



'Golam Mamun': A compelling spin-off of crime, betrayal, and societal reflections

SAEED KHAN SHAGOR

The web-series *Golam Mamun* has recently premiered on the OTT platform Hoichoi. Despite being a spin-off, the series is not a typical character-driven story. In Ayan Chakrabarty's plot, police officer Golam Mamun is accused of murdering a delinquent named Nasir. Concurrently, Mamun's colleague Sakib and Sakib's wife, journalist Tania, are murdered, with all fingers pointing at Mamun. While on duty, Mamun is presented in court but escapes, becoming a fugitive who investigates the connections between these murders. He eventually discovers a link to his brother-in-law's murder, another police officer.

In his quest to uncover the mysteries, Mamun faces betrayal, distrust, and the disguised faces of those around him. Can he rise above these challenges, or will his astute colleague, officer Robin, catch him? Are Robin and Mamun rivals or allies? The series answers these questions.

The screenplay, written jointly by Shihab Shaheen and Mezbah Uddin Shumon, opens with a tragic scene: a little girl narrates her deceased mother's condition over a phone call, setting a gloomy tone. The series interweaves numerous events, maintaining a cohesive pattern without becoming irrelevant. Shaheen aimed to present this story on a wide scale, introducing peripheral issues through brief dialogues. Some parts were effective, but not all. For instance, the attempt to address national issues like power outages through dialogues was commendable, but the absence of a generator in such a flat seemed unrealistic.

The attempt to introduce the narrative of domestic violence in the marital relationship of Mamun's brother-in-law and sister was praiseworthy. Shaheen avoided the common trope of unnecessary smoking and drinking to make the characters relevant to violence,

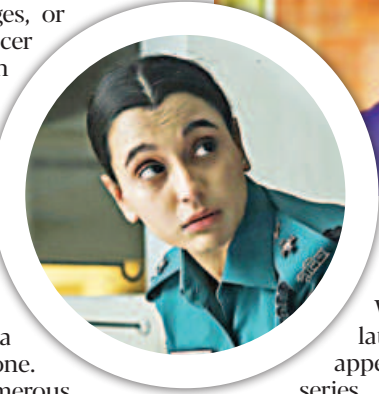
instead telling a different story.

Ziaul Faruq Apurba reprises his role from *Baker Moddhye Agun* and portrays the character Golam Mamun in this spin-off. He maintains his signature style, delivering a performance free from overacting, and shines in action scenes—a genre his fans haven't seen him tackle before. This fresh portrayal is a delightful surprise for his die-hard fans. However, outside the action and thrilling moments, Apurba appears somewhat subdued.

adds an attractive touch.

Nazmus Sakib portrays tourist police officer Milton. Though Sakib acts regularly, he seldom gets ample screen space. In this series, he has that space, and the role of Milton has the potential to add a new dimension to the story, enhancing its excellence. However, he needs to pay more attention to clichéd dialogue delivery and forced comedy.

Masum Basher delivers an impeccable performance as the chief. Rashed Mamun Apu and Sabrin Azad also make strong



Imtiaz Barshon plays the role of police officer Robin. With the addition of this latest series, Barshon has now appeared in three consecutive series, including *Sharey Showlo*, and *Kaalpurush*, as a cop—each time portraying a distinct character with different roles, appearances, and nuances. His versatility leaves no room for doubt. In *Golam Mamun*, he matches Apurba's performance, creating a compelling antagonist whose ruthlessness contrasts sharply with the protagonist Mamun, garnering audiences' sympathy for Mamun.

Sabila Nur plays police officer Rahi, an intriguing role in this series. She seamlessly transitions from a temperamental officer to a soft-spoken assistant, and then to an unknown identity at critical moments, showcasing her professionalism. Her urban Bengali accent

appearances. However, Sharlin Farzana fails to make a significant breakthrough after a long hiatus.

Even though *Golam Mamun* is a spin-off series, Shihab Shaheen uses it to reflect our current socio-political realities through fiction and brief dialogues, highlighting numerous inconsistencies in our surroundings. However, we should question his portrayal of everything under an invisible shadow, or 'hukummat'. This 'invisible' aspect implants a spectral reality in our minds, which eventually seems insurmountable. The ruling apparatus takes full advantage of this, becoming more active in masking their failures.

Storytelling plays a significant role in creating such narratives, leading to a gradual decline in the audience's tendency to question authority. This decline is certainly not beneficial for any governance system or the state itself.

Warfaze's Tipu named official artiste for Zildjian drum brand



Sheikh Monirul Alam Tipu, co-founder and band leader of Warfaze, has been named an official artiste for the drum brand Zildjian, marking a significant recognition of Bangladesh's music scene.

Tipu, born on July 15, 1970, is celebrated not only as a drummer but also as a rhythm composer, lyricist, and music producer.

Tipu's endorsement by Zildjian marks a career milestone, showcasing his talent and global influence. Known for his distinctive setup with Zildjian cymbals, including the 14" A Custom Hi-Hats, 16" A Custom Medium Crash, and 22" K Series Heavy Ride, his preference for quality resonates with musicians worldwide.

Raihan Rafi announces 'Toofan' sequel with original cast

The release of *Toofan* during Eid has captivated audiences across Bangladesh, with theatres experiencing overwhelming responses. In a thrilling development, director Raihan Rafi has



announced a sequel is in the works, following the film's dramatic cliffhanger ending.

Starring Shakib Khan, *Toofan* carried high expectations even before its release and has not disappointed. Since premiering this Eid, the film has already broken records.

Plans for *Toofan 2* began before the first film's release, but Rafi waited for audience reactions. "The film ends in a way that makes a sequel essential," he said. The script is ready, with the main cast returning and potential new additions.

COUNTRYWIDE

Organic manure retaining soil fertility

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Forty-eight-year-old Mohinikanta Roy and his wife Radhika Rani have seen various hardships since the couple took up farming decades ago.

However, their lives took a new turn when the couple, residing in Lalapara village in Nilphamari's Domar upazila, turned to vermicompost production alongside crop production about 10 years ago.

"We produce about 2,000-2,500 kilogrammes of organic fertiliser every month. Spending around Tk 2 for each kilo, we sell it for Tk 6-8," said Mohinikanta.

Alongside manufacturing and selling vermicompost, the couple also cultivates earthworms, the main raw material for the organic manure.

Each kilo of earthworms, which yields about 20-25 kg of vermicompost, is sold locally for Tk 800-1,500.

"We sell about 18-20 kg of earthworms each month. Using this eco-friendly fertiliser makes the soil richer in nutrients in the long run," mentioned Radhika, who now spends all her work time in vermicompost production.

The production of this eco-friendly fertiliser has brought hope to many marginalised farmers in Rangpur, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, and Kurigram districts.

During a recent visit to Nilphamari's Lalapara, our Lalmonirhat correspondent

saw farmers depositing earthworms, cow dung, eggshells, vegetable waste, scrapped tea leaves, and rotting tree bark in small pits around their houses and farmlands to manufacture vermicompost.

"While the price locals pay is okay, we get around Tk 2,000 for each kilo of earthworms if we sell it to development organisations. The worms are a rather profitable investment as they multiply really fast, becoming almost double the amount bought within just a month," said Ruhul Amin, a 60-year-old farmer of the village.

Aiming to encourage more farmers to turn towards the production and use of this organic fertiliser, the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), with funds from the European Union and Australian Development Corporation, initiated the Joint Action for Nutrition Outcome (JANO) project, said Nihar Kumar Pramanik, technical officer (nutrition-sensitive agriculture), JANO project.

The project, which looks to train more farmers in vermicompost production, is being implemented by CARE, Plan International, and ESDO in seven upazilas in Rangpur and Nilphamari since 2018. "The use of vermicompost has significantly increased. We want this trend to continue, and we are thus encouraging and helping farmers to take up this production. This way, we can all access chemical-free fresh food," said Obaidur Rahman Mandal, additional director of DAE in Rangpur.



A farmer couple seen busy with producing vermicompost from organic wastes. The photo was taken from Rangpur's Gangachara upazila. PHOTO: STAR