy make up in "U-turn" ... MOUTUSHI BISWAS

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Popular TV actress, Moutushi Biswas created a buzz with the film "Bachelor" and is following up her success with another film, titled "U-turn". In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, Moutushi amplified on her new film and her upward looking career.

Anything you can tell us about "U-turn"?
Moutushi Biswas: I play the role of a film producer named Toma who has stepped into film production in the footsteps of her father, played by seasoned actor Shahiduzzaman Selim. I really enjoyed my role in the film, directed by Alvi Ahmed. Shooting is complete but dubbing is underway.

You have appeared on celluloid after a long break. What's your expectation from the film?

Moutushi Biswas: A great deal. It is a film which was made for all strata of society, irrespective of age. I hope it will release in big theatres like Jamuna Blockbuster and Cineplex.

What about its songs?
Moutushi Biswas: Though "U-turn" is slanted towards acting, it features romantic, item and Sufi songs. I hope the tracks will entertain audiences.

Any memorable moments on the set?
Moutushi Biswas: During the shoot for a hospital scene, the director questioned me about my heavy make up as I played the role of a road accident victim lying on a hospital bed. Later, I had to remove the make up. After wrapping up the shooting, the entire team burst into laughter.

What's your plan on the film front?
Moutushi Biswas: Frankly, I'm not in a hurry on this front; ultimately it will depend on a strong plot.

Tell us about your daily soap on ATN Bangla?
Moutushi Biswas: Titled "Sathi Tarar Timir", the serial is directed by Afsana Mimi. I play a very complicated character in the popular play.

Any recent projects that have proved a challenge?
Moutushi Biswas: "Jhalmuri" where I play the role of a police officer. The play is directed by Redowan Roni. Alongside the cop role, the audience will see me in the role of a domestic help. Both the characters were very challenging.

"No inhibitions while facing the camera" ...ADITI RAO

Bollywood actress Aditi Rao Hydari said that she had no inhibitions while facing camera. "Filmmaker Sudhir Mishra had once told me though I have simple looks I turn bold in front of camera. I love that I have no inhibitions... I like to be shameless in front of camera," Aditi told reporters.

The actress is playing the role of Chandramukhi in Mishra's modern

adaptation of "Devdas". Aditi, whose filmography includes "Delhi 6", "Yeh Sali Zindagi" and "Rockstar" to name a few, said she liked to be versatile on screen and is comfortable in handling intimate scenes.

"I like doing films that are lauded for their content. I like to be the part of mainstream and doing films which tickle your funny bone. I would love to do a dance number," she added.

Source: IBN



Bindu's new film releases today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bindu recently announced her plans to quit showbiz following her wedding, breaking the hearts of countless fans. The big news for her admirers is that a new film of the talented actress is releasing countrywide today. "Ei Toh Prem", directed by Sohel Arman was three years in the making and crossed many a hurdle before hitting the screens. She will be seen romancing Shakib Khan in the film.

The song "Ami Tomar Moner Bhetor Ekbar Ghure Ashte Chai" by Habib and Nancy, that became a major hit a couple of years back, was made for the film.

Bindu came into the spotlight with the Lux Channel i Superstar pageant. Later she was offered a role in the acclaimed film "Daruchini Dwip" and soon became a popular face on the small screen. Alongside acting in TV plays, the multi-talented artiste appeared in the films "Jaago" and "Piriter Agun Jole Digan".



এবার নেট ব্যবহারের সময় যাক বদলে!

প্রি-পেইড ও পোস্ট-পেইড "Economy Data Package" সমূহ

| স্পিড | ইকোনোমি প্যাক | মূল্য (টাকা) | ব্যবহারের সময় | ব্যবহার মেয়াদ | শর্টকোড | |
|----------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------|-----------|------------|
| | | | | | প্রি-পেইড | পোস্ট-পেইড |
| ৫১২ kbps | ১ জিবি | ৯৯/= | রাত ১২ঃ০০ হতে | ৩০ দিন | D60 | F25 |
| | ৫ জিবি | ৩০০/= | হতে | ৩০ দিন | D63 | F29 |
| | ১০ জিবি | ৫০০/= | সন্ধ্যা ৬ঃ০০ (১৮ ঘণ্টা) | ৩০ দিন | D64 | F30 |
| ১ mbps | ২৫ জিবি | ১১০০/= | | ৩০ দিন | D65 | F31 |

সামান্য তথ্যাবলি:
১। উপরোক্ত প্যাকেজসমূহ "ইকোনোমি/Economy প্যাকেজ হিসাবে গণ্য হবে।
২। উপরোক্ত প্যাকেজসমূহের গ্রাহকগণ একই সাথে দুই বা ততোধিক ডাটা প্যাক ক্রয় ও ব্যবহার করতে পারবেন।
৩। "ইকোনোমি" ডাটা প্যাকেজসমূহ প্রতিদিন রাত ১২:০০টা হতে সন্ধ্যা ৬:০০টা পর্যন্ত (১৮ ঘণ্টা) ব্যবহার করা যাবে। অবশিষ্ট সময়, সন্ধ্যা ৬:০০টা থেকে রাত ১২:০০টা (৬ ঘণ্টা) পর্যন্ত pay per use রেট প্রযোজ্য হবে যদি না গ্রাহক অন্য কোন ২৪ ঘণ্টার নিয়মিত প্যাকেজ ক্রয় করে থাকে।
৪। গ্রাহক যদি ২৪ ঘণ্টা নিয়মিত ব্যবহার উপযোগী যে কোন ডাটা প্যাক এবং "ইকোনোমি" ডাটা প্যাক একত্রে ব্যবহার করতে চান সেক্ষেত্রে, রাত ১২:০০ টা হতে সন্ধ্যা ৬:০০টা পর্যন্ত (১৮ ঘণ্টা) "ইকোনোমি" প্যাক হতে ডাটা খরচ হবে এবং বাকী ৬ ঘণ্টা (সন্ধ্যা ৬:০০ হতে রাত ১২:০০টা) ২৪ ঘণ্টা ব্যবহার উপযোগী নিয়মিত প্যাক হতে ডাটা খরচ হবে। উল্লেখ্য, যদি "ইকোনোমি" প্যাকের ডাটা শেষ হয়ে যায় তবে ২৪ ঘণ্টার নিয়মিত ব্যবহার উপযোগী ডাটা শেষ হয়ে যায় এবং "ইকোনোমি" প্যাকের ডাটার পরিমাণ ও মেয়াদ অবশিষ্ট থাকে সেক্ষেত্রে, গ্রাহক রাত ১২:০০ টা হতে সন্ধ্যা ৬:০০ টা পর্যন্ত (১৮ ঘণ্টা) ডাটা ব্যবহার করতে পারবে এবং বাকী ৬ ঘণ্টা (সন্ধ্যা ৬:০০ টা হতে রাত ১২:০০ টা) pay per use রেটে ডাটা খরচ হবে।