



I want to be an actor, not a 'hero'

– Afran Nisho

One of the most sought-after stars of the television industry, Afran Nisho constantly challenges and reinvents himself through playing different characters. After a busy Eid season, where he starred in a plethora of hit tele-fictions, the dashing actor looks to ease into work once again. The Daily Star catches up with Afran Nisho for an exclusive interview.

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Many of the projects you starred in this Eid, were very well received by the audience. Do you have a favourite amongst them?

I enjoyed playing every character that I portrayed, this time around. However, I wanted to break the misconception that the 'protagonist' is the most important character in a drama or a telefilm, and I was able to do so. For example, in the telefilm *Agontuk*, directed by Ashfaque Nipun, I played a negative role, and it was quite a powerful one. I remember watching the legendary *Kothao Keu Nei*, where the character of "Baker Bhai" was a breath of fresh air, as he was a borderline negative character who grows.

How do you prepare yourself for a tough role?

Previously, I used to overthink things when I was given a challenging role. I would often plan weeks ahead of how I would play it. However, as time went on, I became more spontaneous. I still learn from my seniors on set. My biggest inspiration has always been Humayun Faridee, who, in my opinion is an institution in acting. Through observing him, one could learn how to indulge themselves in a role without being typecast. Because of him, I want to be an actor, not a 'hero'.

There is a trend in the industry, where

directors and producers arguably focus on the 'views' on YouTube more than the actual quality of their work. What is your opinion on this?

I have always maintained that views on social media can never be a proper benchmark on how good a production is. However, it is true that a tangible estimate of how many people have watched your work is always a welcome one for any actor or director. Moreover, platforms like YouTube works like an archive for us, which was previously missing from the industry. In the end, every single person in the industry would want their work to be recognised. That is not to say that a telefilm with fewer views is in any way inferior to the ones that went 'viral'. Similarly, we also cannot say that the ones with the most views are bad in any way. Every platform has its merits and demerits, and what we can do is embrace them and try to work harder, smarter and better.

What advice would you give to an aspiring actor?

Try to be spontaneous, honest and dedicated. In this industry, it is very important to spark at the right time. Don't try to 'act' per se, put yourself in a situation where you believe the role you play. I believe that talent can never be overshadowed, no matter how difficult it might seem to climb up the proverbial ladder. Never give up!



'It Chapter Two' hits Star Cineplex

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

It Chapter Two is an American supernatural horror film and the sequel to the 2017 film, *It*. Both films are based on the 1986 novel of the same name by Stephen King. The sequel is an adaptation of the second half of the novel and is directed by Andy Muschietti and written by Gary Dauberman. The film is set in 2016, 27 years after the events of the first film. It stars Bill Skarsgård as Pennywise, along with James McAvoy, Jessica Chastain, Bill Hader, Isaiah Mustafa, Jay Ryan, James Ransone, and Andy Bean, who portray the adult versions of The Losers' Club. Jaeden Lieberher, Sophia Lillis, Finn Wolfhard, Chosen Jacobs, Jeremy Ray Taylor, Jack Dylan Grazer, and Wyatt Oleff return from the first film as the younger "Losers". The film releases at Star Cineplex today.

Remembering SALMAN SHAH

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

No other actor in the history of Bangladeshi cinema has seen a more spectacular rise to stardom than Salman Shah, one of the most iconic figures to step foot in the industry. Today marks his 23rd death anniversary, after his untimely demise in 1996.

Keyamot Theke Keyamot was his very first film, directed by Sohanur Rahman Sohan. Salman worked with Moushumi, who was also a newcomer in the industry. The pair was an instant hit amongst the audience.

After the release of the film, history was made, as young adults flooded the cinema halls. The film was screened long after it was released, making it one of the most financially successful movies in the history of Bangladesh. Before *Keyamot Theke Keyamot*, Salman Shah had acted in only a handful of tele-fictions.

With this single film, Salman earned a place in the hearts of the audience. As he began his journey in the world of cinema, he quickly conquered the silver screen. He captivated the audience with his charisma and skills as they eagerly waited for his movies, which included the likes



PHOTO: COURTESY

Cartoon drawing workshop and puppet show concludes at EMK Center

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Recently, EMK Center, in collaboration with Cartoon People, organised an art workshop titled, *Draw, Create and Collaborate*. Syed Rashad Imam Tanmoy, the founder of Cartoon People and an associate editor at *Unmad*, was the lead instructor. The workshop comprised of 22 children under the age of 16 from schools

around Dhaka.

The workshop was customised to enhance the creativity of the young participants. The modules of the workshop included character building, storytelling and craft-making among other things.

On the last day, Dhaka Puppet Theater performed *Jol Pori O Kathuriya* for the children.

Animation to raise AIDS awareness on Mercury's birthday

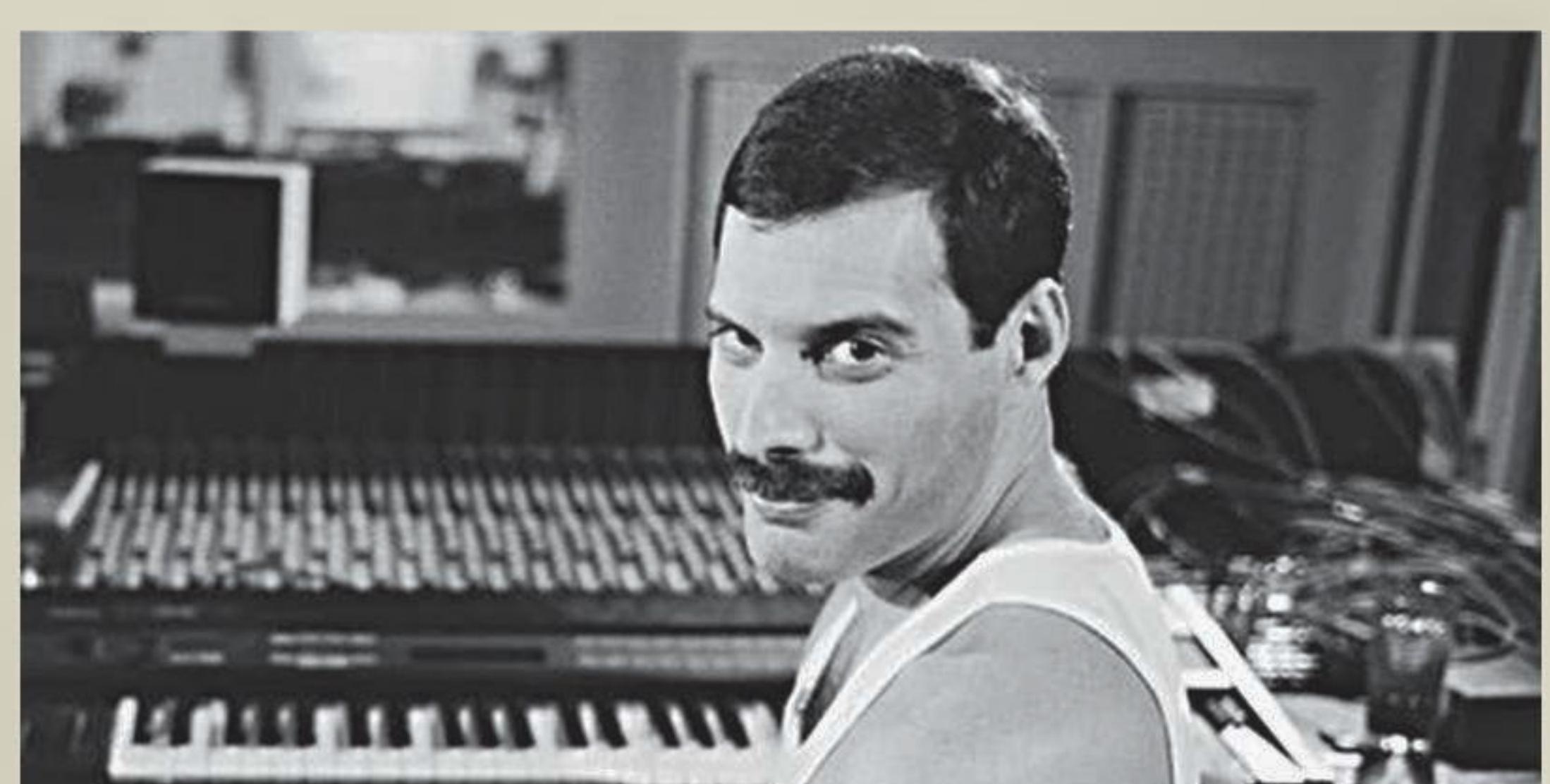
Freddie Mercury was a British singer, songwriter and lead vocalist of the rock band Queen, who died in 1991 due to complications from AIDS. Yesterday marked his 73rd birthday. An animation video was released commemorating the day, to help raise awareness about the global fight against AIDS.

Released by Universal Music Group (UMG), the video features Mercury's song *Love Me Like There's No Tomorrow* and depicts two white blood cells in love. One of the cells is infected with the virus, yet their devotion aims to overcome fear and ignorance surrounding the situation.

"We wanted to tell a story that was relevant to Freddie's life, but not explicitly about him," said the directors Esteban Bravo and Beth David in a statement.

The video is also meant as a tribute to the work of the Mercury Phoenix Trust, set up after Mercury's death to help support projects worldwide in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

SOURCE: REUTERS



of *Tumi Amar*, *Antore Antore* and *Sujon Shokhi*. Each of these films was a hit, while the country witnessed a 'Salman Shah fever'.

Bikkhobh, Sneho, Prem Juddho, Denmohor, Konnadan and Shopner Thikana were also some of his most notable work. Later on in his career, he acted in films like *Anjuman*, *Mohamilon*, *Asha Bhalobasha* and *Priyogen*.

In 1996, he acted in *Shopner Prithibi*, *Shotter Mrittui Nai*, *Jibon Shongshar* and some other films.

The same year, the beloved actor suddenly passed away, leaving the entire country in shock. His films *Shopner Prithibi*, *Shotter Mrittui Nai* and *Jibon Shongshar* came out that year as well. His unfortunate death meant that he could not finish many of his works.

His last film *Buker Bhitor Agun*, was released posthumously. Another one of his films, *Mon Mane Na*, was taken over by actor Riaz.

Even though Salman Shah was first paired up with Moushumi in his debut film, he had been paired with Shabnur as well in many films. The audience adored both of the pairs.

Salman Shah used to study in Khulna Boira Model High School. Interestingly, him and Moushumi were classmates. They lost contact for many years, until they finally reunited as actors.

"Salman was one of my closest friends. I think about him all the time, we have so many memories together. I hope he rests in peace," says Moushumi.