

# PRITOM’S REIGN ever-expanding

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PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

From back-to-back cinematic musical hits to earning praise for his acting on OTT platforms, Pritom Hasan is having a standout year. His collaboration with Shakib Khan and chart-topping tracks like *Chand Mama, Didha*, and the ever lively *Laage Ura Dhura* have solidified his reputation as one of the most sought-after musicians in Dhallywood.

When asked what makes his music stand out, Pritom credited his emotional connection to his roots. “The secret is staying in touch with Bengali emotions,” he said. “I’m lucky to have been raised in a way that keeps me connected to our people. And I’m deeply thankful to the lyricists I work with—Inamul Tahsin, who wrote *Didha*, and Rasel *bhai*, who penned *Laage Ura Dhura*, have been a big part of my journey.”

“With *Chand Mama*, however, I took a completely different approach because I wanted to explore something new and experimental,” he added.

Much like iconic Bollywood pairings such as Imran Hashmi-KK or Ranbir Kapoor-Mohit Chauhan, Dhallywood seems to have found its own musical magic in Shakib Khan and Pritom Hasan. “We’re lucky to have a megastar like him,” said Pritom, also applauding directors Raihan Rafi and Mehedi Hassan Hridoy for their creativity and passion. “They push me to give my best.”

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Although Pritom Hasan first made us groove with his music, the actor within him has moved us to tears. From playing Farhan in *Kacher Manush Dure Thuiya* to playing Megh in *Ghumpori*, his performances have struck a chord with audiences.

“Both Farhan and Megh are very close to my heart,” he shared. “Jahid Preetom gave me the space to fully embody the role, and Shihab Shaheen guided me on how to express the character.” He added, “All my directors have helped preserve my essence in each role. Now, I believe I’m ready to step out of that comfort zone—maybe try an action role next. I want to explore characters that are totally different from who I am.”

Pritom won the Best Actor (Critics)

honour at the Meril-Prothom Alo Awards 2022 for *Araal*, calling it an unexpected but meaningful milestone. “It pushed me to aim higher. Now I’m focused on choosing roles that feel fresh and unique.”

When asked if he prefers live performances or making music, he replied, “I love creating music. Concerts are fun, but composing has a unique magic only producers truly get.”

This year, Pritom is releasing two new songs—one a fusion track, the other a pop number. “I want to help drive positive change in our film industry. We’re witnessing a shift in Bangladeshi films—even Hollywood films are being replaced at Star Cineplex to make way for local films. Despite limited resources, our directors are doing amazing work.”

Pritom shared that he’s always been his own competition, constantly striving to innovate and push the boundaries of his style.

Commenting on current music trends, he noted that audiences are increasingly drawn to item songs. “People nowadays tend to be under so much pressure that they seek ways to feel lighthearted, and upbeat tracks offer that release,” he explained. “I lean toward

romantic songs as I enjoy exploring shifting emotional palettes.”

He also praised his peers for their recent work: “Xeler’s *Niye Jabe Ki* from *Daagi* has been on repeat for me. Prince Mahmud *bhai’s Jongli*



## OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



**Calligraphy Exhibition:  
Decorated Deeds**  
April 14-26 | 3pm-9pm  
Alliance Française de Dhaka,  
Dhanmondi



**Bangladesh Press Photo  
Contest 2025**  
April 19-30 | 3pm-8pm  
DrikPath Bhobon, Panthapath



**Play: All Quiet on the Western  
Front**  
April 23-25 | 7pm onwards  
National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh  
Shilpakala Academy

## TRENDY STREAMS

**Netflix**  
Stranger Things:  
The First Shadow



**HBO Max**  
The Last  
Of Us



**Apple TV+**  
Government  
Cheese



**Disney+**  
The Stolen  
Girl



**Prime Video**  
Khauf



## STYLE STATEMENT

### GIGI HADID

Gigi Hadid turned heads at Le Grand Diner du Louvre in a daring Jeremy Scott creation that masterfully blended silver chainmail, gold rhinestones, and bronze fringe into a sculptural, floor-grazing silhouette. The off-shoulder cut and asymmetrical design added drama, while her platinum blonde hair elevated the metallic palette. Embracing maximalism, she stacked gold and white gold necklaces—including an Anita Ko tennis chain and a bold heart pendant—alongside oversized mixed-metal earrings.



## WHAT’S PLAYING

### ‘BACK TO FRIENDS’ by Sombr

Sombr's breakout single *Back to Friends* is a raw, melancholic reflection on post-romantic boundaries—anchored by whispery vocals and echo-laced guitar lines that drift somewhere between indie rock and alt-pop.

The track marks Sombr's first entry into the Billboard Hot 100 (chart dated April 12), debuting at No 90 after amassing 6 million official US streams and 304,000 radio impressions.

Its rise is partly fuelled



by TikTok virality, with over 240,000 videos featuring the song.

Written and produced solely by Sombr (real name Shane Boose), *Back to Friends* is part of a new wave of emotionally nuanced songwriting, placing the *In Another Life* EP creator among alternative music's most promising voices.

Moody yet melodic, *Back to Friends* captures the ache of emotional distance with haunting precision. As Sombr's introspective lyrics unravel over reverb-drenched guitars, the track has found a natural home in curated breakup playlists.

### Dante returns with style in first ‘Devil May Cry’ adaptation

TV TALKIES



*Devil May Cry* may not immediately rival Netflix's finer game adaptations like *Castlevania* or *Cyberpunk: Edgerunners*, but its latter episodes truly take charge.

Bursting with adrenaline-pumping action, a jaw-dropping, dialogue-light chapter, and a wild finale, the second half redeems any early missteps and builds strong momentum for future seasons.

The show, created by Adi Shankar and Alex Larsen, cleverly reimagines Capcom's beloved franchise, blending video game lore, manga influences, and fresh narrative twists.

Johnny Yong Bosch is excellent as Dante, balancing swagger with emotional depth. Despite an occasionally awkward comedic tone, Bosch grounds the character as the stakes rise.

Kevin Conroy and Hoon Lee deliver standout performances, with Lee's White Rabbit especially captivating. Studio Mir delivers thrilling fight sequences, and Studio La Cayette's stunning work on episode six is a notable visual masterpiece.

While the CG demons don't quite hit the mark, *Devil May Cry's* bold style, stellar animation, and energetic storytelling make it an exciting new entry in the genre.