



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# Staying silent is never an option: SAFA KABIR

**At the outset of the anti-discrimination student movement, only a few artistes voiced their support. Among those who did was actress Safa Kabir, who felt a sense of duty and stepped out of her comfort zone to ask, "Why are these kids being beaten on the roads?" She also suggested that these students are young and need to be dealt with love, not aggression, leaving her message to the protestors, "Dear students, I'm with you all."**

SHARMIN JOYA

In a conversation with The Daily Star, she shared her thoughts on her vision for a new nation, the current crisis in the entertainment industry, and more.

Feeling suffocated by the situation, Safa decided to raise her voice against the injustice and stand in solidarity with the students. On July 19, she, along with her friends, joined the protests on the streets, determined to support their cause.

"For any sane and sensible person, staying silent was not an option after

witnessing the brutal treatment of innocent students on the streets," remarked Safa. She was devastated to see the unarmed Abu Sayeed shot to death. "I thought, this is it—as a human being, I have to raise my voice to stop such brutality."

At that time, Safa drew her strength from friends who stood by the students alongside her. They included Redoan Rony, Adnan Al Rajeev, Subrina Irine, Mostafa Monwar, Shankha Dasgupta, Anika Zaheen, and Sami. "I am blessed to have such compassionate friends who stepped forward. The lives of the young people lost will never return, and we all sought an immediate solution to end the conflict surrounding the protest."

Safa mentioned that she felt an instant change within herself on July 19, when she chose not to back down but move forward after seeing a group of people approaching with sticks and firebombs in their hands. "I realised these couldn't be students—these were people intent on harming innocent, unarmed citizens on the streets. Despite being extremely sensitive to any form of violence, I decided to

confront the situation."

What changes does the actress want to see the interim government making? — "I want to see a country that ensures safety for all its citizens, particularly on the roads, where frequent accidents claim many lives. Second, our poorly structured systems need urgent upgrades. Last but not least, I envision a technologically advanced Bangladesh. If we want to compete globally, we must have the ability to do so. The young generation, who have opened new avenues for us, must be provided with all the resources and accessibility they need to elevate the country to an international level."

The actress, known for her humble nature, feels that her contribution pales in comparison to what others did. While the students were managing traffic, Safa supported them by providing food and water. "I did my best to stand by those who, on behalf of the nation, fought for their rights. When they stood in extreme heat or rain, I could relate to their struggle, as we endure similar conditions during shoots. Their smiles made me feel that it was a lifetime achievement."

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after a long break on August 20. She noted that the industry, like many other sectors, is going through a tough time. "Many people depend on this industry for their livelihood. Although it is slowly regaining its rhythm, the main challenge at the moment is people are not willing to invest. Also, the small screen sector, in particular, needs many changes. For instance, we don't have any paperwork procedure before we take on a project, which is a mandatory task for other sectors. Implementing a systematic approach is now essential."

## TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix  
Monsieur Spade



Prime Video  
Batman: Caped Crusader



Disney plus  
Selenkay



HBO Max  
City of God: The Fight Rages On



Apple TV+  
Lady in the Lake



## OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



**Heritage Walk Dhaka: Reminiscing Vintage Tales of Old Town**  
August 26| 8:30 am- 2:30 pm  
Old Town, Dhaka



**Film Fiesta**  
August 28| 6 pm  
Dhaka Trade Centre



**Barshanabeg- Barshay Kaktal**  
August 30| 3 pm-9 pm  
National Library Auditorium

## WHAT'S ON THE GRAM

# HUGH JACKMAN AND BLAKE LIVELY

While *Deadpool & Wolverine* and *It Ends With Us* captivate audiences and shatter records in North American theatres, their brilliant stars, Blake Lively and Hugh Jackman, have graced Vogue's September 2024 issue in an homage to Alfred Hitchcock's classic 1955 film *To Catch a Thief*. This exquisite tribute, captured through the lens of Baz Luhrmann, melds cinematic



history with contemporary elegance in a stunning modern reinterpretation of the classic movie.

In this shot from Luhrmann's photo story, Jackman looks elegant in a black tuxedo, adjusting his cuffs, while Blake Lively stuns in a plunging Michael Kors dress and a Cartier necklace once owned by the legendary Elizabeth Taylor.

## WHAT'S PLAYING

# JULY

*July* by EIDA is a raw and poignant tribute to the tragic events of the student-led mass uprising that shook the nation. Released on August 4, the song captures the anguish and resilience of those who faced brutal repression during the July massacre.

The lyrics are haunting, with vivid depictions of violence — "Bloodstains on backpacks" and "Sound grenades, tear shells" — that bring the horror to life. The refrain, "Tell me how you kill the will?" resonates deeply, challenging the forces that sought to crush the spirit of resistance.

With Shahrar's artwork depicting "Ek" (one) written in bloody red to represent the "Ek Dofa" (one demand), *July* is not just a song, but a powerful reminder of the revolution the country has witnessed.



## TV TALKIES

# 'The Umbrella Academy' Season 4: A wildly preposterous ending

*The Umbrella Academy*, one of Netflix's most unique and unconventional successes in recent years recently concluded its story in its fourth season in the most audaciously preposterous way.

This quirky superhero tale with several loose ends needed resolution, including those involving Gene, Jean, the Keepers, Jennifer, and Allison's betrayal, among other factors.

This season, fresh off having lived without



their powers for the past six years, the Hargreeves siblings seem to find a way to get them back, albeit at the cost of their health.

The realisation that the timeline they had been living on would once again come to an end led to further confusion, especially when it was revealed that their very existence was ultimately inconsequential, with the Cleanse — another word for the apocalypse — looming.

Steve Blackman and Jeremy Slater's concoction for this fourth and final season was swift and to the point, but it was possibly the first time that the ending of a superhero series resulted in the death of all the main heroes.