

**GHASTLY  
MURDER**  
IN THE EAST-END.  
**GRUEFUL MUTILATION OF A WOMAN**

BE LIEVED TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE MURDER AND  
OF NUMEROUS WOMEN IN THE WHITECHAPEL AREA.



**SIR WILLIAM WITHEY GULL.**

Resided at 74, Brook Street, Mayfair. Also owned a house in Scotland.

**DESCRIPTION**

Age: 50 years. Height 5ft 10ins. Stocky build. Grey receding hair. Had suffered  
was restricted in his movements.

**OCCUPATION**

Successful medical career. Was physician and Medical Tutor and Lecturer at  
Hospital and held an appointment as Physician to Queen Victoria.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

He is mentioned in his article in the "Cardiologist" in 1970, which stated that he had  
previously been in Whitechapel again no written evidence to support this  
in the conspiracy devised by Knight in his book published in 1976 and partially  
based on information later found to be imaginative rather than factual.  
was to have suffered a stroke in 1887 which left him partially paralysed  
followed which left him severely paralysed and subject to lapses of memory.  
Died in 1891.

from Middle, Criminology Consultant

Hair & Make-up: Dil Maharu • Dress: French Connection • Bracelet: Dorothy Perkins • Earrings: Rang • Blazer/Hat: Terence Trout  
Shirt/Trousers: Beyond Retro • Location: The London Dungeon, T. 0207 403 1221, www.thelondonjuggens.com

ZOMBIES. GHOULS. EVIL DEMONS. IN THE  
STREETS OF BANGLADESH? WHAT'S  
GOING ON? LOG ON TO  
**BISHAASH**, THE 24-PART SPACE  
AGE THRILLER TO FIND OUT...

Mystery  
**SOLVED**

SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR: MOMTAZ BEGUM-HOSSAIN  
FORENSIC EVIDENCE: ALEX PICHON

**F**rom *Hart to Hart*, and Bruce Willis and Cybill Shepherd in *Moonlighting*, to Mulder and Scully in *X-Files*, and Dr Who and Rose Tyler; investigative boy-girl duos are a staple ingredient of edge-of-your-seat mystery thrillers. But can you name an Asian crime-solving couple?

Well, thanks to the Internet, Abir Zaman and Zara Rahman will soon become household names. Asiana.tv, which will be showing an exclusive screening of the 24-part series *Bishaash* (Believe), can guarantee you'll find it anything but your run-of-the-mill caper. Set in modern day Bangladesh, our intrepid detectives take to the dark streets of Dhaka at night... to slay zombies.

Part action, part supernatural, with family values and a sprinkling of romance thrown in, *Bishaash* centres around Abir and Zara, played by Shaidul Islam Molla and Sharma Rahman. Brought together through destiny, the esoteric protagonists inherit a private investigation agency, which resembles an antique junk shop, but on closer inspection is revealed to be a hive of paranormal activity. Assisted by Abir's geeky cousin Laboni (Arabi Rahman, who was a recent finalist in *Superstar Contest*, the country's answer to *The X Factor*) and his Uncle Ferdous (played by Rahmat Ali), the fearless duo embark on a series of escapades that find themselves confronting villainous ghosts, ghouls, monsters and ominous cloaked apparitions from within their own Scooby Doosque mystery machine. Hooked? You know you will be!

To promote this futuristic masterpiece, Asiana lured in the leading stars Shaidul Islam Molla and Sharma Rahman from their menacing corner of Dhaka, and where better to interrogate them than in the spooky quarters of the London Dungeons?

You'll fall in love with Shaidul, affectionately known as Babu in Bangladesh, where he is an ex-cricketer legend and regular fixture on TV and a self-confessed pin up who regularly graces billboards around the capital city. Now gearing up for the role of hero Abir, he comes complete with mesmerising eyes, and divinely deep voice, and is guaranteed to raise temperatures to Asiana.TV users from next month!

Zara, the show's heroine, is no decorative sidekick either. Played by the feisty British Bangladeshi sensation Sharma Rahman, Zara makes Buffy look like an amateur. Speaking of her spookily similar traits between character and star, the sultry siren reveals: 'Zara and I both studied at Kings College and have an interest in



Hair & Make-up: Dill Matharu • Dress: Beyond Retro • Bangladeshi: Freedom at Topshop • Coal/Hat/Trousers/Waistcoat: Beyond Retro • Shirt: Marks & Spencer • Location: The London Dungeon, T: 0207 403 7221, www.thelondon Dungeons.com



Dress: Godiva • Jewellery: Rang • Suit/Shirt: Terence Trout • Bow Tie/Hat: Beyond Retro

archaeology, and suddenly found our lives change overnight. One day I was studying for my PhD, with only folk singing on my artistic CV, the next I was leaving home to move to Bangladesh for a year – even though I'm not an actress!

But after knocking the casting agents for six, she admits she now feels every bit the Lara Croft, revealing: 'I get to kick a lot of ass on screen!'

And like every pairing in history, the chemistry between Abir and Zara is sizzling. Cut to their initial encounter in the first episode; Zara saves Abir's life by falling spectacularly on top of him on a train track in a romantic clinch. But is it love at first sight? Hardly. Like all good boy, girl adventures, the 'will they, won't they' is part of the show's attraction.



### ABIR AND ZARA'S TIPS FOR HOW TO SOLVE A MYSTERY:

1. Find yourself a good looking, stubborn side kick
2. Drive around in a mystery machine
3. Disguise your HQ
4. Carry snacks in a tiffin box
5. Follow your instinct
6. Recruit a geek to do your research and an uncle to act as your advisor
7. Never leave a mission incomplete
8. Keep a camcorder to hand to video supernatural activity
9. If in doubt, consult an ancient manual
10. Don't stop believing

*“People imagine Bangladesh to be about floods, poverty and corruption. We celebrate its culture, history and family values... with a few zombies thrown in!”*



Dress: French Connection • Bracelet: Dorothy Perkins • Earrings: Rang Blazer/Hat: Terence Trout • Shirt/Trousers: Beyond Retro

#### IT'S TIME TO BELIEVE

Abir Zaman (Shaidul Islam Molla aka Babu) and Zara Rahman (Sharma Rahman) as the supernatural mystery solvers in scenes from Bishaash, shown exclusively in the UK on the 14th of October on Asiana Tube at [www.asiana.tv](http://www.asiana.tv)

But more than whether Bangladesh's hottest new on-screen couple will get it on or not, the USP of *Bishaash* is the bloodcurdling horror. To be shown simultaneously on Asiana.TV and Bangladeshi television, while we're sure to get stuck in to the gore on these shores, is Bangladesh ready for such eerie storylines?

Shaidul aka Babu reveals: 'The *X Files* has always been popular in Bangladesh, the supernatural holds a lot of intrigue to Bengalis who are very spiritual people – they especially love unexpected twists, which the show is full of.'

What makes *Bishaash* such a unique show is that unlike its western counterparts, where the main characters never have families to speak of, the relationships between relatives is of real significance in the storylines, helping it appeal to the prime time viewing family audience.

## ASIANA.tv

◀ With a budget that dwarfs the average Bangladeshi drama, the special effects and stunts are of a world-class standard, and more than being top entertainment, *Bishaash* will help to portray Bangladesh in a light few of us are privy to.

Says Babu: 'People think of Bangladesh and immediately have visions of floods, poverty and corruption. *Bishaash* celebrates the countries' culture, history and family values... albeit with a few zombies thrown in!'

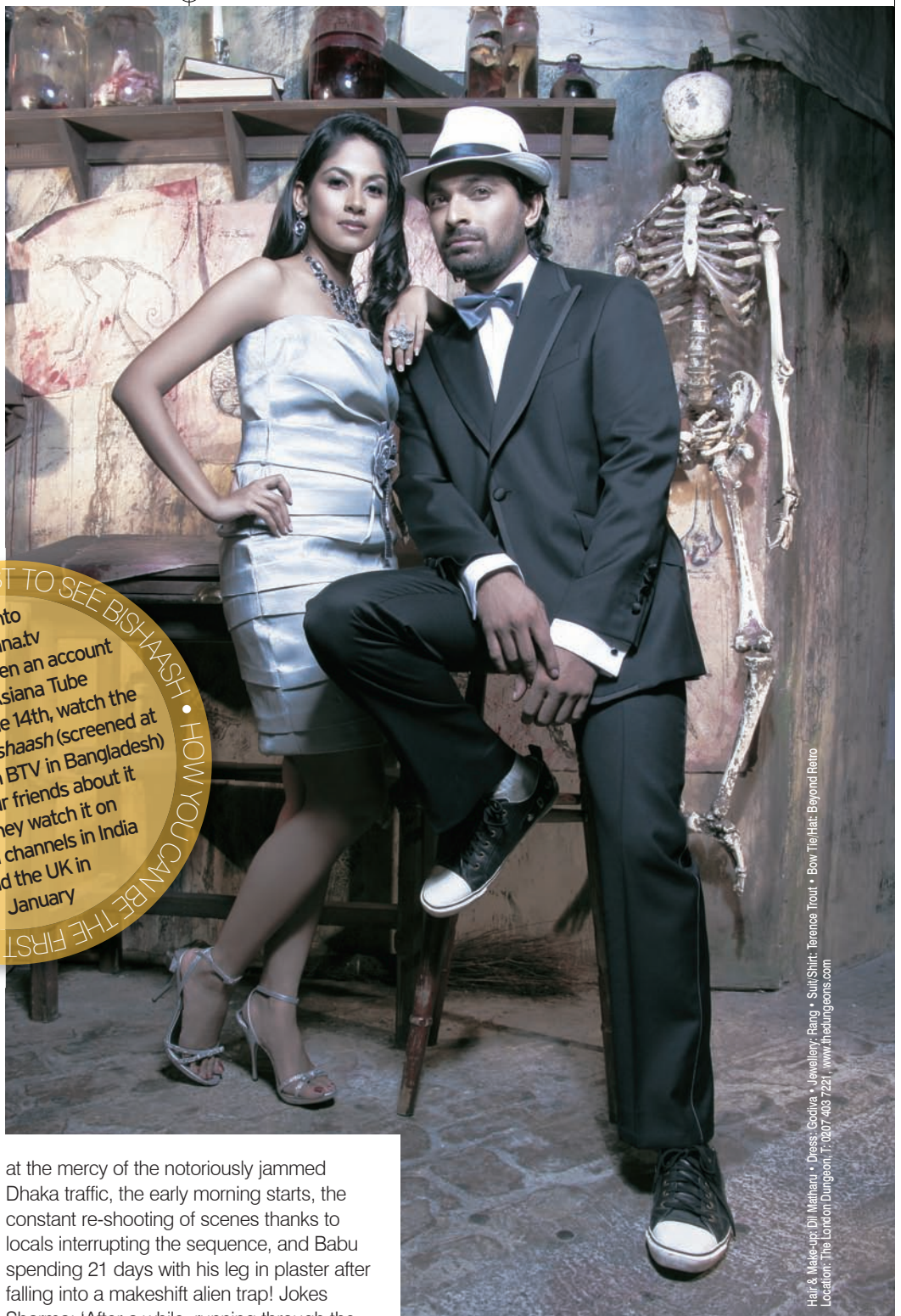
Sharma adds: 'We filmed in striking places such as at the ruins of old Rajburi mansions, derelict dancing courts and fallen temples, as well many a national park and forests. We built a set in Gazipur, and passing traders set up market stalls on-site thinking they had come across a regular village!'

More intriguing than the alien concept of such a big budget production being shot in rural Bangladesh, is the aliens themselves!

Babu recalls: 'One time I was covered in blood and running through the streets in a scene where I'd been attacked by an alien. Passers by were very worried for me and kept asking what they could do to help!' Quite unexpectedly, the public played an integral role as incidental support cast, who, unaware of the hidden cameras, give the show an added edge of realism thanks to their natural reactions. Sharma reveals: 'At one point, I had to get hysterical and literally cause a scene to get a crowd around me, and this chivalrous guy stepped in saying: madam, I will help you! I had to explain that it wasn't real, and he walked away looking very confused!'

And it's not just the onlookers that got freaked out by the spooky occurrences. Sharma 'sensed the presence of non-human energies like I used to as a child in empty rooms,' while Babu swears blind he felt 'a supernatural chill' while filming in a reputedly haunted forest.

Although the pair admit it was the very real scenarios that really got to them. The hours spent going from location to location



HOW YOU CAN BE THE FIRST TO SEE BISHAASH • HOW YOU CAN BE THE FIRST TO SEE BISHAASH • HOW YOU CAN BE THE FIRST TO SEE BISHAASH

1. Log onto [www.asiana.tv](http://www.asiana.tv)
2. Register to open an account
3. Click on Asiana Tube
4. On October the 14th, watch the first episode of *Bishaash* (screened at the same time on BTV in Bangladesh)
5. Tell all your friends about it before they watch it on terrestrial channels in India and the UK in January

at the mercy of the notoriously jammed Dhaka traffic, the early morning starts, the constant re-shooting of scenes thanks to locals interrupting the sequence, and Babu spending 21 days with his leg in plaster after falling into a makeshift alien trap! Jokes Sharma: 'After a while, running through the streets of Dhaka waving a torch to scare away evil spirits started to feel less surreal than some of the things that happened during a normal day's shooting!'

With cameos from the nation's top actors such as Humayan Faridee, Shimul Yousuf, and ATM Shamsurzamman, *Bishaash* is all set to be Bangladesh's answer to *Doctor Who*. Funded by the Department of International Development, and produced by the BBC World Service Trust, it's part of a

campaign called 'English in Action' that aims to raise the language skills of 25 million people in Bangladesh by 2017. Each episode is followed by a learning support show that goes over any English that was spoken by the characters. There is also an accompanying mobile phone service operated by BBC Janala, which over three million users have already tapped into before the show has even been broadcast. With *Bishaash* being the biggest television production to have ever come out of the country, it's not long before Babu and Sharma are catapulted into international superstardom. So, are they an item? 'What happens on screen,' laughs Sharma, 'stays on screen. Both the passion and the aliens!'

Keep track of both by logging onto [asiana.tv](http://asiana.tv) now! ■

“After a while, running through the streets of Dhaka waving a torch to scare away evil spirits started to feel less surreal than some of the things that happened on the set”