

## Jumping from billboards to OTT

SHARMIN JOYA

"I was very passionate about photography, but fate had other plans for me," teased Alia Tabassum Borno, who wowed the audience as Natasha in the latest Hoichoi web-series *Sharey Showlo*, helmed by Yasir Al Haq. The model and actress made a remarkable debut on the silver screen with Abdullah Mohammad Saad's *Maryam Noor* (RMN).

She dropped by The Daily Star for an exclusive photoshoot, and over a cup of coffee, she spilled the beans on her journey in the industry, her emerging career, and more.

"I became a model by accident," she quipped. "I worked as a photographer's assistant, and all of a sudden I had to face the camera, as the model didn't show up."

Although she was born in Bogura, she grew up in different places due to her father's frequent transfers. "I could hardly make any friends, which would upset me quite often. My father was very concerned about this. So, he kept me engaged in various extra-curricular activities," said the artiste.

From learning the basics of music, painting, and practising in theatre, Borno's passion for acting remained in her heart. She appeared on numerous billboards and TV commercials, catching the attention of Saad's assistant in direction, Yasir Al Haq; who then contacted her and

offered her the role of Annie in *RMN*.

"That was a game changer for me," she said, adding, "It was a great experience for me to have the opportunity to work with Saad *bhai*."

Borno was also featured in Chorki's web-series *Mercules*, where she donned the role of Anamika. "Natasha and Anamika are two different types of personas. Anamika is an extrovert who loves her friends and enjoys her life to the fullest. On the other hand, Natasha's personality is very complex. She is ambitious and a workaholic."

Borno shared that she had never known anyone like Natasha. Hence, it was tough for her to bring life to the character.

As an emerging actress, Borno gets offers for many projects; however, she shares that she is selective about choosing scripts. "Since I am continuing my career as a model, I can easily balance between acting and modelling," she asserted.

"If I were completely dedicated to visuals, it would be tough for me to survive financially, because my source of income comes from working in the industry."

As for her upcoming ventures, the actress preferred to remain tight-lipped.

"I am in talks for some new projects, including a few silver screen ones.

However, I am not in a position to disclose it at the moment," she concluded.



### OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



#### Barbie High Tea

Date: August 25-26

Time: 5 pm - 7 pm

Venue: Tarius



#### Comedy Grill

Date: August 27

Time: 8:15 pm

Venue: Grilled



#### Weekly open sessions (Board Games)

Date: August 26

Time: 4 pm-10 pm

Venue: Panaderia Gulshan

### TRENDY STREAMS

#### Netflix Guns & Gulaabs



#### Bongo BD Case 3040



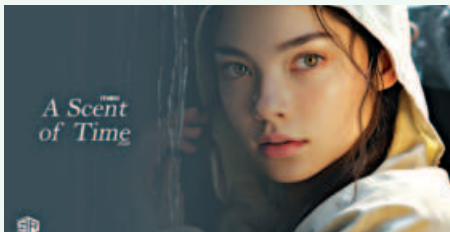
#### Amazon Prime Harlan Coben's Shelter



#### Disney + hotstar Dayaa



#### HBO Max A Scent of Time



## The comical tragedy of the innovator's dilemma



Remember a time before iPhones and Androids? BlackBerry was the king of smartphones back then, earning the nickname 'CrackBerry' due to its addictive appeal. It was a must-have for Kim Kardashian and even Barack Obama.

But today, BlackBerry is a relic. Or, as one character puts it in *BlackBerry*, the latest film about the early smartphone empire's rise and fall, it's merely "the thing people used before they used the iPhone."

*BlackBerry*, directed by Matt Johnson and co-written with Matthew Miller, is grounded in actual history without the need to spice things up with car chases and fantastical storytelling. On the face of it, the rise and fall of Research in Motion's keyboard-equipped smartphone may not seem inherently compelling. But the brilliance of the film is that it makes the BlackBerry's journey feel

like a genuine tragedy.

At its core, the film is a tale of two contrasting personalities—Mike Lazaridis, the introverted engineering genius, and Jim Balsillie, the relentless and fiery businessman. Together, they ruled the mobile industry until the iPhone arrived like a game-changing nuclear bomb. Their dynamic and the clash of genius and business acumen make for compelling viewing.

The film brilliantly portrays the innovator's dilemma, a concept where industry leaders focus on improving existing products while newcomers disrupt with groundbreaking innovations. In this case, it's the iPhone that forever alters the tech landscape.

This fresh, thoughtful comedy is more than just a bleak cautionary tale. It's a story of how tech culture, as we know it today, took root, bloomed, and died on the vine.



## ‘DEPP V HEARD’ Is media attention trivialising sensitive matters?

The latest Netflix docuseries *Depp v Heard*, which delves into Johnny Depp's 2022 legal battle against Amber Heard, has recently been released on Netflix and is already causing doubt among fans.

While the series has garnered missed reviews from both actors'

fandoms, many are revisiting their own behaviours exhibited online during the highly sensationalised trial.

The documentary does not include expert opinions or context, rather relies heavily on archival footage, trial clips, and social media

reactions, perpetuating the same harmful narratives it aims to criticise. However, many do believe that the aforementioned action works as a mirror, for the fanatics, posing a very important question -- can you win an objective argument based on emotional scrutiny?

## Ranveer Singh

A returning guest on this segment, Ranveer Singh never fails to deliver while playing dressup. The actor recently appeared on his Instagram feed, draped in a silk two-piece, exuding regality all over. Ditching his maximalist mode of styling, Ranveer paired the off-white ensemble with dainty jewellery and coiffed hair. The *Don 3* actor sported a sparkling diamond stud on his ear with gold chains and a pair of gold-accented visor sunglasses.

