

GRAPE VINE

PORI MONI'S new venture



Pori Moni has recently signed up for a government grant film. The film, titled *Lekhok*, received a government grant for the 2019-2020 financial year, but will be renamed as *Mukhosh*. The film will be directed by Iftekhar Shuvo, who has also written the story and screenplay. Pori Moni said, "I liked the story of the film very much, and agreed to be a part of it immediately. I hope the project will go well. The shooting is not set to begin until the end of the year due to the pandemic." Pori Moni is currently awaiting the release of the film *Bishwa Shundori*, which has been directed by Chayanika Chowdhury.

Shreya Shomoyeeta



First Bangladeshi film in Locarno

Promising Bangladeshi filmmaker in the international short film scene, Mahde Hasan, has yet again become a pride for our country. His sixteen-minute-long short film, *A Boring Film*, is the first film from Bangladesh to compete in the prestigious *Locarno Film Festival*. The film has been selected in the *Pardi di domani International Competition of Locarno Film Festival 2020*. It has been produced by Mahajabin Khan and Muhammad Anwar Hossain. Aside from working for the cinematography, editing and sound, Mahde has also acted in the film. From 2,200 films only 45 short films, from 32 countries, have been selected for the short film category of the *Locarno Film Festival*. The festival will be held online from 5-15 August, 2020. Previously, Mahde's first feature film, *Sand City*, currently in development, was selected for *La Fabrique Cinema* at the *Cannes Film Festival 2019*.



SYMON SAYS

The Ministry of Information has announced the films for the financial year 2019-2020. One of them is the movie, *Daymukti*, which will be directed by Komol Sarker. The shooting for the film is set to begin after Eid-ul-Azha, and it will star Symon Sadik and Mou Khan, alongside Syed Hasan Imam and Dilara Zaman, among others. Symon says, "The story of the film is mainly based around old age homes, and it was truly touching. I believe that this government financed film will certainly turn out to be something great."

Shreya Shomoyeeta

Talented singers, Armeen Musa and Tashfia Sui Tashfee, have adapted to the changes the pandemic has brought to the music industry. Even though their plans for this year has altered, both of them have found ways to spread their music and be committed to their love for singing. In this interview, the singers shared their works during pandemic and plans for the post pandemic scenario.

Armeen Musa

How is your choir practising during the pandemic?
We are not practising during the pandemic. We have months and months of practice from the time before the pandemic, so we made two songs while staying at home. The songs we made were *Shadhinota Tomake Niye* by Happy and Lucky Akhand, and *Mon Shudhu Mon*, which was a tribute to the band Souls. We had practised these songs several times before the pandemic, and we learnt how to record the music at home. Then we each recorded our parts and mixed it together. We also made videos of us recording at home.

Aside from the 'Ghaashphoring Choir', do you have any project the readers should look forward to?
The pandemic has really affected a lot of plans I had for this year. I was planning to go on a tour abroad this summer, but the pandemic caused it to get cancelled. I'm a fulltime musician, and I realised that I needed to find an alternative source of earning money as the pandemic is not letting me perform. So, from the second month of quarantine, I started taking online classes for music theory. I also set up a home studio so I can



PHOTO: REZANUL HAQUE

record jingles or voice-overs from home. In the first few months of the pandemic, I had to get used to shifting all my work to home, and now that I am fully adjusted to this setting, I am thinking about releasing an album I have been working on forever. I made this album with international artists from seven or eight countries. It was never my main project, so it was put on hold a lot. It isn't finished yet, but I hope to release it this year.

Do you have any live show planned when the pandemic is over?
I'm not sure if I can still do the tour I was planning to do once all of this is over, but I do plan on doing an online show when I release this album. I have been considering selling tickets for it and doing private shows. But, to do that, I have to make sure that the streaming quality is top-notch, and I also need to have the proper sound equipment for that.

What are your post-pandemic plans?
I haven't thought about something so far ahead, but I think I will do what I wanted to spend this year doing, and that is spreading my music to people around the world.

How have you been spending your time indoors?
I am currently registered for a bunch of classes where they teach Nazrul Sangeet and Rabindra Sangeet. I also have a group of online friends, and we work-out together five days a week. I also sit together with a group of friends who are all writers or poets, and we fix a time every week where we sit and work together. We work on our own projects, and then we show it to each other. But, the thing that consumes my time the most is teaching music theory online. I teach staff notation, and that is something most musicians in Bangladesh don't even know. I think that there are only around twelve people who teach this. My course is designed to enable a musician to express themselves through staff notation. I would say that it's a shorter course designed for musicians.

Ridwan Intisaar Mahbub

CENTRE STAGE

Tashfia Sui Tashfee

How are you doing music during quarantine?
It's no news that performance arts took a big hit because of the pandemic. However, I try to think positively. I've done some collaborations with some of the most incredible musicians during quarantine and decided to be productive and start working on my originals that I've been planning on, for the longest time. I bought my own small home recording setup because of the pandemic and I've been working from home ever since.

Are you planning on covering new songs?
Maybe. I have plans to sing some of the classic rock songs I grew up listening to. However, at the moment, I've been extremely busy with the original songs I plan to release this year. I'm very excited for those. But, if I get tired of them, I just might do a cover very soon to change the air.

How did you feel about being featured in 'The Telegraph'?
It was a pleasant surprise! I really didn't see it coming. It's amazing to see my growing fanbase in Kolkata, India. It truly makes me happy to see them appreciate my art. It was really nice talking about me and my journey, and about my upcoming collaboration with Ritaprabha Ray.

How did it feel to collaborate with Ritaprabha Ray? Can you talk about your collaboration?
Ritaprabha is a Mumbai-based composer and guitar player who approached me to do a quarantine collaboration. We did *Eto Koshto Keno Bhalobashay* by Hasan. It was such an amazing experience

to work with him. We had an unbelievable musical chemistry. So, despite the fact that he is in Mumbai and I'm in Dhaka, it was no issue and the cover came out great and was very well appreciated. That's why we decided to collaborate with an original song this time. The song is called *Jodi Tumi*. I can't say much about it since it's still work in progress, but I can't wait to release it soon.

Do you have anything new planned for your music?

Apart from *Jodi Tumi*, I am currently working on my EP. However, I plan to release the songs one by one as singles. There are also many collaborations going on with Bangladeshi and international artists from India and Singapore. I am also particularly excited about one song with Fuad Almuqtadir in his next project which will be published from *TM Records*.

Will you continue doing live shows after the pandemic is over?

One thing I realised during the pandemic is that you can never take anything for granted. I used to do very limited shows, but I have made a promise to myself that after the pandemic, I will do more live shows and make more music. Anything can change anytime and you should just do what you love to do in life.

And for me, it's music. So, yes, I will definitely do more shows after the pandemic is over. I can't wait for those days to come!

Amina Hossain



PALASA 1978

Palasa 1978 is an Indian Telugu-language action film. It has been written and directed by Karuna Kumar, produced by Dhyan Atluri, under the banner of *Suresh Productions*, and stars Rakshith, Nakshatra and Raghu Kunche, among others. The film revolves around the battle between different castes through politics. It was initially released on March 6, 2020.



ATHLETE A

Athlete A is a documentary film on Netflix. It has been directed by Bonni Cohen and Jon Shenk, and produced by Serin Marshall, Jen Sey and Julie Parker Benello, under the banner of *Actual Films*. It revolves around a team of reporters and their investigation as they expose Dr. Larry Nassar for sexually assaulting young girls training at USA Gymnastics. It was released on June 24, 2020.

Shreya Shomoyeeta & Amina Hossain

GUESS THE CELEBRITY

Guess who the celebrity is?
HINT: I LOVE YOU 3000



ANSWER FROM THE PREVIOUS ISSUE:
"ANGELINA JOLIE"

Here are some binge worthy movie and series you can spend your time watching while you stay at home social distancing, keeping yourself, as well as others, safe.



Unsolved Mysteries

Unsolved Mysteries is a true-crime docuseries based on the experiences of ordinary people who had to go through the unimaginable in hopes to find answers from the viewers. It was directed by Marcus A. Clarke, Clay Jeter and Jim Goldblum, written by Charles Olivier, produced under the banners of *21 Laps Entertainment* and *Inexplicable Pictures*, and stars Pistol Black, Jane Green and Anne-Sophie Martin, among others. It was first released on July 1, 2020.