

‘Outsider’ Rehan is now a major rising star

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PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

SHARMIN JOYA

Not everyone is lucky enough to make a mark in the industry as early in their career as Farrukh Ahmed Rehan has.

Starting out as a model, he made his acting debut in Vicky Zahed’s *Ararat* (2024), playing the role of a *jinn*—a performance that caught the people’s attention. His latest release, *Neel Shukh*, has taken him even further, proving that he’s here to stay.

Hailing from Tangail, Rehan moved to Dhaka for his education. Like many newcomers to the city, he had to hustle—tutoring and working in restaurants to make ends meet.

“In 2017, when I first came to Dhaka, I was just another outsider trying to find a way in,” Rehan shared. “I always wanted to work in the fashion industry, and one day, out of nowhere, I got an offer through social media. It felt almost unreal.”

Just like that, his entry into acting was just as unexpected. “I got a call from Vicky *bhai*’s team offering me a role in his web project. Honestly, I thought it was a prank. I mean, I was a fan of his work—why would he even know me? Then they called again and said that Vicky *bhai* wanted to meet me. Even then, I wasn’t sure if it was real!”

Rehan went on to work in Mizanur Rahman Aryan’s *Jugol* (2024), a romantic fiction where he starred opposite Naznin Niha.

“I’ve been really lucky,” he admitted. “As someone who’s still learning, I got the chance to work with some of the best directors in the industry fairly early. I’d love to work with Ashfaq Nipun, Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, and emerging talents like Jahid Preetom in the future.”

“When I got into acting, I knew I didn’t want to take on just any project. I wanted to do something different, something that would stand out.”

His debut role as a *jinn* was no easy task. “That character was tough to play, especially as my first role. But when people still recognise me for it, I feel like all the struggles were worth it. Vicky *bhai* believed in me at a time when I didn’t even believe in myself, and I’ll always be grateful for that.”

Rehan’s latest project, *Neel Shukh*, was another step in the right direction. “Vicky *bhai*’s way of storytelling is different; he always pushes boundaries. This time, he

straight up told me, ‘You’re going to face challenges, so be ready for them!’”

This project gave him more screen time with Mehazabien Chowdhury, and he couldn’t have asked for a better co-star. “She helped me a lot. We rehearsed together and built great synchronisation between our characters. She’s an incredible co-actor, and the director told me something that really stuck with me—‘When you have a strong co-actor, you have no choice but to give your best shot because the camera catches everything.’”

Currently pursuing an MBA at Dhaka University, Rehan is juggling academics, fashion collaborations, commercials, and acting.

“I don’t want to rush into projects. As a newcomer, I’ve received so much love and support that I’m immensely grateful for it all.

However, I also know I make mistakes, and I’m trying to learn and improve with each opportunity,” he said.

For the upcoming Eid, he’s in talks for several projects, but is being careful about his choices. “I don’t want to disappoint the audience. The next time they see me on screen, I want them to feel the same excitement they felt when they first saw me in *Ararat*, *Jugol* or *Neel Shukh*,” concluded the actor.



OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



Photography Exhibition: ‘Hajong’

March 14-18 | 4pm onwards
Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi



Theatre Performance: ‘Song of Hawkers’

March 20-21 | 3:30-4:30pm
Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy



Play: ‘12 Angry Men’

March 24 | 4-5:30pm and 7:15-8:45pm
Natmandal, Dhaka University

TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix
The Electric State

Apple TV+
Dope Thief

Prime Video
Be Happy

Hulu
Good American Family

Chorki
Amalnama

WHAT’S ON THE GRAM

Madhuri Dixit

When it comes to timeless elegance and sartorial finesse, Madhuri Dixit never misses a beat. At the 2025 IIFA Awards, held in Jaipur on March 9, the Bollywood icon turned heads in a mesmerising off-the-shoulder red gown, proving once again why she remains a fashion force to be reckoned with.

Channelling her inner Disney princess, Madhuri graced the event in a custom Gauri & Nainika creation that exuded romance and regality. The striking ensemble featured a silhouette with a figure-hugging bodice that cascaded into a dramatic flare, delivering the perfect blend of sophistication and allure. A plunging neckline elevated the ensemble, while the sculpted fit accentuated her curves with effortless grace.

Keeping the spotlight on her statement-making attire, the diva opted for minimal yet opulent accessories—a dazzling diamond necklace and elegant studs that added just the right amount of sparkle.



1-MINUTE REVIEW

‘Picture This’ delivers laughter and love with a cultural spin



Prime Video’s newly released romcom *Picture This*, leaning more towards the comedic genre, offers plenty of tender laughs and a standout lead performance from *Bridgerton* alum Simone Ashley.

In adapting the Australian romantic comedy *Five Blind Dates*, director Prarthana Mohan and writer Nikita Lalwani have added a cultural twist to the story of a woman in her thirties trying to fulfill both her and her grandmother’s dream of running a portrait studio in London.

The film centres on Pia (Simone Ashley), who grapples with her desire for independence while her business faces

the urgent need for financial support. Her mother offers a safety box of jewels as an assured wedding gift, but Pia hadn’t considered marriage as an option.

The clash between the practical and the traditional comes together when a sunny and quirky medium predicts that Pia will meet the love of her life during her next five dates.

Set against the backdrop of an elaborate Indian wedding, the film blends vibrant colours, relatable dialogues, and dazzling costumes. Like *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, its family dynamics have universal appeal, especially for South Asian audiences.

WHAT’S PLAYING

‘Maand’ by Bayaan, Hasan Raheem & Rovalio

A seamless blend of alternative rock, modern pop, and electronic influences, *Maand* is the latest sonic masterpiece by the rock band Bayaan, in collaboration with Hasan Raheem and Rovalio. The track fuses soulful melodies with introspective lyrics, creating an immersive listening experience that resonates with fans of contemporary South Asian music.

With Bayaan’s signature poetic lyricism, Hasan Raheem’s laid-back vocal delivery, and Rovalio’s crisp production, *Maand* captures themes of nostalgia, longing, and self-discovery. The song’s dreamy synths, rhythmic basslines, and melancholic undertones make it both hypnotic and deeply emotional.

The track has already garnered immense popularity, with its lyric video amassing over 6.7 million views on YouTube.

As *Maand* continues to gain traction across streaming platforms like Spotify and Apple Music, it highlights Bayaan’s evolving musical identity and their ability to craft songs that strike a chord with a wide-ranging audience.

