



MEET NATASHA

Natasha Jahan is a Dhaka-based cartoonist known for her online comic "Mohamaya Kandoo". This week, Natasha has teamed up with Rising Stars for a very special comic that you can read on pages 4 and 5. So, we decided to take this opportunity to introduce our audience to Natasha and her work.

Natasha's art reflects her persona – a vibrant fusion of humour and colours. When asked why she chooses to express herself through her art, Natasha says, "I feel like the world has enough reasons to make us sad and I don't want my work to be a part of it as well. I want people to be able to feel some kind of joy when they see my comics."



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LIVING

a pop culture fantasy

Anica Hossain shares her cosplaying experience.

Anica was in the 7th grade when, after watching YouTube compilation videos of people cosplaying as *League of Legends* characters from different countries, she herself wanted to try cosplaying. She attempted her first ever cosplay in 2015 where she cosplayed as Lulu from *League of Legends*. Since then, Anica has gone on to cosplay many popular characters including Korra from *The Legend of Korra*, Shinobu from *Demon Slayer*, Sukuna from *Jujutsu Kaisen*, Yor Forger from *Spy x Family*, and many more.

"I think one of my favourite things about cosplaying is the initial planning and designing process," says Anica. "When I started cosplaying, I was in high school, so I barely had enough money to spend and I would have to come up with low-cost ways to execute my ideas. Once I was done sketching out how I wanted my outfit to be, what my budget would be, and what materials I wanted to use, the shopping and crafting part would



PHOTO: MD ROBIUL

begin. If my cosplays are fabric-based, my mother helps me with them because I don't know how to sew properly."

"Currently, I am completing my undergrad while doing part-time work, so I can finance my cosplays," adds Anica. "Some of the outfits for my last few cosplays were store-bought. It is less stressful but I still prefer making my own outfit and props."

While Anica prefers cosplaying at home and taking pictures by herself, cosplaying at conventions is also a fun experience for her, especially since she gets to meet other cosplayers and pop culture enthusiasts who like the same things as her.

As for those eager to get into cosplaying themselves, Anica suggests that they do so for the admiration and love they have for the character.

"Do it for yourself and don't worry about what others might think of you as long as you are happy and enjoying what you are doing," she says.



Anica as Spider Gwen.

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