

Sumi embodies generosity, defiance

SHARMIN JOYA

During the second wave of quota reform protests this year, young actress Shahnaz Sumi became actively involved as a student of the Government College of Applied Human Science, starting in the first week of July. In an interview with The Daily Star, she shared her perspective on the protests, the challenges facing the showbiz industry, and her hopes for the future.

“Convincing my classmates to boycott classes and join the protests was difficult at first,” Sumi recalled. “But eventually, we took to the streets because the demand for quota reform was justified. Despite our determination, many of the girls

felt compelled to act after witnessing innocent people being killed. To shield her family from worry, she kept her involvement in the protests a secret, ensuring they remained unaware of her participation. “After July 19, things got worse. It became difficult to leave the house. Even if we did go out, we used basic button phones to avoid harassment. Most girls stayed in safe places, but they were still afraid of being physically assaulted.”

The period leading up to and following August 5 was fraught with uncertainty. Although many artistes eventually joined the student protests to stand against the violence and injustice, they were late in the game. “Even on the morning of August 5, we didn’t know what to expect,” Sumi reflected. As a dedicated student activist, she chose not to join the artistes in their protest. “It felt like they joined a bit too late. The only person from the industry who checked on me was Siam *Bhaia* (Siam Ahmed).” Amid the unfolding events, it

23-year-old actress, a student in the Department of Child Development and Social Relationships, shared her thoughts: “I believe there are two key points to consider. First, in a densely populated country like ours, it’s unrealistic for a single Chief Advisor to address everyone’s daily needs. Instead, we should focus on supporting those around us without expecting anything in return. As human beings,

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emerged that some artistes had a WhatsApp group where 160 screenshots revealed disturbing conspiracies against those who supported the students. Regarding this, Sumi firmly stated, “The truth will come out, no matter what. Many in that group revealed their true intentions. Now, if they feel bullied, harassed, or unsafe, they should have thought about those who experienced the same before August 5 for supporting the movement.”

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In this critical time for the country, the

were hesitant, constantly threatened by the former ruling party’s student wing, which still had influence on our campus. I still have a voice recording sent by members of the BCL (Bangladesh Chhatra League) to the general students’ group, where they used abusive language against us for supporting the movement.”

Sumi herself faced threats, and her family’s concern for her safety only added to the pressure. Nevertheless, she and her classmates

we must uplift and care for one another. While corruption exists in every sector, some people are truly suffering. We can use a portion of the resources or wealth accumulated through corruption to help those in need within our industry. To get through this crisis, we need both generosity and humanity.”

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



Screening of “We Feed People”
September 17 | 3pm
EMK Centre



Concert “Gonojowar”
September 18 | 3pm
Hatirjheel Amphitheatre



One True Sound with Miftah Zaman
September 20 | 6pm
Yamaha Music Store, Tejgaon

TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix
The Perfect Couple



Prime Video
The Grand Tour



Hulu
How to Die Alone



Disney Plus
Agatha All Along



Chorki
Forget Me Not



1-MINUTE REVIEW

‘KALKI 2898 AD’ Indian mythology and sci-fi collide in promising film

Kalki 2898 AD, the lively Telugu-language film blends Indian mythology, martial arts, and Bollywood-style dance, romance, and melodrama—all viewed through a sci-fi lens, which makes it both fascinating and fun.

The Nag Ashwin directorial begins when the warrior Ashwatthama (played by Amitabh Bachchan) is cursed by Krishna for attempting to kill an unborn child. Condemned to immortality, he must atone by rescuing a future incarnation of Vishnu’s 10th and final avatar.

The plot then shifts to the year 2898, where Earth is a dystopian wasteland. The



remaining city, Kasi, consists of a slum and a massive floating pyramid called the Complex — ruled by the crude Supreme Yaskin (Kamal Haasan).

Key characters also emerge as the world unfolds, including Bhairava (Prabhas), a comical mercenary seeking redemption. He and other vested parties pursue Sum-80 (Deepika Padukone), a fugitive who is later confirmed to be carrying Vishnu’s 10th avatar.

However, as it is simply the first instalment in an extensive cinematic universe awaiting more movies, the aptly expensive-looking and dystopic *Kalki 2898 AD* is a good start.

WHAT’S PLAYING

One More Light

One More Light by Linkin Park is a poignant ballad that showcases the band’s versatility beyond their nu-metal roots. Released in 2017, it serves as the title track of their final album with Chester Bennington. The song’s stripped-back instrumentation, featuring gentle piano and subtle electronic elements, creates an intimate atmosphere that allows Bennington’s emotive vocals to shine.

Lyricaly, the track explores themes of loss, empathy, and the value of human life. Its message resonates deeply, especially in light of Bennington’s tragic passing shortly after the album’s release.

While some fans were initially surprised by the song’s softer sound, *One More Light* has ultimately become a touching tribute to Bennington’s legacy.



WHAT’S ON THE GRAM
KIM SEON-HO

Kim Seon-Ho, who captivated hearts with his unforgettable portrayal of the warm and endearing Hong Du-sik in the slice-of-life K-Drama *Hometown Cha-Cha-Cha*, continues to charm every step of his journey.

His gentle smile and genuine warmth breathed life into the character, leaving an indelible mark on fans. Recently, the actor graced the cover of *Vogue Korea*, unveiling a more delicate and introspective facet of his persona.

In the striking photoshoot, Kim Seon-Ho embraces serene elegance, dressed in a refined long beige trench coat paired with a matching scarf draped effortlessly around his neck. Completing the look with dark brown loafers, he exudes timeless sophistication.

It is his tender gesture of caressing a vibrant yellow flower that truly steals the scene — with his eyes gently closed, he embraces the flower’s beauty, capturing a moment of soft vulnerability.