

From beauty pageants to the silver screen

Oishee talks about her journey

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

The journey from Miss World Bangladesh to showbiz marks the transition for beautiful actress Jannatul Ferdous Oishee. She struggled hard to pave her way into the world of pageantry, but then slowly made her way into films with two back-to-back productions “Mission Extreme” and “Raat Jaga Phul”, which will be released in December.

In a conversation with The Daily Star, the actress opened up about her challenges in acting, upcoming ventures, and why she doesn’t have a Facebook account.

“Mission Extreme” and “Raat Jaga Phul” will release in December. Are you excited?

I am really excited and nervous about the release of both the movies. I started my journey through beauty pageants and I have no prior experience in acting.

People started offering me films due to my popularity at the time. As both of the movies will be releasing in December, people will finally be able to judge my acting talent.

Acting requires a lot of passion and hard work. If, by any chance, people feel that my acting in “Mission Extreme” is not that good, they will surely be able to identify my growth as an actress in “Raat Jaga Phul”.

How was it working with Arifin Shuvoo in “Mission Extreme” and “Noor”?

I really couldn’t have asked for a better co-artist in my debut film. He is really supportive and I got to learn a lot from him.

How are your characters in “Mission Extreme” and “Raat Jaga Phul” different from each other?

For starters, I would like to mention that I don’t play police in Mission

Extreme. My character is a strong independent woman who is really sweet and down to earth. Due to some chance encounter, she gets personally and professionally connected to the mission.

On the other hand, in “Raat Jaga Phul”, I play this energetic and bubbly little girl who is curious about everything.

How was the experience of working with Fazlur Rahman Babu in “Raat Jaga Phul”?

It was a wonderful experience to work with such a talented artiste. Unfortunately, I didn’t get to shoot much scenes with him. In one scene, lines on my forehead started to appear unconsciously, and Babu sir fixed it for me. He is not only an incomparable actor, but very friendly to work with.

What are your upcoming projects?

Both “Noor” and “Adom” will release next year. In “Adom”, I will be acting opposite Yash Rohan. I will be playing an 80’s rural girl, and for that, my appearance was changed drastically with the help of makeup.

What happened to your Facebook account?

Earlier on, I did have a Facebook account, but it got hacked twice so I decided to only interact with my fans through my verified page.



‘We are ideologically similar, that helps us gel’

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

One of the fastest rising artistes in our music industry, the Rehman Duo keep pushing the envelope with their melodious serenades.

Founded by real-life couple Ruslan Rehman and Rubayat Rehman, the duo have swiftly moved on from releasing viral covers to working on fresh originals, which have kept them relevant in the long-run.

After “Onnoy”, “Ashor” and “Bole Dao”,

the musicians have released their fourth original track, “Etibritto”. “We recorded the track in April, and we just wanted to release it as soon as we could,” says Rubayat, who told The Daily Star that the music video for Etibritto was spontaneous on their trip to Bandarban.

Rubayat and Ruslan have been together for 8 years, and have been married for 5 years now. “I’ll say that the secret behind our chemistry lies in the fact that we are

ideologically similar, that helps us gel.” The couple barely have any spats. “We only have disagreements when we sit down for recording, and that really helps bring out the best in the song.”

Moving forward, the artistes want to release an album with their singles. “Our aim is to keep releasing singles in the alphabetical order, until we have enough for the album,” laughs Rubayat.



The Rehman Duo consists of real-life couple, Rubayat and Ruslan. PHOTO: COURTESY



Artwork by Shruti Gupta Kasana



Shruti Gupta Kasana

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Indian artist Shruti Gupta Kasana’s solo exhibition, titled “Mukher Abhibyakti” highlighted the form of non-verbal communication through its vividly presented portraits.

The exhibition run in Dhaka Gallery from November 12-15 and the opening ceremony had HE Naoki ITO, Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh, as chief guest.

Dr Neepa Chowdhury, Director of Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Dhaka and eminent artist & Dean, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, Prof Nisar Hossain were also present as the Guest of Honour in the programme.

Kasana is a fulltime artist and a freelancer fashion designer. The Indian artist is now working as the Consultant to the Indian Apparel Expo Council and the owner of Creative Studio.

“From an early age my life has been guided by my creative pursuit. I like to experiment with the figurative art forms and elements. My work reveals the sensitive emotions that are often concealed within,” mentions the artist.

The noted artist graduated from Haryana in Fine Arts in 2000 and later performed her postgraduate in Knitwear Design & Technology from National Institute of Fashion Technology from Mumbai in 2002.

Kasana also performed a five-month exposure at Piccadilly Fashions at Toronto, Canada in 2004. She took part in many solo and group Art Exhibitions in her home country and abroad, especially in Bangladesh. Her paintings are well appraised by the art critics of Dhaka.

Shruti Gupta Kasana’s beautiful portrayal of ‘Mukher Abhibyakti’



A heart-to-heart with the ‘PRINCE OF OTT’

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Celebrated actor Shamol Mawla started his career with theatre. Slowly making his way up, he rose to fame, traversing from small roles on television to critically appreciated performances in OTT projects.

In a candid chat with The Daily Star, the “Mohanagar” famed actor talks about his journey, and upcoming projects.

Born in Cumilla, Shamol moved to Shahbag in Dhaka quite early on, where he was familiarised to theatre by his father, Golam Mostafa. Following his father’s footsteps, Shamol started working as a theatre artiste in 2006.

“I was introduced to acting by my father, who was deeply rooted into the world of theatre,” he shares. “His passion and drive are tied to my aspirations in this profession.”

While trying his luck in acting, the “Money Honey” star took up the role of Manik in “Sisimpur” in 2008. This role crafted his path to television in 2009 where he started with small roles, before portraying side characters and second lead roles.

“I used to be an extra in films. Giasuddin Selim gave me my first lead role in his production ‘Rood’ but the first project I shot for as a lead actor was “Love in Dhaka,” mentions Shamol.

He also appeared in the anthology film, “Iti, Tomari Dhaka” (Sincerely Yours, Dhaka) one of the first two films to be on Netflix from Bangladesh.

The actor kept appearing in other television projects until he was approached by Tanim Noor and



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Krishnendu Chatterjee for the Hoichoi original crime-thriller “Money Honey”.

“I always present myself in alignment with the director’s vision,” says Shamol. “I believe an actor should be mouldable, and that is exactly what I look to ensure.”

He has built a strong appeal amongst audiences of OTT platforms with his impeccable performances in Hoichoi’s “Mohanagar”, Chorki’s “Joar Bhata”, Bioscope’s “Mood Swing” and the Zee5’s “Herey Jabar Golpo”.

Shamol Mawla is currently busy shooting for the Zee5 mega project “E Emon Porichoy”. “This is what I will be busy with for the next six to eight months,” he concludes.