

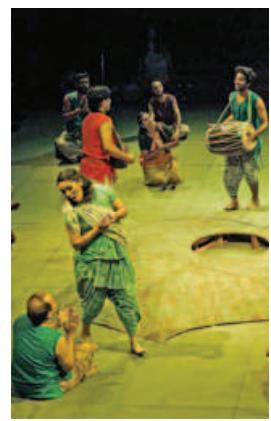
WHAT'S  
THE HAPS?Play:  
'Khona'

Experience the timeless tale of *Khona*, a powerful play written by Samina Luthfa and directed by Mohammad Ali Haider. Through captivating performances and stunning visuals, the production explores themes of wisdom, resilience, and class struggles, while addressing pressing gender and class issues that remain relevant today.

**Date:** Friday, January 14

**Time:** 7pm-9pm

**Venue:** Experimental Theater Hall, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy



# What a debut, SUMAIYA SHIMU

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Famed television star Sumaiya Shimu made her OTT debut in the final episode of *Dui Shaw*, appearing in *Beshura*. Her performance mesmerised audiences, as she blended seamlessly into the role. The talented actress made her acting debut in 1999, and went on to work on numerous television projects.

When asked about how she came to work with Nuhash Humayun, the actress said, "Nuhash originally reached out to me. I wasn't sure about being part of the series at first, because it involved filming outdoors. However, after meeting with Nuhash and having a conversation, I felt that it was a project worth pursuing, and that it would turn out well. That's how I decided to begin my journey in the OTT space."

*Beshura* was filmed in Sitakunda, and following its release both Nuhash Humayun and Sumaiya Shimu have been getting appreciation for the work. Shimu, in particular, is receiving praise from all quarters.

She shared, "Even after the shoot, many weren't aware of the project. But once the promo aired, it caught everyone's attention. I've received numerous calls, including from journalists. After



PHOTO: COLLECTED

opportunities come my way. Nuhash's project was one such example."

As her career starts to flourish in the OTT space, Shimu eagerly anticipates more roles that resonate with her desire for meaningful and impactful work.

that, everyone became aware of it. The fact that so many people have reached out to inquire about it has filled me with joy".

Reflecting on her experience of working with Nuhash Humayun, the TV star revealed it was a wonderful experience. "Among the new generation of directors, Nuhash stands out. He has earned admiration and respect for his work, even internationally. His pre-production approach is exceptional. He is always composed and gave us artists a lot of freedom. As a director, he communicated his vision for the camera with clarity."

Regarding her experience in the OTT space, Shimu highlighted its advantages, crediting its high budgets, greater attention to detail, and consistent professionalism.

In response to being asked about future projects, Shimu said, "I'll take on the work I'm passionate about, provided the right

opportunities come my way. Nuhash's project was one such example."

As her career starts to flourish in the OTT space, Shimu eagerly anticipates more roles that resonate with her desire for meaningful and impactful work.

"There are many stories in the Sundarbans—tales of Bonbibi, bandits, and local myths. I, however, focused on the region's politics for *Feu*'s story to stem from."

The story, written by Sukorno Shahed Dhaman and Romel Rahman, is set against a real historical backdrop. Dhaman and Siddiq Ahmed penned the screenplay. The director infused the series with his personal experiences from Mongla, his region, and his knowledge of local politics.



## Chorki's 'Feu' follows the Marichjhapi massacre

The history of the Marichjhapi massacre, a dark chapter in the Sundarbans, forms the foundation of Chorki's upcoming web series *Feu*. Set against the backdrop of the 1979 massacre, the series explores the intersection of politics and humanity, highlighting the brutal treatment of refugees.

The atrocities that occurred during this period inspired *Feu*, a fictional web series directed by Sukorno Shahed Dhaman for the OTT platform Chorki. Dhaman explained,

## Three-day mobile data packages return

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logic doesn't apply to the younger generation. It would be an insult to their intelligence to suggest that they cannot choose from a variety of packages," he added.

Previously, the operators were limited to offering a maximum of 40 packages. Now, there are no restrictions on the number of products, data volume or validity.

However, the packages come with limits: 200MB for per hour, 3GB for one day, 5GB for two day and 8GB for three day.

The new directive requires operators to provide unlimited packages that include both validity and data volume.

Offering packages between 12:00 AM and 6:00 AM is prohibited. Any unused data -- both main and bonus -- must be carried forward.

The mobile operators are barred from giving gifts to retailers. In emergency situations, the operators may offer free data, call minutes or SMS with post-facto approval.

The operators can send no more than three promotional SMS to each customer per day.

Earlier, only three unlimited packages (25GB, 50GB and 75GB) were allowed. Now, mobile operators can

offer unlimited packages based on customer demand, though a time limit must be set for unlimited data plans.

For loyalty point redemption, operators were previously limited to offering telecom products. Now, they can offer both telecom and approved non-telecom products.

International roaming, the Internet of Things, and corporate and SME services remain excluded from this directive.

Additionally, the mobile operators have been advised to optionally provide 200MB of free data each month to all active users to promote digital inclusion and increase internet usage.

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combined with rising internet taxes, are limiting individual internet usage and leading to a decline in per user internet consumption," he added.

Telecom operators welcome the measures in the new directive.

"We believe this is a timely initiative for a data-driven digital society -- this will greatly alleviate the accumulated dissatisfaction of consumers using digital services," said Shahed Alam, chief corporate and regulatory officer of Robi.

The directive will enable Banglalink to offer more straightforward, customer-centric products while simplifying operations, said Taimur Rahman, its chief corporate and regulatory affairs officer.

"We welcome the directive as it creates opportunities for us to deliver innovative services to our customers, ultimately enhancing their overall experience," said Tanveer Mohammad, chief corporate affairs officer of Grameenphone.

He emphasised the need for consistent policymaking, criticising the contradictory approach of reducing package options at one point without justification and later reinstating them. "Such inconsistent decisions,

be returned.

"That's the intention of the interim government. How to bring them back," he said.

One of the key figures involved in the property purchases related to Tulip is Shayan Rahman, the son of Salman F. Rahman, a billionaire and former adviser to Hasina. Shayan Rahman used an offshore trust to buy a £1.2 million property in Golders Green, London, which was used by Sheikh Rehana, Tulip's mother.

Shayan is currently under investigation by the Bangladesh Criminal Investigation Department for laundering more than \$80 million out of Bangladesh, with funds allegedly funnelled through Dubai.

Salman F. Rahman was arrested after attempting to flee the country, and his son's whereabouts remain unknown.

Shayan Rahman is also known for his ties to the British Asian Trust, an anti-poverty charity founded by King Charles. He reportedly donated over £25,000 to the charity, and Charles publicly praised him for his support during a gala dinner at Buckingham Palace.

prime minister's ethics watchdog. A Downing Street spokesman said it was "completely untrue" to suggest the party had drawn up a shortlist of candidates to replace her, as reported by some media.

In his remarks, Yunus expressed disbelief at the situation, noting that it was an "irony" that Tulip Siddiqi, an anti-corruption minister in the UK, had been linked to these controversial properties.

While Yunus did not call for Tulip's resignation, he emphasised that her defence of the properties raised serious ethical questions.

"Maybe you [Tulip] didn't realise it, but now you do. You should say: 'Sorry, I didn't know [at] that time, I seek forgiveness from the people that I did this and I resign.' But she is not saying that. She's defending herself."

The scandal comes amid wider allegations of corruption surrounding Hasina's government.

Asked whether Tulip's properties should be investigated by the ACC, Yunus said, "Absolutely."

He added that the commission should look at the "whole thing".

He also said that, if feasible, the properties bought by AI allies outside the country using illegal wealth should

be returned.

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