

I had nothing to lose with ‘Nikhoj’

Reehan Rahman

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ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

A daughter’s disparity, a son struggling with anxiety and depression, and a wife lost in the maze of shattered reality sets up the premise for Reehan Rahman’s mystery series, “Nikhoj”. After garnering rave reviews for productions like “Spondon”, “Makorsha”, “Niyoti”, and “Promotion”, Reehan finally returned with an intriguing story on Chorki. “It took a good four months for me to accumulate ideas. I started writing with a lot of mental notes,” shares Reehan, who had been busy crafting music videos for the past six years for his ad firm Roebuck Communications. He ended up having only ten days to finish the whole script for “Nikhoj”.

The intensive research aided Reehan’s script development momentarily. “The process of how your characters start dictating their narratives in your story is what my research had in store for me,” he mentions.

With an amazing star cast, featuring legends like Afsana Mimi, Shatabdi Wadud, and popular faces like Shamol Mawla, Khairul Basar, Deepanwita Martin, Intekhab Dinar, and Orchita Sporshia, among others,



Director Reehan Rahman PHOTOS: COURTESY

“Nikhoj” displays one story from different perspectives. “Afsana Mimi was my first choice for the series,” mentions Reehan. “However, every director fears being rejected by stars and I am no different. Nevertheless, their humble approach and kindness boosted my confidence.”

Reehan wanted to present “Nikhoj” in a non-melodramatic style. “Maintaining the subtlety of the story while

portraying complex characters was the most challenging part for my performers,” he adds. Each actor added something new to the production from their own treasury of experience. “Intekhab Dinar’s calmness, Shatabdi Wadud’s helpful attitude, Afsana Mimi’s down-to-earth nature, Orchita Sporshia’s range, Shamol Mawla’s devotion, Deepanwita Martin’s resilience, and Khairul Basar’s simplicity all aided the production process,” shares the director. The character of Faruk Ahmed was the most challenging one to craft. “I had to showcase two sides of the same face, one dominant office boss and a very loving, soft-spoken father,” he asserts.

“Faruk Ahmed’s transition was not instant. Rather, we had to design layers for the audience to peel off,” asserts Reehan. “Known for projecting negative characters marvellously on-screen, Shatabdi *bhai* has a very different image. Yet, he played Faruk Ahmed quite fascinatingly.”

Reehan was deeply concerned with aligning the setting and atmosphere to the tone of the series. “Atmospheric treatment to story representation, having a background that aids the narrative tone and depicting varying perspectives was intriguing,” shares an excited Reehan.

“Nikhoj” brought about praises for this young director, and set a lot of things in motion for him. “I had nothing to lose with ‘Nikhoj’.

That’s what empowered and liberated me from anxieties that would have held me back otherwise,” he concludes.



‘Hawa’ poster unveiled

The poster of Mejbaur Rahman Sumon’s much-awaited film “Hawa” was released recently. The production revolves around the story of eight fishermen and a mysterious snake charmer, trapped in a fishing trawler without a set destination in the abyss.

Written by the director with screenplay by Sukron Sahed Dhiman and Jahin Farooq Amin, the film stars Chanchal Chowdhury, Nazifa Tushi, Shariful Islam Razz, Sumon Anowar, Shohel Mondol, Nasir Uddin Khan, Abdul Jabbar Chowdhury, Mahmud Hasan and Bablu Bose, among others.

The poster has been designed by Sabyasachi Mistry. The film, which will be released under the banner of Face Card Productions and Sun Music & Motion Pictures Limited, has already been submitted to the censor board and will be released theatrically soon.

‘Morbius’ review-bombed by critics

Sony’s latest Spider-Man Universe movie, “Morbius”, directed by Daniel Espinosa, has not been a hit among critics.

Writing for CinemaBlend, Eric Eisenberg described the film as having “no discernable theme” and that people should avoid this one.

In his one-star review, he wrote: “There is no fun to be had here; there isn’t any ironic or so bad it’s good enjoyment. It’s soulless. It’s oozing, tar-like gunk that has been spit out of the Hollywood machine, and you should avoid stepping in it.”

“Morbius” stars Jared Leto as the titular scientist suffering from a rare blood disorder who elects to afflict himself with a form of transgenic vampirism in the hopes of curing it. It is now playing at Star Cineplex.



‘RRR is bigger than The Batman due to good use of VFX’

Noted Indian director SS Rajamouli’s epic action-drama Telugu film, “RRR” has been getting a tremendous response in theatres.

According to reports, it overtook the collections of Hollywood films, “The Lost City” and “The Batman” on March 24 in the USA. It also surpassed the collections of “The Batman” in Australia last week.

In a *Bollywood Hungama* interview recently, “RRR” star Jr NTR talked about how his latest release is doing better than films like “The Batman”. While talking about the right use of VFX in the film, he said, “While shooting for a particular scene which involved a tiger, we are tired of retaking it so we suggested SS Rajamouli use CGI. Instead, the filmmaker sternly asked if we think it is easy.”

Jr NTR later added that the filmmaker of “RRR” does not use VFX or CGI because he has money or the budget but because he knows ‘where’, ‘how’ and ‘why’ to use it, and that is a talent.



‘We have a hundred complaints, but only need one reason to stay’

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Bushra Shahriar is at an interesting crossroads in life – the passionate soul is a musician, vlogger, and a PHD student at the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee. Her latest song, “Eksho Nalish”, released yesterday. We got in touch with Bushra for a small chat over coffee.

Tell us about “Eksho Nalish”. How did you come up with the concept?

There are times when two people come together; they might not know each other completely. In our minds, we might build an image of our partner that they might not match their actual personality. This can lead to a period of dissonance and anger, but it is oh so sweet. In Bangla, we call it ‘Obhiman’, and that is what “Eksho Nalish” is all about. We might have a hundred complaints, but only need one reason to stay’.

What drives your passion in music? I feel like my love for Bangladesh is what resonates most in my tunes. My first release was “Bijoyer Gaan” in 2014, alongside the amazing Bappa Mazumder. That was followed by “Bhalobashar Bangladesh”, and then “Utshober Bangladesh”, featuring our beloved cricketer, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

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That is certainly a refreshing stance made by a singer. Thank you. As much as we like to spew negativity about where we live, there’s just so much beauty, celebration and positivity that we can focus on – and I’ve always wanted to spread that message through my songs.

Was vlogging a part of your plan as an artiste? Not at all! I am a very social person, and throughout the Covid-19 lockdowns, I really needed an outlet.

I was surprised to see how many people received it positively. One thing that I was particularly complimented on was my make-up – I never tried to look ‘fair’, I’ve always tried to flaunt my dusky skin tone. Many women reached out to me and said that they had previously felt insecure because of the obsession about fair skin, but were inspired by me.

Do you think your ‘bubbly’ personality will change after you get your doctorate? Absolutely not! I am over-the-top, and that’s what makes me, me!



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