

FUAD'S never-ending journey

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

There was no music director more sought-after than Fuad Almuqtadir in the 2000s. Single-handedly responsible for the careers of many musicians that you know and love today, Fuad is responsible for timeless albums including *Variation No. 25*, *Bonno*, *Maya*, *Re/evolution*, among many others. He built careers for fresh new musicians, uplifted dormant ones, and created an entire sub-genre that to this day, musicians follow.

How in the world have you lost so much weight?
(Laughs) Thanks for noticing. After multiple health scares, I have taken my fitness very seriously. I wake up at five in the morning to do my cardio. The other day, I even took Elita (Elita Karim) to Shahabuddin Park to take a walk with me! I must say, I feel much, much better.

What are you up to at the moment?
I am currently recording a tribute album, one that I'd been planning for a long time. It will feature reimaginings of the '90s songs that we dearly love, voiced by the talents of the 2000s - It's the ultimate 'what-if' scenario.

That sounds great. Which artistes that will be featured in this project?
While I can't divulge all the details, okay scratch that - I'll give you a peek. It features Elita Karim, Zohad Reza Chowdhury, Shakib Chowdhury, and Raef Al Hasan, alongside my lineup of FnF (Fuad and Friends). The project will consist of live performances and music videos.

Your name was synonymous with hit albums over the years. However, as time passed, songs from you have become relatively scarce. Why is that?
Priorities change as time goes on. My priority has always been my

family and loved ones, and over the years it has increased manifold. Add to that my health concerns - I've been through a lot. That's not to say that I am not regularly working on music, I really am. However, I am very critical of myself nowadays, constantly finishing tracks and finding them to be lacking according to my own standards.

To add to that, I often ponder how musicians will adapt to the prevalence of AI. It is truly scary.

I was under the impression that musicians have nothing to worry about, since AI cannot really capture human emotions/imperfections.

That's not true at all! Think about it, it is a learning model that knows how you think, how you will react to particular notes and lyrics. It will even replicate the minor nuances or mistakes that make you human! Irrespective of how confident musicians are that they'll sustain, they absolutely have to consider this new reality. It literally takes a five-minute prompt to make a catchy song that you'll like!

That maybe, but can it replace live performances by musicians? I feel like that is the connection that audiences will still crave.

You may be right, but unmanned concerts are already gaining prevalence. The youth are consistently being attracted to EDM concerts, which need little human input. Now, I say all of this not to discourage musicians, but this has to be talked about, since AI is already starting to take over jingles and short-form musical OVCs. We have to adapt.

It's been a year since we lost Shafin Ahmed, an absolute legend in Bangladeshi music. I believe that you brought out a different side of him. What do you miss the most about him?

I just wish that he could see how much people love and miss him. I'll always say that amidst senior artistes, Shafin bhai had the best sense of humour, as proven by *REExposed* and the promotion of my song *Legend*, where we pretended to have an online beef! In my twenties, when I did dumb stuff, he always forgave me. I miss him terribly.

Is there anything you'd like to say to a younger generation?

Nothing comes to mind. Oh- there is one thing. When you say Gen Z, don't pronounce it "Zyan Zeec". Sounds super awkward!



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

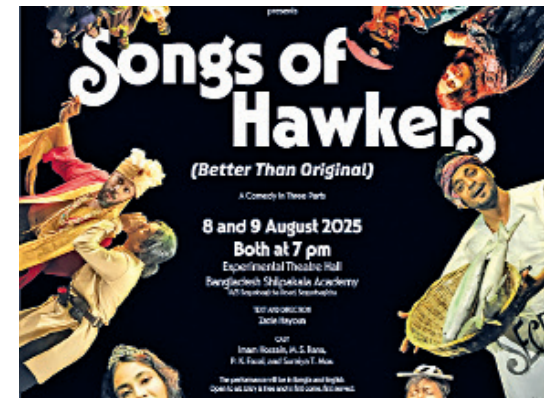
OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



July Renaissance Festival
July 28 - August 6 | 10am - 4pm
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy



Exhibition: Bidrupe Bidroho
July 31-Aug 5 | 3pm-9pm
Alliance Française de Dhaka,
Dhanmondi



Play: Songs of Hawkers
August 8-9 | 7pm onwards
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix:
Leanne



Hulu:
King of the Hill



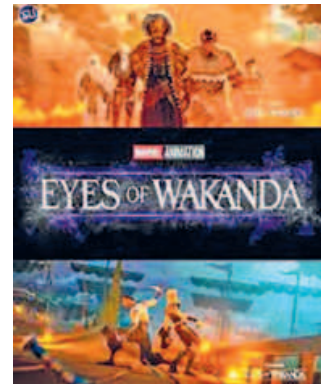
Apple TV+:
Chief of War



HBO Max:
The Yogurt Shop Murders



Disney+:
Eyes of Wakanda



TV TALKIES

'Good Boy': Where heroes bleed to heal

Good Boy is a lively and heartfelt action-comedy that puts a refreshing spin on the underdog hero story. Park Bo-gum shines as Yoon Dong-ju, a golden-medalist-turned-cop with the fists of a warrior and the heart of a loyal pup.

Alongside a team of misfit Olympic athletes recruited into the police force, he dives headfirst into a corrupt city's darkest corners, taking on everything from petty thugs to high-ranking criminals.

The friendship formed between the primary characters after they begin their journey as athletes-turned-officers is key to the formation of the plot.

Notably, Oh Jung-se stands out with a haunting performance as a powerful antagonist, relentlessly pursuing his goals with ruthless determination, no matter the consequences.

The series balances intense street brawls and thrilling showdowns with moments of humour, warmth, and romance—particularly between Dong-ju and sharpshooting ace Han-na (Kim So-hyun).

Throughout the 16-episode run, the show remains engaging thanks to strong performances, grounded flashbacks, and a central message of grit and teamwork.

Despite a few pacing stumbles and over-the-top moments, *Good Boy* is ultimately about perseverance, loyalty, and standing up for what's right—even when the odds are stacked against you. A satisfying, action-filled ride with heart.



WHAT'S PLAYING

'CRAZY TRAIN' by Ozzy Osbourne



STYLE STATEMENT

Maitreyi Ramakrishnan

Recently, Maitreyi Ramakrishnan attended the premiere of *Freaky Friday*, turning heads in a shimmering off-shoulder lilac gown that perfectly blended Old Hollywood elegance with modern charm. Her cascading waves and deep side part framed her face beautifully, while diamond accents—a lariat necklace, drop earrings, and stacked rings—added the right touch of sparkle. A delicate nose ring offered a subtle nod to her South Asian heritage, adding a personal layer to her red carpet glam.



Ozzy Osbourne's *Crazy Train* remains one of the most enduring artefacts of early '80s metal. Released in 1980 as the debut single from *Blizzard of Ozz*, the track announced Osbourne's post-Sabbath ambitions with full force: a blistering guitar riff courtesy of Randy Rhoads, an anti-war

sentiment buried beneath chaos, and enough manic energy to carry it across generations. Over four decades on, *Crazy Train* has lost none of its bite. It has racked up over 800 million streams on Spotify, making it Osbourne's most-listened-to solo track. The song continues to appear in sports arenas,

blockbuster trailers, and the playlists of teenagers discovering heavy metal for the first time. Equal parts menace and melody, *Crazy Train* has debuted at No 46; marking its very first appearance on the Hot 100 after Ozzy's passing on July 22, 2025. It saw massive spikes in streaming and AirPlay.