

## 'MISSION HUNTDOWN' Nayeem and Mim shine amidst drawn-out plot

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RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

A terrorist organisation, a vengeful cop, and a race against time—sounds familiar? That is essentially the plot of Hoichoi's latest mission, which fails to impress us, as its lacklustre tale and lengthy storyline fail to leave an impression on the hearts of Eid viewers.

The only silver lining for *Mission HuntDown*, was the fact that FS Nayeem carried the entire plot on his shoulders. The actor gave his all as the vengeful ATS chief Mahid, a man on a quest to demolish JKB, a terrorist organisation that murdered his wife in front of his eyes, and is also plotting to attack Lalitkala Academy.

This isn't the first time Nayeem has portrayed a cop, he also drew attention for his role in *Karagar*, as police officer Ashfaq. He nailed the body language of a cop and could effortlessly play the emotional scenes. Despite the flawed and

such dynamic roles, which have numerous layers to them.

Nishat Priom as the sweet and understanding love interest for Nayeem did a fantastic job. A K Azad Shetu blended into his role perfectly. Sumit Sengupta as Zillur also did a commendable job.

The series is definitely remarkable for its soundtrack and the finale episode. However, the 10-episode series felt unnecessarily drawn out. I almost felt like skipping through some of the unnecessary scenes, just to finish the entire series at one point. The camera work, particularly during the house raid scene, felt mundane.



PHOTOS: COLLECTED

## Mehreen honoured with Banga Nari Award in Kolkata



On Sunday, singer Mehreen was bestowed with the prestigious Banga Nari Award at a grand ceremony held at the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in Kolkata. The esteemed award was presented to her by Suriya Sinha and Winners' Presents, in collaboration with Redwin Entertainment Initiative. The event took place at the illustrious Satyajit Ray Auditorium, situated on the premises of the ICCR.

The Banga Nari Award holds significant value as it is conferred upon accomplished women from Bengal, who have made exceptional contributions to their respective fields. Mehreen, hailing from Bangladesh, was recognised for her remarkable achievements and impact on the music industry.

## 'Shurongo' making its way to West Bengal



This Eid has been a blessing for the Bangladeshi film industry. Five films that were released on this occasion are doing quite well. Meanwhile, *Shurongo* and *Priyotoma* are leading on the list of movie-goers' choices.

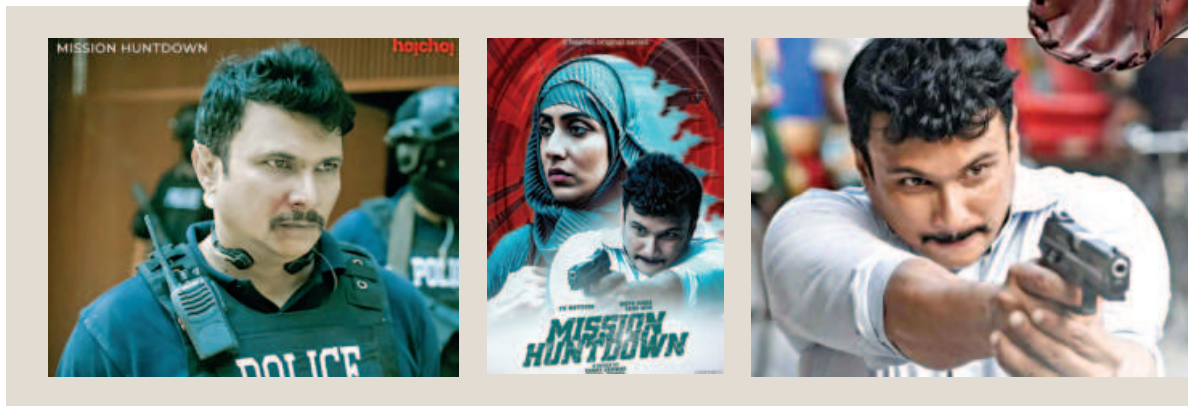
The Raihan Rafi directorial project *Shurongo* brought another good news for the audience. This time, for the audience beyond the border.

The initial release date for *Shurongo* in West Bengal is July 22. The news was confirmed by the producers of the film, Shahriar Shakil and Redoan Rony.

The production house, Alpha i informed that the film has been submitted to the censor board by SVF. After getting the clearance, the date will be confirmed.

Afran Nisho's silver screen debut is already mesmerising audiences. The film is already running successfully in 28 halls across the country.

*Shurongo*, along with Himel Ashral's *Priyotoma*, is expected to release in Australia, the US, and Canada, among other countries on July 7, 21 and 28 respectively.



weak plotline, Nayeem bought his A-game to the table for his debut as a protagonist in a web-series.

Bidya Sinha Mim also did well in her role; playing the role of the gentle and naïve Neera, who yearns for her husband Zillur, quite naturally. While seeking her husband, she becomes entangled with Mahid's operation, and becomes a secret agent. Her character may appear monotonous at first, but Mim steals the show at the end, when her character undergoes a meltdown in public. It is a breath of fresh air to see Mim selecting

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It is clear to see that FS Nayeem and Mim put their hearts and souls into the web-series. If the length of the series would have been narrowed down to just six episodes, then it could have been better. Overall, this is a one-time watch series, which is only worth watching due to the performance of the cast.



DESIGN: SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

## An unglamorous Farin in a pivotal role

**Upon stumbling on the gut-wrenching poster of "Nikosh", which features multiple women with sheer terror plastered on their faces, it is difficult to pinpoint Tasnia Farin in it. Shying away from her usual, glamorous self, the actor has added another feather to her hat of characters.**

SHARMIN JOYA

The 'hype' for the Deepto Play series, which released June 26, started when Tasnia Farin came live on Facebook, claiming that her younger sister is 'missing'. The video immediately went viral, and it took a little time for people to understand that it was a promotional strategy.

"I have donned the role of Sultana in the film," shared Farin. "She cannot say 'no' to anyone, and lets others take advantage of her, till a crisis escalates and makes her deal with the hardest time of her life. Interestingly, she never gives up and handles the situation in a subtle way."

The film is directed by Rubel Hasan, and the script has been written by Mezbah Uddin Sumon. Farin shared her impression on the script and, mentioned that the plot has been inspired from true events. How tough was it being Sultana for Farin? "We shot the film extensively in locations like the Sathkhira border, Bagerhat, and in Khulna for 8-10 days," she said. "I wore the same costume, that was not even washed once, I didn't take a bath for about 4 days. All of this was to reflect the struggle of the character on the screen."

According to her, the averse environment automatically helped her to connect with the character, and that she didn't have to take any further preparations.

Apart from *Nikosh*, Farin was seen in multiple Eid tele-fictions. One of them was *Nitur Jonno*, directed by Mohammad Mostafa Kamal

Raz. Upon the reveal of the look of this project, where she was seen in dark make-up, there were quite a lot of criticism and people raised question if the director could cast someone with a darker shade.

Farin replies, "First of all, with due respect to everyone's point of view, I want to ask was that a problem that a dark toned girl belongs to a middle-class family -- a girl who is glamorous despite of being 'dark'?"

She also brought up examples of some previous tele-fictions which represented top-notch female actors taking under toned make-up to play roles of lower-class women. She further questions—"Does skin tone really reflect class division?"

Farin explained that when stories are pitched to channels, certain criterias need to be fulfilled. Most channels do not want to provide enough budgets. "I have come this way after many struggles, so I know it not easy to sell a project without a tested artiste. Directors luckily have the courage to take a risk for me."

She further asserted that Raz had seen the role in her and convinced her to do it. "We have even seen skinny artistes artificially made to look chubby for the character, or made to look older than they are! So, this actually makes no sense to me. It is just a getup, come on!"

Coming to the end of the interview, Farin shared that she stayed home this Eid. "I cooked for my family in the morning, and spent the day at home."

# Release date for 'LIFE IN A METRO' sequel announced

The highly-anticipated film, *Metro in Dino*, directed by Anurag Basu, is set to captivate audiences with its talented cast of Aditya Roy Kapur, Sara Ali Khan, Anupam Kher, Neena Gupta, Pankaj Tripathi, Konkona Sensharma,

Ali Fazal, and Fatima Sana Shaikh.

Initially scheduled for release on December 8, 2023, the makers recently announced the updated release date on social media.

The official Twitter handle of

Bhushan Kumar's production house revealed the news, stating that "#MetroInDino gets a Good Friday release. This anthology of heart-warming stories will now be released on March 29, 2024."

