



'I treat negative commenters as background noise'

YASH ROHAN

A portion of Bangladesh's netizen community shocked everyone when Yash Rohan, an established and beloved young actor, was bombarded with negative comments owing to his post related to Bijaya Dashami. All he had done was post 'Shubho Bijaya' in front of a sculpture of Goddess Durga, a principal deity in Hinduism. The attacks were related to Yash belonging to the Hindu religion, which many close-minded individuals could not fathom. Some even commented that they'd refrain from watching any films or television projects by Yash, just because he believes in a different religion to them.

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHEWAZ

"To be honest, this is all just background noise to me," says Yash, audibly confident, over the phone. "Honestly, I'm not really surprised by the comments. Rather, I tried my best to remain civil in the face of disrespect. I found that to be the best way to deal with these people." The actor, who is currently in Khulna for shooting, finds strength in the reassurance that he received from his peers in the industry, as well as his fans. "What left me speechless was when many colleagues made it a point to stand up for me – writing posts and posting the picture in defiance of what these people stood for," says the *Swapnajaal* actor.

The observation brought me to the important question: are the people of Bangladesh becoming increasingly desensitised to saying the vilest things? "I personally don't think so," says Yash.

"I like to believe that it's a small minority with amplified voices due to the nature of social media itself. Under these comments are droves of people retaliating against them, so I would much rather focus on that."

Moving forward, Yash Rohan believes that the fact that many spoke out against misconduct will be a positive influence in encouraging others to move forward as well. "I hope there's more instances where people will stand up for my colleagues in the entertainment industry – it's high time."



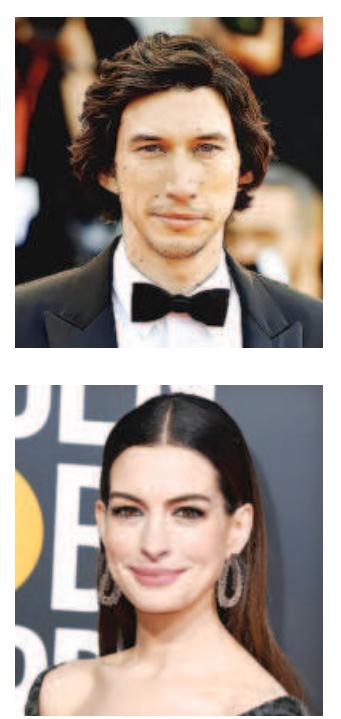
PHOTOS: STAR & COLLECTED

Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda's wedding date revealed

After years of speculation surrounding their relationship, actors Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda are now officially engaged. Social media was abuzz with reports on Friday, and on Saturday morning, Vijay's team confirmed the news to Hindustan Times.

Details of the engagement are yet to be revealed, but Vijay's team has confirmed that the couple will tie the knot in February 2026. Neither Rashmika nor Vijay has made any official announcement or social media post about the engagement.

Rumours about their romance first began after the duo starred together in the 2018 blockbuster *Geetha Govindam* and reunited in the 2019 film *Dear Comrade*. Since then, they have often been seen together—most recently leading the 43rd India Day Parade in New York this August and attending the event Bharat Beyond Borders.



Adam Driver and Anne Hathaway to star in military drama 'Alone at Dawn'

Amazon MGM Studios has announced *Alone at Dawn*, a new military drama directed by Oscar-winning filmmaker Ron Howard and starring Adam Driver and Anne Hathaway. The film will be released in theatres before streaming on Amazon.

Based on the book *Alone at Dawn* by Dan Schilling and Lori Chapman Longfritz, the movie is inspired by the true story of Air Force Combat Controller John A. Chapman, who fought to the death to save his comrades. Years later, an intelligence officer's

investigation would posthumously earn him the Medal of Honor.

The project's journey to production was as dramatic as its story. The manuscript was first acquired by The Hideaway Entertainment after a bidding war, later reaching Imagine Entertainment, where Howard was drawn to direct. With Driver on board – a former US Marine – the team sought his co-star, eventually casting Hathaway after she met with Howard and producers.

Bangladeshi film 'Shekor' to premiere in Toronto

Filmmaker Proshon Rahmaan's latest feature film, *Shekor (The Roots)*, is set to have its world premiere on October 18 at the International Film Festival of South Asia (IFFSA), Toronto. The prestigious festival, which celebrates South Asian cinema, will run from October 9 to 19.

Alongside Proshon Rahmaan, the event will also feature Indian filmmaker Anup Singh, actress Tilottama Shome, and Afghan director Roya Sadat. In addition to film screenings, the festival will host film forums and panel discussions, and this year will pay special tribute to legendary filmmaker Guru Dutt on his birth centenary.

The film stars FS Nayeeem, Aisha Khan, Dilara Zaman, and Somu Chowdhury, among others. It was filmed in various locations across Dhaka, Gazipur, Rajshahi, and Kushtia.

The film is expected to release in cinemas across Bangladesh during the upcoming Eid.

Gonayon Natyosomprodoy to mark 50 years with weeklong theatre festival

Founded in 1975, Chattogram-based theatre troupe Gonayon Natyosomprodoy has completed 50 years of its journey. To mark the golden jubilee, the troupe will host a seven-day theatre festival titled *Gonayon Natyoutshob*, beginning on October 10 at the District Shilpkala Academy in Chattogram.

Under the slogan "Srijone Gaurabe Ongikare Shilpito Chetonay Gonayon", the festival will continue until October 16, with plays staged every evening at 7 pm. Over seven days, six plays will be performed.

The festival will open on October 10 and 11 with *Julius Caesar*, produced by Gonayon Natyosomprodoy. The play depicts the reign of Julius Caesar – the Roman general and dictator – portraying the transformation of Rome, from a democracy into a dictatorship. Written by William Shakespeare, the play has been translated by M Saiful



Alam Chowdhury and directed by Aseem Das.

On October 12, Nandimukh Natyodal will stage *Amar Ami*, based on the life of Binodini Dasi. It is directed by Aseem Das.

On October 13 the play *Komola Sundarir Kissa*, will be staged which is directed by Bappa Chowdhury.

The Department of Theatre and Performance Studies at the University of Chittagong will present *Tini Aschhen* on October 14, adapted from Eugène Ionesco's *The Leader*, translated by M Saiful Alam Chowdhury and directed by Mamanul Haque.

On October 15, Kathasundor Natyodal will perform *Britt er Baire*, inspired by Santosh Chakraborty's play *Thikana*, directed by Kuntal Barua. The festival will conclude on October 16 with *Valmiki Pratibha*, a Tagore classic, performed by Fame Natyodal and directed by Tilottama Sengupta.

Five-day art exhibition begins at DU

A five-day art exhibition titled *A Group Art Exhibition* began on Friday at the Shilpacharya Zainul Gallery-01 of Dhaka University, organised by the 50th batch (1997-98 session) of the university's Faculty of Fine Art.

Ekushey Padak winning artist Professor Farida Zaman attended the inaugural session as the chief guest, while painter and poet Zahid Mustafa joined as the guest of honour. Professor Zaman formally inaugurated the exhibition at 5 pm.

The event showcases 46 artworks by 23 artists, spanning scenic landscapes to creations carrying humanitarian appeals for Gaza.

Among the notable works on display are *Blood and Blossoms (1,2)*, *Whisper of Tide*, *Whisper of Silence*, *Maya, Banglar Bodhu*, *Nature*, *Brikhko Kothon*, *Durgar Biye*, *The Last Reader of Poetry*, *The Gardener*, *Opekhaba*, *Rhythm of Creation*, and *Radiance in the Dark*.

The exhibition will remain open to visitors until October 7.

