



# Achievements LARGER THAN LIFE

**Raisul Islam Asad  
on his National  
Award and 50 years  
in the industry**

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

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SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Ekushey Padak awardee Raisul Islam Asad stepped into acting 50 years ago, winning 5 National Awards for his commendable screen presence. The star has been honoured for the sixth time this year, with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Freedom Fighter, who currently resides in Boston, USA, shared his emotions upon receiving the honour with The Daily Star.

**You have been honoured with the lifetime achievement award on the golden jubilee of your acting career. How are you feeling to have accomplished so much?**

When we participated in the Liberation War, we fought for our freedom. However, when I started acting 50 years ago, I did not think about achievements. I only did it for my love of acting.

After spending all these years in the

cultural arena, such recognitions make me realise that I have aged. Yet, it feels overwhelming.

Alongside the authorities, I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude towards all my well-wishers and supporters.

**Last year, you were honoured with the prestigious Ekushey Padak and this year, another National Award. How is your family responding to your achievements? My wife and daughter are celebrating these triumphs. If we had been in Bangladesh at the moment, our joy would have been doubled, as we could have shared it with our loved ones.**

Receiving two honours within this short span has left me with an exceptional feeling of contentment.

**What is your opinion about the current scenario in the Bangladeshi film industry? If we compare to the Indian film industry,**

our film fraternity is still very young and is at a developing stage.

There is no denying that the film industry has given some of the best Bangla productions. Nevertheless, times have changed, and it's sad how movie theatres are closing with every passing day.

Yet, I am optimistic, since a good number of young filmmakers are working on a bunch of great projects. I believe they can change the scenario.

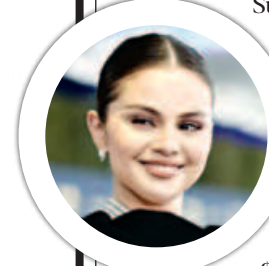
**You started your journey with theatre. What do you feel has changed and how much as theatre prospered?**

We have improved a lot in recent years. After the Liberation War, we had only a handful of groups, but now we have numerous ones who pull off great productions.

Productions quality will vary and it always has. However, we are growing and that's what matters.

## Selena Gomez presents SAG Awards barefooted

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

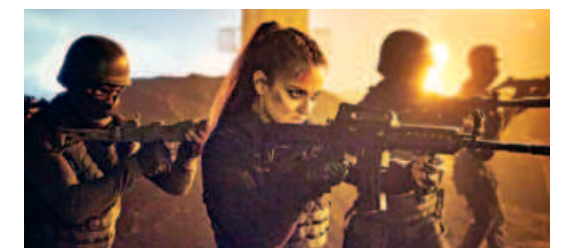


Selena Gomez got on stage barefoot on Sunday's 2022 SAG Awards, while presenting the award for outstanding performance by a female actor in a supporting role.

The 29-year-old actress had worn a stunning Oscar de la Renta gown. She complemented her look with a necklace by Bulgari that boasts more than 200 carats of diamonds and is worth a whopping \$1 million.

Gomez, who was wearing black heels while walking the red carpet, ditched them after tripping in a cute, but embarrassing fashion in front of the photographers.

## Kangana's 'Dhakaad' to release in May



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Kangana Ranaut is set to star in Bollywood's first high-octane spy thriller, 'Dhakaad'. The film will release on May 27, 2022.

The multi-lingual Pan-India film will be available in four languages including Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam. This is the controversial actress' second pan-India outing after the success of "Thalaivii", based on the life of Jayalalitha. "Dhakaad" also stars Arjun Rampal, Divya Dutt and Saswata Chatterjee, alongside with a powerful ensemble cast.

# The people behind REAL MAGIC

**With "Nasek Nasek", Coke Studio Bangla became an instant classic for viewers, as the opening episode raked in more than 2 million views on YouTube alone. I had the good fortune of arranging the song, written and composed by Animes Roy, and being able to fuse it with Abdul Latif and Abdul Alim's timeless "Dol Dol Doloni".**



Adit Rahman shares a light moment with Animes Roy.



PHOTO: RAW XPOSURE



## "When you pack up EARLY"

**Nusraat Faria is known as one of the friendliest faces in the entertainment industry. In a recent vine-like video, she made a musical short with her crew, on her song "Habibi".**

The star is seen dancing in a jovial manner, rocking a striped top, looking as cute as ever. Titled "when you pack up early", the video displays the infectiously positive attitude that the actress has towards her work, and co-workers.

"Habibi", vocalized by Faria herself, has more than 2 million views on YouTube, making it one of the most successful musical ventures by a Bangladeshi actress.



Hours of studio work went in behind "Nasek Nasek".

ADIT RAHMAN

I was honestly overwhelmed to work with my *Guru* (Shayan Chowdhury Arnob), after 15 years. He curated and produced the entire programme, and am extremely grateful to be a part of it.

For Coke Studio Bangla, we were initially looking for emerging artistes, embody a unique style, and at the same time, are passionate about delving into their roots.

When I heard Animes for the first time, without giving a second thought, I gleefully took this song from Arnob *Da*, and demanded that I am arranging it.

"I wanted a boy who sang without a care in the world with only a ukulele, to bring out his hidden 'rockstar', he absolutely nailed that aspect," Arnob *da* had said.

Since Coke Studio's identity lies in fusion, we were looking for a piece that could blend with this mindblowing, playful Hajong track. When "Dol Dol Doloni" finally clicked, Pantha Kanai made it truly special.

I feel proud that I could create a fusion with the tracks that we grew up listening to, and I hope that this song will echo throughout history.

We had so much fun during the rehearsals -- whenever the microphone was handed over to Animes, he would transform into another person. The level of energy he would put in the work is phenomenal.

I am truly thankful to the people who have supported me unconditionally. Sunidhi *di*, Ripon Sarkar, Imran Ahmed, Saadul Islam, Prodyut *Da*, Shuvendu Das Shuvo, Mithun Chakra, Mazruq Islam, Rahin, Sayon, Warda, Jannatul Firdous Akbar, Rubayet Rehman, and Mobarak -- they went all out for this production.

Krishnendu Chattopadhyay and Aporajita Mustafa from Dope Productions also deserve applause for their stunning visuals.

My heartfelt gratitude will also go towards Coke and Grey, without whom the programme would have been impossible.

We have received positive responses from all over the world, and all I can say is, it was due to a team of wonderfully talented, extremely dedicated and amicable human beings -- an experience that I will relish forever.

Adit Rahman is the composer and arranger of 'Nasek Nasek', Coke Studio Bangla's first release.