

‘NO COMMENTS’

TAMA MIRZA

Looking ahead to the coming year, the actress hinted at some exciting prospects, stating, “There are several projects currently under discussion.”

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Tama Mirza has been honoured with the National Film Award for her performance in the movie *Nodijon*. She has garnered audience acclaim through both OTT platforms and films. Her role in the recent movie *Surongo* earned her significant praise, and she has maintained her success with performances in several web films.

Currently, despite taking a break from shooting for some time, this Dhallywood star is gearing up for a new project. The filming for her upcoming movie is expected to begin next month. Although she prefers to keep details under wraps for now, she mentioned that she would reveal more when the time is right.

In preparation for the new role, the actress is focused on losing weight. She mentioned that her return to acting could happen at any moment.

“Acting is my profession, my addiction, and my love, I truly enjoy acting. So now, I am losing weight as part of my preparation,” she stated.

In addition to her preparation, the actress has been immersing herself in a variety of films. She’s been exploring a wide range of domestic and international movies.

Reflecting on this habit, she shared, “I’m currently watching a lot of films. I believe that acting requires constant practice. If you don’t stay active in it regularly, there’s a chance you might lose your touch. That’s why I’m watching one movie after another. It’s a great way to learn, and I’m also enjoying the process.”

Looking ahead to the coming year, the actress hinted at some exciting prospects,



stating, “There are several projects currently under discussion. I hope to be involved in more films and OTT productions next year. That’s the direction I’m heading in.”

Reflecting on her film *Surongo*, Tama noted, “The movie has really struck a chord with the audience. It was a collective effort, and everyone contributed to making it something special. Even now, people continue to talk about it, and I truly enjoy hearing their thoughts.”

Throughout her career, the actress has also ventured into several web films. One of her standout projects, *Khachar Bhitor Ochin Pakhi*, received considerable acclaim. She shared, “I’m quite fond of *Khachar Bhitor Ochin Pakhi*. I’ve also worked on a few other web films, and it’s gratifying to see that they’ve been well-received by the audience.”

Tama Mirza has recently completed shooting for a new film, titled *From Bangladesh*, directed by Shahnewaz Kakoli. Notably, she earned her National Film Award for her role in Kakoli’s previous film, *Nodijon*. Speaking about the new project, she remarked, “*From Bangladesh* has a remarkable storyline. The shooting has been wrapped up.”

Earlier this year, Tama Mirza had the opportunity to perform at a show in America. Reflecting on the experience, she mentioned, “Performing on stage feels great. It’s a unique chance to receive immediate feedback from the audience.”

When asked about her future plans, she stated, “I’m patiently waiting for the right opportunity. I’ve always believed in waiting for something meaningful. Being selective often leads to better outcomes. That’s how I prepare myself for each new role.”

Recently, the showbiz industry has been abuzz with rumours surrounding Raihan Rafi and Tama Mirza, hinting at a possible rift in their friendship. When asked to comment on the speculation, Tama kept her response brief, saying, “No comments.”

11 cultural

groups protest

Asaduzzaman

Noor’s arrest



PHOTO: STAR

At least 11 cultural groups have protested against the arrest of Asaduzzaman Noor, one of the country’s leading cultural personalities, freedom fighter, and former member of the parliament.

Noor, also a recitation artiste, president of the Bangladesh Recitation Coordination Council, and a member of the advisory council of the Sommilito Sangskritik Jote, was arrested on Sunday night in connection with a murder case in Mirpur.

Prominent cultural alliances, including the Sommilito Sangskritik Jote, have united in strong condemnation of this action. In a unified voice, they have called for his immediate and unconditional release from the ‘false allegation’, emphasising the urgent need to rectify this alarming situation.

The organisations issuing the statement are—Sommilito Sangskritik Jote, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, Bangladesh Recitation Coordination Council, Bangladesh Pothonatak Parishad, Bangladesh Dance Artists Association, Bangladesh Charushilpi Sangsad, Bangladesh Gana Sangeet Coordination Council, ITI Bangladesh Centre, Bangladesh Gram Theatre, Bangladesh Jatra Industry Development Council, and Bangladesh Children’s Organisation Unity Alliance.

The message was conveyed by M Ahkam Ullah, general secretary, Sammilita Sangskritik Jote.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Miss Bangladesh Beauty

Pageant to crown 10

ambassadors to rebrand

Bangladesh globally

The Miss Bangladesh Beauty Pageant 2024 was officially launched yesterday at The Daily Star Centre, with a vision to reshape and rebrand the global image of Bangladesh through the beauty pageant industry.

This year, 10 distinguished Bangladeshi women will be selected as global goodwill ambassadors. They will represent the country at 10 international beauty pageants across five continents, showcasing our country’s culture, heritage, and values on a global stage.

The launch event was graced by Meghna Alam, chairman of Miss Bangladesh Organisation and Foundation; Nazim Farhan Choudhury, managing director at Northbrook Consultants; Tashik Ahmed, advisor for Programme and Broadcast at ATN Bangla; Anisur Rahman, director of ATN MCL and ATN Education; and Karin Jongman, hotel manager of Le Meridien Dhaka, among others.

Women across the country are encouraged to apply via the pageant’s official website. The registration period ends on September 28.

Jyotika Jyoti ousted

from Shilpakala

Academy amid

colleagues’ outrage

Actress Jyotika Jyoti, who also served as the director of the Research Department at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), was forced to leave the office yesterday, following protests from her colleagues. Tension escalated when Jyoti arrived at the office in the morning, eventually leading to her departure from the premises.



A video clip of the incident quickly spread across social media. In the one-minute-fifteen-second video, loud voices of agitated staff members can be heard outside, while inside, Jyoti is seen calmly packing her belongings into a bag before leaving the room.

Later that day, around 2:45pm, Jyoti went live from her verified Facebook page to address the situation. “I’ve noticed changes in many places due to the current political climate, but I haven’t been to the office in a while,” she explained. “Our secretary advised me not to go, but since my position is still intact, I felt it was my duty to show up after a long time.”

Notably, Jyoti had been part of the controversial WhatsApp group Alo Ashbei, which included many fellow artistes. She was appointed the director of BSA in March of last year. However, after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on March 5, Jyoti found herself in a difficult position.

PREMANDOLON

A two-week festival celebrating love,

art, and revolution

FAHIN RAHMAN AUNGKITA

“We exist because of love. When you invest love and care into something, it blossoms into something beautiful. After that, it requires time and patience. Today, we’re impatient—everyone is rushing. But we need to give things time.”

In the dimly lit gallery, decorated with revolutionary-themed art, Anusheh Anadil spoke about love and revolution. A circle of people gathered to discuss the changes they hoped to see in post-revolution Bangladesh. Outside, raindrops tapped gently, while the sound of the Tanpura filled the air. A cat, wearing a blue bandana, wandered through the audience during the inaugural session of the two-week long festival *Re-love-ution* or *Premandolon* at Jatra Biroti in Banani.

Anusheh Anadil, musician, activist, and founder of Jatra Biroti, posed a reflective question: “We are independent, but have we truly achieved victory? We’re still afraid to speak our minds, fearful of being labelled.” With this in mind, *Re-love-ution* or *Premandolon* was



PHOTOS: COURTESY

formalise the public’s demands and aspirations to protect human rights. Jonogon Co-founder Naseef Fatemi emphasised the need for a functional system that allows demands to be voiced without disrupting daily life. He asked the audience, “Do we need to shed blood for reforms? Should we block roads and stage protests at the expense of the general public?” With these questions, the Jonogon team sparked a conversation on the best approach to reforms. The audience was then invited to share: “What demands do you have for a new, beautiful country?”

This engaging dialogue was followed by a soulful musical performance by Kaaktaal, featuring guitar and flute. Their signature songs culminated in *Abar Dekha Holey*, with the audience singing along, creating a harmonious moment.

This was just the beginning of what the festival has in store. The theme for the second day is “Street

and Art,” featuring workshops on graffiti, calligraphy, and a hip-hop demonstration and performance by Anonymous Crew. Other themes throughout the festival include days dedicated to Indigenous lifestyles, animal rights, wellness, women in protest, intangible cultural heritage, and environmental issues.

Upcoming days of the festival include segments like open mics for writers and poets, origami workshops, a fashion show with upcycled clothing, thematic dance and theatre performances, sound healing sessions, and electric music nights. Concerts by well-known bands such as Shonar Bangla Circus, Shohojia, F-minor, Madol, and others yet to be announced will take place throughout the festival.

While many segments are free, tickets for certain workshops and concerts can be purchased on the spot or in advance.

By creating a space for change, healing, and expression, *Re-love-ution* or *Premandolon* is running from September 15-28 at the Gallery and Garden space of Jatra Biroti.

Vikings to

perform

alongside Jal,

Aurthohin at

‘Legends of

the Decade’



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Renowned 90s band Vikings will perform at the *Legends of the Decade* concert, scheduled to take place on September 27.

It’s been announced that the Pakistani band Jal and local band Aurthohin are also set to take the stage at the Dhaka Arena, located near the Purbachal 300-foot expressway in the capital.

The event is being organised by Assen and Zirconium, in collaboration with Rootover Experience. On Monday, Assen’s official Facebook page announced Vikings’ participation

in the concert.

Established in 1997, Vikings gained recognition after winning the *Star Search* competition in 1999. Throughout their 27-year journey, the band has captivated Bangladeshi music fans with hits like *Opekha*, *Opekha 2*, *Ishwar*, *Jodi*, *Bhoy*, and *Jiboner Kolahol* among others.

This concert marks Aurthohin’s return to the stage after more than a year. The band last performed on September 22, 2023, at *The Ultimate Rock Fest 2023* in Dhaka.