

I direct for 170 million people

not the few who discourage me

KAJAL AREFIN OME



PHOTO: COLLECTED

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ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Kajal Arefin Ome became the talk of the town when his first and only sitcom "Bachelor Point" premiered in 2018. Over the years, he won over the audience by projecting light-hearted humour and entertaining stories like "Viral Girl", "Muthophone", "Stadium", "X Girlfriend" and "Tom and Jerry".

After garnering praise for the Afran Nisho and Tareq Anam Khan starrer tele-fiction "Apon" last year, Ome received the coveted CJFB Award.

In a candid chat with The Daily Star, the "Thanda" director shares his hopes and plans, and talks about his upcoming releases for 2022.

How has your journey been so far, and what motivated you to turn towards directing?

I started my journey as an assistant director

under Iftekhar Ahmed Fahmi in 2009, he is the one who guided my way, and motivated me to take up challenges.

I believe in schooling and practice, and that is how I construct my characters and stories. There will always be praises and criticisms. However, I make tele-fictions for 170 million people, not the few who discourage me.

You announced the upcoming season of "Bachelor Point" last year. When can we expect to see Season 4 of this anticipated drama?

"Bachelor Point" is no longer mine; rather it has become a part of my fans. With fame comes responsibility and thus, I want to invest my best efforts in season 4.

"Bachelor Point" season 4 is already in works and I sincerely hope that we keep up with the expectations of our spectators.

What do you have in store for Valentine's Day this year?

I already have a few projects under my belt for Valentine's Day this year: one featuring Afran Nisho and Mehazabien Chowdhury as the leads, and the other casts my "Bachelor Point" team. We plan to start shooting for this productions by mid-January.

Are you looking forward to any web-based projects?

I have already been in talks for a couple of web productions, a series and a films, and we are almost done with the formalities.

I am looking to present two entertaining projects, and one of them is going to be a proto-feminist story. The other one is going to be a light-hearted comedy. After I am done with my Valentine's Day productions, we will start shooting for the OTT projects, and plan to release it next Eid.



'Mohanagar' to make much anticipated return with sequel

Considered one of the best Bengali content on OTT, "Mohanagar" was a stellar show, featuring Mosharrar Karim as OC Harun. The Ashlaque Nipun directorial series created quite a stir not only amongst the audience, but from international critiques as well.

As the show ended with "to be continued..." Finally, Mohanagar 2 was officially announced recently at a programme arranged by Hoichoi.

Business Lead of the platform, Sakib R Khan, told The Daily Star that the project is at its initial stage. "We can assure that second season will arrive. However, we haven't confirmed when the shooting will commence," said Sakib.

The line-up for 'Season 5' of Hoichoi's projects include the aforementioned "Mohanagar 2", "Sabrina", "Kaiser", "Karagar", "Dour", and "Bodh", among others.

'Starting birthday week with Covid'

Actress Mithila Palkar has tested positive for Covid-19. 'The Little Things' famed star broke the news on Instagram.



"I'm asymptomatic and isolating and enjoying all the attention my friends and family are virtually showering," she wrote on Instagram stories.

"That aside, my family is so far okay. I'm very careful with all of them (especially my grandparents, who I hardly meet now since I started working), so I'm hoping they continue to be okay."

The internet sensation turned actress will celebrate her birthday on January 11.

COUNTRYWIDE

Osman rallying to help Taimur

FROM PAGE 12 she has been alleging that she hasn't been able to get the Osman family and their supporters on board for her.

In the 2011 mayoral polls, Ivy defeated AL-backed Shamim by one lakh votes.

Of the 27 wards in

the NCC area, 18 are under the Narayanganj-5 parliamentary constituency, while the rest under Narayanganj-4 constituency.

Selim Osman is the JP lawmaker from Narayanganj-5 and his brother Shamim is the AL

MP from Narayanganj-4 constituency.

While electioneering is going in full swing, the people of Narayanganj said the election atmosphere is still peaceful and both candidates have been trying to bring in voters using various tactics.

Self-reliant through duck farming

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Duck rearing has changed fate of Zahir Beg, once a day labourer at Kathalpara village in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali, and his wife Asma Begum.

Two years back, they started the farm with only 12 ducklings that they got free of cost from the office of a development agency and they have now 1,000 ducks valued around Tk 4 lakh, said Asma.

Zahir was finding it hard to run his four-member family with his meagre income. One day following the advice of a neighbour, Asma brought 12 free ducklings to home from the office of the agency.

After three months of rearing the ducks, they sold each duck for Tk 400, said Asma, adding that they later bought 300 ducklings at Tk 35 each with Tk 10,000 saved from her husband's income and Tk

5,000 earned from selling the 12 ducks.

Duck farming bears good prospect for the couple.

Son Al-Amin and daughter Mim Akhter are now studying at Class VI and Class V in a local school, said Asma, adding that she has bought two bighas of cultivable land by rearing ducks.

Like the couple, many people from poor community are earning a good amount by rearing the birds.

Asma said every day her husband Zahir used to take ducks to the Kachupatra river near their house. After finishing her domestic work, she also went there to take care of the ducks.

"Every three months, I sell each duck for Tk 350 to Tk 400. I get more than 200 eggs daily from the farm," she added.

Seeing the success of the couple, many people in the upazila have started duck farming.

Laiju Begum, a housewife from Nowapara area, said it is difficult for her husband to run the four-member family with his meagre income. Later, she started duck farming to earn extra income.

As many as 4,320 ducks have been distributed among 360 poor families in Lalua and Chakamia unions of Kalapara upazila under the 'Assistance for Sustainable Development (ASD)' project run by a non-governmental organisation named Friendship, said its project manager Jewel Hasan.

He added that due to the large number of rivers, canals, ponds and water bodies in the area, ducks can be easily reared. Many people from the poor and disadvantaged communities in Kalapara are becoming self-sufficient by rearing ducks.

Many women in the area are now helping ease the life of their poverty-stricken families by rearing ducks, said Jewel.



Asma Begum feeds her ducks on a canal at Kathalpara village in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

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