

“I'd like to leave behind my own legacy”

Mamo speaks on her silver screen dreams

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Zakaria Bari Mamo's career in the show business began since her emergence on Lux-Channel i Superstar. The former model has since then grown to be an acclaimed actor, having won a National Film Award after her big screen debut in “Daruchini Dwip”. Today, she is a familiar face on the small screen, and awaits the release of her latest film, “Alta Banu”, today.

In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, the actor shared more about her latest work, and more.

What is your anticipation from “Alta Banu”?

Mamo: I have very high hopes, and I would like everyone to go see it in the cinema halls, and watch me bring Alta to life.

What does acting mean to you?

Mamo: It's more than just a profession for me; it's a passion and obsession, something that I'd like to continue for life. *You have this far carved out a successful career for yourself. What are your aspirations for the future?*

Mamo: I really don't know what lies down the road for me, but I believe that doing your work sincerely paves the way for success. Our favourite TV actors today did not achieve all this respect and admiration overnight; it takes years of dedication.

You have been in many TV plays so far. Of them, how many do you consider close to your heart?

Mamo: Well let's say out of a hundred plays, there will be at least ten that will

have a remarkable impact on me. I cannot expect everything to come my way be the way I exactly want. While I always strive to generate quality work, there are some that are not as good as the others have been.

You won the National Film Award for your first film, but did not go on to appear on the big screen much after that. Is there a reason for that?

Mamo: “Daruchini Dwip” is something I shall always be proud of, and one of the highest achievements in my career. And this is why I have become quite selective. I am waiting for a talented director with a great script to approach me, with a suitable character in mind, and I am quite hopeful that something will come my way soon. Today, we have many successful small screen directors turn to films, and some of them doing great work. I love how this widens the scope of the Bangladesh film industry, creating more opportunities for artistes like us.

Have you been working on any other new films?

Mamo: We have completed filming and dubbing for “Shopnobari”, directed by Tanim Rahman Angshu. I am now preparing for Shihab Shaheen's new film titled “Monforing”, and we are currently in talks with a reputed production company to assist us.

What is your ultimate dream with cinema?

Mamo: All artistes have the desire to work on a large canvas. Cinemas live on for generations, giving us the chance to create legacies. I'd like to leave behind my own legacy one day.



“Swapnajaal” winning its way back into theatres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Giasuddin Selim's return to the big screen, “Swapnajaal” created a formidable splash when it released, albeit at a limited scale, on April 6. Despite two commercial films – Alamgir-directed “Ekti Cinema'r Golpo” and Bobby-starrer ‘superhero’ flick “Bizli” – releasing over the last weekend, “Swapnajaal” is holding its making its presence felt at theatres, as well as bright prospects of international releases.

The romantic drama starring Yash Rohan and Pori Moni in the central roles, will release in Chittagong today at the Almas Cinema Hall, as well as in Liberty at Khulna. Shymaoli Cineplex, which had removed the film from its roster last week, is putting it

back up in the capital, where it is also doing well at the two multiplexes – Blockbuster Cinemas and Star Cineplex.

In a surprising show of strength, the film is screening for the third week running at the Taj Cinema in Naogaon. “It's commendable for a film like this to be running for three weeks in a place like Naogaon,” Giasuddin Selim told The Daily Star. “Because of the two Pahela Baishakh releases we were a bit on the back foot, but our film is fighting back,” he said.

The film, which also stars Fazlur Rahman Babu, Shahidul Alam Sachchu, Iresh Zaker, Farhana Mithu, Shilpi Sarkar Opu and others in central roles, is also venturing out to expatriate audience soon. It will release in five

theatres in Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton in Canada on April 27.

Being a Bangladesh-India joint venture film, “Swapnajaal” will also come out in Kolkata and possibly other part of West Bengal next month, informed Giasuddin Selim, adding that he and the film's lead cast and producers are flying to Kolkata for a press conference there today.

“We are also in talks with distributors in USA and Australia, and will finalize dates for release there soon,” the director told The Daily Star. “We have also received lots of request from expatriate Bangladeshi communities in various parts of Europe, and will arrange screenings there soon as well,” he added.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

“The Post” releasing in Dhaka today

A CORRESPONDENT

Steven Spielberg's “The Post”, the '70s historical political drama starring Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks in the leading roles that got massive critical attention following its release last December, has landed in Dhaka. The film is releasing today at the Star Cineplex, along with two recent horror films – “The Strangers: Prey at Night” and “Truth or Dare”.

Based on the true events of The Washington Post newspaper attempting to publish the Pentagon Papers, the classified documents of USA's 30-year involvement in the Vietnam War, “The Post” sees Streep playing Katharine Graham, the first female publisher of a major American newspaper, and Tom Hanks as Ben Bradlee, the executive editor of The Washington Post. The supporting cast is also impressive, including the likes of Sarah Paulson, Bob Odenkirk, Tracy Letts and Bradley Whitford.

The film received two Oscar nomina-



tions – Best Picture and Best Actress, and six Golden Globe nods, all in major categories, although it didn't win in any. The film however was named the best film of 2017 by the US National Board of Review and was one of the top 10 films of the year on lists of Time and American Film Institute. The film saw a limited release in late last December, and a wider release in

January this year, grossing \$174 million worldwide.

“The Strangers: Prey at Night”, directed by Johannes Roberts, is a sequel to 2008's “The Strangers” and stars Christina Hendricks, Martin Henderson, Bailee Madison and Lewis Pullman. “Truth or Dare”, meanwhile is a more recent release, coming out on April 13, and features Lucy Hale, Tyler Posey, Violet Beane, Hayden Szeto, and Landon Liboiron in the central

Portraying the imagery of memory Azmeer Hossain's solo show at Shilpangan

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Under the title “From The Pages of Memory”, dedicated artist Azmeer Hossain's fourth solo art exhibition is now on at Shilpangan Gallery, Dhanmondi in Dhaka. Eminent artist Monirul Islam inaugurated the exhibit as chief guest on April 16. Renowned art critic Moinuddin Khaled presided over the inaugural ceremony while Advocate Nahid Mahtab was present as special guest.

Azmeer is a diligent artist and loves to experiment technicality together with compositional pattern in his works. He passed his childhood on the banks of Buriganga, Dhaka and stayed in the Coney Island, New York in his youth for pursuing academic studies. The voyager would stop by the bank of the Buriganga or the Hudson, roam around the beaches of Coney Island, USA and Inani, Cox's Bazar for outdoor works. Going down memory lane, he depicted numerous paintings of landscape, cityscape and mindscape.

The blissful memories play passionately in Azmeer's works. The compositional beauty and maturity is obvious in his vertical works while his horizontal ones evoke depth as he depicted the minute details of his semi-

abstract and abstract styled paintings. Diverse aspects of nature like the sky, horizon, lake, sunlight, twilight, moonlight create fantastic illusion in his artworks. Geometric forms and



shapes, architectural designs and a complex presentation of cityscape meet the sun-setting beach or the bank of river. Multitude diagonal beauty is another aspect of his works.

The artist masterfully uses watercolour and mixed media like watercolour with acrylic, oil and white pen for creating layers and lines. One can easily get amazed at his mastery of tonal gradation and asymmetrical lines that ultimately generate a compositional harmony. Use of white (watercolour) and keeping white paper coupled with the mysterious game of light and shades using dark hues have made his artworks an outstanding quality. In a word, a conspicuous connotation of modernity is noticeable in his 50 paintings on display.

“What can an artist do to bring novelty in his/ her display of works? In our country I personally regard eminent artists –Monirul Islam, Mohammad Eunos and Kalidas Karmakar – as composition masters. Their every work is unique as they ceaselessly think, play and experiment with it. If I cannot come out the cocoon of conventional composition, my paintings will stick to some certain level. So, I have tried to bring novelty and modernity in my composition,” said Azmeer Hossain.

The exhibition, opening from 3pm to 8pm daily, will continue till April 30.

Star Melodies to beckon Baishakh with folk music



Mustafa Zaman Abbasi



Chandana Majumdar



Abu Bakr Siddique

A CORRESPONDENT

Star Melodies, the initiative of The Daily Star promoting Bangla music, will host a celebration of traditional folk songs of Bengal by prominent and emerging singers on April 27, Friday at 6pm.

The event to be held at the Daily Star –Bengal Arts Precinct (mezzanine floor) of The Daily Star Centre will feature songs by seasoned singer- researcher Mustafa Zaman Abbasi and noted singers

Chandana Majumdar and Abu Bakr Siddique. As a new initiative to involve students of different institutions across the city, students of Brac University will perform songs of Lalon, Hason Raja and Shah Abdul Karim at the event.

Sadya Afsen Mallick, Editor, Arts & Entertainment at The Daily Star, will host and coordinate the programme.

Invitation passes can be collected from the reception of The Daily Star Centre. Seats are limited.