

INSIDE Saba's world

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

With dance being her first love, Sohana Saba gradually molded her inner artiste into different forms of arts—modelling, anchoring and prominently acting.

The *Ayna* famed actor is expecting a couple of projects—*Oshombhob* and *Maniker Lal Kakra*, to be released soon. She dropped by The Daily Star for some coffee. Meanwhile, following the recent trend, she dolled up as Barbie in an exclusive photoshoot.

'Oshombhob' is one of your upcoming films. Tell us a bit about this project.

My favourite Aruna di (Aruna Biswas) is the director of the film. I am playing the role of a girl who is very ordinary, yet faces lots of hurdles during her journey. The narrative is different from what we usually get to watch these days. It is a family drama.

Since the beginning of your acting career in 2006 with Kabori Sarwar's 'Ayna', your presence on-screen has been sporadic. Why is that?

When I was shooting for *Ayna* in 2004, I had promised my papa that I would do just one film. Usually, my mother used to accompany me during the shoots at BFDC.

We had 8 days of shoot at BFDC, and during those 8 days, I was offered 22 films. I politely rejected all of them, except for Morshedul Islam's *Khelaghor*. After *Ayna*, this film will remain a remarkable one in my career.

Apart from acting, do you have any other career plans?

I want to focus more on acting, and explore various characters. Acting is something I truly love. Other than that, I have a plan to open a Yoga school in September.

How many times did you fall in love?

Not many times, but most of my lovers were like Devdas, and those experiences were horrible.

When are you getting married?

Honestly, I am afraid of men and getting into a relationship. Sometimes I wonder if there is really someone made for me whom I can completely rely on.

If I get someone as such, I will marry him right away!

On social media, people tend to spread hatred and post negative comments. How do you react to that?

My page is regulated by admins. They control the comment panel, and keep blocking inappropriate comments. However, I am not much

bothered by these naysayers' remarks.

I want to focus on my work, as at the end of the day, it is my work that will speak for myself.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



Needle, Thread and a Splash of Water

August 11- 14 | 5-9 pm
Alliance Française de Dhaka



Prachyanat's 'The Petrified Place'

August 10-11 | 7-9 pm
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy



Comedy Grill | Stand Up Dhaka

August-6 | 8:15 pm
Grilled, Dhanmondi

TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix Hidden Strike



Hoichoi Nikhoj



Hulu Only Murders in the Building season 3



Amazon Prime The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart



Disney+ Star Wars: Ahsoka



A step forward for Bangladesh's

STAND-UP COMEDY

MAKHZUM KHAN SHADID

On July 20, 2023, Amin Hannan Chowdhury released standup comedy special, *One Night Stand*, on the OTT platform Chorki. With a unique blend of observational comedy and narrative storytelling, Amin captivated audiences, delivering a well-crafted performance that left them in stitches.

One Night Stand showcases Amin's unorthodox comedic style, skillfully intertwining relatable insights with engaging narratives. He takes the audience on a hilarious journey through his childhood, his newfound influencer status, and the ups and downs of life as a comedian in Bangladesh.

What sets Amin apart is his ability to cater to a wide range of audiences. He avoids strawman-ing any premise and instead presents a slightly dumbed-down version of himself, making the weaker propositions of certain ideas all the more hilarious.

Amin's core jokes revolve around observing incongruities in society, but what makes them truly shine is how he delivers them in first person, making the exaggeration feel believable and relatable.



The directorial team has done an excellent job editing the show to make it appealing to a broader range of audiences. While there are a few distracting moments when the camera gets blurred, and

sometimes it's challenging to hear the interaction with the audience, these instances make you wonder why everyone is laughing at Amin's response.

However, one can't help but be amazed by how quickly Amin comes up with witty responses, and fortunately, these minor issues don't put an impact on the viewer's overall experience. Director Rafsan Sabab ensured that viewers didn't miss out in any context of these moments, allowing us to feel like a part of the live audience.

Additionally, the special concludes with a Q&A session, where Amin Hannan Chowdhury and Ahmed Ashik answer questions. The presence of notable influencers in the audience added to the show's allure, leaving us eagerly anticipating more of Amin's crowd work in future performances. Whether you're a comedy enthusiast or just in need of a good laugh, *One Night Stand* is a must-watch for any Bengali-speaking stand-up enthusiast.

WHAT'S PLAYING

MATT MALTESE

As The World Caves In

For us Bengalis, rain has always been synonymous with melancholy, a feeling that is carried in Matt's voice as he croons about the world coming to an end in *As the World caves In*. Despite being released six years ago, the song has still held its relevance in the indie-niche community, for its powerful vocals and percussions that beat with the heart.

Matt Maltese is a British singer-songwriter who specialises in chamber pop, a musical sub-genre that mixes rock with the wistful harmonies of orchestral music. Matt also emulates elements of indie-pop and lounge pop from the 1960s, giving his vocals the hollowed out feel of baritones of that era.



STYLE STATEMENT

Deepika Padukone

In a series of photos posted to her Instagram, Deepika Padukone mesmerised in a white chiffon saree with beads and bow motif. The actress was posed against an emerald coloured backdrop, that set off the similarly hued gems dangling from her ear. They were further accentuated by her pulled

back hairstyle and embellished halter neck blouse, the ensemble pulled together with sensual red lips.

