



PHOTO: STAR

## 'You first directorial film is like your first child'

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

*Noted actor Mir Sabbir has been in the field of television for over two decades. He has also directed numerous television serials and one-hour tele-fictions till date. "Raat Jaaga Phool", which is set to release on December 31, is his first film as a director. We caught up with him to learn about the movie, and more.*

'Raat Jaaga Phool', your directorial debut for the silver screen, is set to release soon. How do you feel? Your first directorial film is like your first child, so you make it with a deep sense of love and compassion. There was plenty of pressure too. I have treated "Raat Jaaga Phool" as my favourite child. The philosophy behind the title of my film is that after every sunset, there is a sunrise in everyone's life; a flower shall bloom in daylight, after a dark night passes. "Raat Jaaga Phool" is a complete family entertainer, which will make one both laugh and cry. I request my audience to watch it in theatres. You will not be disappointed.

Tell us a bit about the cast of the film. We have both first-timers and established actors and actresses in the film, who have poured all their love and hard work into it. It felt great to be working with artistes like Abul Hayat, Dilara Zaman, Sharmili Ahmed, and Fazlur Rahman Babu. I also play an important role in the film. My character comes across as a bit eccentric and mysterious. It was challenging to carry out both directing and acting duties. This is a government-granted film, produced under the banner of my company, Phooljhuri Production House. So, there was a lot of pressure.

Do you have any new wishes, after over 20 years in the industry? I feel fortunate to be able to direct my first film, as not everyone gets to do it. Directing a film was one of my biggest dreams for a long time. My only wish at the moment is that my fans and colleagues would watch "Raat Jaaga Phool". I have bonded with many journalists over the years, whom I love and respect. I hope they support my film too.

What do you think about the future of our film industry? I am hopeful that the glory days of our film industry will return, as there are many talented filmmakers who are setting up strong examples. The audience is in favour of good cinema too.

Translated by Shababa Iqbal

## Tahmina Authoi on her debut in Saidul Anam Tutul's 'Kal Bela'

SHARMIN JOYA

Talented actress Tahmina Authoi made her silver screen debut with "Kal Bela", released across the country on December 10. Renowned filmmaker and freedom fighter Saidul Anam Tutul, who passed away in December 2018, directed the film.

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, the actress has shared her experience of working in the film, along with her upcoming projects and more.

Authoi portrays Sanjida, who was living a regular life until the Pakistani Army surged their heinous operation against the innocent people located in the then East Pakistan, now Bangladesh.

"It was really challenging to understand and get into a period character," says the actress who completed her education from the Department of Dramatics, University of Chattogram. "I went through all the available resources to understand the lifestyle and psychology of people who I never saw. Since I am a student of dramatics, it helped me a lot to melt in with the character."

The government-granted film began shooting in 2018 and wrapped in March 2019. "Saidul Anam Sir completed shooting the entire film. However, a patchwork was left which was done by his wife Mobashera Khanam," says Authoi.

Based on the Liberation War of Bangladesh, the film depicts the struggle of the protagonist Sanjida, reflecting on the war, without showcasing any violence or bloodshed. "It is a story of a girl who never gives up," asserts the winner of the beauty pageant World Miss University Bangladesh 2017. "So far, I have been receiving positive responses from the audience, my greatest achievement was when renowned human rights activists Sultana Kamal complemented with her words—'Struggle of Sanjida reflects the birth of Bangladesh'."

The promising actress is proud to have the opportunity of working in a film based on the Liberation War as her debut project. "I will always be grateful to Saidul Anam sir,



PHOTO: COURTESY

Tahmina Authoi in 'Kal Bela'.

I wish we could watch the film together!"

While shooting the film, Authoi faced many challenges. "I was barefoot in the entire film, and it was very cold too," she says.

The artiste shared that during the shoot, a snake passed by her. "I was frightened but until the shot was completed, I did not utter a word, as I was afraid that we will have to reshoot the part and it will be harder to carry out," shares the actress. "When the director said cut, I just shouted my heart out and ran away. The director and the entire team were astonished why I didn't say anything during the shoot," says the dedicated artiste.

Authoi is also an anchor, who has hosted quite a few programmes on satellite channels. Her upcoming projects are the Manik manobik directorial "Chhleti Odbhut" featuring Tauquir Ahmed and "Chattola Express", directed by Shimul Khaled, featuring Ferdous among other noted artistes.

## 'Narir Shopno' underway at DrikPath Bhobon

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

"Narir Shopno", a group art exhibition organised by Naripokkho, is underway at DrikPath Bhobon in Panthapath. Naripokkho is a women's activist organisation striving for the advancement of women's rights and raising collective voices against violence, discrimination and injustice. The exhibition is a part of the organisation's year-long programme to introduce young women to this platform. Through this programme, Naripokkho aims to create a network of women across generations to strengthen the movement for women's rights in Bangladesh.

The exhibition showcases the dreams of Bangladeshi women for a safe and ideal society. Inspired by Begum Rokeya's ground-breaking short story "Sultana's Dream", it features creative and colourful visualisations from female artists aged between 15 and 35. The 50 artworks on display portray the artists' perceptions about a gender-inclusive Bangladesh.

After an open call, the organisers received more than 200 artworks, consisting of creative and colourful visualisations of what the artists see as the bricks and mortar of a safe and idyllic society for women. "I had a wonderful time curating the exhibition as this was the

first time I participated in an all-female exhibition," shared Taiara Farhana Tareque, the curator.

The artworks consist of paintings and digital illustrations. "My work is a basic diagram of how getting older feels—shedding hope like skin and dead leaves, and how some of them cling to us anyway," shared Anuva Chowdhury, a 17 year old participant. She prefers using digital tools for the flexibility of incorporating new changes and ideas.

Similarly, Ruposree Jaflog's "Rhythm of Jakha" reflects the lives of Hajong women. The Mongolian Hajong community is an indigenous group and the role of Hajong women in housework is pivotal for sustaining everyday life. "The word 'jakha' means fishing. My painting highlights the dramatic cool rhythm of women fishing," she explained. In addition to a paintbrush, Ruposree has used a mix of needles and yarn to resemble the Hajong women's traditional attire.

Tania Ahmed has explored women's freedom through "Mukti Spriha". "The fact that this exhibition attempts to visualise women's dreams inspired me to participate. My painting depicts how the dream of being free, like a bird, has not been fulfilled yet," she added.

The exhibition will conclude on December 16.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## 'ONE CANNOT PLAY A CHARACTER WITH THE FEAR OF DISPLEASED PEOPLE'

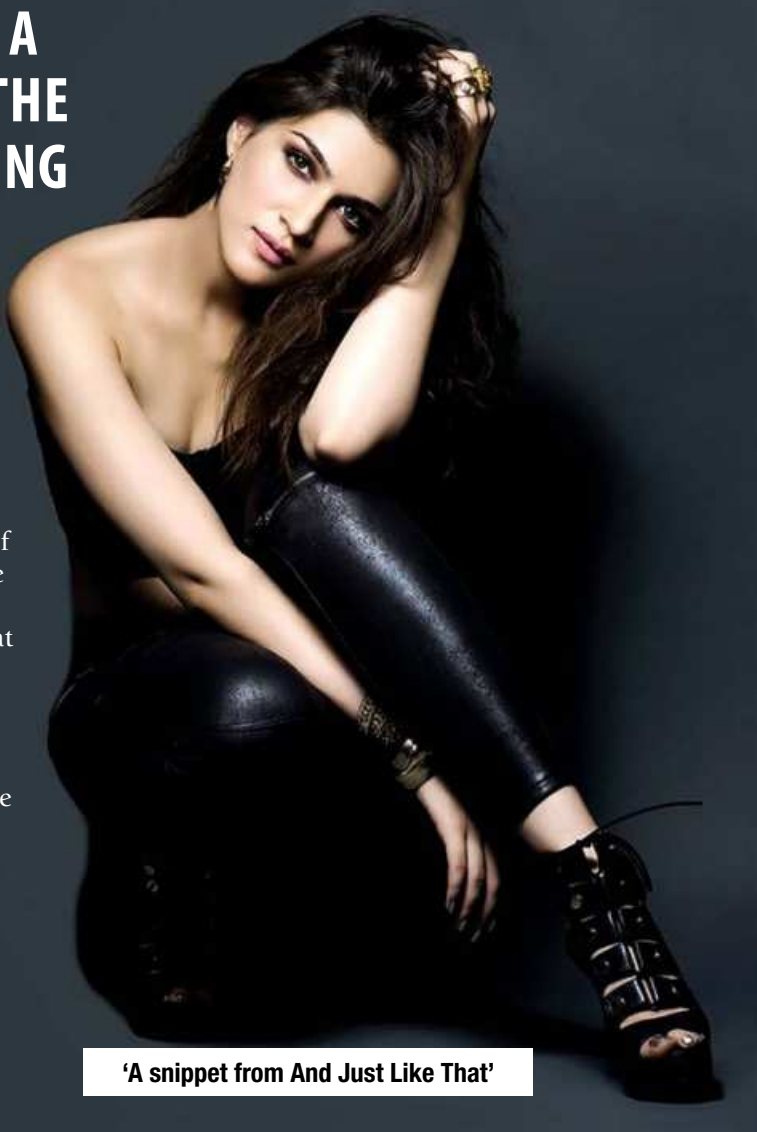
ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Celebrated Indian actress Kriti Sanon will be portraying Sita in "Adipurush", a new interpretation of the Ramayan being directed by Om Raut.

Kriti recently revealed that she is not daunted by the responsibility of keeping all sections of the audience pacified. "I've approached it with the same sense of responsibility that I apply to my other roles. I had to understand what the character feels and stands for. One can't play a character with the fear of displeasing a section of people," she told Indian media.

She further added that Sita is written within the boundaries that it needs to be, and that she is not unaware of the importance of the character.

She also said that shooting for "Adipurush" has been a unique experience for her.



'A snippet from And Just Like That'

## SERIES REVIEW

## 'And Just Like That', Carrie Bradshaw's world changes forever

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

The following article contains spoilers from the first 2 episodes of "And Just Like That".

"They say nothing lasts forever; dreams change, trends come and go, but friendships never go out of style." - Carrie Bradshaw, played by Sarah Jessica Parker, Sex and the City.

The long-awaited sequel series to "Sex and the City", HBO Max's "And Just Like That", is finally here, garnering mixed reviews mostly for killing off a major character in the first episode.

"And Just Like That" follows three main characters—Carrie, Miranda and Charlotte, played by Sarah Jessica Parker, Cynthia Nixon and Kristin Davis respectively, as they "navigate the reality of life and friendship in their 50s".

The 10-episode series debuted its first two episodes to mixed reviews. Fans were speculating how they will fit in Willie Garson (Stanford's) death in the series and how Kim Cattrall's Samantha Jones will be written off. However, they were left heartbroken when they witnessed the death of Chris Noth's Mr. Big, in the final minutes of the first episode.

"And Just Like That" is quite different from the original series. Mostly, there is no voiceover by Carrie along with the light tone cinematography. The original series also lacked diverse characters and so the spin-off introduced four new characters, played by Karen Pittman, Nicole Ari Parker, Sarita Choudhury and Sara Ramirez.



The tone of the first episode starts off vibrant but as it progresses, we get to see our smart, confident characters become more toned down and mellow as they try to tackle old age and a post-pandemic world among other things.

While "Sex and the City" showcased women in their 30's battling with careers and relationships, "And Just Like That" focuses on grief and how liberating and scary it is to accept your 50's, and still be strong.

"And Just Like That" marries the optimism and breathless wonder of a 1998 Carrie Bradshaw with the weariness that accompanies, as Samantha once said, decades of "lies and mutually accepted delusions."