



MIM

on a mission

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Even though Bidya Sinha Mim's much-anticipated cyber-thriller *Antarjal* is likely to not release this Eid, fans will get to witness her debut web series, *Mission Huntdown*. She drops by The Daily Star for a brand-new shoot, and a few hours of adda.



Speculations say that 'Antarjal' will not release this Eid. Can you confirm?

I can't really say much about that, but I will assure you that it will release very soon. I am confident about it as it is our country's first cyber-thriller, with a star-studded cast alongside me.

How excited are you about 'Mission Huntdown'?

I am beyond elated, as this is my first series on OTT, in my decades-long career. This medium has high potential and I am hopeful that *Mission Huntdown* will fulfil the expectation of the audience.

Introduce us to Nira, from the project.

Nira is a simple girl, who lives in a village. She comes to the city to find her lost husband. There are a lot of ups and downs in her journey, and while playing the role, I fell in love with Nira. It was extremely challenging to portray her on-screen. I am hopeful that people from all walks of life will love the character.

You were lucky enough to have worked with a filmmaker like Humayun Ahmed in your debut project. Do you still reminisce those days?

Definitely! *Amar Achhe Jol* was both written and directed by Humayun Ahmed sir. I was just crowned as the Lux Superstar, and got to work with such a great personality. I was nervous; however, he was extremely supportive and gave me enough space as a beginner. Also, sharing the screen with actors like Zahid Hasan and Ferdous was the experience of a lifetime.

When is 'Manush' releasing in Kolkata?

Only the director can say when it will be released. My co-star in this film was the amazing Jeet, and I have enjoyed working in this project.

PHOTOS:
SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Samuel L Jackson speaks up against AI

Samuel L. Jackson is a prominent figure in the world of Hollywood. In a recent interview, the actor made it clear that he refused to be replaced by AI, once his time on Earth is over. Jackson shared his disapproval of studios using AI to replicate his likeness. He stated that he would ensure that such provisions would be removed from all his contracts.

He also advised fellow actors to cross out terms like "in perpetuity" and "known and unknown" from their contracts, which he tends to do, to firmly state his disapproval of AI replication.

Jackson's also left a message for future actors, telling them to take a stand and protect their legacies.



'CID' famed 'inspector Vivek' is now a professor

Recently, Vivek Mashru, who played the character of Inspector Vivek in the series, has been seeing a social media resurgence of his character. The actor's photos and videos from the series have been circulating on twitter, even prompting the actor to respond.

The actor appeared moved by the loving gesture of his fans, as he retweeted their responses. Fans were also quick to find out where their favourite actor is now, appearing surprised by his profession. Vivek is now serves as the director of the Department of Common Core Curriculum at CRM University in Bengaluru.

Bangladeshi youths aim to launch country's FIRST 3D WEB-SERIES

XD Bros, a 3D animated web series, hails from the young animators of studio Null Station. Initially started by Ratul Biswas and RTB Ruhan, their project began late in 2021 with a vision to introduce something new to the entertainment industry of Bangladesh.

The duo was later joined by young writer Lamia Hannan Sneha, after which they embarked on the journey as Null Studios. Currently, there are 13 members in the studio.

Awaiting release this August 10, *XD Bros* first season will chronicle the story of three friends, Ratul, Ruhan and Annie. The series will feature 10 episodes on their initial seasons, directed by Ratul and Ruhan.

When asked about what makes them stand out from the animated content currently on air, Ruhan replied that *XD Bros* is trying to pioneer itself as a one of a kind 3D web-series, that aims to deliver world-class animated content, fit for that caliber.

He then further added, "The series introduces the sitcom genre, which hasn't been adapted on Bangladeshi screens before, especially for audiences who are between 15 to 20 years of age. I believe that is something new that they will get to enjoy".

The young people have made it accessible for audiences to easily watch the series, opting to release it on YouTube.



ENTERTAINMENT'S RISING STARS

ISHAN adds colour to Black



After I started playing the guitar, I noticed that I had a good sense of pitch. So, I kept an ostad who taught me classical singing. My band members in Naïve also helped refine my singing.



PHOTOS:
COURTESY

AAQIB HASIB

During the day, Sakawat Hossain works at a renowned financial institution. However, by night, he becomes Ishan Hossain, the frontman of one of Bangladesh's biggest bands, Black.

"I started by playing the guitar in 2005," says the vocalist. "Funny enough, one of the first songs I picked up was Black's *Ekhono*. In 2008, I started a band called Crave. We did a lot of shows at that time".

Ishan's family does not have any musical background. "After I started playing the guitar, I noticed that I had a good sense of pitch. So, I kept an *ostad* who taught me classical singing. My band members in Naïve also helped refine my singing," he adds.

Ishan started Naïve in 2011, which is still active to this day.

So how did a former fan join Black? "Back in 2014 or 2015, I first met Jahan bhai—one of the founding members of Black. In 2019,

there was a concert called Artcellism to celebrate Artcell's 20-year anniversary. There, I performed along with my band Naïve, and that is where we connected," he said.

At that time, their vocalist Rubayat had left

for Canada. "Before he left, Jahan bhai had already talked to me about working with Black. One day, Jahan bhai called me and asked me to meet him. That day, I jammed with them at their practice pad. After that, we decided to first do a concert together before deciding if we would go forward together."

Being the vocalist for a band with such a legacy does not come without challenges. "Lot of people had critiqued that I copy Jon Kabir. However, I really do not, he is one of my idols, so obviously, the influence is there. We also have similar influences in Chris Cornell and Chester Benington."

Ishan is set to perform in two concerts next month, one of which will be attended by over 3,000 people. It can be argued that he is living the dream of many musicians. What's next for Black and its vocalist?

"Three songs have already been recorded. *Shomantorai* is already out, and we will put out a music video for it. I am excited for what the future holds," concluded the vocalist.