From beating cancer to winning awards

SHITHI SAHA DOESN'T GIVE UP

SHARMIN JOYA

Shithi Saha has had a season of artistic milestones, international performances and personal reflection. From winning an award while performing abroad to celebrating Durga Puja across two continents, the singer has much to look back on. But perhaps the most defining chapter of her journey remains her battle with cancer and how it changed her outlook on life.

Shithi recently won the Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards for ***Premeri Jokhom***, a romantic song from Jahid Preetom's web film ***Ghumpori***, which she performed alongside Mahtim Shakib. However, she could not attend the ceremony as she was in Australia for a series of performances.

"This was my first nomination at The Daily Star awards, and I was genuinely excited. I really hoped I would win. When I learnt about the award while in Australia, I felt immense regret. I had wanted to dress up, attend the ceremony and receive the trophy on stage. Missing that moment was a huge disappointment," she said.

Recalling the making of ***Premeri Jokhom***, Shithi said she had previously worked with Preetom and invited her back after being pleased with their collaboration. The recording took place at music director Jahid Nirob's studio, where the singer was impressed by the composition.

"The lyrics and melody complemented each other beautifully. Even months after its release, people kept asking me about the song, which became a love anthem, and I would hear it playing in different showrooms. It reminded me that audiences still appreciate good music," she said.

This year's Durga Puja was particularly memorable, as her celebrations began in Australia. Shithi performed first in Sydney and then travelled to Melbourne for a Durga Puja programme.

"The audience in Melbourne showered me with unimaginable warmth and love. I returned to Bangladesh on Saptami, performed at the Banani Puja Mandap on Ashtami and spent Nabami at my ancestral home in Sirajganj. I haven't experienced such a vibrant and colourful Durga Puja in years," she said.

However, behind her professional achievements lies a deeply personal struggle. Diagnosed with cancer in 2022, Shithi went through treatment largely on her own, choosing not to tell her parents to spare them the worry.

She spent nearly 20 days in Singapore undergoing radiation therapy. "Every day, when I returned to my hotel room after radiation, my entire body would have an intense burning sensation, followed by nausea. The physical pain was overwhelming, and there were moments when I felt completely helpless. Yet, somehow, I found the strength to carry on. I continued singing and even returned to Dhaka to perform two shows before flying back to Singapore."

She also encountered insensitive reactions during her recovery. A female colleague who knew about her diagnosis once questioned why she had come to perform at an event despite having cancer. Rather than seeking sympathy, the remark made Shithi realise how determined she was to continue working despite her illness.

Another encounter was equally distressing. A female journalist interviewed her for a magazine, only to reveal that she had expected Shithi's condition to be critical, possibly even fatal, when she agreed to feature her. The interview was never published. "She admitted that she was disappointed to know that I was recovering, and that she thought they would feature me as I was dying!"

"Those experiences made me more determined. I realised I was stronger than people assumed. I have been given a second life, and with God as my only anchor, I no longer want negativity or fear in my life. I have no regrets," she said.

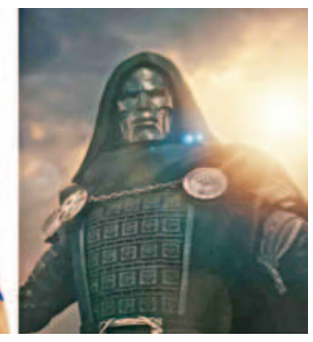
That experience also inspired ***The Healing Room***, her podcast, which aims to provide a platform for people to share their struggles and find encouragement in others' stories. Although she has released only five episodes so far due to work commitments, Shithi plans to resume the initiative and invite more people to share their journeys.

Meanwhile, she is working on YouTube projects and several musical collaborations, having previously worked with artistes such as Shafqat Amanat Ali, Usha Uthup and Salim Merchant. One new collaboration has already been recorded, with more projects in the pipeline.



PHOTO: COURTESY





WWE and Disney team up for 'Avengers: Doomsday'-themed 'Worlds Collide'

WWE and The Walt Disney Company will bring two wrestling events to Walt Disney World Resort in December, opening with the John Cena Classic on December 14. An ***Avengers: Doomsday***-themed edition of ***Worlds Collide*** follows on December 15. Both events will take place at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex.

Featuring Cody Rhodes, the John Cena Classic will stream live on Netflix as a special edition of Monday Night Raw. Fans will vote in real time for their favourite wrestler, who will receive the John Cena Classic Championship.

Meanwhile, Worlds Collide will feature wrestlers from WWE and Mexican promotion AAA. WWE and Fanatics will also host WWE World on both days, offering fans meet-and-greet sessions and exclusive merchandise. Tickets go on general sale on November 13.

EVENTS

'Paliye Beray'



Shoukhin Theatre premieres its 12th production, ***Paliye Beray***, written by Indian playwright Manoj Mitra and directed by Hamidur Rahman Pappu. The play follows Rupchand, a rootless wanderer evading life's realities, offering a psychological exploration of human relationships, personal identity, and social contradictions through the lens of marginalised lives.

Date: Tuesday | November 10, 2026
Time: 7:00pm
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA

NEWS

No room to undermine 1972 charter

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The goal of the people's united movement was to establish a democratic society and a state free from exploitation and religious discrimination, and every article of the 1972 constitution reflects those ideals, he added.

Referring to the current situation, Dr Kamal said it is essential to stop communal politics, control corruption, end drug addiction, and ensure public safety by eliminating terrorism.

He also stressed the need to create jobs for hundreds of thousands of unemployed young people, warning that the country would otherwise face disorder.

Calling for a stable system of government based on the goals of the Liberation War, he said such a system must ensure equality, human dignity and justice.

"To achieve this goal, let us put aside our differences, come together, and move forward to build a better country," he said in the closing part of his statement.

Speaking as a special guest, Women and Children Affairs and Social Welfare Minister Dr AZM Zahid Hossain questioned the opposition's decision not to join the parliamentary committee on constitutional amendments.

"They will join all the parliamentary committees, attend meetings, and give their names as members, but they will not join the constitutional amendment committee. What kind of position is this?" said Zahid, a BNP Standing Committee member.

He urged the opposition to join discussions, present its views and accept the majority's decision, saying parliament represents the people, who are the highest sovereign power.

Nagorik Oikya President Mahmudur Rahman Manna said the basic goals of reform have still not been achieved.

"We have not been able to decentralise power. The demands we raised for reforms have not been met in the end," he said.

He said constitutional provisions that could give one person absolute power remain unchanged, and questioned how anyone could challenge a leader empowered to appoint the police chief, the Bangladesh Bank governor and officials of constitutional bodies.

"What a cruel irony of fate! We ourselves cannot understand what is actually happening with the July charter. One party says the July charter is being betrayed. Another says it will follow the charter word for word. So which side should ordinary people take?" he said.

"The constitution cannot be changed simply through party politics. It would not be right to think of changing the constitution only through party strength, organisational power, or the number of members a party has in parliament."

BNP MP and lawyer Fazlur Rahman said any constitutional amendment must be made on the basis of the 1972 constitution.

Prof Abdur Rouf, who was part of the process of drafting the 1972 constitution, opposed discarding it. He said reforms required parliament's approval and urged action on the issues agreed upon in the National Consensus Commission.

Chairing the programme, Gono Forum President Subrata Chowdhury said it is unfortunate that Constitution Day is not officially observed in Bangladesh and that most political parties do not observe it either.

"So far, 17 amendments have been made to the constitution. There may be an 18th amendment in the future. We are afraid that the next amendment could take the country backwards again. This is frightening," he said.

He said the 1972 constitution must be preserved, and everyone must speak out against any activity that goes against the spirit of the Liberation War.

Interim-era

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over allegations of adverse impacts on public health caused by delays, irregularities, and administrative failures in the procurement and distribution of measles vaccines."

It sets three terms of reference.

First, "identifying the causes and liabilities for delays, irregularities, and administrative failures in measles vaccine procurement and distribution".

Second, "providing recommendations on measures to prevent such untoward occurrences in the future".

Third, "any other recommendation deemed appropriate by the commission in this regard."

The Health Services Division will provide secretarial assistance, along with the required expenses and manpower.

AKM Abdul Awal Mazumder, former secretary and public administration expert, told The Daily Star, "If anyone bears responsibility for the deaths of so many children, it must be uncovered. Forming such a commission was necessary. It is a good initiative.

He hoped the current elected government will publish the report, unlike previous such reports not seeing the light of the day.

Public health expert Dr Mushtuq Husain also welcomed the move to ensure accountability in the health sector.

"Reports of various commissions and committees often face adverse remarks due to biased positions. I hope this commission keeps that in mind and maintains a fair stance," he said.

This is the first time the government has officially announced an investigation into the outbreak. Government officials had repeatedly said they would investigate it, but no formal step was taken.

Meanwhile, six more patients died with measles-like symptoms in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, bringing the combined tally of confirmed and suspected measles-related deaths this year to 1,269, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The DGHS reported 77 new confirmed cases, bringing laboratory-confirmed infections to 24,150, while deaths from confirmed measles cases remained unchanged at 105.

Since March 15 this year, 2,08,634 patients with suspected measles have been hospitalised, of whom 1,99,894 have recovered, the DGHS said.

The new infections and deaths came even after the BNP government, which took charge from Prof Yunus's interim administration, conducted special vaccination drives to bring the situation under control. Experts said there was a gap in data on how many children remained unvaccinated.

Dhaka needs Tehran's nod for safe Hormuz passage

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ambassador said Iran, Qatar and Oman had certain plans, but reopening depended on the lifting of the US naval blockade against Iran.

"Through mediators, we have conveyed to the US Iran's initiative and preconditions for reopening the strait. Among the conditions, lifting the naval blockade and a commitment not to attack Iran are prominent," he said.

On prospects for negotiations amid the ongoing Middle East conflict, Jalil said progress would depend on both sides having a positive intention.

Asked about Iran's preparedness for a possible nuclear attack, the ambassador said the US had used nuclear weapons in the past and could do so again.

"Any attack on Iran is not preventable. If a nuclear attack is launched against Iran, we will respond proportionately against both the US and Israel," he said.

Jalil also said Tehran saw no possibility of the US midterm elections bringing any change in Washington's policy towards Iran.

Four oil tankers

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constrain Trump's ability to enact his agenda, though the president retains the power to order new strikes.

Khamenei also warned that if the US did choose further military action, the scope of the war would widen, without elaborating, reports AFP.

Meanwhile, Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis yesterday said they targeted the airport in the Saudi capital, after civil defence launched a brief warning of "potential danger" in the Riyadh area.

The Houthis "carried out an operation targeting (King) Khalid International Airport in Riyadh... using a ballistic missile," said military spokesman Yahya Saree.

Many academics, students punished over 'AL links'

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Meenakshi Ganguly, deputy Asia director at HRW.

"Bangladesh needs to turn the page on the repression of the past, not repeat it whenever the ruling and opposition parties trade places."

The sanctions, including dismissals, suspensions and restrictions on teaching, stem from allegations that the affected academics were complicit in violence under Hasina's Awami League government, which was toppled by student-led protests in 2024. Others have been accused of engaging in "subversive" activities in support of the party or discriminating against students who wear Islamic clothing.

Hundreds of students, allegedly members or supporters of the AL, are also facing expulsion, depriving them of their right to education, HRW said.

The organisation said it had interviewed more than a dozen affected teachers, examined university correspondence, and reviewed and analysed a televised discussion and a video posted on social media.

Interviews with teachers and students also confirmed cases of expulsion, cancellation of examination certificates, and students being barred from campus.

More than 20 public universities have been affected, the rights body found.

"Any acts of revenge against people who peacefully supported the previous government would show that freedoms of speech and assembly are not protected," Ganguly said.

"Universities should be places where people are free to express their views, not places where support is enforced for the government of the day."

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury arrested in July uprising case

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Iqbal, former chairman of private television channel DBC, and Rajib were picked up from the channel's office in Mohakhali, said their colleagues and DB officials in the afternoon.

At that time, Md Akhter Hossain, deputy commissioner (Media) of DMP, said the two were taken to the DB office following a situation arising from the publication of a report. DB officials were talking to them, he told journalists at his office.

Mukatadir Anik, assignment editor of the channel, said they had learnt that Iqbal Sobhan was taken for questioning.

Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC. | Based on Islamic Shari'ah

Board & Company Affairs Wing,
Board Secretariat Division
Head Office: Islami Bank Tower,
40, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.

PRICE SENSITIVE DISCLOSURE

This is for kind information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC. in its 415th Meeting held on 04th November, 2026 in the Board Room of the Bank at 2.30 P.M. took the following Price Sensitive Decision:

Sl. No.	Particular	Decision
01	Enhancement of Authorized Capital of Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC. by amending Memorandum and Articles of Association.	Raising Authorized Capital from Tk.2,000 Crore (Tk.20,000 Million) to Tk.10,000 Crore (Tk.100,000 Million) of Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC. subject to clearance from Bangladesh Bank including other Regulatory Authorities and by the Honorable Shareholders in the Extra Ordinary General Meeting (EGM) for approval.

Dated: Dhaka, November 04, 2026.

By order of the Board,
Sd/-
(Md. Habibur Rahman)
SEVP & Company Secretary

www.islamibankbd.com