



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

**Summit Communications Limited**  
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Summit Communications Limited is the largest telecommunications infrastructure service provider in Bangladesh with 47000+ km of high-quality optical fiber network, internet gateway and tower sharing service to achieve the dream of Digital Bangladesh.

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## Could the internet help evolve our entertainment industry?

A roundtable discussion with the stars

SHARMIN JOYA

Radio, theatre, television, film and OTT are now considered to be the five primary mediums of audiovisual entertainment.

The internet played a crucial role in shifting the means of entertainment, from real-time or live consumption to easily accessible content that can be consumed at leisure.

The internet, overall, has helped to create new avenues and patterns of work in the entertainment industry as well.

The Daily Star organised a roundtable discussion with five

artistes - Tariq Anam Khan, Tropa Majumdar, Naznin Hasan Chumki, Ashna Habib Bhabna and Manoj Pramanik - who belong to five different generations of the industry and have experience working in every medium of entertainment.

Eminent actor Tariq Anam Khan, also a theatre director, is dearly known as a mentor to actors like Mosharraf Karim and Zahid Hasan. To him, the theatre was a school of acting, a home for practising and improving acting skills.

"A performer gets the chance to discover, rediscover and improvise in front of the live audience. This particular experience is an ancient process, and yet, very crucial for an actor to date. In today's world, this is the only medium left, where there is a live interaction between the audience and performers," said Tariq.

He also added that theatre has been badly affected because of the glittering image curated for showbiz. Thus, the medium has not evolved in Bangladesh, compared to the international theatres.

"In our country, theatre is not considered as a professional medium of acting, as of yet," he said.

Live broadcasting is changing theatre, but it fails to account for live interactions between the performers and the audience.

However, actor Manoj Pramanik had a different take on this matter. "Besides being a theatre worker, I am also a teacher. My students often



**"Over the last three decades, the entertainment industry was going at a slow pace, which increased its rate due to over-the-top services"**

Tropa Majumdar



**"In our country theatre is not considered as a professional medium of acting, as of yet"**

Tariq Anam Khan

ask me if theatre is still required in today's world," shared Manoj.

He explained that other than live interaction, stage performance has no unique feature that can drag the audience to the theatre.

"The digital transformation is gearing upon the acceleration rather than speed of learning and observing the beauty of life," said the actor. "Today's generation is faster and hence, they find it too hard to connect with us."

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