

## CINEMA

### will always be my first love

MAMO

SHARMIN JOYA

Zakia Bari Mamo has carved a space for herself in the fields of television, and films, winning the National Film Award for her role in "Daruchini Dwip" (2007).

In recent times, the actress garnered widespread accolades and appreciation for her performances in popular web series "Mohanagar" and "Contract." She will be playing an important role in Kaushik Sankar Das' web series "9 April" which released yesterday.

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, Mamo opens up about her upcoming series, future projects, among others.

Based on true events, thriller web-series "9 April" is a six-episode series which revolves around a mysterious murder case. The psychological thriller featuring Trapa Mazumder, Shohel Mondol, and Tama Mirza will air on the OTT platform Binge.

"I have worked with both Shohel and Trapa in theatre. However, it's my first-time sharing screen space with them in a web-series. It was truly a wonderful experience working with them again," said Mamo.

When asked about her role in the web-series, Mamo remains tight-lipped.

"I can't talk much about my role right now. It's a murder mystery, which will surely entertain the audience," she said.

Mamo is quite selective regarding her projects, the actor wants to prioritise quality over quantity as she feels that there is scarcity of good productions.

"Acting is my passion; it is something that gives me immense pleasure. I can't really see myself in any other career. Therefore, I only take up work which fulfill me as an artiste," added the actress.

The actress, who has worked in numerous mediums, opens up about which field gives us better scope as an artiste.

"Cinema will always be my first love, and naturally the biggest dream for any artiste out there," she says. "All of the mediums are quite different and unique from one another. For instance, web projects have more scope of portraying the story in a detailed form, while television has a limited slot to present the whole story." Mamo is hopeful that the various mediums will flourish in the upcoming years.

She has also completed the dubbing for Khijir Hayat Khan's feature film "Ora 7 Jon", based on 1971, which awaits release.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

### Shafayet Mansoor Rana's 'Ke Kokhon Kibhabe' to air on Valentine's Day

SHARMIN JOYA

Director Shafayet Mansoor Rana is coming up with short film series on the occasion of the Valentine's Day. The series, titled "Ke Kokhon Kibhabe" includes three short films - "Hot Patties" featuring Salman



Mohammad Muqtadir and Sabila Nur, "Black Box" featuring Yash Rohan and Samira Khan Mahi, and "Oprokashito" featuring Irfan Sajjad and Tasnia Farin in the lead roles.

The series is Rana's brainchild, which is also produced by him. "We plan to continue the series every year," shares Rana, who also handled the story and screenplay.

"All of the plots are contemporary which will imply different moments of love and emotion."

The series will be aired on Maasranga Television on Valentine's Day at 10.30 pm. It will be also available on its YouTube channel.

### Dr Muhammad Zafar Iqbal writes song for 'Adventure of Sundarban'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Government grant-winning film, "Adventure of Sundarban", based on Dr Muhammad Zafar Iqbal's novel "Ratuler Raat, Ratuler Din", and directed by Abu Raihan Jewel, stars Pori Moni and Siam Ahmed in the lead roles.



The renowned author has written a song titled, "Aye Aye Shob Taratari Shabaan-Paani Dhele Goragori", for the film, upon the director's request. The track is composed by Emon Chowdhury and voiced by 10 child artistes.



## Magic through the eyes of P C Saha

AKHLAKUR RAHMAN

Prokash Chandro Saha, also known as P C Saha, is a prominent magician. His father, R P Saha, was a reputed illusionist who founded Jonaki Jadu Chakra in 1974. It is one of the oldest magic troupes licensed by the Bangladesh government. PC Saha now runs the troupe.

Seeing his father perform magic tricks in various public platforms, he has been involved with the craft from a young age.

Apart from his father, he learned the craft from renowned magicians Mainul Khan, Ulfat Kabir, and Jewel Aich.

At the age of six, P C Saha performed his first professional magic act at Paikgachha, Khulna. The Upazila Nirbahi Officer at the time, Mihir Kanti Majumder, attended the programme.

P C Saha completed his Master's in Social Science from Government Brajalal College, Khulna, and Master's in Business Administration from Daffodil University, Dhaka.

He became a member of Bangladesh Jadukor Parishad in 2004 and joined the International Brotherhood of Magicians, USA, in 2006.

The magic maestro has staged shows both at home and abroad. He is also trained in Child Protection Awareness from the British Council, alongside Fire Fighting, Prevention, Rescue, and Aid from Bangladesh Fire Service.

"Magic is a part of our culture. It brings smiles to people's faces," he says. "Magic has no language. Everyone can enjoy it together with their loved ones."

With proper patronage, PC Saha believes he can contribute immensely to the field of magic in Bangladesh, highlighting the nation on international platforms.

# 'When speech is trifled, art speaks'

Dipa Mahbuba Yasmin's exhibition on display at Birmingham



Dipa Mahbuba Yasmin

PHOTO: COLLECTED

**The ideas are expressed in various forms including art craft; music-dance-drama and folklore.**

FARHANA SUSMITA

A two-month-long exhibition, organised by Bangladeshi artist, researcher, and curator Dipa Mahbuba Yasmin will be held at Birmingham's capital of culture, the Midlands Arts Center - also known as MAC, from February 5 to April 4.

In 2018, Bangladeshi citizen Dipa received the Research & Development Award by Transforming Narratives, Birmingham for her ongoing research on some of the most neglected art & cultural forms in Bangladesh. She also received funding from the Arts Council of England to transform her research

into visual arts.

The exhibition deals with art forms that evolved over the centuries and encompass the sexual diversity of several social and cultural groups of Bangladesh.

Different discourses of art, ranging from folk to modern forms will be on display alongside elements that have been an integral part of Bangladeshi culture, combining the influences of Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Christianity.

The ideas are expressed in various forms including art craft; music-dance-drama and folklore. Themes explore gender identities, including asexuality and sexual diversity

through art, film, and craft.

Although many of the artists are not formally trained in the field of fine arts, their art has, nonetheless, acquired a unique and powerful visual language. It also serves as a means to strong, collective activism.

Through their work, the artists express themselves and their surroundings, addressing different views of gender politics.

The MAC will present the exhibition in partnership with the Art Council of England and Transforming Narratives as part of the Birmingham 2022 Festival for the Commonwealth Games.