

# SAMIRA’S second innings

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SHARMIN JOYA

Talented actress Samira Khan Mahi began her journey in the industry through modelling. She was the first runner-up of Rang RTV 20 20 Colours Model Search-2014. Until 2020, she endorsed popular brands and participated in fashion shows, alongside acting in a few television projects. Now, she is completely focused on television. In the last six months, she has appeared in more than 30 fictions, becoming a popular face on the small screen. In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, she shared spoke about her upcoming projects for Valentine’s Day and more.

“I was overwhelmed with the warm reception from my fans, and I feel lucky that my path has been quite smooth.” Her appearance in season one of the Bongo original series, “Girls’ Squad” earned her much praise. “Very soon, we will be starting season 2 of the series,” she informs. Since modelling and acting are completely different from one another, she wanted to prepare herself before becoming an actress. Thus, she took the time during the pandemic to learn more about acting.

“To be honest, my fans are my greatest inspiration,” she shared. “Although I was fascinated with acting, I was unsure about making it my focus.” She also mentions that she is very connected with her fans.

In the second innings of her television career, she began working with renowned directors like Mostofa Kamal Raz, Jakaria Showkhin, and Imraul Rafat among others. This Valentine’s Day, she will be seen in Shafayet Mansoor Rana’s “Black Box” opposite Yash Rohan. “I could not shoot all the productions I took up for Valentine’s Day, since I was diagnosed with Covid-19,” she shares. “However, I have worked in five projects for Valentine’s Day, including one with Mosharrar Karim and two with Musfiq R Farhan.” These projects are for television and YouTube. She will be seen in “Frooto Love Express Season 7”, along with Salman Muqtadir. The beautiful actress is in talks for a female-centric project, to be produced by OTT platform Chorki. She is also gearing up for a web series with director Imraul Rafat. “So far, I have been working in many projects, I need to complete them and afterwards, I will be more selective about scripts,” she concludes.



PHOTOS: COLLECTED FROM FACEBOOK

## Closeup ‘Kache Ashar Didhahin Golpo’ coming this Valentine’s Day

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Keeping up with Valentine’s Day tradition, Closeup will bring their much anticipated tele-fictions in “Kache Ashar Didhahin Golpo”. Three short films will be aired on 8 pm on Valentine’s day,



spanning 16 private television channels. “Nice to Meet You”, directed by Rasel Sikder, stars Mumtazheena Chowdhury Toya and Tamim Mridha. Amitabh Reza Chowdhury directorial “Phagun Theke Phagune” will feature Safa Kabir and Sudip Biswas Deep in the lead roles. Sunerah Binte Kamal and Irfan Sajjad will star in Raka Noshin Nower’s “Ar Thekona Durey”, written by Nadim Mahmud Sotej.

## ‘SHOSHURBARI ZINDABAD 2’ to premiere in New York

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bappy Chowdhury and Apu Biswas starrer “Shoshurbari Zindabad 2” will release on February 11. The film will premiere in New York’s Bombay theatre, as confirmed by the actor himself. “It is a great privilege for me that my work is on display in New York,” says Bappy, who is confident that it will be a big hit. Apu Biswas is excited for the project as well. “The film will spread love across theatres in Valentine’s week,” she says. “Shoshurbari Zindabad 2”, directed by Debashish Biswas, is eminent late actor Sadek Bachchu’s final film. The music for the film has been directed by another late legend, Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul. Kumar Sanu, Akash Sen, Imran and Liza have given voice for the film’s soundtrack.



# COUNTRYWIDE

## North Bengal Museum receives ancient statue of mythical Nandi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Kurigram police has formally handed an ancient stone statue of a bull, recovered from the ruined site of a Shiva temple in Kurigram’s Nageshwari upazila in July last year, to the North Bengal Museum. Kurigram Superintendent of Police (SP) Syeda Jannat Ara handed over the antique statue, weighing around 20 kilograms, to SM Abraham Lincoln, founding chairman of the museum, at the museum premises in Natuan Shahar area. According to the police, a local farmer recovered the stone statue, which is 13 inches long and 5.5 inches wide, from the debris at Gonsair Bhita village on July 10 last year. Following a court order on February 7, the stone statue of a bull was handed to the museum authorities yesterday noon, Sub Inspector (SI) of Nageshwari Police Station Anwarul Islam said. Locals said farmer Sridhar Chandra recovered the reddish-white statue while he was collecting brick pieces from the ruins of the Shiva temple. The matter was later reported to the local



police, who recovered the antique from Sridhar’s house the same night, they informed. Centenarian Madhusudan Sarkar of the village said in his childhood he had seen an ancient temple made of bricks and rubble. There was a ditch from the temple to the adjacent Kashirdara river that has a brick-built ghat on its bank. He had heard from his grandfather that the area was once overgrown with bushes, he said, adding that a devotee, whom locals used to call Gonsai, built a temple on the bank of Kashirdara and set up a ‘Shiva Linga’ there. Later, the temple became known as Gonsair arena and the village is named as Gonsair Bhita.

## Development project chokes canal

Boro cultivation uncertain



Boro cultivation on 5,500 hectares of land in Brahmanbaria’s Sarail upazila is uncertain due to filling up of an important canal. The canal has been choked by the contracting firm to facilitate the development work of Ashuganj-Akhaura four-lane national highway.

PHOTO: STAR

MASUK HRIDOY, Brahmanbaria.

Cultivation of Boro on about 5,500 hectares of land in the current season seems uncertain due to the filling up of an important canal for a development project in Sarail upazila of Brahmanbaria. Due to the up-gradation of 50.58 km-long road from Ashuganj river port to Akhaura land port to four lanes, 11km-long canal from Ashuganj to Sarail Bishwa road intersection has been filled up resulting in complete cessation of water supply to 5,500 hectares of land. As a result, 20 thousand farmers of 15 villages in the upazila have been spending their days amidst grave uncertainty over Boro cultivation. Consequently, it was not possible to release water from ‘Ashuganj Sabuj Prokolpo’, one of the largest irrigation projects in the country. The water of the project, which would reach the

farmlands through the canal, used to be released at the beginning of January every year. Due to lack of water, seedbeds are turning red and paddy saplings are drying up, farmers said. **Farmers incurred losses last year and this year the situation is worse, they said. While visiting the area, it was seen that the trace of the canal was difficult to locate.** The irrigation crisis is hampering their Boro cultivation as water has not come to the canal though the cultivation season is about to over, they said. They alleged that the contracting farm of the development project – Mumbai-based Afcons Infrastructure

Limited – did not dig an alternative canal although it had been stipulated in the contract. Devdas Singh Roy, president of Bangladesh Krishak Samity, Sarail upazila unit, said the possibility of Boro production in the upazila this year is thin. The poor farmers have been worst hit due to the cessation of irrigation, he said, adding that a memorandum was submitted to the deputy commissioner in this regard. In 2021, water flow was so low that one month into planting paddy cracks appeared in the dried up lands. Farmers incurred losses last year and this year the situation is worse, they said. While visiting the area, it was seen that the trace of the canal was difficult to locate. Sudhan Mia, a farmer of Shabbazpur village, said “Time is running fast but still we are not getting water. Thousands

of bighas of land are lying barren due to lack of water.” Aftab Mia, a resident of Islamabad village in the upazila, said, “There is no water in the canal yet. I am in big trouble as the seedbed is becoming dry.” Upazila Agriculture officer Ekramul Haque said, “If seedlings cannot be planted within the next 10 days, the seedbeds will be damaged. Farmers can’t install shallow power pumps in such a short period.” Rubayed Foyosal Al Masum, executive engineer of the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) in Brahmanbaria said the contracting firm has choked the canal. “We are digging the soil with excavators. Farmers may avail water in the next four or five days, but the flow will be low. Next year, an RCC canal having 4.5 meters width and 2.5 meters height will be constructed to keep the water flow normal,” he assured.