



(1) Kaushik Sankar Das (C) with the lead casts of the film 'Punch', Niloy Alamgir and Meghla Mukta. (2) The poster of 'Unoponchash Batash'.

FAVOURITE FAN MOMENTS

"I was surprised to know that they celebrate my birthday every year"

Siam Ahmed

SHARMIN JOYA

Siam Ahmed, one of the busiest actors of the industry, started his career with television before stepping into films. He has garnered legions of adoring fans with his unparalleled performances in a short time. The actor shares how his fans make him feel special, with *The Daily Star*.

A while back, I came to know that a group of young students have opened a Facebook fan page for me, where they post regular updates and stories about my projects. I was surprised to know that they celebrate my birthday every year. Recently, the group reached out to me and said that they have raised some funds and booked a venue to celebrate my birthday. I was overwhelmed.

After finding out about the group, I invited them to come and meet me. Unfortunately, owing to concerns over the coronavirus pandemic, I was stuck in Khulna with the team of *Adventure of Sundarban* and we just returned to Dhaka recently. Nonetheless, I have promised the fans that this year, I will celebrate my birthday with them.



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

Debutant directors affected by pandemic delay

SHARMIN JOYA

As most people in Bangladesh are in isolation due to concerns over the coronavirus outbreak, so is the entertainment industry. In fact, the announcements regarding delays in releases of the films and suspension of shoots came earlier than the official announcement from the government. Meanwhile, directors who just began their journey in the film industry were affected the most by this unexpected barrier.

Kaushik Sankar Das has completed shooting for only 25 percent of his debut directorial, *Punch*. Under the banner of Zero Hour Films, Momintul Haque, who accepted the story of *Punch*, is the producer of the film. The dialogue of the film is written by Kaushik himself. "It is very upsetting, as the team has worked really hard for the film," says the director, who is a well-known



A scene from 'Bishwo Shundori'.

tele-fiction maker. The film, featuring Niloy Alamgir and Meghla Mukta in the lead roles, is an action movie that revolves around a national boxing champion and his life. The director wants to start the production of the film in full swing, after the situation is under control. "We have hired five specialised stunt directors from JAIKA Stunts Team, a stunt direction company based in

Thailand.

Kaushik also shares that he has been staying at home and helping his family with household tasks. He also started working on two new scripts for his upcoming projects -- one of which is based on the book *Manush Pichash*, by Hemandra Kumar Roy, written in 1939. Masud Hassan Ujjal's debut directorial film, *Unoponchash Batash*,

was supposed to release on March 13. "Of course, a film is not more important than life itself. If we survive these critical times, we can make more films and keep our entertainment world alive," says Ujjal. "I am spending time making music, working on new scripts and helping the marginalised communities, who have been badly affected financially, due to this situation."

Bishwa Shundori, Chayanika Chowdhury's debut directorial, had its much anticipated release on March 27. However, due to the closure of the cinema halls and multiplexes, the film went into the 'postpone list'. "I would say that I am very happy that my film has been postponed," shares Chayanika. "I respect the decision taken by the Bangladesh Chalachitro Prodorshok Samiti, Film Producer Distributor Association and the government. We have to maintain all kinds of awareness to prevent this deadly disease." The Siam Ahmed and Pori Moni starrer is on the waiting list, alongside the other films. Chayanika Chowdhury is now giving time to her family, and taking care of their health. "Arun has come back from Dallas on March 26, so we are maintaining quarantine," she says. "At the moment, I am taking care of the family by making healthy food for them, and instructing my house help to maintain hygiene". Chayanika hopes that after the situation is under control *Bishwa Shundori*, will see an auspicious release.

Timeless melodies of Bangladeshi cinema to enjoy at home

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Bangladesh, a culturally rich nation, treasures an excellent dosage of romance, action, comedy and most importantly, music, in its films. With film music changing its course over time from classical to jazz, rock and metal, modern music, a genre most prominent in the Bengali film industry, has always been cherished by the audience since the mid 60s.

The black and white era of Bangladeshi cinema has not only gifted us with unparalleled stories on the silver screen, but also an array of timeless melodies. Here are a few such popular songs that are used as cellphone ringtones, played on the radio and included on most music lovers' playlists even today.

Chokh Je Moner Kotha Bole, picturised on Nayak Raj Razzak and Suchanda, is composed and sung by Khandakar Nurul Alam for Amir Hossain's film, *Je Agune Puri* (1970). *Ainate Oi Mukh Dekhbe Jokhon*, is another timeless track sung by Mahmudun Nabi from the movie *Nacher Putul* (1971), featuring Razzak and Shabnam in the lead roles. The film was produced by Azizur Rahman under the banner of Rana Films and directed by Ashok Ghosh.



Gaaner e Khatay Swaralipi

Gaaner E Khatay Swaralipi Likhe, one of the most popular melodies of the 70s from the Nazrul Islam directorial, *Swaralipi* (1970), is composed by Subal Das. Sung by Runa Laila, the song is picturised on Razzak and Bobita.

Chumki Choleche Eka Pothe is an all-time favourite from the film, *Dost Dushman* (1977), composed by Alam Khan and sung by Khurshid Alam. Picturised on Shabana and Wasim, the song gained popularity for not only its composition but also the video, where Shabana rides off on a horse carriage, as Wasim follows her on a bicycle, trying to pacify her.

Tumi Je Amar Kobita, a romantic track by Sabina Yasmin and Mahmudun Nabi, features the

Razzak, Kabori, Rozi Samad and Anwar Hossain in the lead roles, are composed by Satya Saha.

Jodi Bou Shajo Go, from the film *Waada*, is popular among the audience even today. Sung by Khurshid Alam and Runa Laila, the song, picturised on Bulbul Ahmed and Bobita, is written by Masud Karim and composed by Subal Das. Runa Laila's *Eka Eka Keno Bhalo Lage Na*, picturised on the actor Olivia in the film *The Rain* (1976) delivers a delightful musical experience. The song was composed by Anwar Parvez and released in Bangla and Urdu.

Yet another timeless track, *Ektush Khani Dekho Ekkhan Kotha Rakho*, from the film, *Badhu Bidai* (1978), directed by Kazi Zahir is the next number on

reality for villagers who migrate to the metropolis in pursuit of their dreams. The song is sung by Shammi Akhtar and Khondokar Faruq Ahmed. It features Anjana on the silver screen, alongside the Nayak Raj.

The soundtrack of *Sujon Sokhi* (1975), a trendsetting romantic film starring Farooque and Kabori became popular among the youth upon its release. The track *Shob Shokhire Paar Korite Nebo*, sung by Abdul Alim and Sabina Yasmin still appears on the playlists of retro music lovers. Sabina Yasmin's *Shondhar Chaya Neme* from the film *Putrobdhu* (1981) is also one of the most beloved tracks of all time. The song is picturised on Shabana.

Noyoner Alo (1984), was a romantic blockbuster by Belal



Chumki Choleche Eka Pothe

celebrated duo Razzak and Kabori. The song is written by Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal and composed by Subal Das for the film *Dorpochno* (1980).

Tomare Legeche Je Ato Bhalo, is another cherished choice from the film *Rajdhanir Buke* (1960), directed by Ehtesham. In the song, composed by Robin Ghosh and Ferdousi Rahman, the 60's heartthrob Abdur Rahman expresses his love for Shabnam.

Gaan Hoya Ele and *Nil Akasher Niche Ami*, two acclaimed tracks from the Narayan Ghosh Mita directorial, *Nil Akasher Niche* (1969), starring

this playlist. Composed by Alauddin Ali, the song is sung by Sabina Yasmin. Among the numerous tracks that gained popularity during the 20th century, *Ore Holud Pakhi Bolo Kothay Tore Rakhi*, from the film *Bolda* was one of the most beloved. Picturised on Razzak and Nuton, the composition is sung by Subir Nandi and Anjumana Ara Begum.

Among the many other popular tracks that were picturised on Razzak, the song *Dhaka Shohore Aisha Amar Asha Furaise*, from the film *Ashikkhito* (1978), depicts the



Shob Shokhire Paar Korite

Ahmed. The film's music also managed to earn a place in the audience's hearts. The romantic track, *Amar Buker Moddhekhane Mon Jekhane Hridoy Sekhane*, sung by Samina Chowdhury, even won a National Film Award for best female playback singing. The song is picturised on Zafar Iqbal and Suborna Mustafa. With such soothing melodies available on YouTube and other online audio platforms, a dive into the musical experience can keep you entertained in these trying times, as you stay at home.



Priyanka Chopra and Shah Rukh Khan.

Shah Rukh Khan and Priyanka Chopra to join 'One World: Together at Home'

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, from New Delhi

An array of artistes from across the world will appear in 'One World: Together At Home', a global virtual concert, curated by pop star Lady Gaga to support and applaud frontline healthcare workers in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

'One World: Together At Home', organised by the World Health Organization and international advocacy organisation Global Citizen, will air on April 18, featuring real-life experiences of doctors, nurses and families living through the pandemic.

The line-up also includes stars such as Alanis Morissette, Billie Eilish, Billie Joe Armstrong of Green Day, Chris Martin, David Beckham, Elton John, Idris and Sabrina Elba, John Legend, Kerry Washington, Lang Lang, Lizzo, Paul McCartney, Stevie Wonder, Shah Rukh Khan and Priyanka Chopra.

The concert will be hosted by Jimmy Fallon of *The Tonight Show*, Jimmy Kimmel of *Jimmy Kimmel Live* and Stephen Colbert of *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*.

The Co-Founder and CEO of Global Citizen Hugh Evans said that the programme will honour the heroic efforts of community health workers and it aims to serve as a source of unity and encouragement in the global fight to end COVID-19.

The special programme will be a multi-hour digital broadcast, streaming online on multiple global platforms, including Alibaba, Amazon Prime Video, Apple, Facebook and Instagram.