

#CHECK IT OUT

# Grameenphone launches the latest episode of Lumière featuring Shusmita Anis

Grameenphone has unveiled the newest episode in its Lumière series, this time featuring the illustrious Shusmita Anis, a revered name in the Bangladeshi music industry. Renowned for her versatile singing and emotive performances, Shusmita Anis's episode provides viewers with an intimate exploration of her career, life choices, and personal philosophy.



Shusmita Anis, a celebrated artist, has left an indelible mark on the music scene with her soulful renditions and dynamic musical range. In this episode of Lumière, viewers are taken on a journey through Anis's multifaceted career, her personal transitions, and the philosophies that have shaped her artistic endeavours. The candid conversation with host Nabila Khalid delves deep into Anis's life, offering insights into her professional milestones and personal

reflections.

The Lumière series by Grameenphone is designed to spotlight individuals who have significantly impacted Bangladeshi society. It narrates the inspiring stories of these remarkable figures, highlighting their personal and professional journeys, the obstacles they have surmounted, and their unique experiences. The series aims to inspire the youth by presenting in-depth narratives of personalities who have

profoundly influenced the cultural and social landscape of Bangladesh.

Now in its second season, following a highly successful first, Lumière continues its tradition of featuring influential figures while reinforcing Grameenphone's commitment to inspiring the youth of Bangladesh. The format of the show, characterised by candid and engaging dialogues with a congenial host, facilitates deeper storytelling and uncovers lesser-known aspects of these extraordinary individuals.

In the latest episode, host Nabila Khalid engages with Shusmita Anis in a heartfelt conversation, exploring her career journey, personal life, and the philosophies that guide her. Anis shares stories from her childhood, her journey through the music industry, and the pivotal moments that have defined her path.

The episode invites viewers to connect with Anis on a personal level, understanding her motivations, inspirations, and the underlying philosophy of her work. Through her narrative, viewers gain insight into the depth of her passion for music, her life transitions, and her significant influence on the cultural fabric of Bangladesh.

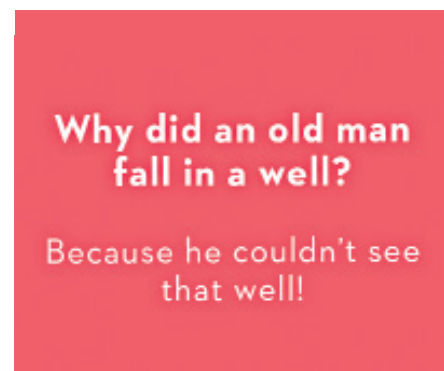
**Photo: Courtesy**

#PERSPECTIVE

## Can we take a joke? The struggle of stand-up comedy in Bangladesh

Bangladeshis have a great sense of humour, whether it be witty banters at tea stalls or coming up with the most brilliant memes every time our cricket team loses a match. However, when it comes to stand-up comedy, there seems to be a disconnection. Our neighbouring countries such as India have embraced the realm of stand-up comedy and produced some big names as well, we for some reason just cannot fathom this concept as an entertainment option.

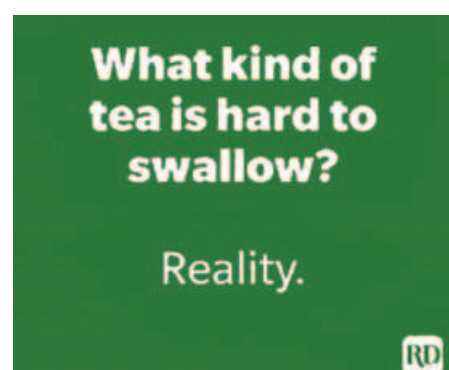
Sami Doha, a comedian and artist of our country, believes the conditioning of our



awareness," shared Sami. There is yet hope for stand-up comedy in Bangladesh despite these obstacles. Due to their exposure to worldwide content via the Internet, younger people are more open to a wider variety of entertainment options. They are eager to see more stand-up comedy performed locally and like the relatable humour. This change in the population may lead to the growth of a thriving comedy scene. The good news is, a few talented comedians are already gaining popularity. Shedding light on the success of the big names in the industry, Sami added, "Some brave comedians of our country are changing the narrative. They are taking risks, experimenting with material, and the audience is rewarding them with the love that they truly deserve."

Although there are many obstacles in the way of stand-up comedy in Bangladesh, the potential is there. With a little courage, cultural adjustment, and creativity, Bangladesh may soon be giggling with the rest of the world.

**By Maisha Tarannum Iqbal**  
**Photo: Collected**



minds is the biggest obstacle to the success of this industry, "People of our country do not want to spend money on art. The concept of going to a comedy club and enjoying a fun skit still is not considered a form of entertainment," explained Sami.

Comedy frequently stems from the unique experiences and cultural practices of a region. Indian comedians have crafted extremely relatable jokes by drawing on the richness of their culture, politics, and everyday lives. On the other hand, Bangladesh's stand-up culture is

still relatively young, thus comedians may find it difficult to strike a balance between comedy and cultural background. The possible backlash creates another challenge. Comedians may be afraid to go too far and hurt people's feelings in a conservative environment. Whereas comedians abroad frequently break barriers and address taboos. "One of the biggest barriers might be the fear of censorship or worse, public outrage! The cancel culture right now is costing us some great skits that have the potential to bring social