&SHOWBIZ



How 'Banglalink Niloy' became the 'king' of romantic dramas

rs, with unwavering determination, he as emerged as one of the most beloved television actors of his generation.

Amid his hectic schedule, Niloy managed to take a brief break from shooting. Braving Dhaka's notorious traffic and heavy rain, he drove himself to The Daily Star for an exclusive photoshoot interview.

"I have to get back colleagues-fans his workgathered around, eager for selfies Niloy's Kistir project, **Sir**, released on September

in a popular telecom commercial for Banglalink 'Desh', which skyrocketed om a reluctant actor to small-screen his fame, leading people to refer to him perstar, Niloy Alamgir's journey has as 'Niloy Banglalink'. "There was no nothing short of cinematic. Over the turning back after that. My path was set on television, but in 2019, I decided to give cinema another shot," Niloy continued. "I signed up for Kaushik Shankar Das's film **Punch**, which required a year of physical transformation, as my character was a

> During this intense preparation period, Niloy paused all other commitments. However, after just nine days of shooting, production halted due to the Covid pandemic, once again shattering his cinematic aspirations.

"After the lockdown, Kaushik da to the shoot as soon wanted to resume the film, but by as we finish," he then I was fully immersed in television, said, as excited and I didn't want to risk losing that momentum," he explained.

Niloy's hard work and passion eventually paid off. "It took time, but I did it!" he remarked, reflecting on his success with the beloved star. as a dominant force in the small-screen latest industry.

> The actor credits luck for part of his success, especially with the rise of OTT platforms. As stars like Mosharraf Karim,

Early in his career, Niloy starred in a popular telecom commercial for Banglalink 'Desh', which skyrocketed his fame, leading people to refer to him as 'Niloy Banglalink'. "There was no turning back after that."

video on YouTube within just two

His rise to fame began in 2009 when he won a reality show as a young boy. "Part of me always wanted to be a silver-screen star," Niloy reflected. He pursued that dream, making his cinematic debut in *Bailey Road* in 2010. "I appeared in two more films, but neither made much of an impact in theatres. At that time, both the audience and the industry were hesitant to embrace newcomers. There was little room for experimentation or risks with faded," he sighed.

connecting with the audience was Heme," he revealed with a smile. more important than the medium. multiple serials," he said.

quickly became a top trending Chanchal Chowdhury, and Afran Nisho transitioned to the digital medium, he noted, "A gap was created, giving those of us still working on television new opportunities."

> When asked about his favourite costars, Niloy shared, "The audience loves my on-screen pairing with Jannatul Sumaiya Heme the most, and we collaborate frequently. I also enjoy working with Samira Khan Mahi and Tania Brishty."

Niloy's wife, Tasnuva Tabassum Hridi, a brand promoter on digital platforms, is both his biggest fan and toughest critic. She particularly admires the chemistry between him and Heme on screen. "She fresh faces. That dream slowly always appreciates my work and offers suggestions for improvement. Like many Soon after, Niloy realised that viewers, she prefers seeing me paired with

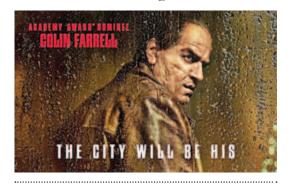
Over his 15-year career, Niloy has I made my television debut in 2011 appeared in over 500 dramas, and under Chayanika Chowdhury's that number continues to grow as he direction. From there, I worked in captivates the nation with his exceptional various TV dramas and appeared in acting and charm. "I don't know how long this phase will last, but I certainly hope to Early in his career, Niloy starred rule hearts forever," he concluded.

TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story



HBO Max The Penguin



Hulu How to Die Alone



Apple TV+ La Maison



Prime Video The Legend of Vox Machina



OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



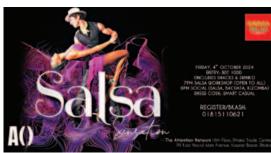
October Jam

October 3 6 pm The Attention Network



Puppet Theatre: Invisible Stories

October 4-6 7 pm Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi



Salsa Sensation by Havana Salsa

October 4 | 7 pm-10 pm Dhaka Trade Centre

1-MINUTE REVIEW

'Sector 36' unravels the horror of the Nithari killings

The film **Sector 36**, available on Netflix, takes on the challenge of portraying one of India's most terrifying crimes while keeping its audience intrigued. This crime thriller, loosely based on the 2005 Nithari serial killings in Noida, offers a gripping retelling of the disturbing case.

It begins with a disturbing scene where Prem (Vikrant Massey), an apparently unremarkable caretaker in Sector 36, Delhi, gruesomely dismembers a young girl's body.

Outwardly, Prem seems like a devoted family man, however, beneath this facade lies his sinister nature, as he finds satisfaction in killing. As the number of missing teenagers grows, Inspector Ram Charan Pandey (Deepak Dobriyal) steps in to lead the investigation.

Equipped with inventive plot twists, the film presents a chilling, unrelenting



narrative that isn't for the squeamish. For those who enjoy crime thrillers, **Sector 36** is certain to deliver.

In his directorial debut, Aditya Nimbalkar presents a hard-hitting look at systemic flaws in justice written by Bodhayan Roychaudhury. However, while Prem's descent into madness is effectively portrayed, the film does an okay job of leaving an emotional impact.

WHAT'S PLAYING

Heavy Is the Crown

Linkin Park's latest single *Heavy Is the Crown* from their comeback of succession, possibly alluding album *From Zero* is a high-energy to Chester Bennington's legacy.

track that harkens back to their earlier sound. Opening digitised strings, it quickly launches into a powerful guitar riff and drum pattern. At 2:47, it's compact showcase of the band's hardhitting style. Shinoda Mike leads on while new vocalist

Armstrong delivers

intense vocals on the chorus and

Emily

breakdown.

The lyrics explore the weight Musically, echoes Linkin Park's 2012-2014 phase rather than their earlier While style. Ármstrong's screams

technically solid. some listeners might find them less emotionally raw compared to Bennington's. Although polished

and energetic, some fans might feel the song lacks the depth and lasting impact of tracks like The Emptiness Machine.

