



SHARMEN JOYA

**This Eid-ul-Azha, the young sensation Khairul Basar has graced our screens with 12 TV projects - some already aired, while others await release. Fresh from the festivities Basar drops by The Daily Star for a quick chat.**



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

**How are you? Where did you spend Eid?**  
I am doing great! I spent Eid in Mymensingh city, where I grew up. I stayed there for four days, spending quality time with my family and friends. Though the joy was immense, duty called and I had to return to Dhaka soon after.

**Around 12 of your small screen projects are slated to air this festival. What can viewers expect from them?**  
These projects offer a diverse array of settings, including some shot in Australia. Those will feature Tanjim Saiyara Totini, under Rubel Hasan's direction. This time, I am sharing the screen with Tasnia Farin, Tanjin Tisha, Sabila Nur, Keya Payel, Samira Khan Mahi, and Safa Kabir, among others.

**Shooting abroad for tele-fictions how viable is it financially?**  
To be honest, if the team is not properly organised, it is hardly worth the effort. As we shot in Australia, the location was amazing, and our producer, Fakhru Alam Mojumder Reza, made it possible for the entire team to complete the work in an organised manner.

We completed five projects there, all directed by Rubel Hasan, featuring Totini and myself. One of them, titled **Blame Game**, is set to air this Eid.

Television is known as the writer's medium - so focusing on the script is more important, I believe. For these five projects mentioned above, the scripts were good and suitable for an extensive international shoot.

**Tele-fictions have broadened their scope for visual arrangement in recent times. We have now seen the plots being adapted from South Indian films as well. Is this good for the industry's improvement?**

I think small screen projects should not make the audience think that it could be a 'film'.

For instance, if you write a short story that gives you the essence of a novel, it will lose its unique style.

It is good that we are innovating with visual arrangements by working on art direction and set design - yet, at the end of the day, it should have the essence of being a story-based fiction.

**The audience loved your performance in 'Networker Baire' and 'Mohanagar', and you were a regular face on OTT. However, your presence on OTT platforms has reduced over time. Why?**

For Gias Uddin Selim's **Kajol Rekha** and Masud Hasan Ujjal's **Bonolota Sen**, I had to reject many offers from both television and OTT. Since I had to work on my looks for both films, I had no option but to change it for other roles.

Thus, it took time to return to television. Amitabh Reza Chowdhury's **Bodh** was my last project on OTT. After that, due to previously committed silver screen schedules, I couldn't sign new projects. Also, after almost two and a half years, I don't get calls for any projects that I would want to take on, and the audience also has some expectations from me, which I must meet. So I am waiting for the right project to come along.

**What are your upcoming projects?**

The post-production of **Bonolota Sen** has been completed, and it will be released soon. I am also working on another government-granted film titled **Sharey Tin Haat Bhumi**, by Noyeem Imtiaz Neamul. I am in talks for another set of government-granted films.

**What do you like to do in your leisure time?**

I like to read poems, listen to music, and read books whenever I get time. My usual routine is to listen to at least one song by Kabir Suman every day. It brings peace to my mind.

**On a lighter note, how many times have you fallen in love?**

(Laughs) I have fallen in love quite a few times! I want to keep feeling this emotion forever. We all want to be independent, but love is a beautiful dependency.

TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix  
Bridgerton



HBO Max  
House of the Dragon



Hoichoi  
Golam Mamum



Chorki  
Baaji



Bongo  
Female 4



OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



**On the First Day of Monsoon**  
June 28 | 7:15pm-8:50pm  
Bangladesh Mohila Samity, Bailey Road



**Upukuler Jonno Gaan**  
June 28 | 7pm  
Alliance Française de Dhaka



**Lens & Canvas 1.0**  
August 23-24 | 6pm  
Liberation War Museum

WHAT'S ON THE GRAM

TANJIN TISHA

Tanjin Tisha exudes elegance in a form-fitting white gown adorned with rhinestones, highlighting her beautiful physique. Her choice of a loose bun, contact lenses, nude lipstick, and a subtle brown smoky eye look, enhanced her overall glamorous appearance. The actress made her OTT debut with Sanjoy Somadder's **Poison**, a web-film that revolves around an actress, Rupa Mirza, whose life becomes embroiled in a series of murders and shadows of her past.



TV TALKIES

'Eric' shadows a father's reckoning

Set in 1985, Netflix's new miniseries **Eric**, directed by Lucy Forbes, navigates a father's psychological warfare involving an imaginary character, particularly when his son goes missing.

The story hence runs on renowned puppeteer Vincent Anderson (Benedict Cumberbatch) and his wife, Cassie (Gaby Hoffmann), dealing with their only son, Edgar (Ivan Morris Howe), going missing when their personal and professional lives come to a boiling point.

Turmoiled with the potential of being replaced on his founded famous on-screen Puppet Show, Vincent's additional emotional

turbulence manifests in Eric - a blue fictional character that Edgar creates for his father's show.

The character becomes a constant reflection of Vincent's character as the notoriously distant person deals with both the case of his missing son and his professional upheaval.

The series' further introduction and inclusion of Vincent's father explains why Vincent is the way he is.

Embroiled with other simultaneous missing children's cases, Edgar's incident is a gritty compelling narrative done suitably.



WHAT'S PLAYING ISWEGH ATTAY

Tinariwen's **Iswegh Attay** from their Grammy-winning album **Tassili** is a haunting and introspective track. The poetic yet enigmatic lyrics, with the repeated line - **I drank a glass of tea that scorched my heart**, suggesting deep emotional anguish.

The captivating music video opens with the band members sitting in a well-lit cave, gracefully preparing a pot of tea - no tea has ever looked better. As the soothing, calming desert groove unfolds, the visuals are equally pleasing, perfectly complementing the hypnotic music.

With Kyp Malone's featured guitar and vocals, and written by Malian artiste Sanou Ag Ahmed, **Iswegh Attay**



is a spellbinding exploration of inner turmoil. The courage to overcome adversity resonates through the evocative lyrics and stunning imagery.