



## PIZZA BHAI to deliver tomorrow

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Partha, a part-time pizza delivery man, turns to a life of drug trading and crime due to his dire financial situation. With time, the once simple and oblivious Partha understands the double-faced nature of human beings. *Pizza Bhai* is Nuhash Humayun's latest directorial venture, which will be available at online platform 'Bioscope Originals'. Produced by Shahriar Shakil under the banner of Alpha-i Media, it stars Rahat Rahman, Missouri Rashid Khan, Juneyna Kabir and Baizid Joardar. Asif Iqbal has written a song for this short film, to which Tahsan and Kona have lent their voices.

## TAHSAN opens up about career, future plans

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Tahsan Khan is inarguably one of the most successful personalities in the entertainment industry today. The supremely popular singer has kept reinventing himself over the years, outgrowing his rockstar persona to become a true juggernaut in both the music and television industries. Ahead of the release of his full-length feature film, *Jodi Ekdin*, the artiste extraordinaire opens up about his recent projects, thoughts on the current industry, and more.

**You're scarcely seen on television these days. What has kept you occupied?**

I have recently been concentrating on my upcoming film, *Jodi Ekdin*. It is a lot of hard work, and I thus had to take time off television. The film is in its editing phase, and will hopefully be released in February next year. I've also been working on a few musical projects, the song *Keno Ke Jane* being the latest. I also sang a song for Adit recently, for which the music video will be shot at Sri Lanka.

**You're one of the most commercially successful artistes of this generation.**

**However, a lot of people who prefer your old music critique your current work, and consider them to be too 'mainstream'.**

**What do you have to say about that?**

Honestly, this is a very tricky ground to tread on. If I kept singing for a niche audience forever, I would not be able to sustain my musical career in the way I have done now. I did not want to be a washed-up artiste with one or two years of spotlight,

eventually to fade away in the background. That being said, I still stick to my musical roots. I am working on a full-length original piano album, *Showers of Happiness*. The name stems from an instrumental track that I did in my first album, *Kothapokothon*. Even though I can tell that it would not be commercially successful, I expect it to be my seminal work. I try to balance my work in this manner.

**How do you balance being an academican, singer and actor so seamlessly?**

I take it a year at a time, and set target for myself. For example, this year, I dedicated myself to my upcoming film and music, so did not teach for some time. When I had dedicated myself to teaching, my contributions were more sporadic in music. I plan out a calendar year, and move according to that.

**What are your future goals in the industry?**

I have always wanted to make this profession a respectable one. People used to frown on music as a means of earning money. Recently, I was declared the highest tax-paying musician in the country this year, and I see this as a big positive for us all. And like any musician, I want my work to live on among the hearts of the audience.



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## Shilpangan's renewed journey with 'Reunion'

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Gallery Shilpangan started its new journey through a group art exhibition showcasing paintings by 34 artists at its premises in Lalmatia. The exhibit, titled *Reunion*, features 54 paintings created in varied media like pencil, pen, ink, dry pastel, acrylic, watercolour, oil on paper and canvas along with prints.

Among others, the works of masterful and renowned artists like S M Sultan, Quamrul Hassan, Qayyum Chowdhury, Bijon Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan, Syed Jahangir, Samarjit Roy Choudhury, Rafiqun Nabi, Monirul Islam, Shahabuddin Ahmed, Shahid Kabir, were on display. Their works portray diverse aspects of nature, landscapes, rural life, motherhood, feminine grace, human figures as well as architectural and cultural heritage of

Bangladesh.

Sultan's pencil work shows a village woman on her steps to fetch water. Three rare lithographs by Quamrul Hassan, Shahabuddin Ahmed and Abul Barq Alvi are also on exhibit. Quamrul Hassan's one is folk-themed lyrical depicting of femininity while Shahabuddin Ahmed's litho illustrates a horse traversing ahead. Abul Barq Alvi's work is abstract and geometrically devised.

Alakesh Ghosh's watercolour portrays an old palace. Biren Shome's ink painting shows a woman sitting on a boat. Jamal Ahmed's acrylic delineates a woman standing with her child at a sea beach while Kanak Champa Chakma's acrylic represents two indigenous women bathing in the river. Tarun Ghosh's pastel work depicts a woman gazing outside.

Chairman and founder of Summit Group, Muhammed Aziz Khan, inaugurated

the new gallery while architect and poet Rabiul Hussain, art critic Moinuddin Khaled and Shilpangan Chairperson Rokeya Kader were present as guests at the inaugural ceremony. The show, opening from 3 pm to 8 pm daily will run till November 29.

Shilpangan was established on May 14 in 1993 in Dhanmondi. Writer and journalist Foyez Ahmed took the initiative to create a space for artists to display and sell their paintings.

### TV WATCH

## Telefilm 'Manush' to air on Duronto TV

Telefilm *Manush*, based on famous cartoonist Ahsan Habib's story *Namamanush*, will be aired on Duronto Television on November 23 at 10 pm and on November 24 at 3 pm.

*Manush*, scripted and directed by Naznin Hasan Chumki, stars Poushal Chowdhury, Bishshoy Sharker Mugdho, Shudipto Shoron Shikdar, Farabi Shafat Khan Shoisshob, Naznin Hasan Chumki, Intekhab Dinar, Ashok Bepari, Zulfikar Chonchol, Ezaz Bari, Sheikh Mahbubur Rahman, Mamun Chowdhury Ripon, Raisul Islam Asad, Sayraz Mehedi Rinku and others.



Source: Duronto Television

## Preity Zinta's apology

Ever since Tanushree Dutta accused Nana Patekar of harassment, it has initiated the #MeToo movement in Bollywood and beyond, which began to pick up pace steadily.

During a recent interview, Preity Zinta was asked if she ever fell victim to sexual harassment. However, her controversial reply has sparked uproar on social media. In an attempt to clarify the confusion, Zinta said, "My reason for saying 'I wish something like this would have happened to me' in the film industry with a smile was because I would have reacted and slapped the person."

Many have accused the 43 year old actor for belittling the victims of sexual harassment.



However, she asserted that she was a "huge supporter of the movement" and claimed that her comments, given in an interview with entertainment site Bollywood Hungama, were taken out of context. Nonetheless, Preity Zinta recently apologised stating, "To all the women out there, I'm sorry if I have unintentionally hurt your sentiments on the #MeToo movement."

As the victims continue to speak out, the allegations about the dirty deeds come to light one after the other. Many popular figures including filmmakers, actors, comedians, politicians and more are being accused in the process.

SOURCE: AFP