

# SHAHJAHAN SHAMRAT

## A decade to make it

SHARMIN JOYA

A defining moment in his decade-long career, Shahjahan Shamrat made an unforgettable impact with his portrayal of Razzak in Shangkha Dasgupta's *Priyo Maloti*. Adding his own charm to the character of an empathetic friend, his on-screen persona brought life to the bond of friendship and communal harmony, making the audience emotional.

We recently sat down with the actor at The Daily Star for an exclusive photoshoot and an in-depth conversation about his craft, which he holds in the highest regard. While reflecting on his experience with *Priyo Maloti*, he also shared insights into his journey and much more.

"A few days after the release of *Priyo Maloti*, I was flooded with appreciation messages and calls from loved ones and those who admire my work—it all felt like a dream," shared the actor.

Grateful for his newfound recognition, the actor remains in awe of the overwhelming love he has received. "Acting is like a form of worship for me," shared Shamrat. "Alongside confidence, truly believing in the role is essential. With that conviction, even a 'gimmicky' commercial role can be made compelling for the audience."

Born and raised in Dhaka's Maniknagar, Shahjahan Shamrat was an active member of the theatre troupe Palakar from 2003 to 2007, performing in numerous productions during his

formative years. His passion for acting was so profound that he even missed his admission exam at Dhaka University. "I had a show of *Maharaja* on the day, thus missing the test!" he recalled.

In 2007, the actor considered venturing into television, since it would earn him popularity overnight. He made his debut with Sumon Anowar's television drama *Jatishwar* that year. However, things didn't work out the way he thought.

"At the time, I was caught in a whirlwind of thoughts, believing that if I wanted, I could achieve overnight fame. There was a certain madness driving me. However, it took me a while to realise that things don't always go as we expect."

Keeping his hopes high, he remained optimistic, focusing on television projects only. He was featured in tele-fictions *Bhasha O Maa*, *Malar Prithibi*, *Baishhe Srabon*, and *Bhool*, among others. He made his OTT debut with Sumon Anowar *Sadarghater Tiger* and earned critical acclaim for his role in Amitabh Reza Chowdhury's *Bodh* as well.

Determined to refine his expertise as an actor, he also took

the initiative to hone his technical expertise in television direction. "I worked as a chief assistant director for many renowned makers, and also invested in acquiring experience as an art director and casting director. I believe that understanding these aspects is essential for an actor when stepping in front of the camera."

Under his belt, Shamrat has several critically acclaimed performances, including his role in short film

*The Safe House* (2019), which won Best Short Film at the Sweden International Film Festival. He made his much-anticipated silver-screen debut in Nurul Alam Atique's Liberation War-based film, *Lal Moroger Jhuti*, in 2021. "I feel that my portrayal of Jawed Naqvi (*Lal Moroger Jhuti*), a Pakistani Army officer, was exceptionally well-executed and critically acclaimed. However, it didn't reach the masses in the way that Razzak's character did."

What's next for the talented actor? With a lively smirk, he hinted at even more intense roles, "Since 'Priyo Maloti' gave me the recognition that I craved for when I naively jumped into television, I will work even harder for OTT and films. You will see me in those mediums very soon."



### WHAT'S PLAYING

## ‘Residuals’ by Chris Brown

Chris Brown returns with *Residuals*, a slick R&B number that effortlessly blends smooth melodies with contemporary production. The track is quintessentially him — silky vocals, a hypnotic beat, and just the right touch of nostalgia to pull listeners in.

Lyrically, *Residuals* explores the weight of success, loyalty, and the emotional cost of fame. There's an introspective undercurrent to the song, a quiet acknowledgment that every choice leaves an impression.

Yet, Brown delivers it with his signature

confidence. It's the kind of track that works just as well in the background of a late-night drive as it does in a dimly lit club.

Set against the backdrop of wealth and excess, the song's music video juxtaposes moments of euphoria with shots of solitude. Brown, as always, commands the screen with his effortless dance moves.

The closing shot — him walking away from a grand, dimly lit mansion — lingers. It's a fitting end for a track that understands the price of success and the traces it leaves behind.

### OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



**Exhibition: A Journey Through July**  
February 1-3 | 3pm-8pm  
Drik Gallery, Panthapath



**Concert: Abar/Sheshbar**  
February 7 | 6pm onwards  
National Library Auditorium



**Play: Pakhider Bidhansobha**  
February 7-10 | 7:30pm onwards  
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy



### TV TALKIES

## ‘THE TRAUMA CODE’

### A thrilling medical drama worth binge-watching

**The Trauma Code: Heroes on Call**, on Netflix, featuring Ju Ji-hoon, Choo Young-woo, Ha Young, and many others, is based on the well-known webtoon **Trauma Center: Golden Hour**, illustrated by Hansanleega.

The eight-episode series, written by Choi Tae-kang and directed by Lee Do-yoon, centres around Dr Baek Kang-Hyuk, a brilliant surgeon who returned to Seoul, Korea, from overseas to join the esteemed Hanguk

National University Hospital.

The plot portrays Baek as he leads the trauma center, assembling a team of key individuals, including young trainees whom he mentors to become skilled emergency workers.

Each episode presents a new case, and while there isn't a complex overarching plot, the central conflict revolves around the dynamics of how the hospital staff views Baek. As a brilliant doctor, Baek's no-

nonsense, quick-action approach leaves no room for doubt or delay, often making him a difficult person to interact with.

Ultimately, this genuinely fun, thrilling, and binge-worthy show provides intense, life-or-death situations where patients are on the brink of death, followed by tense, high-stakes surgeries to convey the significance of the trauma departments in hospitals.

### TRENDY STREAMS

**Netflix**  
Pushpa 2: The Rule



**Chorki**  
Feu



**Hulu**  
Whiskey on the Rocks



**Disney+ Hotstar**  
The Recruit



**Apple TV+**  
Mythic Quest



### STYLE STATEMENT

## SONAM KAPOOR AHUJA

Sonam Kapoor Ahuja just redefined elegance at Paris Fashion Week, making a statement that was equal parts powerful and poetic. The newly appointed Dior ambassador arrived at the maison's show in a look that seamlessly merged ethereal femininity with bold sophistication.

Draped in a fluid, sheer dress from Dior's Spring/Summer 2025 collection, Sonam embodied effortless grace, the delicate fabric moving like waves of silk caught in the wind with every step. She layered it with a plush faux-fur coat from the house's Resort 2025 collection—a striking juxtaposition of softness and structure that exuded quiet luxury. Dreamy pink-toned makeup and sleek, pulled-back hair completed her exquisite look.

