

Monalisa's  
ENDURING CHARM

**For Mozeza Ashraf Monalisa, popularly known as Monalisa, love is more than just a feeling— it's a way of life. The sweet-smiling actress and sought-after model, who has captured hearts across Bangladesh and beyond, has recently returned to her homeland for a visit. Despite having lived abroad for years, Monalisa's popularity in Bangladesh remains undiminished.**

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

During her recent visit to The Daily Star office, Monalisa opened up about her life's journey, her artistic pursuits, and her unending quest for a soulmate worthy of her boundless affection.

**How do you view love in your life?**

Love can arrive many times in one life, at any time, anywhere. Also, why do we always associate love with another person? For me, love transcends the mere connection

someone with whom I can share an understanding relationship, someone who will respect me, love me, and value me, and our relationship—only then I might decide. Till then, I want to focus on my professional journey.

**How busy have you been after returning to the country?**

I'm having an extremely busy time after returning to the country. I've received many invitations. I've met many friends and co-artists. I've participated in various photoshoots



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED  
OUTFIT: ANZARA  
HAIR: PROBINA  
JEWELLERY: AROHYE ISLAM ANU



between two people. You can fall in love with a river, a mountain, or an ocean. I want to fall in love all my life. I don't want to live without love. No one can live without love.

**What are your thoughts on marriage?**

I haven't found the kind of person I want yet. First, I have to find the right person and then I can think about marriage. When I find

**How has the acting world responded to your return? Are you receiving offers?**

I've been inundated with a myriad of opportunities since setting foot back in Bangladesh. I've been receiving offers for dramas and modelling gigs. However, I'm not one to blindly accept every role that comes my way. I intend to be selective in my choices, picking projects that truly

resonate with me.

My plan is to strike a balance, dividing my time between my homeland and living abroad. Even if the stars don't quite align for me to take on an acting project during this particular visit, I'm certain the future holds such prospects.

**It is perceived that you're still as popular as before. What are your thoughts on it?**

The day I landed at the airport, I realised how much people love me. Wherever I go, I'm getting everyone's love. I thought people had forgotten me. But apparently, they didn't. I'm overwhelmed by everyone's love and amazed at the same time. This love is a gift from the Almighty.

**You were offered silver-screen projects before. If you get an offer now, will you take it?**

At one stage of my career, yes, I

received hundreds of offers for films. I didn't do it then. Now, many quality films are being made in our industry. If I get offered a good story and character that align with me, as well as director and producer, I will take on films. I have to like it first.

**What is the last Bangladeshi movie you watched?**

The last ones I watched were *Priyotoma* and *Surongo*. I watched both films in America. I really liked them. Bangladeshi cinema has improved a lot. Whenever I go to America, I try to watch Bangladeshi films out of love and admiration for the country's art. Shakib Khan was also there during the screening of *Priyotoma*. I attended the screening after receiving an invitation.

TRENDY STREAMS

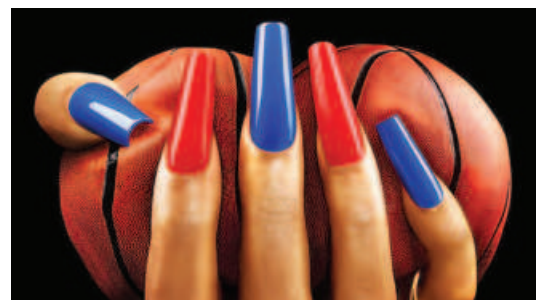
Netflix  
Sweet Tooth



Paramount+  
Mayor of Kingstown



Hulu  
Clipped



HBO Max  
Fantasmas



Prime Video  
Panchayat (Season 3)



OUT AND ABOUT  
IN DHAKA



**Jugottirne Baatighar Drama Festival**  
June 8-10 | 7:15pm  
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy



**Kinu Kaharer Thetar**  
June 8 | 7pm  
Bangladesh Mohila Samity, Bailey Road



**Jazz Masterclass by Parijat Mousmon**  
June 9 | 4pm-8pm  
EMK Centre



STYLESTATEMENT  
JONATHAN  
BAILEY

The sturdy and handsome Viscount of the Bridgerton family, our very own Jonathan Bailey, has everyone impressed with his swooning smile and immersive performance.

The actor continues to influence with his fabulous style and panache as he wore a stunning golden-beige suit from Ralph Lauren, paired with a purple turtleneck and brown Oxford shoes, set against a rustic backdrop.

The actor, who is currently aptly basking in the limelight, will next be seen in the second part of the third season of *Bridgerton* and Jon M Chu's feature film *Wicked*.



WHAT'S PLAYING

Perdida

*Perdida* (Spanish for 'loss'), the eighth studio album by American rock band Stone Temple Pilots, is a departure from their signature grunge sound. With flute, acoustic guitar, and generic lyrics, the onetime grunge icons seem to be evolving into something different. The title track, *Perdida*, devoid of power chords, showcases a light and airy texture, exuding a melancholic, longing feel – both musically and lyrically.

The song, delivered in slow to mid-paced tempos and often permeated with a Spanish feel, explores the narrative of looking back, heartache and loss.

The song's introspective nature and sonic reinvention make it a thought-provoking, if imperfect, addition to Stone Temple Pilots' discography.