



PHOTOS: SHEKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# Electrifying, eclectic, EZ

## Ershad Zaman discusses new projects, possibility of Artcell return

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"I sat at home for two years, restricted by nothing but my ego. I was in a dark place back then," said Ershad Zaman, taking a sip from his coffee cup. The seasoned guitarist, known for his stint with the iconic band Artcell, still commands a dedicated fan following who appreciate his remarkable contributions to music.

"Music in 2024 is a completely different game – a game of marketing, reels, streaming platforms, and whatnot. Unfortunately, I let my ego hinder my adaptation to this game, but that won't be the case anymore."

The musician, renowned for his fluid, mellifluous solos and roaring riffs, was one of the core contributors to Artcell's seminal albums *Onno Shomoy* and *Oniket Prantor*.

After periodically releasing singles like *Fight Back*, *Shobdahoron*, and *Gaan*, he is now on a new journey composed of young and energetic musicians. As we took his pictures, he proudly displayed his Music Man guitar. "Times are different now. I recorded my first album (*Onno Shomoy*)

with a guitar I borrowed from Ranjan of Arbovirus. Kids nowadays – and I don't mean to sound like a boomer (*laughs*) – have all the instruments, tones, and software at their disposal!"

Ironically, the musicians in EZ are all talented artists from the upcoming generation. The lineup includes Ajoy Banik, Mahin Irtisum, Rezwan, and Dipalok Dip. The band is gearing up to release their first single. "Mahin, our guitarist, was born when Onno Shomoy was released," remarked an amused Ershad Zaman with the beaming smile of a proud mentor. "That said, I've been nurturing this lineup for the past two years, so EZ isn't exactly a new band. However, we've only recently started performing regularly."

How does this lineup differ from his previous efforts? "Completely different. We were lucky enough to peak together in Artcell and define an entire generation," commented the guitarist. "We didn't produce music people wanted; rather, we made music we loved and taught people to love it. We aim to do the same with EZ – because

music has evolved, and so have I."

The veteran guitarist elaborated, "We used to perform the 16-minute *Oniket Prantor* live in one go, but obviously, our bodies might not allow that now. What we can do is use our experience, expertise, and, most importantly, our souls to reach within and offer something new to listeners."

No matter how you look at it, the future seems bright for Ershad and his projects. He has already secured a tour in the USA in 2025. However, fans reading this article likely have just one question in mind.

The split between Artcell and Ershad Zaman was far from amicable, and the rather public fallout has been well documented. Still, fans across the country yearn to see them perform together again. Could a reunion be possible?

"It's difficult to say at this moment, but I do believe time heals all wounds. So, I won't rule it out," said Ershad. "Wherever I go to perform, fans ask me to play Artcell songs – they are my creations, after all. I haven't faced any restrictions from the members of Artcell so far. A band is nothing less than a family, and I have never spoken ill of my former bandmates. They are still like family to me. A reunion is very much possible."



### TRENDY STREAMS

**Netflix**  
A Nonsense Christmas  
with Sabrina Carpenter



**Prime Video**  
Jigra



**Hulu**  
Sugarcane



**Disney+**  
From the World of  
Inside Out



**HBO MAX**  
Creature Commandos



### What's Playing

## GOLD DUST Woman

Fleetwood Mac's *Gold Dust Woman*, the haunting closer of the album *Rumours*, is a masterclass in capturing emotional chaos. Stevie Nicks' ethereal vocals weave through bluesy guitar riffs, creating a spectral soundscape. The song's layered textures – heightened by eerie phaser effects and Mick Fleetwood's experimental percussion – build an atmosphere of mystique and despair.

Lyricaly, Nicks explores themes of addiction, heartbreak, and resilience, painting a vivid portrait of a woman trapped in self-destruction. The autobiographical undertones add an aching vulnerability, reflecting the band's turbulent personal dynamics during *Rumours*' creation.

The recording process, marked by late-night takes and emotional rawness, shaped the song's intensity. *Gold Dust Woman* remains timeless, a chilling reminder of Fleetwood Mac's ability to transform pain into transcendent art.

## Spotify Wrapped mapped

Spotify Wrapped 2024 is out now! Taylor Swift continues her reign as the most-streamed global artiste, while Bad Bunny and Billie Eilish follow close behind. This year's Wrapped introduces a "Music Evolution" feature, tracking how listeners' moods shifted



through their playlists, alongside AI-generated podcasts offering deeper insights into individual listening habits.

Popular tracks like Benson Boone's *Beautiful Things* and Billie Eilish's *Birds of a Feather* topped global charts, while the most-streamed album was Taylor Swift's *The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology*.

### WHAT'S ON THE GRAM

## Ariana Grande

**Ariana Grande, enchanting fans with her 'wicked' smile at the premiere of Wicked in New York City, embodied her inner Glinda in a custom-made pink satin gown from Louis Vuitton. The strapless creation, with its sweetheart neckline and sculpted, corset-like bodice, fit her like a dream.**

The gown was further elevated by a peplum detail at the waist, which gracefully transitioned into gathered fabric, forming a dramatic bubble hem. Her ensemble was completed with an elegant bun and a chic diamond necklace, adding a touch of refined glamour that left her looking absolutely stunning.



### Out and about in Dhaka



**Diversity of Nature**  
December 6-14 | 11am- 7pm  
Alliance Française de Dhaka, Gulshan



**Cine Carnival 3.0**  
December 17 | 6pm  
ULAB



**Moar-e Jabo Comedy Night**  
December 18 | 7:30pm  
Moar Gulshan Link

### 1-MINUTE REVIEW

## A heartfelt tale of parenting and circuitry

Dream Works' *The Wild Robot*, directed by Chris Sanders, is a heartfelt exploration of humanity through the eyes of an outsider. Rozzum Unit 7134, or Roz, voiced impeccably by Lupita Nyong'o, begins as a task-oriented robot washed ashore on a remote island. As Roz bonds with a misfit community of animals, particularly a gosling she adopts, her emotional evolution captivates.

With stunning animation blending photorealism and impressionism, the film explores themes of parenting, connection, and ecological responsibility. Notable performances, including Pedro Pascal's wily fox and Catherine O'Hara's world-weary possum, bring humour and depth.

Backed by Kris Bowers' emotive score, *The Wild Robot* is a modern animated classic, inviting tears and reflection on the power of love and adaptation in unexpected places.

