

| FAREWELL |

# SAYING GOODBYE

ANIKA HOSSAIN

PHOTOS: RIDWAN ADID RUPON



I first joined *The Star* magazine in February 2010, with no experience in journalism and a degree in Psychology under my belt. I remember thinking at my interview that I would never get this job, but the then editor, Ms Aasha Mehreen Amin took a chance on me and allowed me to be a part of her team, and for that, I will be forever grateful. I remember being in awe of the *Star* team—Aasha apa, Kajalie Shahreen Islam, Elita Karim, Zain Al Mahmood, Tamanna Khan, Zahed Khan - all brilliant journalists who took me under their wing, becoming my mentors and my family. I remember wanting to be just like them someday, when I saw my first story in print. I had covered an art exhibition and was so proud to see my name next to theirs.

Every time someone read my articles, my parents my teachers, friends etc I remember bursting with pride and wanting to improve myself with every piece I turned in. As my work continued, I was exposed to an entirely different country than the one I thought I knew so well. I met extraordinary people, saw amazing places and learned to look at the world differently. I also faced the harsh realities I had been sheltered from and learned to fight for what I believed in.

Over the years, I worked with many talented journalists at *The Star* (now *The Star Weekend*) Sushmita S Preetha, Soraya Auer, Rifat Munim, Akram Hosen and some of my best friends - Naziba Basher, Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo and Apurba Jahangir- all of whom made me look forward to going to work every day. The hours we spent chatting over coffee in the canteen, our crazy Tuesday nights before the magazine went to print, our hangouts after office, are memories I will hold on to and cherish forever.



I'd like to think I have changed and grown as a person during my years at *The Daily Star*. I have learned to be more patient, tolerant and respectful of my people. I was able to write about matters close to my heart-social issues, human rights issues and every time I turned in my articles, I felt like I had made a small

difference somewhere, and I will remember that feeling and take it with me wherever I go.

This is my last official piece for the *Star Weekend* and I am heartbroken as I say goodbye. I'd like to thank everyone I worked with and all my readers, for taking time out of your Fridays to read what I had to say. ■

| CULTURE |

This year's 68th Cannes Film Festival was a very special occasion for Shaan Rahman, a young talented Bangladeshi actor trained in Canada. The 18-minute fictional short film *Eye for an Eye*, where he played one of the leading roles, was launched and screened at the Short Film Corner Section of this highly prestigious film festival. The film, submitted from Canada, was also directed by a Bangladeshi filmmaker Khijir Hayat Khan renowned for his short films 'Jaago' and 'Bourne Identity in 60 Seconds'.

Shaan's talent and passion for acting not only made him an excellent performer; he is now also a mentor.

## THE ACTOR AND THE MENTOR

THE STORY OF A TALENTED BANGLADESHI ACTOR WHO IS PASSIONATE ABOUT TEACHING THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS OF ACTING.

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN



After coming to Bangladesh this year, Shaan has been running his own acting school called 'The Arena' where he teaches the techniques and methods of acting which are still quite unfamiliar in our country.

Born and raised in Bangladesh till the age of 19, Shaan went to Canada for higher education in mathematics and physics. However, in the 2nd year of his university, he started to feel that he finds his real passion in acting and not in science books. Shaan says, "I used to spend hours reading and analysing scripts, movies, roles, characters and acting styles."

Taking a different turn, Shaan then enrolled at the University of Victoria's 4 year long Acting Specialist Programme. He also completed training courses at The Actor's Foundry. Shaan says, "My formal education in acting has proven to be very resourceful and effective to build my acting career."

"Many think that acting is a god-gifted talent. However, I think without proper training and hard work, this talent cannot be nourished," he adds.

Shaan runs his school according to the curriculum he had studied under at The Actor's Foundry. In a month long crash course, a student, starting with the basics of acting such as script analysis, gets the spirit of a true

performer by the end of the month.

A F M Sayem, a software engineer, has recently completed the crash course at The Arena. He says, "The course was really awesome. In the first week, I was given a script to analyse the scenes, acts and was taught the basics of acting. Then I learned about how to prepare my mind for acting through different kinds of relaxation exercises including meditation."

"In the third week, I learned how to fuse my own personality with the character. In the final class, I had to perform the character I was given in the first class with the script. This package course on acting has changed my mind and now I am really passionate about it," says a beaming Sayem.

After a short postponement during Ramadan, Shaan is going to re-launch his acting classes at Jaatra Biroti in the capital's Banani area with newer ideas and experiences. Shaan says, "In my classes, I also learn a lot of things from my students. They are very enthusiastic and brimming with excitement to learn the art."

Besides teaching at The Arena, Shaan is also working on different projects and connecting with industry professionals and artistes to share his decade long knowledge and experience in acting. ■



Shaan Rahman

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



| NUMBERS |

# 51

According to the Thai police, 51 are held in Thailand for 'human trafficking'. Arrest warrants have been issued for four more suspects allegedly involved in trafficking of migrants from Bangladesh and Myanmar. Region 9 Police deputy commander Pol Maj-General Putthichat Ekachan said the four new arrest warrants brought the total to 81. Some 51 suspects have been arrested, while 30 were still at large.

SOURCE: THE DAILY STAR