

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY FERDOUS!

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Since his debut into the limelight with "Hotath Brishti", Ferdous has continued on a steady path of success that extends beyond Bangladesh. Today marks the National Film Award winning actor's birthday, and Ferdous talks about his plans for the occasion with The Daily Star. Excerpts:

"To be honest, my birthday plans are never in my hands anymore now that I have children. I take pleasure in their joy and excitement, and the first thing I look forward to is my wife and kids wishing me at exactly 12:01 am."

"I never have grand celebrations, and this year my birthday occurs during Ramadan. In the morning I will pay a visit to my father's final

resting place before joining a live TV show. After that I will be home, enjoying iftar with my family."

"Unfortunately, my mother is in America this year, and I shall miss her dearly. If she were here, she would continue with her birthday ritual of making payesh (rice pudding) for me. My mother-in-law is here, and she never fails to give me a present. There will be a flurry of phone calls as my siblings, relatives and fans call to wish me, and this gives me great pleasure."

"I receive countless bouquets on the occasion. To share an interesting story; on my first birthday after the release of 'Hotath Brishti', my father, who was alive then, shook me awake in the morning to tell me that our house was full of flowers.

And true to his word, when I went to the living room of our Cantonment house, there were flowers on almost every surface. This expression of love from so many rendered me speechless. This was soon followed by many phone calls from fans to wish me. I will always look back on that day fondly."

"Now my eldest daughter, Nuzhat, bakes me a cake while my younger daughter Namira makes birthday cards. They also go out of their way to find the perfect presents for me. I don't have words to express the joy I feel at this."

"My only wish for this day is to continue doing good work, and for my fans to continue to give me love. I would like everyone's blessings and prayers."

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## "SUICIDE SQUAD 2" in the works



Although "Suicide Squad" hit theaters to mixed reviews, the movie made a lot of money, with its large ensemble cast of characters appealing to DC fans. With that in mind, it's no big surprise that DC and Warner Bros. are thinking about making a sequel to the original, and it may get off the ground sooner than expected.

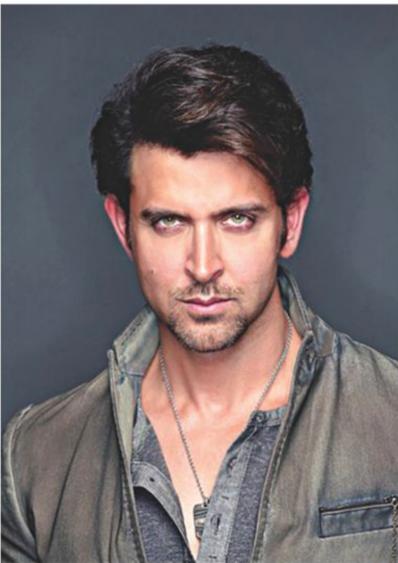
In a recent interview with The Hollywood Reporter, Joel Kinnaman revealed "Suicide Squad 2" is already in the works and being written, and could get a release date much sooner than anticipated. Kinnaman has also expressed interest in having "Suicide Squad" director David Ayer back to direct the project if he is able, although there's been no official announcement on the director front yet.

"As far as I know they're writing the script and I think the plan is to shoot it sometime in 2018, but that could change. I think I'll definitely come back for it," said Joel Kinnaman, who plays Rick Flag in "Suicide Squad".

DC's movie dates have been fluid lately; with Wonder Woman currently in theatres and Justice League on track for its November 17 release, "The Flash" solo movie, which was expected to happen in the spring of 2018, is off the DC schedule as it's currently without a director. "Aquaman," which was also pushed back, has moved into production and is expected to hit theatres in late 2018. The release dates for other announced projects have not been fixed yet, so it is yet unclear where "Suicide Squad 2" could fit in.

Source: **Cinemablend**

## Hrithik Roshan to do first biopic



After his home production "Kaabil" opposite Yami Gautam, which was directed by Sanjay Gupta and released in January, Hrithik Roshan will be seen as the Patna-based mathematician Anand Kumar in Vikas Bahl's next directorial. Tentatively titled "Super 30", the film traces Anand's rise to fame as the founder of the "Super 30" programme that grooms IIT aspirants.

Hrithik, who is soon headed to the United States for a vacation with sons Hrehaan and Hridhaan, is expected to begin prep for the film after the week-long trip.

After his last release, the 43-year-old actor had been reading scripts but took his time before giving the nod to "Super 30", which is his first biopic. Bahl, who has recently returned from London after a month, had been reportedly researching for the film since a couple of years.

Anand Kumar, 44, an Indian mathematician from Bihar, started the "Super 30" programme in Patna in 2002 to coach economically backward students for IIT-JEE, the entrance examination for the Indian Institutes of Technology. Kumar studied in a Hindi medium government school where he excelled in mathematics.

Every year, his institute Ramanujan School of Mathematics conducts a test to select top 30 students to groom for the entrance exam after which he tutors them and provides them accommodation for a year.

Kumar, who came up with the idea for the programme after being approached by underprivileged students who wanted to prepare for admission in the premier engineering institutes but couldn't afford to pay the tuition fee, had so far been reluctant about having a film made on his life.

Source: **The Times of India**

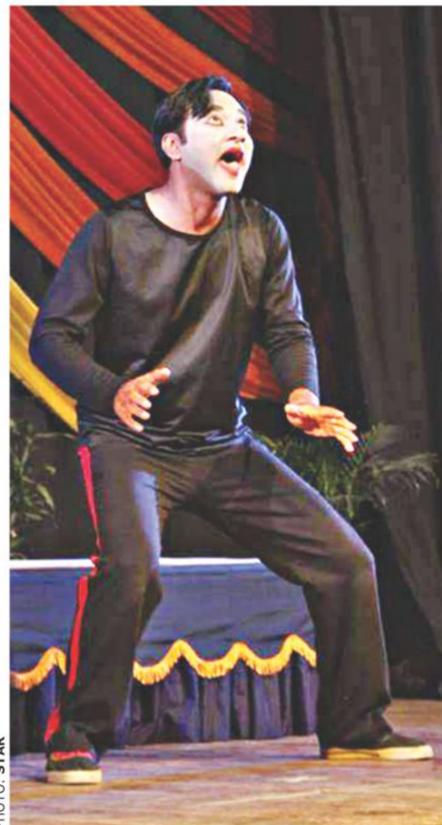


PHOTO: STAR

## A silent soldier of pantomime

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

Pantomime is a powerful art medium which has the ability to touch the heart of the audience with silence.

The art form is gaining ground both at the university level and group theatre movement.

In 1995, when Pantomime Movement, a Chittagong-based troupe working to popularise group-performance of mime, launched its journey in the port city, the scene was quite different. There was no pantomime group in the country at that time.

Only individual artistes like Partha Pratim Majumder, Zillur Rahman John and Kazi Mashurul Huda were working on the art form at that time. And they exposed their creativity through their individual performances.

But Rezwan Razan popularised the group-based performance of pantomime in the country. He is known as the "silent soldier" to young pantomime artistes in the city.

Recently, in a conversation with The Daily Star, Rezwan recalled his journey: "When our troupe was formed in

## NAWSHABA'S unique Ramadan plans

NAZIBA BASHER

Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed has long been known to be a very socially aware and active member of the television industry. A mother of one, she is also host-parent to Upen from JAAGO School. Along with that, she regularly helps children in need with shelter, food and extra-curricular activities to her fullest potential.

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Earlier this year, Nawshaba had gone to Dinajpur to plant trees as a personal project, where she met 12 underprivileged school-going girls who have never been to the city. She brought them to Dhaka to spend time with them during Ramadan and Eid. "They have never come to Dhaka. They have never visited places like the National Museum, or been to amusement parks, or cinema halls. I have invited them to Dhaka and they will spend June 7 to 9 with me. I will show them around Dhaka and spend these three days with only them," says Nawshaba. "I made sure not to keep any shooting on these days except the 9th, and I intend to take the girls with me so that they can watch how it's done!"

Nawshaba also makes sure to involve her four-and-half year old daughter in such activities. "I make sure she spends as much time with them as she possibly can. In them, she will see and find the real Bangladesh, not in her privileged lifestyle," she says. A lot of the money she has saved for Zakaat will go into bringing the girls to Dhaka and the three days they will spend here. "It's not like I work at an NGO or anything. These are all my personal endeavours, so I use all the money I can from my own pocket to do as much for these children as I possibly can. I also urge my other colleagues and co-actors to do the same. Instead of just handing out money, give these children an experience, give them hope. I just want to do everything I can to bring light into these children's lives. And this month, I am focused on doing just that."



PHOTO: STAR

1995, there were no such group pantomime performances in the country. We had no footing in the group theatre movement or District Shilpakala Academy."

The troupe gained membership in Group Theatre Federation in 2003.

Termining Pantomime Movement a great success, Razan said since its inception, the group has given 2,000 street and stage performances in the country and India. The group also introduced street shows of pantomime which was first of its kind in the country.

Through cultural activist and writer Pradip Dewanjee, Razan became involved with pantomime practice. From the outset, Debangshu Hor, Mainul Shawon and SH Simon and Razan led the group.

Now the organisation has around 25 artistes.

The tacit-presentation of the troupe "Prachay", a popular drama of Selim Al Deen, received praise from the audience.

"Nasir Uddin Yousuff Bacchu inspired me to make the silent-script," said Razan adding that Dhaka Theatre presents the drama in theatre form.

The outstanding production of the troupe was 'Struggle for Survival' which depicted people's suffering after cyclone Aila. The production of "The Nature, An Innocent Death and Freedom" by the group has also gained much appreciation.

Pantomime Movement has produced a total of seven group based mime-dramas. Razan has directed six of those. No group in Bangladesh staged these numbers of performances alone.

The group has produced over 30 model-pantomime presentations, most of them directed by Razan.

"We have begun to lay the groundwork for a pantomime institute in Chittagong. Indian National Mime Institute has already given us its approval," said Razan who also publishes a quarterly magazine named "Pantomime" from Chittagong.

"It is a matter of pride that artistes from home and abroad term Chittagong as the capital of mime," said Razan, sharing his hope that in coming days, the practice of pantomime will increase in the city as well as the country.