Dameer returns with 'Dhaka Love', finds pieces of home in music

NAVEEN ISLAM TOREE

There is a peculiar kind of heartbreak that comes with leaving a place you have learnt to call home. It is not always about the people you leave behind or the streets you may never walk again. Sometimes, it is the unsettling realisation that you have built pieces of yourself in different corners of the world, and that no single place can hold all of them anymore.

For Bangladeshi singer-songwriter Dameer Khan, this feeling lies at the heart of his latest music video, ***Dhaka Love***. And as it turns out, the story is not entirely fictional.



For Dameer, a self-described "Bangladeshi Export", home and identity remain caught between Bangladesh and the life he has built abroad.

The video, which premiered on October 31, follows a Bangladeshi accountant spending his final hours in Toronto before his work permit expires. Through familiar streets, friendships, and the small comforts of everyday life, it captures the bittersweet experience of preparing to leave a place that has quietly become your own.

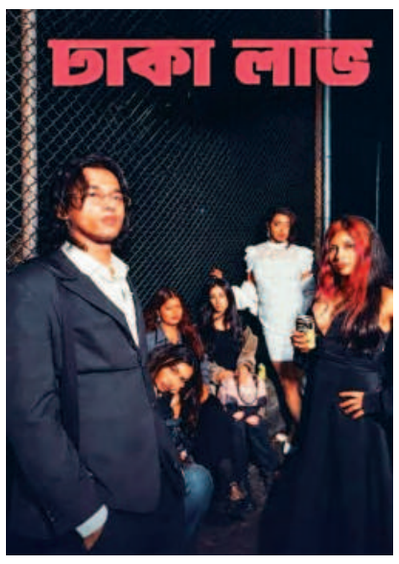
The music video also marks Dameer's directorial debut, with every creative choice being intentional, according to him. His collaboration with Saifi N began with a simple message and an instant creative chemistry. Armed with "two shitty laptops", they brought the video to life in just a couple of days.

For Dameer who calls himself a "Bangladeshi Export", the idea of home is rarely straightforward. "Identity somehow gets a little distorted along the way," Dameer reflected on the pull between the country one leaves behind and the life built elsewhere.

He explained that being Bangladeshi abroad often means condensing a complex cultural identity to familiar symbols like biryani, sarees, and panjabis, leaving little room for the country's history and deeper aspects. Yet, the colourful nights, friendships, and memories made abroad become just as personal. Nostalgia does not stay reserved for the place one came from, but also for the place one is about to leave.

This complicated relationship with identity is only one part of Dameer's journey. Having entered the music industry at a young age, he has witnessed his own position change over the years.

During the course of the interview, the artiste highlighted the lack of institutional support for musicians.



"There is no legal association that would defend musicians. I feel like a lot of problems would be solved if there were more protection for artistes," he said, raising concerns about royalties and contractual disputes.

"For someone trying to make a name for myself, it broke me completely."

Nevertheless, he believes Bangladesh has enormous potential to establish itself globally through music. Pointing to the international success of artistes such as Sanjoy Deb, particularly his performance at FIFA, Dameer stressed the importance of fair opportunities and stronger protections for emerging musicians.

For all the disillusionment he has experienced, his ambition remains intact. He has several projects lined up, including new singles, a collaboration with Shibu, and a film in which he will debut as the lead actor. He also plans to move to the United Kingdom next year, where he intends to release a dance album.

It is perhaps fitting that an artiste who has just released a song about the uncertainty of leaving one home is already preparing to begin again somewhere else. Dameer's new song became a reflection of every other youth pursuing a life and career abroad.



Ranbir Kapoor and Yash's 'Ramayana' eyes record-breaking box office run

Ranbir Kapoor, Yash and Sai Pallavi's ***Ramayana: Part 1*** opened worldwide yesterday, November 5, amid strong box office expectations. Directed by Nitesh Tiwari, the film casts Ranbir as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Sita and Yash as Ravana.

According to early trade reports, worldwide advance bookings exceeded Rs 150 crore, including over Rs 80 crore for opening day. Early reviews praised the performances and visuals, while some raised concerns about pacing, music and visual effects.

Produced by Namit Malhotra and Yash, the film features a score by Hans Zimmer and AR Rahman, with visual effects by DNEG. The first of two planned instalments, it will be followed by a sequel scheduled for release in 2028, with Sunny Deol playing Lord Hanuman.



'Invisible Stories'

Invisible Stories brings Bengali ghost lore to life through evocative body puppetry and traditional Sundarbans folk music. Directed by French puppeteer Laurie Cannac, this cross-cultural production reimagines urban Dhaka as a surreal metropolis, blurring the boundaries between modern city life and the supernatural world.

Date: Friday–Saturday | November 6–7, 2026
Time: 6:00pm onwards
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA



Phoebe Waller-Bridge donates London flat to help young writers

Fleabag creator, writer, and actress Phoebe Waller-Bridge has donated a London flat to Writers' Block, a new scheme helping early-career writers from disadvantaged backgrounds afford accommodation in the capital.

Waller-Bridge bought the property specifically for the initiative and will provide it rent-free, with residents paying only their bills. She has also made a financial contribution.

Screenwriter Jack Thorne is among the scheme's backers, alongside James Graham, Sally Wainwright, Peter Morgan and Martin McDonagh.

Writers' Block grew out of the Adopt a Playwright Award, founded in 2008 by Sofie Mason and Diana Jervis-Read. The scheme offers spare rooms in London at reduced rates, capped at £30 a night or £500 a month, and has so far helped 12 writers find accommodation.

NEWS

No AI guidelines for universities

FROM PAGE 12

Persian Language and Literature at RU, said AI had fundamentally changed his reading habits. Instead of spending hours reading, he now relies on AI-generated summaries.

NM Ullash, a fourth-year journalism student at Chittagong University, said, "The constant availability of instant summaries has diminished students' focus during lectures and eroded their inclination to engage in deep, sustained reading."

The growing reliance on AI has also challenged traditional assessment methods, particularly take-home assignments.

Prof Imranul Hoque, chairman of Jagannath University's Marketing Department, said teachers were encountering assignments that appeared far beyond students' demonstrated abilities.

"But when we look at the content, we can see that, at this level, it is not possible for the student to produce something of that standard," he said.

He warned that excessive AI dependence could weaken critical reasoning, analytical skills and independent problem-solving, and called for common national rules.

Swakkhar Shatabda, professor of Computer Science and Engineering at BRAC University, raised similar concerns.

"I have seen students submit strong or sophisticated assignments but struggle to explain or defend them," he said.

In response, some teachers are placing greater emphasis on oral examinations, presentations, classroom discussions and project-based assessments to test students' understanding rather than simply evaluating their submissions.

Md Abdul Kabil Khan, associate professor and head of Journalism, Media and Communication at Daffodil International University, said teachers were reconsidering marking criteria for take-home assignments, giving greater weight to students' original ideas, creativity and knowledge.

Taspriya Labonno Progga, a student at DU's Institute of Education and Research, said instructors were increasingly assessing students through direct classroom interaction.

"Methods such as viva examinations, presentations, class discussions, and in-class assignments are being used more," she said. "This makes it more difficult for students to simply submit work generated by AI."

Prof Mamun of RU suggested more oral assessments and requiring students to preserve successive drafts of assignments and projects so teachers could evaluate their reasoning and work processes.

Prof Khairul said he also asked students to present their assignments, noting that those heavily dependent on AI sometimes struggled to explain their work.

Generative AI became widely available following ChatGPT's public release in November 2022, prompting universities worldwide to revise their academic policies.

A 2025 study, "Comparative analysis of artificial intelligence policies in universities across five countries", examined guidelines at 343 universities in Australia, Canada, China, the UK and the US. It found that 179, or 52 percent, allowed individual instructors to determine how AI could be used in their classes.

In Bangladesh, the UGC is still preparing a national framework.

UGC Chairman Prof Mamun Ahmed said the commission planned to introduce guidelines promoting ethical and transparent AI use. Universities would then develop their own policies, with departments preparing discipline-specific rules.

"There is no reason to think that one AI policy can cover all universities, or even all departments within the same university," he told The Daily Star.

"We hope that the guideline will be ready by January," he said.

Meanwhile, universities are at different stages of developing their policies.

DU Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Prof Abdus Salam said a committee had been formed around two months ago to prepare AI guidelines.

Chittagong University Vice-Chancellor Prof Mohammad Al-Forkan said the university had decided to formulate an AI policy and had been organising short training programmes for students across faculties.

At Daffodil International University, revised AI guidelines covering students, teachers, researchers and administrative staff were approved in 2026, according to Md Abdul Kabil Khan.

A 2025 study co-authored by Prof Khairul, based on 765 valid responses from teachers and students in social science disciplines at public and private universities, also found differing perceptions of AI use.

Students generally considered ChatGPT helpful for learning, while teachers were more cautious about its effects. The study identified concerns over excessive dependence, unreliable information and inadequate institutional guidance on ethical use.

Prof Khairul said university policies should clearly define acceptable AI use in assignments and research for both teachers and students, while considering unequal access to devices and paid services.

He supported AI-assisted literature searches, provided students independently verified the sources.

"AI is a reality. We cannot ignore it," he said.

He called for AI literacy to be incorporated into university courses and for teachers to receive training in the technology's effective and ethical use.

"There is no alternative to training teachers," he said.

Jamaat bloc plans council to pursue July charter reforms

FROM PAGE 12

committee, accused the government of disregarding the referendum verdict and backing away from its reform commitments.

"We have taken a policy decision on this. We will form a council. However, its size and other details will be decided after further discussions," he told The Daily Star.

The council would build public opinion, provide intellectual guidance and explore ways to implement the referendum verdict, he said.

Hamidur said discussions on the council's composition and action plan were underway, with details to be announced at a press conference.

Jalaluddin Ahmad, secretary general of Khelafat Majlis, said the alliance's top leaders decided to form the council at a meeting on October 27. The liaison committee discussed the matter the following day.

The plan is to include a few lawmakers from the alliance and one non-MP representative from each partner party, he said.

Jalaluddin said alliance lawmakers had taken oaths both as MPs and as members of the Constitution Reform Council, making them responsible for carrying out reforms.

"We want constitutional reform, while the government wants amendments. The 11 parties have been holding programmes on the streets. Since our lawmakers have taken the oath as members of the Constitution Reform Council, they also have a responsibility," he said.

The proposed council would hold discussions with businesspeople, professionals, journalists and diplomats to build support for constitutional reform.

Jalaluddin hoped its composition and action plan could be announced next week.

Jamaat MP from Pabna-1 Nazibur Rahman Momen said a 15-member proposal for the council had been submitted and would be finalised after discussions among alliance leaders.

Nazibur said discussions had previously taken place on forming a committee comprising all parties that signed the charter to oversee its implementation and constitutional reform.

He said lawmakers could not fulfil their responsibilities as the Constitution Reform Council had not been convened. The alliance was therefore considering a platform to organise meetings, including symbolic sessions, and other activities.

"We will present not just a framework but also a draft outlining what the constitution should look like in light of the July charter and the referendum. We will also undertake various programmes to raise public awareness," he said.

Those being considered for the council include Hamidur Rahman Azad, Nazibur Rahman Momen, opposition deputy leader and Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammed Taher, National Citizen Party (NCP) Member Secretary and Rangpur-4 MP Akhtar Hossen, the party's Senior Joint Convener Nasiruddin Patwary, lawyer Shishir Manir, and Rokeya Begum, mother of martyred Jabir Ibrahim and a Jamaat-nominated MP from a reserved women's seat.

No passport needed to bring Hasina back

FROM PAGE 12

Communist Party of China Central Committee.

Humaiun said there was no legal requirement to issue a passport or travel document to facilitate the return of a fugitive sought under an extradition process.

"Is she coming to visit her in-laws' home in Rangpur that we need to give her a passport? You do not need a passport to arrest terrorists and criminals. This is a matter of handover, and a judicial process is in place," he said.

Referring to Bangladesh's efforts to secure her return, the state minister said the country would continue pursuing the matter through established legal and diplomatic channels.

Questioned about the proposed Bangladesh-Myanmar-China Economic Corridor, Humaiun said the initiative had the potential to create a new connectivity and trade route for the region, but stressed that stability and a sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis remained important prerequisites for Bangladesh.

Separately, Bangladesh and China reaffirmed their commitment to advancing bilateral relations under the framework of a "China-Bangladesh Community with a Shared Future in the New Era".

The commitment was reiterated during a breakfast meeting hosted by Humaiun in honour of Liu Haixing at State Guest House Padma yesterday.

2 DGFI men sacked

FROM PAGE 12

According to the case forwarding report, Sharif had gone there with Ansar member Sohel Rana, who had offered to help him buy a motorcycle. Four people later entered the flat, confined him and demanded the money.

Sharif handed over Tk 70,000, which he had brought to buy the motorcycle, before being assaulted and threatened again.

Around 3:00am, the suspects reportedly took Sharif out of the flat and forced him into a car. They stopped at a tea stall in Shyamoli, where Sharif spotted a police patrol vehicle, got out and informed the police.

Police then arrested the six, including Mamun, Nuruzzaman and Sohel, and seized the car.

Largest Arab party group backs Eisenkot

FROM PAGE 12

The party informed Herzog "that it has decided not to recommend any member of Knesset to form a government," the president's office said in a statement, referring to the 120-member parliament in which United Torah Judaism has won seven seats.

The party, which represents ultra-Orthodox Jews of Ashkenazi origin, who mostly hail from or have roots in Europe, as well as Shas, which represents the same community but of Sephardic, or mostly Middle Eastern and North African descent, have both been backed by Netanyahu as they push to maintain the exemption from military service for religious students.

Netanyahu has preserved the exemption but stopped short of enshrining it in law, in the face of major resentment from many other Israelis as reservists serve multiple tours due to the wars in Gaza, Lebanon and Iran.

"In whatever government is next formed, our immediate item is sorting out the status of Torah students," United Torah Judaism lawmaker Isaac Pindrus said.

Eisenkot, a former military chief seeking to unite the centre and centre-right, has been adamant about closing exemptions to military service, with some of his opposition allies harshly criticising the ultra-Orthodox as self-serving.

Observers say United Torah Judaism's approach may be aimed more at punishing Netanyahu and showing that their votes cannot be taken for granted, while they could still serve in a government if he were to form one.

Army member killed

FROM PAGE 12

A joint team comprising personnel from the army's 10 Infantry Division, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and local police launched an operation in the area around 5:00pm.

The traffickers opened fire upon seeing members of the joint force approach, prompting security personnel to return fire, the ISPR said.

Titas was critically injured and suffered heavy blood loss. He was taken to a nearby hospital for initial treatment before being transferred to the Combined Military Hospital in Ramu, where doctors declared him dead.

During the operation, the joint force rescued 57 hostages and detained five suspected members of the trafficking gang. A pistol, a locally made firearm and four rounds of ammunition were also recovered, the release said.

The Bangladesh Army expressed condolences to Titas's family and paid tribute to him for sacrificing his life in the line of duty.

Thailand bans textbook on nat'l security grounds

AFP, *Bangkok*

Thailand has banned a textbook about the country on national security grounds, with the tome's exiled editor saying yesterday it was outlawed over its content on the Thai monarchy.

The royal family holds revered status in Thai society and is shielded from criticism by a strict defamation law that critics say is used to muzzle dissent.