

Unapologetically BADHAN

Azmeri Haque Badhan rose from the ashes, like a phoenix, soaring to the zenith of fame and praise with her performance in and as “Rehana Maryam Noor”. She is now aiming far and beyond with her first Bollywood spy-thriller series “Khufiya,” directed by Vishal Bhardwaj. In an exclusive interview with Star Showbiz, Badhan talked about her life, philosophy, and more.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

You have been a strong advocate, and I daresay example, of women's empowerment. It really feels amazing when young girls look up to me, support me.

However, I believe in the freedom of all people, not just women. Everyone is entitled to their basic rights, so I believe in establishing rights for all.

“Rehana Maryam Noor” is the film that got you to Cannes; how important was it in the context of your career?

I am glad that I was able to do the nation proud through this film. I couldn't believe it when the film was chosen for the 74th Cannes Film Festival.

I felt the same way after going there as I did when my daughter was born, which is a huge accomplishment for me.

This journey has enriched me as an artist.

Talk us through your experience in making “Rehana” international.

I travelled for one and a half years, attending film festivals in various countries.

I was very fortunate in that wherever I went, I had the opportunity to mingle with big stars with whom I discussed movies, exchanged ideas, and developed relationships.

They were familiar with me, my work, and the films of my country. These are the highlights of an artiste's life.

What is it that you want out of life?

I want to live in a peaceful world. There is conflict in various parts of the world. The climate change issue is alarming as well. I urge everyone to take action now, considering that these issues will affect future generations in the long run.

What makes you happy after waking up in the morning?

Seeing my daughter's face just after waking up is what makes me the happiest person in the world.

Do you have any observations about our industry?

Our industry is still not making as many women-centric films as it should. It might be because we live in a patriarchal society. However, we have a lot of talented directors, scriptwriters, cameramen, and actors.

I really think the producers should come forward to invest in women-centric projects. They should not perceive the investments just as a money-making tools. As producers, they have a certain kind of responsibility towards society too.

I am grateful to Chorki for producing the women-centric series “Guti” and making me a part of it.



Wardrobe: Samia Mehjabin
PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Out and about IN DHAKA



Jazz Night
December 9 | 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Satori Meditations



DARKFOIL EP LAUNCHING PARTY
December 9 | 1 pm
Jamuna Future Park



Ekantor '22
December 2-6 | 4 pm – 8 pm
Kala Kendra, 9/4, Block-D, Lalmitia

TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix
Wednesday

Hoichoi
Bhootoorey

Chorki
Ekjon Telapoka

Amazon Prime
Riches

Disney Plus
Firebuds



WHAT'S
PLAYING

UPASHONA Arekta Rock Band

On November 25, Arekta Rock Band released their full-length album, *Ghum Paranor Gaan*, at their album launch show—'Arekta Rock Show'. Giving long time fans an album at last, after multiple singles over the years, the band left fans rocking out to their latest release.

While the album has a lot of promising songs, with the band themselves heavily promoting the title track *Ghum Paranor Gaan*, it seems the song resonating the most with fans is *Upashona*. One of the more

melodic and soft trackson the album *Upashona* has a combination of vocal and guitar work that really blend together to put listeners into a trance. Specifically, the guitar licks in *Upashona* can only be described as some of the sweetest guitar licks, at least in terms of what exists in Arekta Rock Band's discography.

I would recommend that people try listening to *Upashona* on a car ride, as it feels like the perfect song to listen to while going through the city.



WHAT'S ON THE GRAM?

The suave and debonair actor, Dev Adhikari looked dashing in a stylish black and greyish suit, paired with a set of beautiful black oxford shoes. The actor brought with him his charming smile, giving off an air of opulence to the whole photoshoot, as the Tollywood superstar looked gorgeous for the camera.

