

WHAT'S NEXT FOR FERDOUS?

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Ever since his debut in *Hotath Brishti*, there has been no looking back for Ferdous, one of the biggest stars in Bangladeshi film industry today. The four-time National Film Award winning actor found success in Kolkata's film industry as well. Ferdous has more exciting film releases tallied up for this year, which he elaborates in a recent interview, on his return from London, with The Daily Star.

When did you return from filming in London?
Ferdous: It has been a while. The film that I worked on is titled *Jodi Arektu Shomoi Petam*, directed by GM Faruq. We shot 50 percent of the film in various scenic locations around London and will wrap up the rest here in Dhaka.

What other films are you working on?
Ferdous: I will appear as Devdas in the film *Kaathgorai Saratchandra*, helmed by Arifur Rahman. Devdas is one of my favourite literary characters. Although quite challenging, I've been enjoying the experience immensely.

You have not acted in any films from Kolkata for quite some time. Can you tell us why?

Ferdous: There was a time when I used to focus a lot on Tollywood films. It got to a point where I was living in Kolkata half the time, which did not work out for me. At the moment, I have quite a lot of offers from Tollywood and hope something good will happen soon.

Could you tell us about your upcoming films?

Ferdous: I have completed shooting for three films, so far. There is *Pobitro Bhalobasha*, directed by AK Sohel, co-starring Moushumi. Other films are *Gontobbo*, directed by Aranya Polash and *Meghkanya*, directed by Minhaz Ovi. Hopefully, they will be ready for release sometime this year. Recently, I have produced a film which is ready for submission, titled *Postmaster 71*. The film centres on the historic speech of March 7, delivered by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. We hope to release the film on a special day of national importance.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



PHOTO: NAJMUL NAHID

Rudhirrongini A new play in town

PRIVANKA CHOWDHURY

The house was full; the audience was set to watch *Rudhirrongini* -- the first production of Hritmoncho, the new repertory team in town. Three strong actors from three different generations were put together for the production -- Rokeya Rafique Baby, Azad Abul Kalam and Jyoti Sinha. Shuvashis Sinha, writer and director of the play, has been associated with Monipuri theatre. He is also the man behind the stage and music design of the production.

The drama is an anti-thesis of the social norms we find in history, set in an "anti-real way of storytelling," according to the playwright. The protagonist of the play, a female who

is vocal about her desires, crosses all tangible barriers to achieve them, but falls prey to a tragic end. Written in semi-poetic form, the play was dialogue-heavy.

The ending was slightly abrupt, compared to the flow of the entire play. However the repertory will definitely play a strong role in the theater arena. Their name says it all -- Hritmoncho -- and will win the hearts of the theatre goers.

Shows will continue till May 19, in the experimental hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Special exhibition of the show will take place on May 18 and 19, at 5 pm for students and theatre workers at a special discount rate. A visit to the show would be worthwhile for all theatre lovers and enthusiasts.

JAMMING with a Musical Family



Live music sessions with Alif Alauddin, family and friends at Tabaq.

SHABABA IQBAL

Tabaq Cafe at Gulshan lights up every week with live music sessions by *FamJam*, a project by popular singer and TV show host Alif Alauddin, her husband, Kazi Faisal Ahmed, her cousins, Farshid Alam and Nafius Salam Yani and her brother-in-law, Kazi Ishtiaque Ahmed. "I was born into a musical

family. We love working with music -- so we intended to do something together," explains Alif, the daughter of the music legend Alauddin Ali. Usually, her aunt Abida Sultana and uncle Rafiqul Alam -- famous singers -- join in with the family jam as well.

Tabaq's cosy and friendly ambience provides an excellent venue for their intimate music sessions. The family also showcases them

live on their Facebook page, as a way of interacting with the audience. "We mostly do acoustic covers. We try to keep it interesting and fresh by putting our own spin on the songs," says Alif. The family does everything from beautiful and nostalgic Bangla songs to English pop numbers.

The talented and entertaining musical family plans on bringing in more guest musicians to their sessions.

Throughout the holy month of Ramadan, ATN Bangla will air the show titled *Bashundhara Tarokader Rannaghar* everyday at 3:10 pm. The iftaar programme will be hosted by the noted model and actor Jannatul Ferdoush Peya, and will also feature renowned folk artiste Momotaz Begum and celebrated actor Moushumi. The initiative aims to support the underprivileged and challenged people in our society, who will also be present at the studio.

Source: ATN Bangla



Ms. Marvel in the making



A film based on Muslim superhero Ms Marvel is in development at Marvel Studios. The studio has plans for the character whose real name is Kamala Khan.

Khan is a teenage Pakistani American from New Jersey who has the power of shape shifting and healing.

It will not be the studio's first female-led film.

Marvel president Kevin Feige has suggested that Ms Marvel's appearance will follow *Captain Marvel*, starring Brie Larson and due for release in March 2019.

As the studio does an outstanding job of creating nuanced, funny, and brave characters, audiences cannot wait to see what original and interesting elements they bring to the on-screen portrayal of Kamala Khan.

Source: The Guardian

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