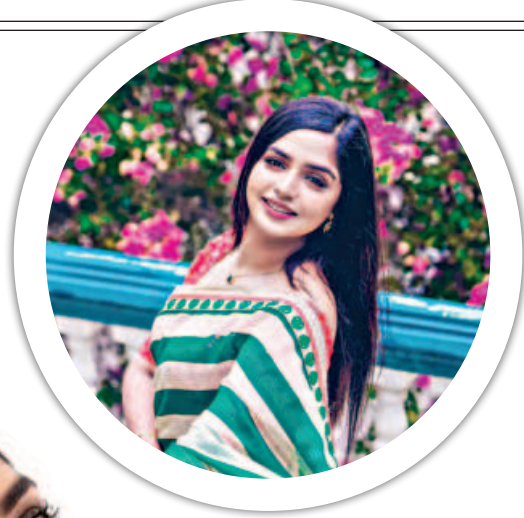


From childhood reluctance to RISING TV STAR



She made her silver screen debut with the film 'Hotath Dekha', directed by Reshmi Mitra. The production was a joint venture between Bangladesh and India.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Jannatul Sumaiya Heme is considered as one of the most popular actresses amongst the new generation of television drama stars. The *Made in Barishal* star has always been attracted to acting from a young age.

She made her silver screen debut with the film *Hotath Dekha*, directed by Reshmi Mitra. The production was a joint venture between Bangladesh and India.

She has been featured in numerous television dramas. Her on-screen pairing with Niloy Alamgir has gained a dedicated fanbase.

During her childhood, Heme's mother used to take her to the television station in Rampura, and always inspired her to pursue a career as an artiste. With unwavering support from her parents, Heme embarked on her acting journey as a child artiste.

"When I was younger, acting sometimes felt like a lot of hard work and I felt reluctant to go to the shoots," she said. "However, my mother always persuaded me to go with chocolates and ice-cream treats."

Today, Heme has carved out her own place in the entertainment industry making her mother very proud. Even during the last Eid-ul-Azha, she was featured in several productions, including *Love You Madam*, *Family Trouble*, and *African Guest*, amongst others.

Jannatul Sumaiya Heme has frequently appeared in new television productions. The actress ensures to take one project right after another, remaining in the audience's sight consistently.

Speaking about her busy acting career, Heme shared, "For me, being busy with acting every single day is not boring because acting is my love and passion. Since the start of my career, I have always wished to fully immerse myself in acting—that wish has been fulfilled now."

When asked about the project she considers to have turned her acting career around, the actress

mentioned, "Rather than one, I believe that all my works over the years have gradually earned me my place today—they had become my turning point."

When asked how she feels while watching herself on screen, the actress shared, "I watch my own works to identify my flaws and rectify them, to see if I have portrayed the character correctly or delivered my lines accurately."

The actress shared that she is an avid fan of the legendary actress Shabana. She also admires the works of Jaya Ahsan and Nusrat Imrose Tisha.



Zoya Akhtar's long-awaited film 'The Archies' gets release date

Director Zoya Akhtar's eagerly awaited film, *The Archies*, finally received a release date. This live-action musical project features a wide cast of young talents, including Suhana Khan, Agastya Nanda, Khushi Kapoor, Vedang Raina, Yuvraj Menda, Mihir Ahuja, and Aditi Dot in lead roles.

Drawing inspiration from the popular American comics of the same title, the movie is set to premiere on Netflix on December 7.

In *The Archies*, Suhana portrays Veronica Lodge, Agastya Nanda embodies Archie Andrews, and Khushi Kapoor takes on the role of Betty Cooper.

Set in the 1960s, the film delves into themes of friendship, love, heartbreak, and rebellion through the captivating lives of the characters. It transports viewers to the fictional town of Riverdale, where their stories unfold.

The Archies is a collaborative effort amongst Netflix India, Tiger Baby (Zoya and Reema's production house), Archie Comics, and Graphic India.

'Apolap' is the tale of love and betrayal: Nipun

Centred on themes of suspicion, conflict and crime, *Apolap* portrays the tale of Arko Hasan, a psychiatrist, who is arrested for the murder of his wife Shumi.

Following repeated police interrogation, Arko has been coerced into confessing to the murder. However, Arko's secretary Barsha believes he is innocent.

In her journey to reveal the truth, Barsha meets up with Arko's childhood friend ADC Saif Hossain, a DB police officer.

This murder mystery unfolds in many layers narrated in the web film *Apolap*, directed by Muhammad Ali Munna. Imtiaz Barshon takes on the character of Arko, with Nipun Akter assuming the role of Shumi, Priyontee Urbee portraying Barsha, and Ziaul Roshan as the DB officer in the production.

While talking about her OTT debut, Nipun shared that she plays a complex character, who experiences many crises revolving around doubt and betrayal.

This family crime drama started streaming from yesterday on OTT platform Deepto Play.



PHOTOS: COLLECTED

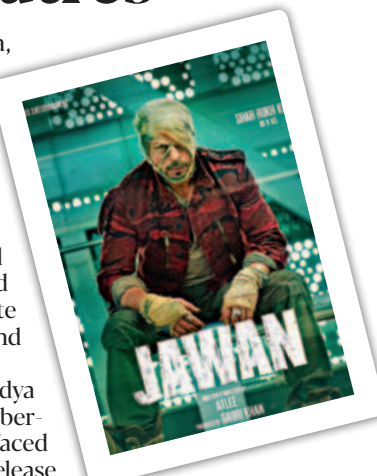
Blockbuster battle: 'Antarjal' and 'Jawan' to release on the same day in local theatres

In the world of cinema, anticipation often mounts as release dates draw near. This September, film enthusiasts in Bangladesh will have a tough choice to make as two highly awaited movies, *Antarjal* and *Jawan*, are set to compete for their attention and adoration.

Siam Ahmed and Bidya Sinha Mim starrer cyber-thriller, *Antarjal*, faced significant delays in its release initially due to technical issues and a prolonged wait for censor certification. This resulted in the unfortunate decision to postpone its screening during Eid-ul-Azha.

However, there is good news on the horizon. The cyber-thriller film, directed by Dipankar Dipon, has finally received clearance from the Bangladesh Film Censor Board, confirming its release on September 8.

On the other side of the cinematic spectrum, we have *Jawan*, starring none other than the Bollywood icon Shah Rukh Khan. Helmed by Atlee Kumar, it is set to make its global debut in Bangladesh on the same day as its worldwide release. With an electrifying blend of action, drama, and a compelling storyline, the film has generated immense buzz in the lead-up to its release.



Performing with Fuad Almuqtadir is a dream come true: Sanjoy

Sanjoy, a Bangladeshi-born American producer and pop musician, has been making waves in the global music scene for some time now. He has collaborated with several acclaimed artistes, such as Guru Randhawa, Kapil Sharma, Divine, Sid Sriram, Jonita Gandhi, Trevor Holmes, and more, while his music has consistently graced international charts. Now, Sanjoy is all set to perform in Bangladesh for the first time, joining forces with noted music director Fuad Almuqtadir in a special show, 'Dameer and Fuad Present Sanjoy', at Dhaka's Aloki.

ANTARA RAISA

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Star, he shared about his musical journey, experiences of international collaborations and more.

How thrilled are you about the upcoming show, 'Dameer & Fuad Present Sanjoy'?

After being away for so long, I couldn't be happier about performing in my own country. This show promises an extraordinary blend of music and visuals that will undoubtedly surprise the audience beyond their expectations.

How do you feel about performing in your home country for the first time?

As an American-based musician, performing in my home country for the first time evokes a whirlwind of emotions. The excitement of returning to my roots after all these years is truly overwhelming.

Your recent USA tour with Fuad received a lot of attention. Could you share your personal highlights and experiences from that tour?

Performing with an artiste like Fuad was an absolute dream come true. Not many might be aware, but one of my most cherished memories traces back to when I played percussions on stage with him at the age of 11. Since then, I've held him in the highest regard.

One unforgettable highlight was the electrifying finale, where I brought Fuad on stage for a performance – and with my remix of *Nitol Paye* – the crowd's reaction was unforgettable.

Additionally, surprising the audience by inviting Habib *bhai* to join us was a pure delight, as his timeless tracks had a profound influence on shaping my entire career.

Do you have any plans to collaborate with other Bangladeshi musicians in future?

Absolutely! Exciting projects are in the works with talents like Fuad *bhai*, Muza, Xefer, Nish, and Mumzy, among others.

Having worked with both Indian and Western artistes, what differences did you experience in their musical styles and creative approaches?

Indian musicians infuse their work with tradition, using intricate rhythms and emotive melodies to tell personal and cultural stories. In contrast, Western artistes approach music with a global mindset, exploring genre fusions and pushing creative boundaries.

What role did Bangladeshi heritage play in shaping your musical direction?

My Bangladeshi heritage has been a driving force in shaping my musical journey. The rich sounds, rhythms, and melodies from my roots have deeply influenced how I approach music. Drawing inspiration from the diverse musical traditions of Bangladesh, I've been able to infuse my work with a unique blend of cultural elements.

Who are your personal favourites to collaborate with, and why?

While it's tough to pick favourites, a few hold a special place in my heart. Fuad *bhai*'s influence on my musical upbringing makes every collaboration a unique learning experience. Muza brings an infectious energy to our projects, and our creative synergy is incredible.

Partnering with Guru Randhawa has been an exhilarating experience in my career. His distinctive voice and unparalleled charisma always brought an electrifying energy to our projects.



PHOTOS: COURTESY