

Serene Sarika



SHARMIN JOYA

“I am calmer and mature now, and I understand the value of time. My dedication to my work has elevated over the years,” she said, crediting her daughter for making her more responsible.

A spontaneous girl who entered showbiz in 2006 as a model while still in school, quickly made her mark in the industry with grace and charm. Sarika Subrin, a household name for her roles in small screen dramas, is now making waves on OTT platforms. She has also been the host of the longest-running celebrity show, *Amar Ami*, for four years now.

Recently, Sarika paid a visit to The Daily Star, accompanied by her nine-year-old daughter Anyah, to brighten our day with a heartwarming conversation about her career and life, along with an exclusive photoshoot.

After a nearly six-year hiatus, Sarika returned to the screen in 2016, which she termed her “comfort zone”. Since then, she has continued to captivate audiences with multiple fictions and web projects. “It’s where I belong, and I never felt like I took a break,” she shared. Her fairytale journey as an actress allowed her to collaborate with some of the finest television directors of her time, leaving a lasting mark on the industry. She rose to fame as many could only dream of.

“I am grateful to the audience

about further details. Instead, we asked her to elaborate on the differences between Rafi and Saad’s working styles. “Both are talented and organised, but their approaches are completely different. Saad is calm, collected, methodical, and likes to work in a planned manner, whereas Rafi is spontaneous, with brilliant improvisation that works like magic on screen.”

As a host, Sarika received wide appreciation. “Hosting is really difficult, and I think I still need to improve a lot as I’m learning every day. Although I didn’t want to take on the responsibility initially, I now enjoy the work very much, and I’m flattered by the way people appreciate me.”

Looking back at her career, Sarika pats herself on the shoulder for all the decisions she made. “I never regret my decisions. Whatever decision I made in my life and career was the right one at that moment, and among them, the best decision was to become a mother. My daughter is the best gift I could ever receive, and I would sacrifice everything in life for her.”

The mother-daughter duo left a lasting impression



PHOTOS: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

Sarika took on the titular role in Raihan Rafi’s *Mayaa*, praising him as a “spontaneous filmmaker” and sharing how much she enjoyed the experience. In 2022, she made her OTT debut with Robiul Alam Robi’s *Cafe Desire*. With talent, determination, and a touch of fate, Sarika continues to shine.



who accepted me so well, and after the break, both the industry and the audience welcomed me back.”

A while back, Sarika took on the titular role in Raihan Rafi’s *Mayaa*, praising him as a “spontaneous filmmaker” and sharing how much she enjoyed the experience. In 2022, she made her OTT debut with Robiul Alam Robi’s *Cafe Desire*. With talent, determination, and a touch of fate, Sarika continues to shine. “OTT platforms offer artists the chance to fully immerse themselves in their roles. We get ample time in pre-production, allowing us to explore and hone our talents throughout the entire project,” she noted.

The actress is looking forward to another web project directed by *Rehana Maryam Noor* famed filmmaker, Abdullah Mohammad Saad. “I cannot reveal much about the project, as my director wouldn’t like it,” she shares, remaining tight-lipped

on all of us. While we were interviewing Sarika, Anyah listened to her mother with complete amazement. “I am calmer and mature now, and I understand the value of time. My dedication to my work has elevated over the years,” she said, crediting her daughter for making her more responsible.

To wrap up, Sarika said she loves spending time with her family, and whenever she has the chance, she travels with them. “I love to cook for my family, and luckily my daughter and I are both food lovers with similar tastes in food. We also watch a lot of movies together,” concluded the actress.



STYLE STATEMENT

Cooper Koch and Nicholas Chavez

Netflix’s one of the most talked about web-series *Monsters* (2024) has got people traumatised with the horrifying tale of two brothers who killed their parents. Notably, the infamous Lyle and Erik Menendez were played by two good-looking and extremely adept actors Nicholas Alexander Chavez and Cooper Koch, respectively.

Recently, the duo graced the cover of *Variety* in a dazzling shoot. Draped in luxurious velvet, Nicholas stunned in a regal blue suit, which he effortlessly paired with a sleek black shirt. Meanwhile Cooper Koch exuded timeless charm in a rich brown ensemble, complemented by an off-white shirt.

Together, their polished looks and enigmatic gazes made for a cover shoot that was as captivating as it was stylish.

OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



Back to the Basement
October 19 | 3pm
Fantasy Island,
Uttara



Exhibition ‘Unwind Mind: 2024’
October 19 | 3:30pm
EMK Centre



Nachiketa Live in Dhaka with Joy Shahriar - Vol 2
November 8 | 6:30pm
KIB Auditorium

TV TALKIES

‘IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack’ is a riveting retelling of a historic crisis

IC814: The Kandahar Hijack is a well-researched series that explores the traumatic hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight IC 814 in December 1999. Directed by Anubhav Sinha and starring Vijay Varma, Manoj Pahwa, Naseeruddin Shah, Patralekha Paul, and Amrita Puri among others, in leading roles, the series premiered on Netflix on August 29.

Based on the book *Flight Into*

Fear by Captain Devi Sharan, the pilot (played by Vijay Varma in the show) of the hijacked plane, *IC814: The Kandahar Hijack* explores the crisis from multiple viewpoints, including the decision-makers in Delhi’s War Room and the frightened passengers held hostage on the aircraft.

It delves into the complex dynamics of the hijacking, highlighting the emotional distress

of the passengers and the intense political negotiations that unfolded during this historic crisis.

The show remarkably elucidates Afghanistan’s role in assisting India with passenger rescue and even on Stockholm syndrome, where captives and captors develop a sympathising bond. With minimal cinematic liberties, it delivers a thoughtfully crafted hostage drama.



TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix

Nobody Wants This



HBO Max

The Franchise



Hulu

Only Murders in the Building



Apple TV+

Disclaimer



Prime Video

The Pradeeps of Pittsburgh



WHAT'S PLAYING Mantra

On the first week of this ongoing month, *Mantra* released by Blackpink member Jennie transpired, and became the long-awaited answer to the insistence of Blinks (fans of Blackpink).

This fresh track, now being termed and hyped as a pretty girls’ mantra, is a powerful yet playful production. The lyrics are empowering and hard-hitting, denoting women everywhere.

The melody is instantaneously catchy and brimful of booming drum plays and pop beats. The overall pulsating pacing of the song is sung in an aplomb manner with the implementation of Jennie’s refined rapping and singing.

The highlight of the song is in its final line, revealing that this anthem of self-confidence in the face of adversity is truly for any woman in need of an empowering boost.