

"My father was a theatre actor, but he never had the opportunity to pursue acting and became a journalist instead," shares Pranto. "I believe that his unfulfilled dream was passed down to me, and I was meant to carry it forward." In recent years, few rising actors have been more determined to prove their range than Abid Bin Parvez Pranto. From TVCs to short films and eventually fiction, he has steadily marked himself as an actor intent on versatility.

MAISHA TASNIM SRESHTHA

The young actor first appeared in commercials, including Grameenphone, KFC, bKash, and eventually as the face of Duronto Bicycle. At that time, even he admits he wasn't chomping at the bit to jump straight into heavy roles. "Ads gave me a chance to face the camera, to learn, but I knew I couldn't stay there forever."

That test came with *Lift Together* and *Ek Guccho Kodom*, romantic shorts under Closeup's *Kache Ashar Golpo* series. They gave him warmth from audiences, but they also pushed him beyond being a passing screen face.

The real transformation, however, came with his debut fiction *Khalid*, directed by Taneem Rahman Angshu. Though only a cameo, Pranto pushed himself with method acting, fasting for a full day before a crucial scene. "If I weren't hungry, the scream wouldn't have carried that raw edge," he says recalling writhing from the physical strain. "But it paid off. Sometimes you have to push your body far if you don't want the scene to fall flat."

For a young actor, this embrace of method acting is rare. "It boggles my mind that many newcomers still treat small parts as a throwaway," Pranto says. "Even a short scene can change people's impression of you." "I experimented so much that sometimes audiences couldn't recognise me from one TVC to the next. If I had sunglasses in one, then in the next I'd show up with long hair; different looks, same person," he recalls.

That experimentation later fed into his short film *Ek Guccho Kodom*, starring opposite Parsha Mahjabeen Purnee. "TVCs and short films give you the shortest amount of time, but you still have to change into different expressions. In long dramas, you get time to settle into emotions, but here you play against the clock," he explains.

Alongside acting, Pranto has also tapped into his creativity behind the camera. With his group Mafia Entertainment Original, he has directed a number of independent projects,



including the hip-hop music video *Ganjam* – *Guerrillas of Dhaka*, a tribute to Deshi MCs that brought together young musicians and producer Aziz Badhon. He has even worked as an associate director on the short film *24 August (Blood of Love)* on YouTube. These projects may not have had the spotlight of television dramas, but for Pranto they were opportunities to experiment with filmmaking, teamwork, and direction.

Still, he is clear that acting remains his main focus, directing is more of a creative playground than a serious career move.

Beyond romance and thrillers, Pranto's admiration for Shakib Khan, his idol, has also steered him toward action. Inspired by the Dhallywood superstar, Pranto has begun training in mixed martial arts to add physical credibility to his craft. "When I say I want to do action, I want my body to know it too," he explains. "Shakib *bhai* is my inspiration, but I want to build my own style of versatility. I don't want to be boxed in."

For now, Pranto stays grounded, often talking about how much he has learned on set. He says it's the directors who keep guiding him to find the subtleties in a character. "Every director I've worked with has shown me another angle; how to carry myself, how to switch into expressions." That guidance, he adds, is slowly helping him create a signature look of his own.

Pranto now has his eyes set on what's next. He is currently working on NTV's upcoming drama *Delete History*, and *Mayamoyee*, Vicky Zahed's *Khobabnoma* airing on YouTube, and will return in the Angshu directorial *Khalid 2*, which begins shooting later this year.



## OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



**First Draft - The Songwriters' Collective**  
August 23 | 5:30pm onwards  
Shala, Aloki



**Play: 'Dilnawaz'**  
August 26-27 | 7pm onwards  
Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy



**Play: 'CLOSET LAND'**  
August 29 | 4pm & 7pm  
Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy

## 1-MINUTE REVIEW

## 'THE FANTASTIC FOUR: FIRST STEPS'

delivers heartfelt storytelling with retro flair

Marvel finally lands a substantiated *Fantastic Four* first movie. After decades of misfires – from Roger Corman's shelved version to Fox's corny 2000s attempts and the grim 2015 reboot – *The Fantastic Four: First Steps* breathes new life into Stan Lee and Jack Kirby's iconic team.

The film, directed with retro-futurist flair by Matt Shakman, cleverly skips the tired origin setup, instead dropping us into a vibrant 1960s world where the heroes are already beloved.

Pedro Pascal and Vanessa Kirby ground the story with heart as Reed and Sue, whose pregnancy adds touching stakes, while Joseph Quinn's fiery Johnny and Ebon Moss-Bachrach's soulful Ben round out the family dynamic.

The film balances dazzling spectacle – Galactus and a reimagined Silver Surfer arrive in jaw-dropping style – with warmth and humor reminiscent of *The Incredibles*.

It is bright with playful designs and structures,



while Giacchino's score elevates the adventure, and the focus on relationships keeps it relatable. Amusing, heartfelt, and refreshingly straightforward, *First Steps* marks a wholesome and exciting new chapter for Marvel's First Family.



## WHAT'S PLAYING

### 'What You Want' BY CORTIS

Just days after its debut, BigHit Music's newest group, Cortis, stormed into the K-pop conversation with the single *What You Want*. It mixes fuzzy 60s-inspired psychedelic guitar with raw boom-bap beats, a sound that feels both nostalgic and cutting-edge.

For the label that launched BTS and TXT, this is the first boy group in six years. Its five members – Martin, James, Juhoon, Seonghyeon, and Keonho – aren't just idols; they're songwriters, choreographers, and even co-directors of their music video.

As for their statement? It's in the name: Cortis (Color Outside the Lines) and that's exactly what they're doing.

## STYLE STATEMENT

## TASNIA FARIN

At the grand opening of a clothing brand in Chattogram, Tasnia Farin brought effortless glamour to the spotlight. Draped in a pink saree adorned with sequins and intricate embroidery, she struck the perfect balance of tradition and modern polish. Her choice of dazzling jewels amplified the look with regal intensity, while her luminous makeup and sleek hairstyling embodied the artistry of the saree and the eternal allure of classic femininity.



**Netflix**  
Night always comes



**Amazon Prime**  
Butterfly



**Hoichoi**  
Birangana



**Hulu**  
The Twisted Tale of Amanda Knox



**HBO Max**  
Peacemaker

