

SHAWON flies high

SHARMIN JOYA

Marking a decade in showbiz, Sayed Zaman Shawon has captivated audiences across television, OTT platforms, and the big screens. Known for his acclaimed roles in Mabruur Rashid Bannah's *Brothers* series, Shihab Shaheen's *August 14*, Ashfaque Nipun's *Sabrina*, and Golam Sohrab Dodul's *Mobaroknama*, Shawon's adaptability shines through each project. Since stepping into the industry in 2014, the UIU graduate has balanced his role as a cabin crew member with Biman Bangladesh, alongside a thriving acting career, making him a multifaceted talent.

Despite his busy schedule, Shawon dropped by The Daily Star for an exclusive photoshoot. Over a cup of coffee, he shared insights into his career and offered a glimpse into his recently released film *36-24-36*, along with much more.

How does it feel to return to the silver screen?

It feels ecstatic! I made my silver screen debut in 2019 with Niamul Mukta's *Kathbirali*, and the experience of working on a film is truly unique. Rezaur Rahman's *36-24-36*, which released yesterday, is a refreshing dramedy (a mix of drama and comedy). I believe it will be a stress reliever for audiences, especially now, after everything the country has been through in recent months.

I'm living my life to the fullest. With my passion for traveling, I get to explore new places regularly and then dive back into acting.

'36-24-36' was initially planned for an OTT premiere, but had a theatrical release instead. Do you think the audience will get the same cinematic experience?

36-24-36 was crafted as a full-length feature film. Although initially labelled as a web-film due to its targeted platform, it lacks nothing in cinematic craftsmanship or storytelling for a theatrical release. Audiences will see this for themselves and will enjoy a unique experience on the big screen. Hopefully, they'll be able to connect with the characters played by me, Dighi (Prarthana Fardin Dighi), and Kaarina (Kaarina Kaisar), finding reflections of themselves or people they've encountered in life.

The title '36-24-36' reflects a stereotypical notion of the "ideal" hourglass figure for women. What message does the film

intend to convey about this stereotype?

The film's title is meant to challenge this stereotype. The plot questions the societal mindsets regarding body shaming and similar stigmas. In a nutshell, it's about breaking barriers. To know the rest, you have to go to the theatre and watch it yourself!

What, according to you, are your remarkable projects so far? What kind of plot attracts you the most?

I would say that TV series *Brothers*, silver screen project *Kathbirali*, and web-series *August 14* are standout projects for me.

I look for life-oriented, meaningful stories. I can truly believe in. Scripts with unnecessary violence, abusive language, or misrepresentation of relationships turn me off.

You dubbed for the Korean drama 'Mr Queen', how was the experience?

It was an entirely new experience for me. Vocal acting is crucial in dubbing, as there's no room for facial expressions on screen. In this case, although the English subtitles carry a similar essence, delivering the same emotion in Bengali was a real challenge. However, I tried to make it as relatable as possible.

After this experience, my voice modulation improved significantly, and many directors have praised my progress.

You are balancing two professions at a time, does it stress you?

Not at all. If you ask me, I'm living my life to the fullest. With my passion for traveling, I get to explore new places regularly and then dive back into acting. I consider myself blessed to be in a profession that aligns with my hobbies.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

TRENDY STREAMS

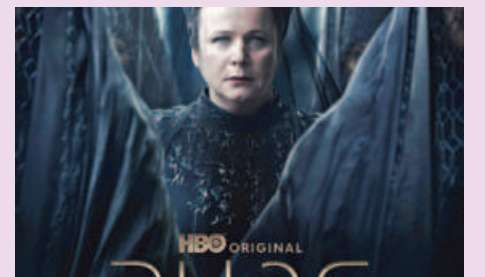
Netflix
Outer Banks



Prime Video
Citadel: Honey Bunny



HBO Max
Dune: Prophecy



Hoichoi
Rongila Kitab



Apple TV+
Silo



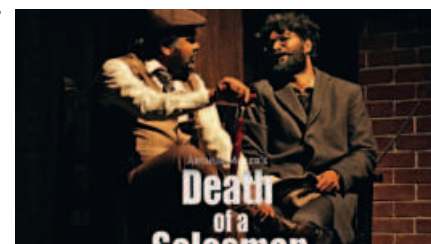
**OUT AND ABOUT
IN DHAKA**



Peace Through Arts
November 1-15 |
11am-8pm
Gallery Chittrak



Reflection 3.0: GSCPC National Photography Festival 2024
November 15-16 | 10am-8pm
Tejgaon, Dhaka



Play: Death of a Salesman
November 30 | 7pm
Bangladesh Shipakala Academy

1-MINUTE REVIEW

Janhvi Kapoor aces her thrilling turn in 'Ulajh'

Ulajh is the story of a young IFS (Indian Foreign Service) officer, appointed as India's youngest deputy high commissioner in the UK, who faces aggravating backlash and skepticism from her peers. As she strives to prove herself worthy, she uncovers a web of conspiracies, realising she's just a pawn in a larger scheme.



While much of the film hinges on Suhana's character, played commendably by Janhvi Kapoor, it is peppered with a variety of intriguing personalities who weave in and out as the plot unfolds through twists, betrayals, and unexpected friendships.

The screenplay by Parveez Shaikh and Sudhanshu Saria is engaging with genuine shocks and suspense right up to the end. The film's weak spot lies in Suhana's lack of judgment

and discretion, particularly in her involvement with Nakul (Gulshan Devaiah) and her handling of events before they spiral out of control.

As a spy thriller, *Ulajh* — directed by Sudhanshu Saria and starring Janhvi, Gulshan Devaiah, Roshan Mathew, and Adil Hussain, among many others — is compelling enough in most parts to make for a good watch.

WHAT'S PLAYING

Over Each Other

Linkin Park's latest single, *Over Each Other*, explores timely themes of emotional distance and miscommunication, however, it feels somewhat less dynamic compared to their earlier, more intense releases.

Armstrong's voice brings a fresh vibe, and her solo moment lets her talents shine, but the song's structure leans towards a polished pop-rock feel, slightly reminiscent of the *One More Light* era, and definitely lacks the raw edge that longtime fans may expect.

Over Each Other offers a punky edge, with standout drumming from Colin that adds a spark to the production. However, the verses lack impact, and while the song crescendos towards a satisfying end, it falls short of creating a lasting impression. A decent addition, but not a groundbreaking entry in the Linkin Park legacy.



WHAT'S ON THE GRAM

KAJOL

Kajol has recently graced a Netflix project titled *Do Patti*, where she stars alongside Kriti Sanon. So far, fans have appreciated her nuanced performance as inspector Vidya Jyoti.

Adding to the excitement surrounding the promotions of the thriller film, Kajol looked gorgeous in a recent photoshoot for *Expresso* magazine, radiating elegance and sophistication.

She wore a figure-hugging black jumpsuit, paired with a bold leather belt that accentuated

her hourglass silhouette. The backdrop, a striking shade of blood red, highlighted her stunning black attire and added a layer of drama to the entire composition.

Kajol completed her look with a chic twisted bun, smoky eyes, and subtle nude lips—an ensemble that perfectly balanced strength and glamour.

The versatile performer, hence, truly captivated by making a statement for herself and her confidence, with the use of her style to the fullest.

