



To congratulate renowned academic, researcher and cultural personality Rafiqul Islam on his naming as National Professor given by the Government of Bangladesh, Gitanjali Academy of Fine Arts is going to host a 'Nagorik Shongbordhona' today. With the presence of different celebrated politicians, authors and cultural personalities, the event will take place at 6pm in Khudro O Kutir Shilpo Institute in Uttara. Source: Gitanjali Academy of Fine Arts

Bongo receives YouTube's 'GOLDEN PLAY BUTTON'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bongo, one of Bangladesh's leading entertainment portals created history by becoming the first to reach 1 Million subscribers on YouTube. The coveted 'Golden Play Button' was con-

ferred to them in recognition of this achievement. The CEO of YouTube, Susan Wojcicki wrote a personal note to the platform, commenting that they were now "bigger than Las Vegas." Bongo was founded in 2013 and boasts the largest digital library in Bangladesh.



Is Beyoncé expecting again?

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Queen Bey has not confirmed nor denied any facts yet, over the speculations of her fans about her pregnancy. Members of the Beyhive (her loyal fans) have demanded on social media for an answer, but Beyoncé's

delay just seems to add momentum to all the expectations. As Bey is presently on a tour with husband Jay-Z and is also scheduled for live shows in the coming months, many of her fans are confused over the alleged baby bump. However, if the rumors are true, this will be the Carter family's

A candid chat with SUMAIYA SHIMU

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Popular actor Sumaiya Shimu has been active in the showbiz scene for over 19 years. Her performances on television have left an indelible mark on the industry. She also has a successful modeling career to her credit. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, the star looks back on memorable instances of her career.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Have you always wanted to be an actor?
Shimu: Not really. When I was younger, my father wanted me to become a doctor. So, that was what I had aspired to become. There was even a time when I contemplated becoming a BCS cadre, but that did not happen either!
 Do you have any regrets for not fulfilling your original ambitions?
Shimu: I am very happy with what I have accomplished so far, and I don't believe in holding regrets. Recently the industry has become competitive over how many views their shows achieve on YouTube. How do you feel about this?
Shimu: I don't think it is a negative occurrence. We didn't have so many platforms before and there was a time when the audience didn't even have the chance to watch their favorite shows a second time. But YouTube gives us that opportunity, and it has also allowed more space for discussions.
 What are your hobbies?
Shimu: I love traveling, and I am always looking for an opportunity to escape. Recently I've traveled to the USA, and after that I've been to Singapore. I love listening to music and reading as well.
 Beyond your work for BTv, what other shows have become important milestones in your career?
Shimu: There are many. Ekushey TV aired a drama series titled *Lolita*, where I played the titular role. The show was very memorable for the audience, and they still talk about it. *Shopnochura* on Banglavisision was also popular, as was NTV's *Housefull*.
 How does it feel to know you are loved by so many?
Shimu: It truly is one of the biggest blessings in my life, and all I ever wanted my career to amount to. A few days ago, an elderly lady who was on the same flight as me held me in a tight hug. She lived in the USA, but still watched my tele-fictions. That was very special to me. I love it when people approach me to appreciate my work.

Humayun Ahmed's 6th death anniversary observed

ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE AKAND, from Gazipur

Yesterday, on the occasion of beloved writer-director Humayun Ahmed's sixth death anniversary, his wife Meher Afroz Shaon, sons Ninit and Nishad, and father-in-law Mohammad Ali remembered the writer in Nuhash Polli, Gazipur, where he was buried.



Different organisations including Himu Poribohon, Chetonaye Humayun Hridoye Bangladesh and his fans and admirers also paid tribute to him. Humayun Ahmed was conferred with the Ekushey

Padak, Bangla Academy Award, Lekhak Shibir Award and Michael Madhusudan Padak for his outstanding contributions to Bangla literature. The cultural legend behind stories like *Nondito*

Noroke, Debi, the *Himu* series, *Moddhanho*, *Aguner Poroshmoni* and *Jochhna O Jononir Golpo*, Humayun Ahmed had the ability to captivate and he did so by depicting endearing characters.

The Daily Star



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