

I dedicate this award to my wife: FS NAYEEM

Actor FS Nayeem is currently abroad, fully devoted to caring for his father, who is undergoing medical treatment. As a result, he could not attend The Blender's Choice – The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024, where he was honoured with the Best Actor (Male) award in the Critics' Choice category for his role in "Kaalpurush".

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Speaking about the recognition, Nayeem shared his overwhelming emotions after watching the ceremony live through a colleague's phone.

"I am so happy and grateful that you have given me such respect and honoured me with this award. My heartfelt thanks go to Blender's Choice – The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards and to the jury for believing that I could be the Best Actor in the Critics' Choice category."

The actor went on to share the joy and credit with those who have shaped his career.

"First of all, it is Rumana Rashid Ishita, who is the reason I am an actor today! Then Channel i, and of course, Syed Ahmed Shawki and the entire team—Film Syndicate, Auneem, Shubho bhai, Ripon, and everyone who made it possible for me to work on a new platform differently. I am also grateful to Chorki for giving me the opportunity and to Salzar Rahman, the director of the show. I owe so much to all who have appreciated and supported me

throughout my career."

Nayeem made a special mention of his wife, actress Nadia Ahmed, who stood by him during his intense transformation for the role.

"In 18 months, I gained 45 kgs for this role. During this time, Nadia was extremely scared and worried about my health, in case something might happen to me. But by the grace of the Almighty, I am safe. I dedicate this award to her as well."

Concluding his statement, the actor addressed aspiring talents in the industry with a message of perseverance.

"To any rising actor who is reading this—if you are passionate about your work and truly dedicated, you will definitely reach your goals and leave a mark. Always stay true to your craft."



PHOTOS: STAR

HBO Max expands to Bangladesh and Asia Pacific



Warner Bros Discovery will roll out HBO Max in Bangladesh and 13 other Asia Pacific markets on October 15, expanding its global footprint to over 100 countries.

The platform will offer HBO Originals, Max Originals, Warner Bros films, and Discovery content, including *Harry Potter*, *House of the Dragon*, *The Last of Us*, and *Superman*.

A key highlight is the October 27 premiere of *It: Welcome to Derry*, developed by Andy and Barbara Muschietti. Family favourites such as *Adventure Time*, *Tom and Jerry*, and *Looney Tunes* will also feature.

Subscribers can stream across devices with customisable profiles, parental controls, and offline downloads. The service will be available via hbomax.com, with local partnerships to follow.



S D Burman's ancestral home to be transformed into a musical museum

The government has announced plans to transform the ancestral home of legendary composer and singer S D Burman in Chartha, Cumilla, into a musical museum and cultural complex.

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs has assigned the Bangladesh National Museum to lead the project, with feasibility studies already underway. The museum will include archives, research facilities, an open-air stage, and a music education centre.

Born in 1905, Burman's music – deeply influenced by Bhatiali and folk traditions – helped define Indian cinema, a legacy later carried forward by his son R D Burman. Similar initiatives are being considered for the home of Ustad Alauddin Khan.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

Exhibition: 'Harmony'

Alliance Française de Dhaka presents *Harmony*, a solo exhibition by visual artist Rubayia Saom Dina at Galerie Zoom. Through her use of form, texture, and colour, Dina explores the balance between inner self and the external world, inviting viewers to reflect on nature, memory, emotion, and the coexistence of contrasting forces.

DATE: SATURDAY-TUESDAY
| SEPTEMBER 13-23, 2025
TIME: 3PM TO 9PM
VENUE: ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE DHAKA



Sinatra's 'In the Wee Small Hours' returns on vinyl for 70th anniversary

Frank Sinatra's 1955 classic *In the Wee Small Hours* will be reissued on November 14 as part of Blue Note's *Tone Poet Audiophile Vinyl Series*, marking seven decades since its original release. Widely described as Sinatra's "melancholy masterpiece", the record was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1984 and is celebrated as one of the first true concept albums in popular music.

Arranged by Nelson Riddle and produced by Voyle Gilmore, the album captured Sinatra at his most intimate and vulnerable, weaving torch songs and ballads



into a cohesive meditation on loss and longing. Its influence has endured, inspiring generations of musicians—from Linda Ronstadt's 1983 collection *What's New* to countless other mood-driven works.

In the Wee Small Hours was Sinatra's third release with Capitol Records, following *Songs for Young Lovers* (later added to the National Recording Registry) and *Swing Easy!* (both 1954). Unlike most albums of the era, it was conceived as a unified body of work rather than a set of singles.



Aurthohin announces 'Phoenixer Diary 2' ahead of first US concert tour

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Popular Bangladeshi rock band Aurthohin is set to release its long-awaited album *Phoenixer Diary 2* this October, three years after the release of *Phoenixer Diary*. The announcement was made through a motion poster on Facebook, where a fiery phoenix symbolised the theme of resilience and rebirth.

The upcoming album marks a significant milestone for the band, led by frontman and bassist Saidus Salehin Khaled Sumon, better known as Bassbaba Sumon. While the number of tracks has not yet been revealed, fans can expect a continuation of Aurthohin's signature style of powerful lyrics and layered instrumentals.

Aurthohin's *Phoenixer Diary* was released in 2022, featuring eight tracks after a six-year hiatus largely due to

Sumon's health struggles, including his battle with cancer and multiple surgeries. Their previous full-length album, *Cancer Nishikabbo* was released in 2016, followed by the single *Karon Tumi Omanush* in 2018.

Alongside the album, Aurthohin has also confirmed their first-ever US concert tour. The six-show tour will begin in Boston on October 25, followed by performances in Virginia (Nov 1), New York (Nov 2), Houston (Nov 14), Dallas (Nov 16), and Indiana (Nov 22). Additional dates may be added. The tour is being organised by Music Bangla and Veritas Events.

The band currently consists of Sumon (vocals and bass), Mark Don (drums), and Ehtesham Ali (guitar). According to the band's management, *Phoenixer Diary 2* will be released ahead of their US tour, making October a landmark month for Aurthohin and their fans worldwide.

Muza, Mumzy Stranger featured on EA SPORTS 'FC 26' global soundtrack

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EA SPORTS has unveiled the official soundtrack for *FC 26*, highlighting a dynamic mix of international stars and emerging talent. The line-up includes Bangladeshi-origin singers Mumzy Stranger and Muza with their track *Ki Kori*, alongside UK-born Bangladeshi artiste Joy Crookes, who returns with *Fade Your Heart*.

"Having the first-ever Bangla song on *FC 26* is more than an achievement – it's a dream come true. Growing up playing this game, I never imagined hearing my language represented here. To now be part of this milestone is beyond words. This is for Bangladesh, proof that no dream is too big. Huge shoutout to Mumzy Stranger and the Desi Trill team for making this possible," said Muza.

"*Ki Kori* is more than just a song – it's history. To see a Bengali record become the first ever to hit *FC 26* is a proud moment for me, for our culture, and for the entire South Asian music movement," added Mumzy Stranger.

Other notable names on the soundtrack include Zambia-born, Botswana-raised rapper Sampa The Great, Dutch DJ Woodcamp, Jamaican star Original Koffee, and French hyperpop newcomer Sheng. Newcomers making their debut are Myles Smith with *Gold*, BLACKPINK's Jennie with *Like Jennie*, and footballer Moise Kean – performing as KMB – who becomes the first professional footballer to feature on an EA SPORTS soundtrack with his track *Bombay*.

EA's theme, *The Soundtrack Is Yours*, underscores its celebration of diverse global sounds for the upcoming football title.

