

SHARMIN JOYA

A shy and introverted boy from Chattogram embarked on a journey to Dhaka, embracing a new chapter of self-discovery. Today, Zulfiqar Noori Angel—known by his moniker Angel Noor—has become a name to watch out for in Bangladesh's entertainment industry. Noor is making waves as a singer-songwriter, composer, and actor, seamlessly blending his talents across multiple disciplines.

Noor first captured attention with his soulful cover songs, but it was his original release *Jodi Abar* last year that paved his place in the hearts of the Bangladeshi youth. "I never imagined my song would resonate with people. I sing from my heart, and perhaps that sincerity connects with my audience," he shared with The Daily Star.

Noor's musical journey began unexpectedly while he was pursuing his studies in Electrical and Electronic Engineering at North South University. A member of the North South University Shangskritik Shongothon (NSUSS), he confessed, "I am not a trained singer. I discovered my voice during my university years, and it was my friends who encouraged me."

With his unique curly hair and unconventional look, Noor soon found himself in front of the camera. Director Adnan Al Rajeev cast him in a television commercial, marking his on-screen debut. From there, he ventured into

was a learning experience beyond just acting. Their approach to life and their expertise has helped me develop a deeper philosophy that helps me move forward in life," said Noor, who played Nasir Uddin Khan's son in *Boli*.

Despite his rising fame, Noor's journey has been far from straightforward. Determined to be financially independent, he took up tuition jobs to support his education. It wasn't an easy journey, as the artiste lost his mother at a very young age. His uphill battle included facing his family's disapproval. "I grew up with my grandmother, who is probably my only unconditional supporter. The rest of them don't like the fact that I am in the showbiz industry. Many a time, I felt really alone and wanted to give up."

Thankfully, he did not—his talent has subsequently crossed the Bangladesh border. His cover of *Ghodey Pe Savaar* from the film *Qala* led to an opportunity in a film from Tamil Nadu. Additionally, his cover of *Pasoori* was recognised as the best fan-made cover from South Asia by Coke Studio Pakistan.

The rising star will be starring in four films this year—two Bangladeshi projects, including one directed by Tanveer Hossain Probal, and two Indian films, one from Tamil Nadu and another from Kolkata. "I have a significant fanbase in Kolkata, and that's how I was approached for these projects," he shared.

Beyond acting, he remains deeply

Recently, to the surprise of their fans, famed Indian singer Arijit Singh shared Noor's 'Jodi Abar' through his official X handle and quoted, "What a song." Noor replied to the musician with unbelievable glee.

television and eventually landed roles in television projects, followed by the web series *Mobaroknama* and eventually the silver screen venture *Boli*.

His performance in *Boli* earned him widespread acclaim. The film, directed by Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury, not only impressed critics but also became Bangladesh's official submission for the Best International Feature Film category at the 97th Academy Awards. It won the New Currents category at the 28th Busan International Film Festival.

Noor shared how actors Mosharraf Karim (*Mobaroknama*) and Nasir Uddin Khan (*Boli*) influenced his acting career. "Working with them

engaged with music. His band, *Angel Noor and Friends*, is actively performing on-stage. Additionally, six of his compositions will be featured in upcoming television projects for Eid. His second original track, *Til*, is set for release during Eid, followed by a full album post-festival.

Despite his growing fame, Angel Noor remains humbly philosophical. "If I never get another acting offer, or if people stop listening to my music, I won't have any regrets. I never chased these things—they came to me naturally. I am simply going with the flow, letting life take me where it will," he said.

Angel's voice, FIGHTER'S GRIT



PHOTO: ZIAUDDIN SHIPLU

OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



'Shohure Sur'

Today (March 1) | 7pm onwards
Jatra Biroti



'Cartoon o Meme-er Rajniti'

March 6-9 | 11am-3pm
Zahir Raihan Auditorium,
Jahangirnagar University



Late Night Comedy Show

March 14 | 11:59pm-1pm
Naveed's Comedy Club, Gulshan-2

TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix You



Apple TV+ Dope Thief



Disney+ Daredevil: Born Again



Chorki Ghumpori



Binge Neel Sukh



STYLE STATEMENT

NUSRAT IMROSE TISHA

The beloved actress Nusrat Imrose Tisha resembled a blushing pink blossom during Mehazabien Chowdhury and Adnan Al Rajeev's wedding reception, which took place on February 24. The wedding event that made headlines throughout the week saw the presence of several industry bigwigs dressed to the nines.

As she posted photos from the reception across her social media accounts, fans couldn't help but gush over Tisha's look in the comment sections. She chose an organza saree in blush pink, subtly embroidered with silver flowery designs.

She elevated the overall look with a neatly done braided updo. For jewellery, she opted for sparkling silver earrings paired with a *tikli*, perfectly balancing the complimentary hues of silver and blush pink. Her funky sunglasses made for the perfect day-time wedding accessory.



WHAT'S PLAYING

BAD DREAMS

by Teddy Swims

Teddy Swims' latest single, *Bad Dreams*, from his recent album *I've Tried Everything but Therapy* (Part 2), is a soulful pop-rock anthem that dives into the haunting experiences of insomnia and emotional turmoil. The song masterfully blends warm piano melodies, steady drums, and rich vocal harmonies, paying tribute to classic soul with echoes of Motown and Stax Records.

Produced by Julian Bunetta, Matt Zara, and John Ryan, *Bad Dreams* navigates themes of heartache, insomnia, and internal chaos, connecting deeply with listeners who share similar emotional struggles.

Swims' powerful, expressive vocals perfectly capture a sense of longing and introspection, elevating the track into an emotional anthem.

Accompanied by a surreal and visually captivating music video, *Bad Dreams* treats listeners to both sonic comfort and emotional resonance.



1-MINUTE REVIEW

'The Gorge': A gripping drama of love and conflict

The Gorge, a Scott Derrickson film, explores the familiar genre territory of his other films like *The Black Phone* and *Doctor Strange*, with some light, enjoyable moments.

Set during the Covid era, it follows Miles Teller's character, Levi, a soldier for hire, who unexpectedly spends a year alone in a watchtower. After a brief exchange with his predecessor (Sope Dirisu), Levi learns his job is to guard against whatever might emerge from the gorge, humorously likening it to guarding the gates of hell.

Early in Levi's year-long assignment, he spots Drasa, his Lithuanian counterpart played by Anya Taylor-Joy, across the gorge. Though their duties are split by country, the plot's focus shifts to their attraction. They break the rules, exchanging messages like characters from early 2000s films. Predictably, their neglect of duty leads to complications, and they soon find themselves under siege.

The film, despite its video game-like appearance, is original and feels like a *Resident Evil* sequel. Zach Dean's screenplay offers a fresh take on two sociopathic killers' bond, blending dark humour with emotional depth to create a brooding exploration of love and torment.

