

12 YEARS OF Mousumi Hamid

Artiste steps into her 13th year in showbiz

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Recently, Mousumi Hamid completed 12 years in the showbiz arena and stepped into her 13th year in the industry. The actor has demonstrated her acting talent in three mediums: television, film, and OTT. Her numerous projects across all these mediums have earned her a lot of praise from the audience.

Currently, she is awaiting the release of *1971 Shei Shob Din*, *Noya Manush*, and *Japito Jibon*. In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, the actress opens up about her upcoming projects and more.

What has been your biggest achievements over the last 12 years in showbiz?

I wanted to be an actress who gets to explore the life of an artiste. I wanted people to know me through my projects and I feel I may have achieved that through my work. It feels like it was only yesterday when I first stepped into showbiz. It is hard to believe that I have completed 12 years in this industry. I am really happy I was able to captivate the audience through my work in TV, movies and OTT. My whole life revolves around acting.

How was the experience of working with Hridi Haq in '1971 Shei Shob Din'? *1971 Shei Shob Din* revolves around the theme of the Liberation War. Hridi Haq has done a brilliant job and I am

really happy that I got to act with such wonderful artistes. I felt a great sense of satisfaction while working in this film. My role in the film was that of a university-going student. Through this film, audiences will get to experience the feel of 1971.

You have played numerous characters over the years. Did any of them touch your heart?

Many characters have stayed with me long after I finished filming.

For example, my character Lipa from the web-series, *Guti*, lingered around with me long after we finished the production.

What kind of characters do you aspire to play in the future?

I want to see myself in fresh and challenging roles. There are many roles that I have yet to portray. Playing many personalities allows an artiste to discover themselves.

How do you perceive the life of an artiste?

The life of an artiste is rewarding. You get to experience people's love and respect, which is definitely a positive point. At the same time, however, there are some difficulties as well, as the life of an artiste is essentially lonely. At one point, no one stays with you and you are all alone.



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

BTS' Jimin reveals surprise MV for 'Dear ARMY'



On Wednesday, Park Jimin of BTS released a special live clip of *Dear ARMY* for the 2023 BTS Festa. It's a hidden track from his solo album *Face*.

The song was released as part of the ongoing 2023 BTS Festa, which commemorates the K-pop group's debut anniversary. They are celebrating ten years in the profession this year. Every year, in the weeks leading up to their June anniversary, the band produces new stuff for their fans, ranging from songs to themes.

Wrestling legend 'The Iron Sheik' passes away

Wrestling icon, Hossein Khosrow Ali Vaziri, better known as The Iron Sheik, has passed away at the age of 81. Sheik's own Twitter account announced the news on Wednesday, saying he passed away peacefully.

Sheik was one of the most recognizable names in professional wrestling. He performed for the WWF, Jim Crockett Promotions, the National Wrestling Alliance, World Class Championship Wrestling, and hundreds of other independent areas.

He is best known for his feud with Hulk Hogan. Sheik was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame as a member of the 2005 Class.



COUNTRYWIDE

Shafique finds success in SHARIFA FARMING

SHYKH SERAJ

Many farmers across the country are now becoming interested in commercial cultivation of different fruits and crops.

Even two decades ago, we saw different seasonal fruits were grown in a particular district or region.

But, day by day that picture is changing. Currently farmers are producing various local and foreign fruits like mango, guava, malta, litchi, orange, dragon and many other varieties almost everywhere.

Sharifa (custard apple) fruit have been added to this list recently.

According to the agriculture department, only a few entrepreneurs are currently engaged in cultivating the fruit on a commercial basis.

Still, Sharifa is being cultivated in about 100 acres of land across the country.

Among the few entrepreneurs, Shafique Mondol of Manikdighi village in Jhenidah's Kotchandpur upazila started Sharifa farming nearly a decade ago.

In 2014, Shafique planted 500 Sharifa saplings on three bigha land, aiming to replace the traditional fruits.

In 2017, the first yield of Sharifa fruit made him confident and since then he never looked back.

When I went to Shafique's Sharifa

orchard, the wholesale market price of the fruit was Tk 350 per kg.

Besides, Shafique also has five bigha malta, five bigha dragon and a 10 bigha guava orchard.

Dear readers, Sharifa is not a new fruit. However, many people are now building orchards of different fruits, keeping the commercial importance in mind.

Shafique's Sharifa orchard has been quite successful as he makes a formidable profit by selling the delicious fruit.

Now he is earning several lakhs of taka every year.

Moreover, his success is inspiring many youths of the area to start Sharifa farming on commercial basis.

Shafique said demand for the tasty and nutritious fruit Sharifa is increasing day by day.

While talking, a college teacher, who came to see the orchard, said being inspired by Shafique's success he has prepared two bighas of land for Sharifa farming.

Nutritional needs will be fulfilled to a great extent if expansion of this fruit plantation continues across the country, I firmly believe. Shafique's success will also inspire many.

But in that case, interested entrepreneurs must get into it with a good understanding of farming management, care and market.

Messi ends Barca homecoming saga

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Miami for just 25 million dollars.

The Argentine has reportedly also been offered a share of the revenue generated by new subscribers to MLS Season Pass, the league's streaming package, and entered a profit-sharing agreement with Adidas which would involve the player receiving a cut of any increase in Adidas' profits resulting from his involvement in MLS.

Barcelona had been forced to let Messi go in 2021 due to financial constraints stemming from their inflated wage bill and those same issues kept the Catalan club from securing a fairytale return by giving Messi the assurances that he sought.

Any move to Catalonia would have taken a lot longer, considering that the club were about 200 million euros over La Liga's salary cap and remain unable to register new contracts. Barcelona would have to sell several players just to get their books balanced well enough to offer Messi a contract that would likely pay him a fraction of what he stands to earn now. Whether they would have been able to do so remains up for debate, although they started making headway by announcing several departures.

"I really wanted and was very excited about being able to return [to Barcelona]. But on the other hand, after experiencing what I experienced and the way I left, I didn't want to be in the same situation again: waiting to see what would happen and leaving my future in someone else's hands," Messi admitted. "I was accused of a lot of

things during my career at Barcelona and I was a little bit tired of it, I didn't want to go through all of that again. When the time came when I had to leave, La Liga had agreed for the club to register me but in the end, it wasn't to be. I was afraid that the same thing might happen, and I would be left in the lurch.

"I wanted to make my own decision and that was partly why I decided against going back to Barca. I would have been delighted to if it had been possible, but it wasn't," he continued.

The Inter move dealt a great blow to Barcelona fans in Bangladesh as well, who hoped that Messi, following his 2022 World Cup triumph, would finish his career at what the player himself described as 'the club of his life'.

Barcelona president Joan Laporta gauged the public's pulse and decided to play to the same tune. On several occasions, he catered to the dream return for Messi, but would always leave out the details of how the club would manage the Argentine's signing.

"After winning the World Cup and not being able to go to Barca, it was time to go to the U.S. league to experience football in a different way and enjoy the day-to-day," Messi said.

"Obviously with the same responsibility and desire to want to win and to always do things well. But with more peace of mind." "If it had been a question of money, I would have gone to Saudi Arabia or elsewhere where they offered me a lot of money," Messi said.

Barcelona said in a statement that Messi's father and agent had informed the club on

Monday of his decision to move to America instead of returning to Spain.

Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez said Thursday he understood Lionel Messi's desire to avoid the "pressure" of a return to the Catalan giants this summer. "He hasn't had a good time in these two years (in Paris) and now he doesn't want that type of pressure," Xavi said on Twitter.

Besides, the people of Uttara sector-1 and sector-13 under zone-9 and Mirpur under zone-10 are also suffering. "We couldn't operate the deep tube wells of these zones continuously," he said.

The Wasa MD added that they could not properly supply water via tankers as it requires power to fill the tankers.

Suggesting people to use less water, Taqsem said, "Instead of using running water during this crisis, use water from containers. It will help stop overuse." He said they are mulling to supply water through rationing if the situation deteriorates further.

Wasa MD asks people to use less water

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Rampura, Banasree, Madartek, West Nandipara under zone-6 are worse off, said Taqsem.

AL activists 'swoop on'

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conference at Pabna Press Club and alleged that AL men attacked their peaceful programme.

Locals and witnesses said Pabna Zila Parishad member Nazrul Islam Sohel, also a local AL leader, led the attack.

Contacted, Sohel denied the allegation and said BNP activists attacked them when they were holding a "peace procession" in the town.

Rezaur Rahim Lal, Pabna AL president, told The Daily Star that he knew nothing about the incident as he was in Dhaka yesterday.

Kripa Shindhu Bala, officer-in-charge of Pabna Sadar Police Station, said he was not aware of the incident and nobody filed any complaint.

In Bogura, BNP's similar programme was foiled by police.

Locals and witnesses said several thousand BNP activists were marching towards the Northern Electricity Supply Company office in Khokon Park area of the town around 12:00pm.

But police intercepted

them when the procession reached near the office, leading to an altercation between police and BNP activists.

The BNP men then blocked Satmatha-Jaleshwaritala road and demonstrated.

Later, police allowed some senior BNP leaders to enter the NESCO office and submit their memorandum demanding uninterrupted electricity supply.

"We are holding a peaceful programme for the sake of public interest. But police obstructed us," said Ali Azgar Talukdar Hena, general secretary of Bogura BNP.

Sarafat Islam, additional superintendent of Bogura police, said power office is an important government establishment and no one has the rights to lay siege to it.

In Gazipur and Manikganj, the BNP held sit-ins and submitted memorandums to the officials concerned.

[Our Pabna, Bogura, Gazipur and Manikganj correspondents contributed to this report.]

Rohingyas demand

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"No more refugee life. No verification. No scrutiny. No interview. We want quick repatriation through UNHCR data card. We want to go back to our motherland," the placards read.

Rohingya community leader Mohammad Jashim said he was keen to return to Myanmar but wanted his citizenship rights guaranteed.

"We are the citizens of Myanmar by birth. We want to go back home with all our rights, including citizenship, free movement, livelihood, safety, and security," he told Reuters, saying the refugees hoped for United Nations' help in this regard. Myanmar's military had

until recently shown little inclination to take back any Rohingya people, who have for years been regarded as foreign interlopers in Myanmar and denied citizenship and subjected to abuse.

Attempts to begin repatriation in 2018 and 2019 failed as the refugees, fearing prosecution, refused to go back.

Densely populated Bangladesh says refugees' repatriation to Myanmar is the only solution to the crisis.

International aid agencies' funding for the refugees has dwindled. The World Food Programme recently cut the monthly food allocation to \$8 per person from \$10 earlier.



PHOTO: HRIDOYE MATTO MANUSH

Shafique at his Sharifa orchard in Jhenidah's Kotchandpur upazila.