

A tale of four: Upcoming singers to watch out for



ELITA KARIM AND NOVERA DEEPTA

THIS is an opportunity time for a new generation of stars to achieve recognition and the old to make way for the young. *The Daily Star* recently spoke to a group of four young singers whose career graph is showing an upward trend. These upcoming artistes are Tutul, Mimi, Rupom and Tanima. A profile of the talented four:

Tutul
'It's so ironic!' exclaims Tutul. 'All the members in my family used to sing except for me. But, as fate has it now, I turned out to be the professional one!'

Tutul spent around six to seven years in Kushtia, the birthplace of Lalon Shai and met several musicians, who really inspired him. After returning to the city where he grew up, Chittagong, in 1986, he worked in different bands like Sparks, Feelings and finally got into LRB. He was the keyboardist and the second vocal of the band for a long time. Some of his songs like *Shesh chithi*, *Monre*, *Shonyashini* and *Pashani* were huge hits in the mid-1990s.

Eventually, he began to compose music and made a name by composing background music for various television dramas and movies. Meanwhile, he kept on singing and got requests to do more which made him take singing seriously. His solo album is *Buker Shahore Tumi* and among his other seven or eight mixed albums, he has some really popular songs. Rupom is also the composer and singer of the title composition of *Ronger Manush* a popular mega serial. He has sung in the recent widely-discussed movie *Bachelor* and has also composed songs in the movie.

According to Tutul, if cassette companies can dedicate 30 cassettes out of 100 in a year, to the younger and upcoming musicians and artistes, then at least 10 will emerge as stars in the country... Tutul

quality films,' he maintains. Tutul also feels that the media should strive for honesty in society. People who are independent and free should encourage others to follow in their footsteps,' says Tutul, who adds, 'We really don't want any more cor-

re doable and evergreen Lata Mangeshkar. Mimi has done a number of stage shows. However, she evades the all-night shows, avoiding excessive strain of the voice. According to Mimi, the visual presentation of music compositions in Bangladesh are actually degrading the quality of the songs. 'We are badly in need of people who are able to use their imaginations and work creatively, thus inspiring the younger generation,' she says.

Rupom

Inspired by his father Amjad Hossain, Rupom began to sing folk songs from an early age. He was an active member of the band Windsome from Khulna where he performed in many shows. After moving to Dhaka, he began singing in various kinds of live programmes and eventually became one of the best 15 in the first Benson & Hedges Star Search Contest 1999.

A major watershed in his career was in 2001 when Ayub Bachchu gave him an opportunity to sing in a mixed album titled *Mon Jaule*, where the title-song was sung by Rupom.

So far, Rupom has released seven mixed albums and one solo album titled *Rodela*

as the spontaneous singing of *Kal ho na ho*, by 700 students at Dhaka Medical College.

Rupom says, he draws inspiration from the works of artistes such as Mohammad

tion and expression.' She also received her formal training from Ram Gopal Mahato and Leo J Baroi.

A graduate from the Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB) in Communications, she plans to leave for the University of Hawaii very soon to begin her post-graduate studies in communications. 'I never considered myself to be a part of any competition, since I was never really in the commercial market in the first place,' Tanima continued. 'When I was in standard 10, a production company invited me to sing for an album. Though I recorded the remake of my father's compositions, for some reason, these numbers were never released. Later on, Channel 1 came out with the music videos of these compositions and telecast them.'

Besides her father, Tanima has been inspired by Sabina Yasmeen and Shahna Rahmatullah. One of the problems that Tanima faced was acceptance in the music industry as a new artiste. 'The market in Bangladesh is very small,' maintained Tanima. 'Since I could not come up with

programme by the artiste. But then she rendered a good number of solos to the audience's delight. *Shammukhe shantir parbar*, which was created for the drama *Dakghar* touched the hearts of the audience. Then she rendered *Onek kotha bolechhile*, which was composed in memory of the poet's wife Mrinalini Devi. *Oi malori lota doley*, *Hridoyer ekul okul*, *Ogo tuni ponchoshodi*, *Aamar moner koner bairey*, *Shawna gagane ghor ghanghata* and *Bandhu raho raho*, *shathey* were compelling. Next, Pappa rendered a few lines of some requested songs. The musical session was rounded up by her favourite numbers *Jokhon porbey naa nor payer chhino* and *Gram chhara oi rangamati path* in chorus with the audience.

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Meye. He is also a familiar name in catchy advertising jingles. Cute Shampoo, Ruchi Chanachur and Dutch Bangla Bank are a few of his 30 jingles sung so far. In 2002, Rupom began his playback singing and till now has sung in 30 movies.

Rupom says, he has had a good experience performing Bangla songs for suburban spectators rather than the city folks who only listen to Hindi music. He recalls the high points of his singing career, such

Rafi, James and Ayub Bachchu. 'The market in Bangladesh is small and that's why the music selection is sometimes very difficult,' he points out, adding that, 'I select songs according to the audience. The older crowd yearns for the songs of the yester years. I try to keep the original tunes intact and often use a modern touch to attract the audience. The younger crowd however, wants to listen to Hindi numbers during stage shows. The videos that are based on these shows are quite unappealing. I feel that lively presentation and videos will enhance the public taste for our melodious Bangla songs,' says Rupom.

In conclusion, Rupom compliments directors such as Ferdous Bappi, Zubair Babu and Ringo who has left for India.

Tanima

Tanima Hadi, daughter of the celebrated artist Abdul Hadi, was inspired into music while listening to her older sisters' music lessons with their Ustads. 'My father never really had the time to actually sit and teach me,' said Tanima. 'I would listen to a lot of music tapes, folk songs and a variety of compositions. That's how I actually learnt music. Later on, my father realised my intense interest in music. He then began to train me, emphasising on style, pronunciation and expression.'

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While talking on Rabindranath's scientific English learning method Hamidul Haque said, 'Tagore was modern in his time to accept new methods by giving priority to listening and

OBSERVANCE OF TAGORE'S DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Mesmerising songs and discussions at Bangla Academy

AFSAR AHMED

Though it was two days past *Sraban* 22 the death anniversary of the Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, it was too late to observe the day. One has to give the credit to the organiser for arranging such a fine programme consisting of discussions and solo Rabindra Sangeet performance by Pappa Sarwar on August 8.

The first part marked with discussions where Professor Mohammed Hamidul Haque and Dr. Narayan Chandra Biswas presented keynotes on 'Rabindranath Tagore's English Learning Tools' and 'Rabindranath Tagore's Sanskrit Learning Tools' respectively. The programme was presided over by Professor Mahmud Shah Quraishi while Mansur Musa, the Director General of Bangla Academy gave the introductory speech.



Pappa Sarwar rendering a chorus with the students of Geetoshudha

speaking methods. But he always believed that to learn English properly one has to have strong base of one's mother tongue'. Though the debate on learning method is still going on, but we need to learn from Tagore's learning tools which he created for the children and named it *Shahaj Path*.

In his speech Mahmud Shah Quraishi said, 'We should follow the footsteps of the great poet for his time tested methods of learning English and Sanskrit.'

After the gripping discussion, acclaimed Rabindra Sangeet artiste Pappa Sarwar mesmerised the crowd with her solo performance. She started with *O amar desher mati* in chorus with the students of Geetoshudha. Then she rendered *Jodi tor daak shuney keu naa ashay* in chorus too. The audience were quite surprised as it was the solo

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Since I could not come up with any commercial numbers, I was not immediately accepted in the industry... Tanima

any commercial numbers, I was not immediately accepted in the industry. I feel that my compositions were not marketed in a proper way,' she added. Tanima claims that she was actually brought into the limelight by the popular singer and composer Ayub Bachchu.

'At the time when I was completely sure that I wanted to get into professional singing, I mentioned it to my father,' she exclaimed. 'That's when he spoke to Ayub Bachchu who helped me out with my career.'



More Oprah for Everyone

Emmy-winning talk show host Oprah Winfrey will be gabbing at least through the 2010-11 season, which will mark her 25th year in syndication. The self-made billionaire has extended her television syndication contract for three more years with King World Productions, distributor of The Oprah Winfrey Show, immediately signing up seven key ABC-owned stations, including those in Los Angeles, New York and Chicago.

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

BTV

07:30 *Bangladesh Hridoy*

09:00 *Satellite Programme*

12:15 *Shongbad Poter Pata*

01:05 *Cartoon show*

01:30 *Educational programme*

02:15 *Live Telecast of Nitol-TATA National Football League 2004*

06:10 *Nazrul songs: Shondha Maloti*

07:05 *Qidz Cut*

07:30 *Musical show: Gaan*

08:25 *Bangla Bangla*

08:30 *Drama: Aparajita*

09:00 *Drama: Mukhoshdhar*

10:30 *Shonali Shokal*

Talk show: *Ei Shomoy*

09:30 *Ek Dul Teen*

10:30 *Reporting program: Prekkhao*

ntv

09:45 *Tribhoyi Matra*

10:45 *Grameen Phone*

11:30 *Chitthi Boarding*

12:30 *Chithi Pelam*

12:30 *Ajib Duryop*

01:00 *Ebong Cinemara Gaan*

01:25 *Sangbadpatriay*

10:30 *Bangladesh*

01:30 *Bangla feature film: Belmaan (Kabori, Razzaq)*

04:00 *Bangla Gaan*

04:30 *Amarajibon amar*

05:00 *death*

03:05 *Tiffen farke*

03:40 *Drama Serial: Kheleghor*

04:25 *Ke korte bajeimath*

05:45 *i Sports*

06:10 *Music Plus*

06:45 *I Speed*

07:55 *Close up Juke Box*

08:25 *Drama Serial: Sharey*

Tin Tala

ATN BANGLA

10:30 *Talk Show: Anndroishi*

11:15 *Drama Serial: Mohona*

11:50 *Adibashi Janapod*

12:30 *Bangla Feature Film: Paro Pathor*

03:45 *Uro Cola Saat Rang*

04:20 *Shamoshamoyk*

05:10 *Amar Computer*

05:45 *Islamee Sawal O Jawab*

06:20 *Aynar Shamney*

08:00 *Drama Serial: Chottu Ey Jibon*

08:30 *Drama Serial: Gulshanubar*

09:00 *Drama Serial: Sharpo Nir*

09:30 *Ek Dul Teen*

10:30 *Reporting program: Prekkhao*

STAR PLUS

08:50 *Band music*

09:40 *Drama Serial: Shaola*

1