

Dhallywood is my industry as well: IDHIKA PAUL



PHOTO: COLLECTED

SHARMIN JOYA

"I belong to both industries, and I feel blessed for the way people have showered love upon me," said the *Priyotoma* famed actress Idhika Paul, on call from Kolkata.

Idhika recently completed shooting for her second film in Bangladesh, titled *Kobi*, directed by Hashibur Reza Kallol. "I absolutely enjoyed working on this film. We shot in different locations of Kolkata, and to me, the most interesting thing about being a part of this project was that I was shooting for a Bangladeshi film in my hometown, Kolkata."

Praising the story of the film, she added, "My co-actor Sariful Razz is a talented artiste, and I had heard about him from our director sir. So overall, it was an amazing experience."

Her debut silver-screen project *Priyotoma*, earned her immense fame. Is her second project going to be another home run? She responded, "We have given our best effort to become the characters, and I hope we can live up to the expectations of the audience this time as well."

Meanwhile, the actress is gearing up for her debut project in Tollywood, *Khadaan*, starring alongside superstar Dev with an ensemble

cast of Jisshu Sengupta, Barkha Bisht, and Bonny Sengupta. The Dutta Soojit directorial film is based on a tragedy in a coal mine. It will have all the commercial elements, as per Idhika. "The shooting will take place in multiple locations, so it is going to take time to finish," she mentioned. "I am preparing for the role, as there is extra pressure when you're working with superstars, like how I felt when working with Shakib bhai."

While *Kobi* awaits release, there are rumours that the actress is in talks with two new films in Bangladesh.

One with Shakib Khan, and another with Siam Ahmed. To this, she laughed and asserted, "Well, I would definitely want to work with Shakib bhai again, but at the moment, there is no such update about our collaboration. As for Siam Ahmed, I have heard these rumours, but there is nothing yet, that I can say officially. I need to read the scripts first."

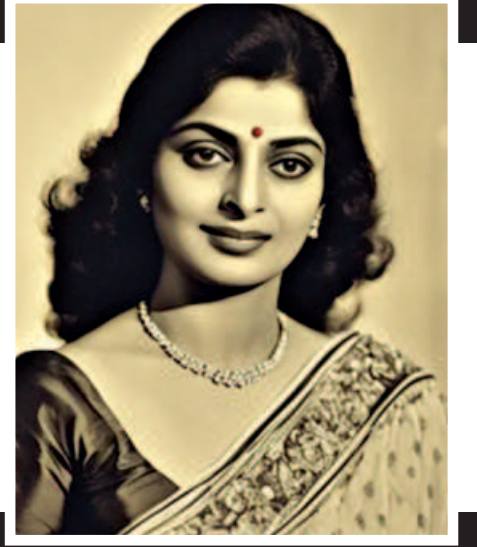
Idhika began her career through television, is the actress still willing to work there? She answered, "Not so soon, because television projects are lengthy and need a long commitment, so we cannot focus on anything else. For now I am giving all my time to films, since they have always been my dream. I want to live these moments fully."

Who does Idhika wish to work with in the future? "I don't want to spare the opportunity to work with anybody, we have so many great directors and artistes and when you work with multiple teams, you gather different kinds of experiences. For me that is more important," said the motivated star.

When is the *Priyotoma* returning to Dhaka again? "I miss Dhaka, will come soon -- whenever Dhaka people will call me," she concluded.



PHOTO: ARIF AHMED



Indian actress Anjana Bhowmick passes away

Veteran Indian actress Anjana Bhowmick passed away on the morning of February 17 after battling a prolonged illness. The esteemed thespian was 79 years old at the time of passing. The actress was admitted to a hospital in South Kolkata on Friday night due to respiratory problems, as reported by Hindustan Times.

India Today reported that she had been bedridden for the past few months. Her family was with her during her final moments when she passed away.

Bhowmick made her silver screen debut in 1964 with Pijush Bose's film *Anustup Chanda*. She adopted the name Anjana for her first film, which earned her significant acclaim in the industry.

EVERGREEN HASAN



Hasan performing in "The School of Rock Volume-2". The show commenced at ICCB Expo Zone on Friday. The second edition of this programme showcased renowned bands of Dhaka, but was marred by organisational and structural issues.



PHOTOS: KHALAD BIN WALID

'Kauthopokauthon' as a reflector of Bangladesh's natural beauty

AISHWARYA RAIHAN

Shilpangan, a contemporary art gallery in the capital held the opening ceremony of *Kauthopokauthon*, the fourth solo exhibition by artist Samar Majumder on February 16. The event was inaugurated by the writer, researcher, and trustee of the Liberation Museum, Mofidul Hoque. Writer and art critic, Prof Moinuddin Khaled attended the event as the special guest. Following the cordial speeches regarding the artist, the exhibition was initiated.

Artist Samar Majumder has been renowned since the '80s. Apart from paintings, he has also gained fame as an illustrator. This exhibition displays 50 of his paintings. Upon being asked about his work, Samar talked about his affinity towards drawing his culture. He said that rather than copying European



PHOTOS: THABIT AL BASHAR



art, he prefers to paint the forever-familiar images of Bangladesh. He does so in order to represent his country. He believes that people abroad should know about Bangladesh's nature, landscapes, humans, animals and etc. Thus, his paintings are a wonderful tribute to our motherland.

The dominant feature in the stunning acrylic paintings by Samar Majumder that the walls of Shilpangan are currently adorned with is that most reflect the rural

images of Bangladesh. For this collection of his paintings, the artist has used his brushstrokes sometimes in a delicate manner, and other times in an unruly way. However, the accumulation of both has resulted in extraordinary paintings. One of the biggest paintings that first caught my eye was *Ameena and her pet*. This is a warm image of a young girl hugging her pet cow. Next comes *The rain* where a girl wearing a bright red-orange saree, sits under a canopy with

her goat.

Several of the paintings had similar subjects but in diverse postures. For example, most of the artworks are of mothers and their children. Samar has drawn human figures beautifully, maintaining suitable proportions. Every painting of his tells a story. One painting has a mother, a child, and a pet bird -- depicting the formation of a family with just the three of these beings. *Chitra* is a drawing of a woman who remains thinking while sitting, rendering one to wonder about what the woman could have in her mind. The painting *Purity of an artist* shows the story of a female clay artist making 'Pattachitra'. *Fairy tale* is a painting where a boat looks like a moon.

The most ethereal one that I was doubtlessly bewitched by is the *Line of herons on the lake*. In this painting, nine herons remain standing, as the sky and the water seem to be hugging each other in the backdrop all whilst creating an otherworldly landscape. Samar has also painted urban images of a girl in an emotional state as she reads a book, and of a woman reading a newspaper.

A length, Samar Majumder's art strongly represents our nature, our people, and our way of life. He has done a stunning job as an artist and proved his patriotic sentiments. Gallery Shilpangan will run this open for all art exhibition till February 29.

'Dangal' actor dies at 19 after alleged wrong medical treatment

Suhani Bhatnagar, best known for her portrayal of young Babita Phogat in the acclaimed film *Dangal*, has tragically passed away at the age of 19. Aamir Khan Productions, co-star Aamir Khan's own production company, has officially confirmed the news, expressing deep sorrow over the loss.

According to reports, Suhani Bhatnagar had been undergoing treatment for a fractured leg at a hospital



prior to her untimely demise. Details surrounding the cause of her death remain unclear, but it's been reported that she was receiving medical care at AIIMS Delhi for an extended period.

Suhani's passing leaves a profound void in the hearts of those who worked with her, and she will be remembered as a shining star.

