



MADE IN BANGLADESH, played in Bangladesh

Local manufacturers of musical instruments ignite new possibilities

Body paint being applied at Osiris' workshop.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

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Musicians in the country, more often the young and emerging ones, have always faced the dilemma of choosing between a quality instrument and an affordable price. The more established artistes of the scene have, at some point, had to look beyond the border for instruments that suit their styles well and translate their muses into the type of music they want to create.

When it comes to the musical instruments that are "Made in Bangladesh", the motivation lies mostly

"When it comes to the price-performance ratio, I think we deliver more in value compared to the price we charge. The market has an abundance of Chinese products of subpar quality, and most companies that import instruments don't provide after-sales services like us," says Nafeez.

project for the Arbovirus drummer, is now a workshop of dreams for all sorts of musical instruments, especially custom-made guitars.

The idea came to him when he was dissatisfied with the purchases he made in the country. Bringing instruments from abroad would entail a significantly higher cost as well. That is when he decided to make his own instruments.

"I started learning woodcrafting and snare-making solely from online sources, namely YouTube videos," says Nafeez. "Eventually, I founded Beshi Joss, a name borrowed from colloquial Dhaka street lingo, in 2015." At the time, it was a small drums workshop on the rooftop of Nafeez's family home in Baridhara DOHS, before eventually moving to a larger workshop in Ashulia.

Eventually, the production moved towards guitars and cajons as well, and the current workshop in Mirpur 12 displays all these instruments from Beshi Joss Customs.

Osiris Guitars is a comparatively newer venture that caught the eyes of the people in the music scene in 2020. However, the idea was conceived around the same time as Beshi Joss, when Mahbub Alam, founder of Osiris, started working on instruments inside his room during a particularly hard time of his life. According to Mahbub, music was the only thing that could sustain him at that point.

"I was young, and didn't have enough money to buy myself an electric guitar. So, I decided to make my own. After a few years, I realised this was something that I could do professionally, and young musicians from the scene would benefit from the venture as well," says Mahbub, popularly known as Sam, while talking about his motivation behind starting Osiris.

Sam opened a Facebook page and named it BluesDen. Initially, it was merely about maintenance services.

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PHOTO: COURTESY

Kazi Faisal Ahmed with his signature series guitar from Beshi Joss Customs.

within these reasons. Take Beshi Joss Customs for instance. Nafeez Al Amin, one of the most dynamic drummers in the music scene, became a fully-fledged craftsman with Beshi Joss Customs a few years ago. What originally started as a passion



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