



# My daughter is my inspiration:

MITHILA

SHARMIN JOYA

Multifaceted artiste Rafiath Rashid Mithila, who is also Head of Early Childhood Development Programme at BRAC International, has been busy with quite a few films both in Bangladesh and Kolkata. She is currently attending a programme in Sierra Leone, as a representative of BRAC in early childhood development.

On the other hand, she is in talks with director Souvik Kundu for the film, "Ay Khukhu Ay", opposite Prosenjit Chatterjee.

"I can't disclose much about my role at the moment. My role in the film is a guest appearance. Initially, I was reluctant about the offer, but since I would get the opportunity to work with Boomba Da (Prosenjit Chatterjee), I thought to myself: why not?," shares Mithila.

The actress just wrapped up Arun Chowdhury's forthcoming film "Jole Jole Tara", a government-granted project that also features Fazlur Rahman Babu, Azad Abul Kalam, Monira Mithu, Nayeem and Imran Noor, among others. Her film "Omanush", directed by Anonno Mamun opposite Nirab Hossain is slated for release soon.

In Kolkata, Mithila has shot and dubbed for the Raajhorshee De directorial "Maya". It is slated to be released in the New Year. "I will be going back to Kolkata to finish dubbing for Arunav Khasanbish's anthology," she adds. Mithila has been working in the field of early childhood development for nearly 14 years. She noted that being able to contribute to the betterment of children brings her immense peace.

"At the same time, when I get to play a challenging role on screen it gives me satisfaction. But I must say that studying actually works as therapy for me, whenever I'm going through depression or any sort of stress," she asserts.

"Last but not the least, my daughter Ayra is my inspiration. I can overcome any obstacle, because I have her in my life."

PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL



PHOTO: COLLECTED

# The film industry is losing its momentum: Soheli Rana

SHAH ALAM SHAZLI

Soheli Rana has made outstanding contributions in showbiz, not only as a noted actor, but also as a director and producer.

He produced Bangladesh's first Liberation War movie "Ora Egaro Jon" and was honoured with the lifetime achievement award from the National Film Awards, among other accolades.

In a conversation with The Daily Star, the "Masud Rana" actor opens up about his career, the release of his latest movie, and more.

How do you feel about the recent release of your movie "E Desh Tomar Amar"?

I wasn't even informed about the release of the movie, I got to know about it through newspapers.

I have a lot of expectations regarding the film "E Desh Tomar Amar" as it had a good director, producer and incredible actors. I am really close with the film's producer Dipjol and its director F I Manik. I believe audience reception would have been good if it was released earlier.

What would you like to say about your

co-artists Miju Ahmed and Diti who passed away prior to release of the movie?

Both of them were my favourite co-artists and their deaths really shocked me. I couldn't believe that they were gone.

You have won many accolades in your career, including the National Film Award for lifetime achievement. Do you have any regrets?

Actually, I wanted to be a musician, not an actor. One of my other regrets would be not receiving the Swadhinata Padak.

In 1965, I was imprisoned in jail as a part of the Chhatra League. I also fought in the Liberation War in 1971, so it truly saddens me that I was not given that honour.

Do you stay up-to-date with the happenings at BFDC?

I do stay updated, even though the glorious days of BFDC are over. Our film industry is losing its momentum, and it will take a lot of time for us to overcome certain challenges. However, I believe that the fraternity has a good future. It will keep evolving, and new and talented artists will revive it. But it will take time; nothing will change for the next five to ten years.

# Struggles pave the way for success: Black Zang

ANIKHA KHAN

One of the trendsetters for Bangla hip-hop, Asifur Islam Sohan goes by his stage name, Black Zang. Today he is one of the most prominent hip-hop artists of Bangladesh, paving way for Bangla hip-hop worldwide. We caught up with this phenomenal rapper about his career, the lack of freedom of speech in this country, his latest projects, and more.

Hip-hop was not mainstream when you started your musical career. How did you start writing Bangla rap?

You see, while rap is a genre of music, hip-hop is more of a philosophy. Back in 2007, I used to play around with Bangla words and write urban-ish rhymes. At that time, I did not even know what I was writing was rap, because I thought that rap needs to be done in English, until a classmate pointed it out to me.

My family, who naturally had many expectations from me, questioned my choice in career. Eventually, the questions stopped when the money started to come.

What are some of the recurring themes that your write and rap about?

Most form of art is a reflection of its surroundings. We write from the experiences around us. I always wanted to portray the hardships. I wanted my music to be relatable and to bring hope. I wanted to evoke the notion that struggles pave the path for success. Moreover, there is no freedom of speech in this country. This does limit to what extend I can express my thoughts.

As we are hopefully moving towards the end of this pandemic, what is one thing you want to see come back in full scale?

I miss shows. I miss the energy of a live crowd. It encourages me a lot, so I cannot wait to get back to going on tours and interacting with the audience.

What are some of the projects that you are currently busy with?

I am working on the music video for my latest song, 'Bangla Hype'. The whole thing has been executed by Bangla Hype entertainment, and I am very excited to share the video with everyone. I would also like to specify I have mentioned The Daily Star as a tribute in my song. (Laughs)

Tor khobor Jae Jae Din amra to Daily Star' (raps)

I am also working on a few other projects and campaigns, which will be released by the end of this year.

You have come a long way. If someone writes a book on you, what do you think will be the book's title?

You know, I dream of authoring a book with all my lyrics and narrations one day. However, for now, the title would definitely be, 'Life is BZ'.

PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

# HAMIDUZZAMAN KHAN'S SOLO EXHIBITION UNDERWAY AT GALLERY CHITRAK



Renowned sculptor-painter Hamiduzzaman Khan's 43rd solo art exhibition began at Gallery Chittrak in Dhanmondi on November 19, featuring over 100 mixed media paintings and sculptures. The artist has won several prestigious awards, including the Ekushey Padak in 2006 and the S M Sultan Gold Medal by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in 2012, among others. The exhibition will continue till December 4.

PHOTOS: ALEX ROMARIO

# 'Never thought I fit into heroine category'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bollywood diva Rani Mukerji, who made her theatrical comeback in "Bunty Aur Babli 2" along with Saif Ali Khan, recently revealed that she didn't think she could be a heroine initially.

The "No One Killed Jessica" actress noted that she used to be insecure about her height and her complexion.

However, it was the words of actor-politician Kamal Haasan that changed her perspective, and uplifted her spirits. He told her that she can't measure her success by the height of her physical standing, but by how much she can grow in her career.

I never thought I fit into the heroine category in the typical sense. I am actually the opposite of a heroine. I am quite short in height, my voice is not heroine-friendly, the complexion of my skin is wheatish," she told Indian media.

Encouraged by the words of stalwarts like Kamal Haasan, Rani broke all stereotypical conventions that an actress was put into, throughout her Bollywood journey.



PHOTO: COLLECTED