

Nawshaba undeterred, NAWSHABA UNDENIABLE

Making her silver screen debut in 2013, Nawshaba Ahmed has experienced numerous ups and downs in her career and personal life. Despite the challenges, her ever-optimistic persona is poised to debut in Tollywood after years of experience in the entertainment industry.

SHARMIN JOYA

The actress recently graced The Daily Star for a photoshoot, and during a coffee break, she shared many stories about her career, life, and more.

With her upcoming film in Tollywood under the direction of Anik Dutta, the film *Joto Kando Kolkatei* (The Calcutta Case), will present her alongside the esteemed Abir Chatterjee. Nawshaba's transition to Tollywood signifies a new chapter in her illustrious career. With roles that have earned her acclaim as a talented actress on the theatre stage, television, film, and OTT platforms.

Reflecting on her journey of working in Kolkata, Nawshaba shared, "I have always wished to work with the directors beyond the border, and while working with Anik da, I felt that I could explore my inner

artiste."

Joto Kando Kolkatei pays homage to the legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray, a fitting tribute to an icon whose cinematic legacy continues to inspire generations. Recalling the moment when she was approached for the project, Nawshaba's eyes gleamed with excitement and gratitude. "After watching *Aparajito* (directed by Anik Dutta) in 2022, I immediately searched for its director on social media and thanked him for this amazing representation of Ray, which made me feel like reliving my childhood," she added.

It was a memorable moment for Nawshaba when the director offered him the protagonist for his upcoming venture.

"Initially, I couldn't believe it, later we spoke over the phone and he confirmed the

role, and this is how it began." She shot in India for the film for 45 days, during which she stayed alone without her daughter and family for the first time. "I never stayed alone for such a long time before," shared the actress who is a homesick person. "Without my family, daughter, and my country, it felt like I had been away for a decade. I got so emotional upon my return, that I couldn't hold back my tears. Yet, like 'Dora the Explorer', I will always keep looking to find new journeys."

Nawshaba's journey has not been devoid of challenges. Despite her talent and dedication, she has often found herself being overlooked by the media and industry insiders. "How many times do I have to prove myself?" she mused, highlighting the uphill battle faced by many artistes striving to carve out their niche in the industry.

"People judge me for being myself, for being an animal lover too!" she shared, "It is true that I prioritise my family and daughter the most, and I don't prefer sparing a moment that I can give to them by spending time without my professional work. I only find peace in spending time with them or those who genuinely need me, be it stray animals for instance."

Yet, amidst the trials and tribulations, Nawshaba remains an eternal optimist, buoyed by the unwavering support of her 11-year-old daughter, Prokriti. As a single mother, Nawshaba's bond with her daughter serves as a source of strength and inspiration, reminding her of the unwavering resilience that defines her journey.

"She is my best friend, and she shields me like my father used to," Nawshaba shared, her voice tinged with warmth and affection. "People often ask me why I am not aging. To that, I always respond— my daughter gets the credit for it as she gives me the energy to battle all challenges."

The actress recently performed in the play *Siddhartha* directed by Reza Arif with the theatre troupe Aarshinagar. "It was indeed yet another memorable journey for me," she asserted. "When the director approached me for 'Siddhartha's' role, everybody was surprised, including myself!"

Nawshaba won the hearts of theatre lovers as Siddhartha, a young Brahman, who embarks on a quest of self-discovery. "Despite whatever I have faced in life, all of the struggles, I find solace because of my brave and beautiful daughter. I always reflect in pursuit of enlightenment and a deeper understanding of life's meaning and truth; this is my philosophy and view towards life."

The actress is now gearing up to direct a puppet theatre show, collaborating with persons with disabilities. The British Council and Dhaka Theatre are going to organise the theatre festival with participants from eight divisions. Eight directors were selected from eight divisions, of which Nawshaba will direct the performers from Rangpur.

"The musical puppet theatre will feature persons with disabilities and our organisation. Together, we can produce the play, which will be staged at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in March."

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PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED
COSTUME: MEHER
MAKE-UP, STYLE, AND JEWELLERY: SAMINA SARA



TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix
Alexander: The Making of a God



Chorki
Tikit



Amazon Prime
Mr & Mrs Smith



APPLE TV+
The New Look



HBO
True Detective (Season 4)



OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



The School of Rock: Volume 2
February 16 | 3pm
International Convention City
Bashundhara



Singles Day Out
February 15 | 7pm
Naveed's Comedy Club



Music of the Mind
February 15 | 7pm-9pm
Alliance Française de Dhaka, Gulshan

TV TALKIES

A black comedy where fistfights and humour collide

With a decapitated head floating in a fish tank adorning the show's poster, it's obvious from the get-go that the *Suns of the Brothers Sun* have rather more skeletons in the closet than most families. Created by *American Horror Story* famed Brad Falchuk and Byron Wu, this eight-episode-long series is a surprisingly heartfelt black comedy where the Sun family is as fierce as fists, both capable of packing a powerful punch.

The show shines in the more playful, fish-out-of-water sequences, and plenty of fun moments involving Academy Award-winner Michelle Yeoh's Mama Sun taking



things into her own hands. As the series progresses, there's a gradual shift from the breezy, odd-pairing comedy to a more weighty atmosphere. While this could have proved rather jarring, the power plays and politicking prove to be a gripping watch.

WHAT'S PLAYING

You Know You're Right

Released posthumously in 2002, Nirvana's *You Know You're Right* was recorded in January 1994, just months before Cobain's tragic death, making it a heartfelt farewell from one of rock's most enigmatic figures. The track encapsulates the band's raw intensity and Kurt Cobain's emotional depth. Its haunting lyrics and thunderous

guitar riffs, coupled with Cobain's scream of "pain" towards the end, offer a glimpse into the musician's inner turmoil.

Despite its turbulent past, *You Know You're Right* stands as a striking tribute to Nirvana's enduring impact on alternative rock. In just over three minutes, the song captures the essence of Cobain's anguished spirit with chilling resonance.



STYLE STATEMENT

Michael B Jordan and Ben Affleck

Hollywood actors Michael B Jordan and Ben Affleck exude casual chic elegance and refined style in their latest Variety photoshoot.

Affleck, clad in a tailored overcoat with subtle detailing, epitomises classic sophistication. His confident demeanour and understated charm captured in the photo showcases his effortless flair for fashion.

Meanwhile, Michael B Jordan exudes contemporary coolness in his ensemble, effortlessly carrying casual elements. His impeccably tailored grey pants paired with a relaxed white t-shirt reflect his unique sense of style and versatility.

Together, Affleck and Jordan personify the ideal of Hollywood style, commanding attention with their impeccable fashion choices and undeniable charisma.

