

Vicky Zahed knows how to bring out my best: Mehazabien

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

From *Chirokal Aaj*, *Punorjonmo* to *Ami Ki Tumi*, Mehazabien knows how to mold her image with carefully crafted characters in Vicky Zahed's 'cinematic' universe. Their latest collaboration *Ami Ki Tumi* deals with the sci-fi genre where Mehazabien plays the role of Tithi, an aspiring actor who gets transported to a parallel universe.

Audiences have been loving her role in the web-series; especially the part where she even roasts herself by saying she cries a lot. In a conversation with The Daily



gets entangled in a series of events. Her emotions, her pains and angst were beautifully layered in the project.

How is Shamol Mawla as a co-artist?
Previously, I worked with Shamol in *The Silence*, and now I got to work with him again in *Ami Ki Tumi*. He is such a talented actor who was able to blend himself into the complex character in the web-series.

Is it true that you won't be returning to television?

It's not true at all. I have never said that. Whether its web-series or TV, I will work only if the character and story is good. I don't want to restrict myself in any particular medium. I want to be challenged in whatever I chose.

Your collaborations with Vicky Zahed have always been

successful. How is he as a director?

Vicky Zahed is a wonderful director, who creates unique plots that leave the audience stunned. I have given my best works with him, and he knows how to represent me differently to my fans.



Star, the actor opens up about her project and more.

How has been the response to 'Ami Ki Tumi'?

The response has been wonderful. Everybody has been calling me and praising my character, Tithi. Within a short time upon its release, it has been able to reach audience's heart. This makes me feel really happy.

Do you believe such genre isn't explored much in Bangladeshi projects?

Ami Ki Tumi is a romantic thriller, which showcases two parallel universes. These types of stories are rarely told in our industry – the audience was able to see me in a different avatar. Tithi is such a complex character whose life



PHOTOS: COLLECTED



Shakib Khan to star opposite Aamir Khan's brother, Faisal

Excitement and anticipation filled the air as director Anonno Mamun announced the production of a pan-Indian film featuring none other than Dhallywood superstar Shakib Khan.

Currently in India for pre-production preparations, Anonno Mamun revealed that Faisal Khan, brother of Bollywood actor Aamir Khan, will be part of the much-anticipated movie. The agreement with Faisal Khan was successfully finalised last week, adding an extra layer of excitement to the project.

When asked about the heroine, Anonno Mamun mentioned that an official announcement will be made only after Shakib Khan returns from the United States. As fans eagerly await the revelation, the director keeps the suspense intact, intensifying the intrigue surrounding the film.



Apurbo not a part of Aryan's 'Flight 227'

Ziaul Faruq Apurba has clarified that he is not a part of Mizanur Rahman Aryan's upcoming web-film *Flight 227*.

The announcement came from his official page, where the admin posted the status on behalf of the star.

"Dear all, the news about Apurba working with Mizanur Rahman Aryan in *Flight 227* is not right. Aryan and Apurba will be working together on another project. We will reveal details about the project after it gets finalised," read his post.

Flight 227 will premiere on the popular stream platform Bongo soon.



Cardi B stands up for herself during concert

At a recent concert in Drai's Beach club in Las Vegas, featuring American rapper Cardi B, an unfortunate incident unfolded that has been making waves across the internet.

During her performance, a fan decided to throw a drink at the rapper, which clearly didn't sit well with her. Without wasting a moment, Cardi took matters into her own hands and retaliated by hurling her microphone back at the offending individual.

The incident visibly disturbed Cardi, and she made her feelings clear while still on stage. Security personnel swiftly stepped in and escorted the person responsible for the drink-throwing, out of the concert venue. Thanks to Cardi's quick reaction, the perpetrator was identified, ensuring that appropriate actions could be taken.

In just the past few weeks, several incidents have come to light, raising questions about the motives behind such reckless behavior.

Syed Iqbal's inspiring journey Elevating Bangladeshi art internationally

ANTARA RAISA

In 2021, the Art Gallery of Mississauga in Canada made history by hosting the grand art exhibition, "Art of a Young Nation: Bangladesh," to commemorate the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and the golden jubilee of the independence of Bangladesh.

The three-month-long exhibition showcased the works of 38 Bangladeshi artists and was co-curated by Ali Adil Khan and Ruxmini Reckvana Q Choudhury, assistant curator at Samdani Art Foundation.

The driving force behind this endeavour was the persistent efforts of Syed Iqbal, an accomplished Bangladeshi expatriate artist, and his friend Ali Adil Khan, a South Asian art specialist based in Toronto.

Recently, Syed Iqbal visited Bangladesh and The Daily Star met him over a cup of coffee. He opened up about the highlights of the exhibition and his creative journey.

Syed Iqbal revealed how the idea of the joint exhibition came to life. "When my friend, Pakistani Canadian Ali Adil Khan, expressed his wish to organise an exhibition featuring Bangladeshi artists in commemoration of Bangladesh's 50th anniversary of independence, the gallery's executive director, Anna Gulbinski, was taken aback by the idea—a Pakistani Canadian proposing an exhibition of Bangladeshi artists to honor Bangladesh's independence. Little did she know that Ali Adil is an ardent admirer of Bangabandhu, the father of Bangladesh."

The exhibition received widespread



Syed Iqbal in front of his artwork, "Tears of Nature" with curator Ali Adil Khan, Khalilur Rahman, Bangladeshi High Commissioner to Canada, Anna Gulbinski, Executive Director of Art Gallery of Mississauga.

PHOTOS: COURTESY

acclaim, attracting not only Bangladeshi visitors but also art enthusiasts from Pakistan and India, as Mississauga, being part of Greater Toronto, boasts a vibrant South Asian community.

Speaking about the response from different communities, Syed Iqbal shared, "Many art enthusiasts from India and Pakistan came to see the exhibition, and some were eager to buy the artworks. Unfortunately, the Bangladeshi expatriate community showed relatively less interest. As a nation, we might not have developed a rich appreciation for art, and this is also reflected in how our government provides limited support to the art community compared to other creative sectors."

Among the featured artworks in the exhibition, Syed Iqbal's personal favourite was his own artwork, *Tears of Nature*, a massive abstract painting portraying diverse geographical, cultural, and ecological aspects of Bangladesh. It also drew attention to the significant impact of climate change on the country, with the upper section depicting desertification and deforestation, while the lower part illustrated rising sea levels due to global warming.

His other artwork, *Father, Give Us a New Nation*, depicted a poignant narrative of Bangladesh's liberation struggle. The lower section of the artwork portrayed the horrifying scenes of Pakistani army atrocities against civilians. In the middle of the composition, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of the nation, is depicted



crucified on a colossal cross, symbolising his sacrifice for our liberation.

The artwork sparked controversy among Pakistani retired officials in Canada, due to its portrayal of the Pakistani Army's atrocities. Nevertheless, the gallery stood firm, refusing to remove the artwork.

Syed Iqbal believes that this exhibition has set a trend for featuring Bangladeshi artists in the international arena, stating, "I have heard that there will be another exhibition like this in New York. So, this



exhibition has created a ripple effect for the Bangladeshi artist community."

Syed Iqbal's artistic journey began with realistic paintings, but he transitioned to abstract compositions early in his career. His illustrations draw inspiration from nature, human emotions, and their intricate embodiments, depicted through powerful hues and thick textures.

Apart from his artistic pursuits, Syed Iqbal is also an accomplished writer, having penned 35 books, including novels, short stories, and fiction, over his illustrious four-decade writing career.

Despite residing in Canada, Syed Iqbal's heart remains deeply connected to his motherland, Bangladesh. His artistic endeavours and dedication to promoting Bangladeshi art on the international stage have undoubtedly left an indelible mark on the country's creative landscape.