

NUHASH HUMAYUN at a crossroads

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Whether it's by crafting a groundbreaking IP with 'Pett Kata Shaw,' making history by working with Hollywood juggernaut Jordan Peele, or by being a revered member of the Writers' Guild of America, Nuhash Humayun's journey in Bangladeshi showbiz is nothing short of remarkable. We sat down with the ambitious director days after the release of 'Dui Shaw,' the second iteration of his horror phenomenon.

It must feel good knowing that you've created a franchise that arguably outgrown you in popularity?

Definitely does. I'll tell you a story: We needed a photographer to do a BTS for *Dui Shaw*. When one of them was told that it was for a Chorki project, he declined. When he got to know that it was mine, he said that he was still not sure. After he realised that it was for *Dui Shaw*, he was there in the blink of an eye!

Where exactly are you in your journey?

At a crossroads. My life significantly changed in 2022, when *Pett Kata Shaw* and *Moshari* were released. *Moshari* brought me so much fame in international circuits – it unlocked a whole new path for me. I joined the Writers' Guild of America this year – the upward trajectory definitely started from there.

So, I am at a point where I see my career going in the direction of Korean director Bong Joon-ho, who made *Parasite* in his own language, but also *Snowpiercer* with Chris Evans. I'm not saying that I'm at his level, but he is someone that I would love to emulate.

I can see that happening, since after 'Pett Kata Shaw', you ceased being the 'niche' director, and became much more accessible for people in the industry.

It was always easy for me to access talent in the industry, because remember, I come from a family of directors – there's a level of accessibility and privilege in that. But you're right, having something that I can call distinctly my own really gives me a form of credibility that I did not have before.

Did you ever think of releasing the 'Shaw' series on an international streaming platform?

Look, we did not send season 1 to any international festivals, but Rotterdam

approached me after hearing of it. We played at Rotterdam, Fantasia, and even won Best Film at Fantasia in London (We had edited the series into a film for it). In the end, it did not matter that it was on Chorki and not on Netflix. I hear from the platform that certain people subscribe to only watch *Pett Kata Shaw* and *Dui Shaw*. If your content is good, it can reach the ends of the earth, and I want to keep contributing to platforms belonging to Bangladesh, not just the international ones.

Do you feel 'unburdened' from the high expectations of your family name?

I think the 'super-high' expectations are generated by the media. Growing up, I was never treated differently because I was Humayun Ahmed's son. People really misunderstand my relationship with my family, and some even think that I am 'burdened' by my last name. The very first thing I had ever written was a long piece on my father. I love him a lot, and it's also very humbling the way that people revere my father. For some people, I will always be Humayun Ahmed's son, and for others, I will be Gultekin Khan's son, and I am at peace okay with that. At the same time, I am an award-winning director on my own right.

Would you like to adapt any of Humayun Ahmed's legendary characters?

I am not opposed to it, as one of the rightful owners of that IP. However, I also want Bangladeshi directors to come to me and ask to adapt those characters – I want different artists to take his work and interpret it in their own way.



Out and About in DHAKA



138th WFMP: The British Comedy Show
January 19-20| 11 am-7 pm
British Council Bangladesh



Leemonade Live @ Dhaka Sessions
January 23| 7 pm-9 pm
Jatra Biroti



National Film Conference 2025
January 29| 2:30 pm-6pm
Senate Bhaban, Dhaka University

TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix:
American Primeval



Apple TV+:
Severance



Prime Video:
Paatal Lok



Binge:
Ondhokarer Gaan



Bongo:
Pratidhwani



TV TALKIES

‘Black Warrant’: A fresh and feisty dive into Tihar jail

Since the hit Netflix series *Sacred Games*, versatile director and producer Vikramaditya Motwane recently returned to the same platform with another fresh take on raw brutality with *Black Warrant*. The seven-episode series is adapted from a book of the same name, co-written by jailer Sunil Kumar Gupta and journalist Sunetra Chowdhary. As a police drama, *Black Warrant* delves into the inner workings of Tihar Jail, Asia's largest prison, exploring the complexities of its underdog jailer Sunil Kumar Gupta (played rather convincingly by Zahan Kapoor), high-profile cases, and the harsh realities

within.

Set in the mid-1980s, the series chronicles several shocking cases, such as the time spent by the infamous 'bikini killer' Charles Sobhraj (Siddhant Gupta) in Tihar Jail, as well as the chilling story of Billa and Ranga, who were sentenced to death for the brutal rape and murder of two teenagers in 1982.

The show is well-crafted, with each episode centring around a different case. It is a tough yet compelling watch as it exposes the flaws in the system – offering a refreshing counterpoint to the exaggerated cop dramas often produced for the big screen.



‘Matha Ta Fatabo’ by Bhanga Bangla

Musical group Bhanga Bangla's *Matha Ta Fatabo* is an unapologetic anthem of defiance, aggression, and resilience, encapsulating the raw energy of the Bangladeshi hip-hop scene. The track's pounding beats and razor-sharp lyrics exude an unfiltered sense of rebellion. The music video of *Matha Ta Fatabo* is set in a dystopian, sci-fi-inspired narrative. It presents a grim future in the year 2041, where a global crisis has unfolded. Borders have collapsed, and no government or authority remains

to protect the people. A private military force gets deployed to hunt down immigrants and so-called aliens, enforcing a brutal "capture or kill" operation.

Matha Ta Fatabo isn't just about attitude—it's about making noise, standing your ground, and refusing to be ignored. And in moments of demanding unabated justice, music, and reality can efficiently collide, amplifying the voices that demand to be heard.

WHAT'S ON THE GRAM

Wamiqa Gabbi

Bollywood actress Wamiqa Gabbi radiated sheer elegance and bold sophistication in a stunning red off-shoulder gown. The full-length dress featured exquisite gathers at the waist, accentuating her silhouette, and a daring thigh-high slit that added a touch of drama.

Her ensemble was elevated by the sparkle of multiple rings adorning her fingers, while sleek black stilettos complemented her look with effortless charm. To heighten the visual appeal, she introduced a striking twist with vibrant pink strappy heels, a bold contrast that amplified the allure of her glamorous presence. This look of Wamiqa's truly owned the spotlight with her style and confidence.

