

MEANINGFUL WORK BRINGS MENTAL SATISFACTION: Oishee talks 'Soldier', first film with Shakib Khan



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

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SHAH ALAM SHAZU

After the release of her recent film *Noor*, actress Jannatul Ferdous Oishee is already stepping into a new phase of her acting career. She has recently completed a significant portion of shooting for her upcoming film *Soldier*, directed by Shakeeb Fahad — a project that marks her first on-screen collaboration with Dhallywood superstar Shakib Khan.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Oishee reflects on her experiences, her growth as an actor, and the quiet dreams she continues to carry within Bangladesh's film industry.

“I genuinely enjoyed working with the *Soldier* team,” Oishee says. “I'm very happy. There's a certain mental satisfaction that comes from doing meaningful work. When the team is good, the work eventually becomes better.”

She believes that a professional environment is essential for creative comfort. “If there's a proper shooting atmosphere, work becomes comfortable,” she explains. “Without professionalism, things become difficult. In that sense, the *Soldier* team was truly good.”

Working opposite Shakib Khan for the first time was a defining moment in her career. Oishee reveals that she spent around ten days shooting with him, with most of her scenes shared with the superstar.

Reflecting on their professional dynamic, she says, “As a senior, he fulfilled his responsibility. He was cooperative, and I appreciated that deeply. Before *Soldier*, we hadn't really spoken. We had only met briefly once at an event. Our real introduction happened on the set of this film.”

She admits there was nervousness at the beginning. “Shakib Khan is a very big superstar. It was my first film with him, and I didn't know how he would take things. I was nervous. We met for the first time on set. But I quickly realised that he makes everyone feel comfortable, and that made the shooting process much easier.”

Observing him closely gave her a deeper understanding of his stature. “I worked for ten days so far and mostly my shots were with Shakib Khan, and while working with him, I truly felt why he is such a big star,” she says.

“What struck me most is that, unlike many people, he doesn't highlight himself or talk about his achievements. He doesn't treat hard work or struggle as something heavy — it feels natural to him. I really liked that.”

She adds, “Shakib Khan is extremely hardworking. He can work relentlessly. He works with honesty. Even if someone says something to him, he responds with a smile.”

When asked about Shakib Khan's feedback on her work, Oishee smiles. “He actually asked me why I don't work more often. I told him that not every project offers a good experience — sometimes there's a lack of professionalism. But I do want to work. I love acting. I want to work with good teams like *Soldier*.”

Looking ahead, her dreams remain simple but sincere. “I'm searching for opportunities to play diverse characters,” she says. “I want to act in films. I just need the right opportunities.”

For Oishee, *Soldier* represents more than just another project — it marks a step forward built on discipline, good teamwork, and a growing belief in her own place within Dhallywood's evolving cinematic space.

BotTala stages 99th show of 'Khona' at BSA



Theatre collective BotTala is set to stage the 99th performance of its acclaimed play 'Khona' today, at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Written by Samina Luthfa Nitra and directed by Mohammad Ali Haider, the production revisits the folklore figure Lilaboti, widely known as Khona, an astrologer whose agricultural wisdom survives through Khonar Bochon.

Set nearly fifteen centuries ago, the play examines gender, class and power, focusing on how women's knowledge is systematically silenced within family and institutional structures. Since its debut at the Central Shaheed Minar during the centenary of International Women's Day, *Khona* has continued to attract audiences both in Bangladesh and internationally.

Before the masterclass: Ibrahim Ahmed Kamal on the endurance of rock

FAIZA RAMIM

Getting down from the bike before the YAMAHA Flagship Centre at 5:45pm this Friday, January 23, I spotted a short, lean man walking out of the parking lot—hardly looking older than 40–45. As he moved closer, it became clear who I was looking at: Ibrahim Ahmed Kamal, the legendary guitarist of Warfaze, in town to lead *Guitar Master Class 4* as the guest mentor.

Before I could properly introduce myself, my simple, timid wave was enough. He walked right up, shook my hand, and I introduced myself as his interviewer. “Oh. Am I looking good?” he asked. When I said it was for a newspaper, he laughed. I said yes anyway. At almost 60, wearing his old merch, a full beard and bandana, and looking noticeably leaner than before, his appearance felt almost unrecognisable. Still, the rockstar persona came off him at full volume.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Fame, however, does not get to his head. He gave us more than an hour of his time, speaking like an old acquaintance. Even now, he goes live on Facebook and says the easiest way to get him to reply is simply greeting him with a salam.

Kamal started Warfaze at just 14, inspired by Western metal bands. The first song he learned on guitar was Black Sabbath's *War Pigs*. That early start helps explain why Warfaze sits where it does now: a pioneering force that helped carve out multiple subgenres within Bangladeshi rock and metal.

In 1984, with no video tutorials and no mentors to guide him, Kamal learned guitar entirely by ear—with only time, passion and obsession. In Warfaze's early days, he played bass. But late 1987 changed the band's shape: guitarist Meer left, and Kamal took over the guitar duties. Asked what remains consistent in Warfaze's sound, he answered simply: distortion.

That single word pulled me into a bigger question. Punk began as rebellion against systems and set ways—was that an inspiration

behind starting out too? Kamal did not romanticise it. “I think the system is already disrupted,” he said. “If we can bring discipline into the chaos, that's success.”

Warfaze's rebellion is not theoretical. The band rose during the decline of the Ershad regime, and songs like *Ekti Chele* and *Shadhikar* spoke to that moment. Asked whether listeners always grasped the messages, Kamal said they mostly did. For him, music begins with a concept—a message worth sharing, something you hope might change a life.

That mindset carried into the Yamaha Flagship Centre in Tejgaon at 7:00pm, where the fourth session of the *Guitar Masterclass* drew young musicians eager to hear from a childhood favourite. Kamal prefaced the session with a warning: they might learn one or two concepts, but what mattered was what they did

with them afterwards. Organised by Team Alpha, the masterclass blended hands on playing with overlooked essentials: tonality, songwriting nuance, and what “professional” really means on a guitar. To demonstrate, Kamal asked the room for a random topic—“election”—and, with humour and precision, showed how tonality can exist inside anything. He followed that up with a breakdown of Warfaze's *Rupkotha* and *Purnota*. He moved between humour and precision, making the room listen harder than it usually does.

As the interview drew to a close, I asked the inevitable question: amid AI-generated music and TikTok virality, is rock dead? Kamal disagreed. Anyone who thinks rock is dead, he said, is simply looking in the wrong places.

In the end, it comes down to circles—and what you choose to expose yourself to. Rock is alive and well. It only asks for attention, understanding, and the respect needed to let it keep breathing.

ARIJIT SINGH explains decision to step away from playback singing

On January 27, Arijit Singh announced that he is stepping away from playback singing, sharing the decision through a post on his official Facebook page. Thanking listeners for their unwavering support over the years, the singer said he will not accept any new playback assignments once he completes his existing commitments.

In subsequent posts, Arijit clarified that he is not retiring from music altogether. He said he plans to continue creating music independently and expressed a desire to return to Indian classical music. Explaining his decision, the singer cited long-standing creative restlessness and a need to explore new musical paths. He also said he hopes his decision will open space for new voices to emerge. Fans can still expect a few new releases from his remaining projects in 2026.



BAFTA nominations 2026: 'One Battle After Another', 'Sinners' lead with most nods

Paul Thomas Anderson's *One Battle After Another* and Ryan Coogler's *Sinners* dominated the 2026 BAFTA nominations, reaffirming their strong momentum this awards season. Anderson's politically charged comedy-drama led with 14 nominations, including Best Film, Best Director and multiple acting categories. Close behind, Coogler's *Sinners* earned 13 nods—the highest ever for a film directed by a Black filmmaker

at the BAFTAs—following its record 16 Oscar nominations.

Among British productions, *I Swear*, *Pillion* and *The Ballad of Wallis Island* were nominated for Best British Film. Chloé Zhao's *Hamnet* collected 11 nominations, tying with Josh Sasse's *Marty Supreme*.

The BAFTA Film Awards ceremony will be held on Sunday, February 22, at London's Royal Festival Hall.

শুভকামনা ও দোয়া প্রার্থী



ডিআইজি (অব:) মো রফিকুল ইসলাম এবং নিশাত আফজা আরজু (ফিস সাইনটিস্ট ও বাংলাদেশ বেতার ও টেলিভিশনের একজন স্পেশাল গ্রেডের কণ্ঠ শিল্পী)-এর বড় মেয়ে বেনজির বিনতে রফিক (অনার্স ও এমএস, ফিসারিজ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়) এর সাথে ঢাকা নিবাসী কর্ণেল (অব:) খন্দকার ফারুক আহমেদ এবং ফারজানা রহমান তাহেরার জ্যেষ্ঠ পুত্র প্রত্যয় আনাফ (বোয়িং পাইলট) এর শুভ বিবাহ গত ২৬ ডিসেম্বর-২০২৫ আর্মি অফিসার্স ক্লাব ঢাকায় অনুষ্ঠিত হয়।

আমরা নতুন এ যুগলের জন্য সকলের কাছে শুভকামনা ও দোয়া প্রার্থী।

শুভেচ্ছান্তে

বেনজির ও আনাফ-এর বাবা, মা, নানী, মামা, মামী, চাচা, চাচী, আত্মীয়স্বজন ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীগণ