



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

SWAGOTA

striving to work in films

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Zinat Sanu Swagota has carved a space for herself in the showbiz industry through her remarkable acting and singing skills over the years. Known for her striking confidence, she has many successful television ventures to her credit. Currently, she is also the anchor of the cinema-centric show, *Shonali Diner Rupali Golpo*, on Bangla Vision. We recently caught up with the artiste to find out more about her work.

What are you currently busy with?

I am mainly busy with one-hour tele-fictions at the moment, as I have wrapped up the shooting for my television serials. In fact, I just got back from Indonesia, where I shot for some of these one-hour programmes, for which I have teamed up with both upcoming and established directors of the industry.

Tell us about the kind of characters you portray in these one-hour tele-fictions.

I shot one of the tele-fictions on a cruise and we all had a fantastic time. I play a woman who goes to the cruise to look for her lost housemaid. In another tele-fiction, I play the role of a thief. It is really exciting for me as an actor to be able to bring such different characters to life.

Nowadays, many actors are taking up web films and serials. What are your comments on that?

It is great that web films and serials are becoming more and more prominent in our fraternity and I have received offers for several web-based projects. However, right now, my priority is working on movies. Television has given me many opportunities as an actor but at this point in my career, I am preparing myself for films.

What can you tell us about your current projects in music?

I perform in a weekly musical programme held at Afsana Mimi's school, Ichchhetola, in Uttara. Singing in front of the kids is an honour for me.



Alauddin Ali still in ICU

MINAM HAQ

Celebrated composer and music director Alauddin Ali was hospitalised recently due to respiratory illness. Being a cancer survivor has already left his lungs weaker. In addition to low blood pressure, Alauddin Ali is braving the condition, while on a life support ventilator. "In the morning, the alteration of the carbon dioxide level paired with his breathing problems led to a cardiac arrest," asserted his daughter, pop icon Alif Alauddin in a conversation with *The Daily Star* yesterday. By the afternoon, his health seemed to have become steady. "Now that the blood pressure and the level of carbon dioxide are stable, we are hoping for recovery," added Alif. She has requested the well-wishers for their prayers, for the swift recovery of her father and is also keeping her friends and followers updated on social media through her posts.

'ITI, TOMARI DHAKA'

awarded at Jaipur International Film Festival 2019

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bangladesh's first anthology film, *Iti, Tomari Dhaka*, won an award in the category of best original screenplay at the 11th edition of the Jaipur International Film Festival (JIFF), held from January 18 to 22 in Jaipur, India. The film, produced by Impress Telefilm, features an assortment of shorts by eleven exceptionally promising directors from the Bangladeshi film fraternity, with Dhaka as its central theme. The

directors include Abdullah Al Noor, Golam Kibria Farooki, Krishnendu Chattopadhyay, Mahmudul Islam, Md Robiul Alam, Mir Mukarram Hossain, Nuhash Humayun, Rahat Rahman, Syed Ahmed Shawki, Syed Saleh Ahmed Sobhan and Tanvir Ahsan.

Launched in January 2009, the purpose of JIFF is to promote new filmmakers as well as exchange knowledge, ideas and cultures between India and other nations in the context of their social and cultural ethos.



A still from 'Iti, Tomari Dhaka.'



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

Pran Premium Ghee-Anandadhara Pitha Fest held at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel

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The two-day Pran Premium Ghee-Anandadhara Pitha Fest was inaugurated by Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher, *The Daily Star* in the presence of Laila Hasan, Tariq Anam Khan and Abdus Selim and representatives from the title sponsor, co-sponsors, hospitality partner and media partner yesterday. On behalf of the title sponsor, Pran Premium Ghee, Md Muniruzzaman, Executive Director, Rajib Islam, General Manager, Md Maksudur

Rahman, Head of Marketing, Mahmudul Hasan Sarker, Assistant Brand Manager, Abdullah Hir Rafi, Brand Manager and Md Rokunuzzaman, Assistant Brand Manager were present. The co-sponsors delegates were ANM Mahfuz, Head of Consumer Banking, Prime Bank Limited and Tauhid Anwar, Brand Manager, IGLOO. Asif Ahmed, EAM and Director of Finance, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka, was in attendance as well. Anonna Ruma, Senior Manager and Safi Ahmed, the presenter and digital compliance producer from the media part-

ner, Channel i, were also present. Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka, is providing a variety of scrumptious pithas at the fest. The bands Joler Gaan and Turongomi mesmerised the crowd with their enthralling performances yesterday. Turongomi, along with singers Elita Karim and Oyshee and the promising band, Doob, are set to perform in the open-air concert at the fest today. In addition, there is entertainment for children, including magic shows, bioscope and a kids' play area. There are also lifestyle stalls at the event showcasing a variety of products.

Documentary film induction concludes in Chattogram

AMIR HASAN SHAHRIAR, from Chattogram

A four-day long documentary film induction titled, "Project Development Workshop" organised by Dhaka DocLab, concludes today at Shilpakala Academy, Chattogram.

This is a first of its kind workshop held in the city. It intends to enable upcoming documentary makers understand the process of developing projects and survive in the national and international market by gaining producers through showcasing their abilities.

The workshop began on January 23 with an inaugural session that featured a discussion on actuality storytelling and writing for documentary. Different projects developed by the incumbents will be reviewed and the participants will gain knowledge on how to refine their skills throughout the workshop.

Final projects submitted by the participants will be mentored for the Dhaka DocLab pitching programme in August, informed Rafiqul Anowar, the coordinator of the induction.

Nilotpal Majumdar, president of Documentary Resource Initiative in India, Supriyo Sen, an independent documentary filmmaker in India, Tareq Ahmed, director of Dhaka DocLab, and filmmaker and activist N Rashed Chowdhury are the mentors of the

participants in this workshop.

A total of 11 participants are working on various projects like *Life Around Karnaphuli River*, *Songs of Stateless*, *Mountain Do Not Move*, *Dead White Man's Cloth* and *A Long Path Still to Walk* for the workshop.

Besides, 13 other participants are taking the course as observers. They are learning the

different stages of documentary film production through the developments of the projects submitted by the incumbents.

The organisation plans to conduct such a workshop in Rajshahi, Sylhet and Jessor as well. The selected final projects afterwards will be sent to Docedge, a prominent documentary pitching forum in Asia.



PHOTO: COURTESY

STAR CINEPLEX opens in Dhanmondi

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

A new branch of Star Cineplex, the first ever multiplex cinema hall in Bangladesh, will be inaugurated today at the Shimanto Square shopping complex in Dhanmondi.

The new cinema theatre will be launched through a grand event, which will be attended by Star Cineplex Chairman Mahbubur Rahman, along with eminent media personalities, filmmakers,

corporate personalities and journalists.

The Star Cineplex in Shimanto Square has three cinema halls equipped with Dolby sound system, silver screens, latest film screening technologies and world-class facilities.

The Star Cineplex team decided to expand their business and open a new branch in Dhanmondi after seeing the immense interest amongst film lovers in Dhaka.