

FROM THE SHOOTING SPOT

The Afzal-Tauquir-Bipasha trifecta



SHAH ALAM SHAZI

TV director Arif Khan is bringing out the big guns this Eid, casting Afzal Hossain, Tauquir Ahmed and Bipasha Hayat for tele-film "Rupali Diner Golpo", putting the three big names on the same screen for the first time.

Filming for the tele-film began in Pubail, Gazipur on Wednesday. At the shoot, Bipasha Hayat is seen dressed in a village woman's attire, with Afzal Hossain seated beside her in a chair. The actors then resume rehearsals for their scene, which is emotionally charged and includes dialogue between Afzal and Bipasha.

For the next scene, Shormimala and Tauquir

join the cast members on set. Tauquir looks unrecognisable as he emerges from the makeup room with a false moustache and tousled hair. What ensues thence is a seemingly rural domestic scene where Bipasha sweeps the courtyard and Shormimala works on a sewing machine in the verandah. Tauquir, playing a villain, is to approach the two women from outside the house. However, the scene is interrupted by Afzal Hossain, who suggests the scene would be better if Shormimala descends from the veranda to join Bipasha in the yard. The director agrees to make this chance and they begin filming again. For this particular scene, pigeons are used as props. Shooting goes

on as late as midnight, stopping only for iftar and dinner in between takes.

Bipasha Hayat's involvement extends beyond acting; the veteran actor has written the script as well. On her work, Afzal Hossain said, "Bipasha has written a very serious script in which viewers will see me in a new light. Arif Khan is a close friend of mine, and together we hope to create a good drama."

Upon being asked on what message she hopes to convey with the tele-film, Bipasha responded, "People constantly change over time and this is what I have tried to capture."

"Rupali Diner Golpo" is scheduled to air during Eid on ntv.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Sharing the happiness with the less fortunate

AYUB BACHCHU'S EID THOUGHTS

ZAIMA ZAHRA

Ayub Bachchu, one of the most prominent guitarists of the country, is invariably a major figure in Bangladesh's music. Be it with his band LRB or as a solo singer-guitarist, he has produced many hits throughout his career. The veteran shared thoughts and plans on celebrating Eid, in conversation with The Daily Star.

How do you celebrate Eid?

Bachchu: Just like every other child, during my childhood my father used to buy me gifts and every gift used to be better than the last one. However, as I am a father now, I get to buy gifts for my kids and the feeling is as amazing, just with the roles reversed. For me, Eid means buying gifts for my loved ones and helping the underprivileged. Other than that, on the day of Eid I stay very relaxed as my friends and relatives come over and we try to celebrate it to the fullest.

You mentioned sharing your Eid happiness with underprivileged people.

How do you do that?

Bachchu: I am affiliated with JAAGO Foundation and there various activities. I sponsor two kids of the foundation, and I try my level best to stand by their side through thick and thin. Moreover, this year on April 5, we celebrated my band LRB's 26th anniversary, and to mark the occasion we organised a feast for the

kids of JAAGO Foundation. Honestly, as a member of the society it is our responsibility help the underprivileged because I believe our world is incomplete without them. This is why we as in LRB always urge to keep them by its side in every celebration.

Where do you go for your own Eid shopping?

Bachchu: I usually don't go for Eid shopping myself. Before I was married, my parents used to do the shopping and now my wife does it for me. Plus, for Eid I get gifts from my siblings and that's why going for shopping is pointless for me (laughs).

Musically, what's cooking from you and LRB in coming days?

Bachchu: We hope to do some live shows on TV this Eid, and planning and discussion on that is still going on. As per other work, there is big surprise waiting for listeners. We are working on our upcoming projects; you will get to know when the time comes.

Two Shakibs, one talk show



A CORRESPONDENT

Ace cricketer Shakib Al Hasan and popular actor Shakib Khan have been paired together for an Eid Special Talk show to be aired on Ekushey TV. The programme, hosted by Farhana Nisho, will

feature memorable events happened in the lives and respective careers of the star duo. While Shakib Al Hasan shares many unknown stories of his cricket career, Khan talks about his film career in the show. They will later take part in game show highlight-

ing balloon shooting, 'chutes and ladders and spraying water. The talk show has been produced by Masduzzaman Shohag. The programme, one of the main attractions for the upcoming Eid programmes for the channel, is yet to be titled.

Salman's "Tubelight" is a comedy-drama



Filmmaker Kabir Khan's next, "Tubelight", starring Salman Khan -- will have elements of comedy and drama with politics as its backdrop. "It is about a personal issue. [I] Can't talk about what exactly right now. Needless to say my films always have a political backdrop to them because that's what excites me and I find real. So 'Tubelight' also has a little political backdrop," said Kabir.

Right from his debut "Kabul Express", to "New York" and most recently "Phantom", the filmmaker has helmed movies that have a strong political background.

"Tubelight" will mark the third collaboration between Kabir and the 50-year-old Salman, after blockbusters "Ek Tha Tiger" and "Bajrangi

Bhaijaan".

When asked if their upcoming film will follow the lines of "Bajrangi Bhaijaan", Kabir said, "In terms of its emotional space it is similar to 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan'. But story is very different. It is more of humour and emotional space that we (Salman and I) haven't delved into."

It was reported that Salman will be undertaking a journey of enlightenment from India to China in the film. The director said "Tubelight" will have a "China element in the story" but he will be shooting the film in Ladakh.

The film is scheduled to release on Eid next year.

Source: PTI

On a path of her own

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SONA MOHAPATRA

FAHMIM FERDOUS

"There's a voice inside my heart, that shows me the path," a song from her 2006 eponymous debut album "Sona", roughly translates to in its opening verse. And the journey of Indian singer Sona Mohapatra is probably best encapsulated in the lyric to this song, "Awaz". Leaving behind an electrical engineering and an MBA degree and a successful career as a brand manager, Sona's story is of a young, brave girl from the Orissa who followed the call of her heart to hold on to music, and consciously stood outside the mainstream to carve an identity.

The classically-trained artiste instantly created a niche fan base with

her debut album, projecting a gorgeous vocal timbre into a range of melodic styles from alternative to Sufi and folk. A natural at expressing emotions, her songs "Abhi Nahi Aana", "Bolo Na" and "Awaz" displayed intimate lyrical and musical arrangements, while tracks like "Sapne" saw her exuberance in full flow.

She came to the notice of the mainstream, however, with advert jingles of Closeup and Tata Salt. Despite success in playback, her work in Bollywood has been sporadic with tracks like "Bahara" ("I Hate Luv Stories"), "Jiya Laage Na" ("Talaash"), "Ambarisariya" ("Fukrey"), "Naina" ("Khoobsurat"), and most recently, in "Qatl-e-Aam" (from the upcoming "Raman Raghav 2.0").

Sona's music has most often been on her own terms, in teamwork with husband Ram Sampath, a composer-music director always looking to stray off stereotypical Bollywood. Sona's desire to stray off the mainstream has resulted in collaborations with Australian rock band INXS (for a version of "Afterglow") and David Bowie's "Let's Dance" with US producer Nile Rodgers, who produced Bowie's original classic. Her work on the Indian version of Coke Studio has also gained major popularity, with tracks like "Rangabati" where she explores her Oriya roots, collaboration with Carnatic legend Vidushi Aruna Sairam on "Aigiri Nandini" that blends Bulleh Shah kalam "Tere Ishq Nachaya" with the Hindu prayer Mahishasura Mardini Stotram, and "Piya Se Naina", an Amir Khusro poetry put to a fusion arrangement.

Sona's fiercely independent, feminist side shone through in her work with Aamir Khan's social issue-based programme "Satyamev Jayete", where she gave voice to heartfelt songs like "Rupaiya", "Ghar Yaad Aata Hai Mujhe" and "Bekhauf". But it's not just with music that she expresses herself. Her bold, eclectic and ethnic-inspired fashion statement is one other thing that sets Sona apart from the crowd, as does her social media presence, where she not only shares her life as a musician, but also speaks up on social issues she feels strongly about.

Sona has often mentioned her love for performing live, and has performed over a hundred concerts last year alone, including one with the 100-piece BBC philharmonic orchestra.

In a country where mainstream popular music and artistes are swallowed up by Bollywood and put into their commercial molds, to create and tread a path of one's own is why Sona Mohapatra is special. Or maybe it's because this correspondent, an electrical engineer by degree choosing a profession of journalism, feels a connection that goes beyond just her musical prowess. Whatever it may be, as she turns 40 today, here's hoping Sona Mohapatra continues to be the captain of her own ship for many years to come.



PHOTO COURTESY: SONA MOHAPATRA'S FACEBOOK PAGE