

PARTHO'S CRICKETING DREAMS transform into a filmy one



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

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SHARMIN JOYA

With nuanced roles and a remarkable presence, Partho Sheikh made himself relevant not just in the OTT arena, but more recently, on television as well. His performances in Syed Ahmed Shawki's web-series *Karagar* (2022) and Shafayet Mansoor Rana's web-series *Odrishshyo* (2023) earned him acclaim. Recently, he was featured in *Prem Kabbo*, directed by Rubel Anush.

During an exclusive photoshoot and adda with The Daily Star, Partho talked about his acting and directorial journey, while also spilling some beans on upcoming projects.

Initially, he dreamt of becoming a cricketer, and was on the path to become one. He was a part of the Bangladesh National Under-16 team, and after playing for a couple of years, he fell victim to a severe spinal injury, which extinguished his dream. "Life had other plans for me, thus, on a rainy evening in 2017, after completing practice in Dhanmondi's Abahani field, my interest in becoming an actor found a way."

Two of his friends told him that they had auditions the next morning for a TVC, directed by Amitabh Reza Chowdhury. Partho, being curious, asked if the audition was open-for-all. "I just went out of curiosity; however, I



got a small role in that commercial," he asserted.

After two years of working in commercials, it was time for a level-up. It was when Partho started to look for roles in the television industry for fictions. "My first work was released in 2022. It was a series called 'BnG' for the platform Bongo, directed by Polash Nizam. The same year I was featured in 'Karagar'."

Referring to himself as a bookworm, Partho shared that before he started acting, he had read a lot of acting-related books. "From reading books authored by Russian theatre practitioner Konstantin Stanislavski, American actress and acting coach Stella Adler, American actor Sanford Meisner, to Russian-American actor and director Michael Chekhov, I read many of them."

These books gave him the idea that the acting in theatre isn't the same as doing it in front of the camera.

"Camera acting means simplicity without a lack of emotional energy of the character and doing it dynamically. You cannot do anything extra since the camera documents every bit and you shouldn't be doing anything extra

unless the character demands it!"

The artiste also attended classes with the theatre group Prachyanat. "During this time, I was thinking that I would just work on the OTT projects, and TVCs, however, the reality is that after a certain period, I wasn't getting enough calls for either of them."

To sustain himself in the media industry, he worked on Daekho TV, Idiot Box, and at the same time, he was bearing the sorrow of getting rejections from both television and commercials. It was then when he reinvented himself as a director sometime after joining Qineti Music, under the guidance of Sharaf Nafees Nazaar. "It was Nafees bhai who made me act and direct in the projects produced under the company." Partho has been working as the creative lead of Qineti Music for four years now. He directed the music videos for the songs *Beni Khuley*, *Jhumka*, *Preme Dewana*, and recently, *Bamey Daney*.

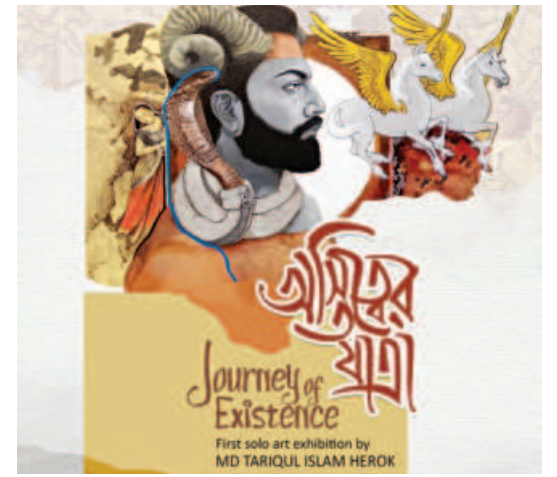
Partho believes working in television frequently will grow his audience. "*Prem Kabbo* brought quite a great response, people are noticing my work, and they now realise that this guy can act, and has a good voice as well," he added. "For an actor, luck is very important, clicking the right project at the right time is very important, and I'm waiting for it."

Partho has recently made his directorial debut with a commercial to be released on Eid. He aims to continue his passion for acting and direction as well. "I am in talks with two projects for Chorki, a film by Siddiq Ahmed and another series by Arifur Rahman."

Partho concluded the interview, sharing that he has completed shooting for a silver-screen project, titled, *Banan*, directed by Enamul Karim Nirjhar. "Although it is a small role, I absolutely enjoyed working with the team, especially the director."

OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA

Art exhibition 'Journey of Existence'
March 13-17 | 4pm- 8pm
Zainul Gallery - University of Dhaka



Play 'Bhogoban Paliye Geche'
March 17-18 | 7:15 pm
Experimental Theatre Hall,
Shilpakala Academy



Play 'Adam Surat'
March 20-22 | 7:30pm- 9pm
Experimental Theatre Hall,
Shilpakala Academy



TRENDY STREAMS

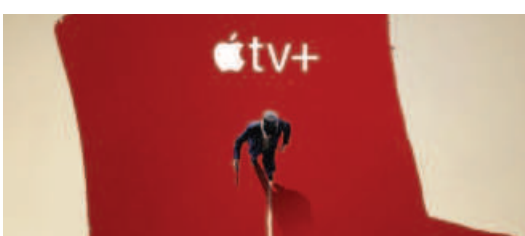
Netflix
Murder Mubarak



HBO
The Girls On The Bus



Apple TV+
Manhunt



Peacock
Apples Never Fall



Prime Video
Ricky Stanicky



What Was I Made For

WHAT'S PLAYING

Billie Eilish and Finneas O'Connell made Oscar history as the youngest two-time winners, clinching the Best Song award for *What Was I Made For?* from the *Barbie* soundtrack.

The soft, breathy ballad reflects the film's theme, as Eilish muses on existential uncertainty: *Taking a drive, I was an ideal / Looked so alive, turns out I'm not real / Just something you paid for.* Despite its musical resonance with *Happier Than Ever*, the song tantalizingly

defers a climactic moment.

Within its sparse lyrics, it addresses societal expectations placed on women, romantic disillusionment, and broader philosophical questions. Diving into the melancholic depths of the script, it offers a glimmer of hope, capturing the essence of existential longing.



1-MINUTE REVIEW

Sriram Raghavan presents his most subdued murder mystery yet



Writer and director Sriram Raghavan's freshest produce, *Merry Christmas*, is a subtle yet entrancing story that takes place on the eve of Christmas in Bombay in the '80s. Renowned for crafting quirky and thrilling murder mysteries, Raghavan makes the most out of the unexpected duo of Katrina Kaif and Vijay Sethupathi.

Adapted from Frédéric Dard's *Le Montecharge*, the film doesn't rely on a convoluted screenplay; rather, it maintains a smooth and relaxed pace. Although twists and turns

gradually surface throughout the narrative, they lack the exaggerated flair and "wow" factor. Unlike *Andhadhun*, where each revelation commanded attention, *Merry Christmas* somewhat downplays its impact in that regard.

While the film has its moments of interest, it is considerably subdued when considering Raghavan's previous work, for instance when a revelation occurred, it simply happened. The film additionally delves into unexplored themes, plunging audiences into a realm of deceit, mortality, and shady intrigue.



STYLE STATEMENT

AMERICA FERRERA

America Ferrera bid a heartfelt farewell to *Barbie* during the 96th Academy Awards on Monday (March 11), donning a breathtaking and shimmering Atelier Versace gown in the film's iconic pink hue. While Ferrera didn't portray a real Barbie in the box office phenomenon, she certainly channeled the iconic doll's aesthetic on the red carpet.

Ferrera embraced the full Barbie vibe in her bubblegum-pink chainmail Versace gown featuring a square-and-sweetheart-hybrid neckline, a tapered waist, and a floor-skimming skirt. Her ensemble was complemented by a striking ruby-and-diamond choker necklace, stud earrings, and a statement bauble ring.