

"Birthdays are bittersweet for me"

— Chanchal Chowdhury

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Chanchal Chowdhury is one of the most popular actors in the country. Be it television, theatre or film, he has had success in every field. Not only has he established himself as one of the most popular stars in television, he has won the hearts of millions of viewers through his long trail of work.

The dedicated actor celebrated his birthday yesterday. In a conversation with *The Daily Star*, he says, "Birthdays are bittersweet for me. Amidst the celebrations, I am a little sad because I lose another year of my life."

In addition to countless television appearances, the actor has also starred in several movies, for two of which he took home the National Film Award. Ten years since the release of *Monpura*, it still stands as one of the most popular Bangla films in recent memory. He has also garnered many accolades in home and in West Bengal for his performance in *Moner Manush*, a film by the Indian director Gautam Ghosh.

One of the more recent milestones in his career was *Aynabaji*. This film propelled him as everyone's favourite actor. And even more recently, his performance as Misir Ali in the film *Debi* made him



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

synonymous to the role for the current generation of Misir Ali fans.

While we conversed with the star, we asked him what he thought was the significance of birthdays. After pondering over the question for a while, he answered, "I know people have a lot of love for me. But during birthdays, I realise the magnitude of this love. The fact that I can receive so much love from everyone is what makes birthdays special."

Every year, Chanchal celebrates his birthday by cutting a cake exactly after the clock strikes twelve. This year was no different. The celebrations took place as Shoummo and Dibya, the sons of actor Shahnaz Khushi and playwright Brindaban Das, brought home a cake to surprise Chanchal Chowdhury.

"Shahnaz Khushi is a very dear friend to me. I am really close to her family and we've always had a loving relationship", said Chanchal about his long time birthday host.

After the birthday celebrations, during midnight, Chanchal Chowdhury, his wife and son, travelled to Kolkata. His schedule tends to keep him busy all year round. So, he took a break during this time to enjoy a trip with his family.

Chanchal will also be appearing in several TV shows for Eid. These include hour-long shows as well as a seven part series.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Shooting continues at the eleventh hour

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

With Eid-ul-Fitr nearing by the day, all the cast and crew of the television fraternity are extremely busy, racing to meet their respective deadlines. For the city based plots, Uttara is the prime location for shooting, with around 12 shooting houses scattered across the area. For stories that are village based, Bhadon in Gazipur is the place of choice. And if the script demands a location by the sea, then what's better than Cox's Bazar?

If the story revolves around the olden times, then the age-old dwellings of the zamindars situated around Dhaka, become the ideal location. Many are also shooting at BFDC, while others prefer shooting in the lush tea gardens of Srimangal. Countries like Nepal and Indonesia are also becoming popular destinations for shooting tele-fictions.

Upon entering the shooting house Hoichoi in Uttara, we came across



the renowned actors Mosharraf Karim and Tisha. They were shooting for the tele-fiction, *Hashir Patro*, directed by Abu Hayat Mahmud. Despite the drenching heat and humidity, the actors struggled to give their best in front of the camera. In another shooting house named Aponghar 3,

there was a lot of commotion that was audible prior to entering the premises. The team was shooting for a scene based on a dispute. The cast comprised of Sadia Islam Mou, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Emon and others. They were shooting for *Pokkhkho Bipokkhkho*, directed by Arif

Khan. Famed actor Apurba was also seen shooting for an Eid tele-fiction in Uttara's Shawpnil.

Even the village of Bhadon is busy housing the various cast and crew. There are around eight shooting houses located in the area, with Hasnahina and Shaheer Bari being amongst the older ones. Noted actor Salauddin Lavlu, as well as Shamim Zaman have their own shooting houses in Bhadon. Apart from using it for his own use, Salauddin Lavlu also rents out his space to those who need it. During separate conversations with Zahid Hasan and Chanchal Chowdhury recently, both the actors informed that they are busy shooting for Eid tele-fictions.

Overall, the shooting houses located in Dhaka and outside, are currently abuzz, amidst the hectic schedule. Everyone is in a rush to add the final touches to their respective projects, in order to meet the deadline for the seasonal entertainment bonanza.



Fun times at Fantasy Kingdom

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Escape the urban chaos to unwind and revitalise yourself at Fantasy Kingdom, a Concord Entertainment Co Ltd theme park in Ashulia, which provides a range of fun rides and activities to enjoy. If you are tired, enter Water Kingdom and enjoy splashing in the pools, or ride the waves. For a private retreat, relax at Motel Atlantis. The resort provides a range of amenities and other recreational facilities including restaurants, so the guests can relax, surrounded by the beautiful landscape.

The residents of the port city can enjoy similar benefits as well. Located at the heart of Chattagram, the Foy's Lake Amusement Park in Pahartoli provides picturesque serenity surrounded by the hills, a lake and forests. There is also a water theme park called Sea World for the guests to take a dip.

This Eid, the parks will wear a festive look as the authorities have made special arrangements, so people can enjoy the rides, concerts, food and much more with their friends, families and loved ones.

Artist trio set for Osaka show

ZAHANGIR ALAM

Three eminent Bangladeshi artists -- Jamal Ahmed, Mohammad Iqbal and Mustapha Khalid Palash -- are set to display their paintings in a group exhibition titled *AKA DOT* to be held in Osaka, Japan from June 10. Osaka based Japanese company Holbein is hosting the exhibition at Holbein Gallery situated in Osaka, Japan. The exhibition will showcase several artworks of these three contemporary artists from Bangladesh. Though the three artists' works vary from each other, they all are intertwined to some extent and quite contemporary in nature having their own style of artistic expressions. All the participating artists have their trainings in Japan; the former two are trained in Fine Art and the latter in Architecture. Their works are greatly influenced by the Japanese minimalist approaches and Bangladeshi simplicities yet they are somber in appearance.

Ekushey Padak winning artist Jamal Ahmed's empathy towards his subjects is remarkable, as he has been relentlessly portraying them for years now. Having



the similar subjects on his canvas, Jamal always brings distinctive differences in every appearance. He has proved himself as a master artist in creating the visual impacts for the general to discerning audiences, with his simple subjects with deeper meanings.

Mohammad Iqbal is one of the most celebrated artists of recent times. The subjects

of this highly enlightened artist include human faces with encapsulating eyes, especially of children, which indicate the authentic souls which usually become contaminated in the later stages of adulthood. Iqbal's specialty is that he uses quite a number of translucent layers in his paintings which at the end divulge a greater depth.

Being an important name in the architectural realm of Bangladesh, Mustapha Khalid Palash, beyond his architectural practice also paints, writes, plays sitar and is an avid practitioner of Rabindra Sangeet. He is a conscious activist in the realm of sociopolitical issues. Palash is considered as a natural born artist who had his training from his parents. The artist has already established his own style that incorporates bold and wide strokes, vibrant colours and playing with forms.

It is expected that the Japanese connoisseurs will admire their works and inspire their journey in the days ahead. The exhibition, curated by Mohammad Iqbal, will be inaugurated by Yoshio Kawami, the President of Holbein Company and remain open to all until 15 June.



COFFEE HOUSE

A warm welcome for Dia's debut

MINAM HAQ

Taz Akhter Dia was passionate about music from an early age. Having trained in music, including classical for a year, she left for USA in order to pursue her career. Despite her busy schedule, she always longed to lend her voice for Bangla songs. Fortunately enough, her recent trip to Bangladesh landed her with an opportunity to do just that. Dia made her

debut in the Bangladeshi music industry recently, with the song *Coffee House*.

Partha Mojumder penned the lyrics of the song and was also behind the composition and music arrangement. Directed by Yamin Elan, *Coffee House* was released under the label of Laser Vision, on their official YouTube channel.

"I have actually written this song some time back. The music has a Latin vibe to it," informed Partha Mojumder. "However, I was waiting for the right kind of voice to embrace the song." Partha Mojumder has composed music for several *adunika* songs, as well as film scores. He is currently busy with the undertakings of his band, Dhruvotara.

The plot of the music video revolves around a couple, who suddenly come across each other at a café, after parting ways many years back. "When visiting Dhaka this time, I had no idea what was in store for me. After meeting Partha da, he put forward the song, and that's how I embarked on my musical journey in Bangladesh!" exclaimed Dia. "It has always been my wish to win the hearts of my listeners, with songs that they will admire long after I'm gone."

While *Coffee House* is gaining momentum steadily across social media, a versatile Dia is rather optimistic about her upcoming song. Titled, *Ki Oporadhe*, the track is written by Ranju Reza and tuned by Partha Mojumder under the banner of Laser Vision. It is expected to release soon after Eid.



Partha Mojumder

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular magazine show *Ityadi* always comes up with exciting segments to enthrall the viewers in its Eid special episode. This year, the episode will contain a group dance number, featuring popular actors Ferdous and Purnima, and the newest sensations, Siam Ahmed and Puja Cherry. The group dance number is inspired by two popular folk songs and the lyrics are altered in order to make it

relevant to the present times. The song of the dance number is composed by Mehdi, and many promising young singers have sung it.

Four renowned artists, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Chanchal Chowdhury, Zakia Bari Mamo and Rumana Rashid Ishita will perform a rhythmic conversational song, based on contemporary issues of our society.

Another segment of the show, featuring foreign guests delivering dialogues in Bangla and dancing to Bangla folk songs, promises

Eid special Ityadi set to enthrall viewers

abundant entertainment.

The episode will also present viewers with a new patriotic song, sung by noted singers Andrew Kishore, Kumar Biswajit and Shafi Mondol. It is written by Mohammad Rafiquzzaman and composed by Suman Kollyan.

Planned and emceed by Hanif Sanket, the Eid special episode of *Ityadi* is scheduled to be aired on BTV and BTV World on the second day of Eid-ul-Fitr at 10:20 pm.