



New Year dreams

Adda with up and coming singers

(From left) Belal Khan, Mahmud Sunny, Raisa, Shoshi, Arnik, Jhilik and Puja.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Some emerging singers had their exposure through the talent hunts -- "Close Up 1" and "Sera Konthho", while others established themselves after years of training. Each of them has individual solo albums in the market, while stage shows are a part of their regular routine.

Jhilik claimed the top spot in "Sera Konthho", while Mahmud Sunny and Belal Khan have built their reputations as music directors, as well as singers. Singers Arnik, Shoshi and Puja have all earned popularity. Meanwhile Raisa is leading the race among the newcomers. These seven singers recently came to The Daily Star (TDS) office at a lively adda.

TDS: What are your aspirations for 2013 and what do you expect to give your fans this year?

Shoshi: I want to brighten up the image of my country through singing. I also want to sing more patriotic songs this year. At the start of the new year, my hope is to see my country prosper in every field, and to see people happy.

Jhilik: Firstly, I want to sing better songs. Along with my originals, I also want to fulfill my responsibilities by singing patriotic songs that will inspire patriotism among the listeners. This is not just a new year's resolution.

Arnik: My expectation from the new year is for everyone to respect laws of the country. The root of our problems is the tendency to break rules. The people of the country will have to be more aware; only then will change be possible. I want to perform quality songs, especially patriotic ones. I also plan to do something for underprivileged children in the country. Whenever I get the time and opportunity, I will take the necessary initiatives.

Belal Khan: I have two projects at hand, with the new year against the backdrop. The first project is to bring out an album of patriotic songs, where I will be able to sing my heart out. The second project involves an organisation we have set up, which includes students who came from villages to study at Dhaka University. Under the banner of that organisation, we want to do some social service in the rural areas. No final decision has yet been made, but we want to work for those in need.

Mahmud Sunny: My hopes for the new year include offering a different genre of music to the audience. Listeners will get something fresh. Since I additionally work as a music director, I plan on introducing some

new talented voices. I also wish the best for my country. I want to work for my country and offer new patriotic songs as gifts to my country.

Puja: My hope is to see my country turn into a true 'Shonar Bangla'. We can all undertake a united effort to steer the country forward. For the new year, I also want to give the country some new songs from the heart, along with patriotic songs. If I ever get the opportunity, I would be happy to contribute in serving my country.

Raisa: I want our country's image to brighten up in the new year. At the beginning of the new year, I want to sing at least one song which will sit embedded in the minds of listeners. I will definitely sing patriotic songs in the new year. If I can help the country through some social service, I'm up for the task.

TDS: What is the biggest obstacle to good music?

Mahmud Sunny: The largest hurdle to overcome is the lack of media support. This is my personal opinion. Piracy is another challenge. Good songs are being composed, but those are not being aired sufficiently on the TV channels. So people remain in the dark about those songs.

Belal Khan: The better songs face more obstacles than average songs. Piracy is a huge headache for our audio industry.

Arnik: Any rookie artist has to face lots of obstacles in the beginning. The challenges may come while releasing an audio album, or doing songs for a TV channel, or while doing a stage show. The troubles are in every phase. Every singer has to overcome those obstacles.

Shoshi: The biggest obstacle while doing good songs is the lack of support from all the sectors.

Puja: I feel that the lack of support from the TV channels is a big obstacle in recording good songs.

Raisa: The absence of interest from the audio companies is a huge challenge for recording good songs.

Jhilik: There are many obstacles in the path of recording good songs. Vulgar songs face less objection but when there is an album of good songs, the audio companies demand more commercial tracks.

TDS: Are popular songs not always good songs?

Arnik: In a good song, every aspect has to be good. There should be good lyrics, a message, a story.

Jhilik: Some songs are both popular and good, but those that are only popular can

become nothing more. Any good song maintains its appeal throughout decades. The appeal of a song, which is just popular, is ephemeral.

Shoshi: I consider popular songs as the audio tracks that are filled with levity. Those popular numbers cannot stand the test of time, unlike the true classics.

Mahmud Sunny: There are many differences between just another popular number and a good song. Not everyone is an artist capable of recording worthy audio tracks. A lot of people can bring out popular songs, but we all should aspire to be singers who offer good songs.

Belal Khan: I think a lot of dedication and practice is needed to produce a good song. That is not the case for bringing out a popular number. Good songs are what keep pure music alive.

Puja: I feel that everyone is chasing popular songs nowadays. Popularity is short-lived, but a classic can last a century.

Raisa: Singers can record good songs when they are properly trained, sing with dedication, and aspire to be true artists. Artists who seek only fame and money are the ones who chase popular numbers.

TDS: You are all busy with stage shows. Can you share any memorable experiences from your live performances?

Mahmud Sunny: Once I went to Cox's Bazar to perform. On the stage I started singing "Nilanjana" with the lyrics printed on a page in front of me. However, a strong gust of wind blew the paper away, leaving me no choice but to make up words for the rest of the songs. Luckily the audience did not notice the blunder.

Belal Khan: Once I was singing "Pagol Tor Jonne Re Mon" at a programme at the Suhrawardy Udyan. During the song, a rickshawallah came up to me and offered me a Taka 100 note for my performance. Although I tried to decline, I had to accept his gift as everyone insisted on it. I framed that note for posterity.

Shoshi: I've had many fun moments on the stage. The last time I went to the US to do stage shows, a three-year-old came up to me and asked me to perform Rabindra Sangeet. The request was for the song "Tumi Kon Kanoner Pho". I will never forget that incident. It was both a fun and a memorable experience.

Jhilik: I have done many stage shows and have many stories to tell. However, it gives me the most pleasure when people request me to render original songs.

Bulbul Chowdhury Mela-2013

Commemorating pioneer of classical dance

A CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Dance Artists' Association and Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy have jointly chalked out a two-day festival titled "Bulbul Chowdhury Mela-2013" - to celebrate the 94th birth anniversary of Bulbul Chowdhury, the pioneer of classical dance in Bangladesh.

The first day's programme (yesterday) included a workshop and open discussion at the Shilpkala Academy on the work and creativity of Bulbul Chowdhury. The second day's programme, to be held today at the National Theatre Hall, will hand over the "Bulbul Chowdhury Memorial Medal" to Dance Guru Amanul Haque, and include dance performances from artists.



ACROSS THE TABLE

Meet your favourite celebrities

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Artists -- be on TV, concert stages or through their artwork -- reach out to us and become our favourite people, without any personal connection whatsoever. We know them through their volume of work, and the signature things that make them special. But beyond that, they are just like us; they have their own tastes and choices, funny anecdotes and inspirational moments. How often is it that we have wondered what these favourite personalities are behind what we see on the screen and on stage? What makes them tick, and what ticks them off?

Star Arts & Entertainment brings you the golden opportunity to meet your favourite personalities from the cultural fraternity up close and personal, and ask them what you've always wanted to. Every month, an actor, or writer, or musician or artist will be at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka, and you can join them in conversation.

The first of them, for the month of January, will be internationally acclaimed filmmaker Mostofa Sarwar Farooki.

Drop us an e-mail with a brief note about yourself and your mobile number at culturetds@gmail.com by January 5, 2013, if you want to meet Farooki. We will choose 10 people through lottery who will get the opportunity to sit across the table with Farooki and engage in a lively conversation. The transcript of the conversation will be published in The Daily Star.

Baul Mela in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A three-day Baul Mela began at Manikganj Government Boys' High School premises in Manikganj on Monday.

Information Secretary Hedayetullah Al Mamun formally inaugurated the traditional event while DG, Bangladesh Television M. Hamid was special guest.

Mother Foundation in Manikganj arranged the fair to observe the third anniversary of the organisation.

Founder of the organisation and Mayor of Manikganj Municipality, Md. Ramzan Ali said the organisation will accord a reception to the meritorious students of the district.

Renowned Lalong singer and exponent Farida Parvin, Nakul Kumar Biswas, Shahnaz Beli, and Baul singers Lipi Sarker, Pagal Monir, Malek Sarker, Aklima Begum, Shah Alam Sarker and Nazrul Islam will render songs at the programme.

STARS OF 2012 LOOK FORWARD

Top names of big and small screens in 2012 talk about ups, downs and what's next

A CORRESPONDENT

Redoan Rony, Director
The film industry right now needs a lot of improvement and development, but I believe it has started. It is not an overnight process, and the changes are coming gradually, but they are happening.

The biggest hurdle we have to face as film directors are regarding technology. Quality post-production facilities are not yet available in the country, so we have to go abroad and pay in dollars to do it. When such facilities become available in Bangladesh, the process will become more convenient, efficient and cost-effective. Logistical problems are another headache. When shooting for "Chorabali", I found out there was no car mount for 35mm cameras, and had to do the scenes with very difficult alternative arrangements. The other problem I faced was that of distribution. There are a number of stages -- from distributors to hall owners and more, causing a lot of money to be wasted, and it is impossible to monitor the exact sales of the movie because almost all the halls have manual record-keeping.

Masud Akhond, Director
I can see the film industry going

Thankfully, I have had no major hurdles to overcome. I try to stay open and clear to my directors, and always try to give my best at what I'm doing. I feel fortunate that 2012 has been good to me.

2013 is going to be an exciting year for me. "Jonaki'r Alo", my first commercial film, is being released this year. My ultimate target is to establish myself in the film scene, and I'll work towards that goal this year, and will do my best to take the film industry ahead from my position as an actor.

Rakhi, Model and TV Actress
The year 2012 has been good for modeling, and I strongly believe that the quality of work that is being done here in ads is better

entertained. However, a number of young directors are active these days, and if they can understand the market and make good films accordingly, there is hope of overcoming this predicament.

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host of a reality show. **Ishana, Model and TV Actress**
The whole entertainment industry, as far as I can see, is in a good place right now. There are more TV channels than before, so there is more scope of work. New artists are emerging, alongside new directors who are bringing fresh ideas. In terms of adverts and acting, there has been big progress.

One problem that we face is that artists are often blamed for being irresponsible. However, directors are also to blame some times for similar issues, but it usually never comes up. Also, a quarter inside the media is try-



Ali Emran



Redoan Rony



Kalyan Corraiya



Ishana



Himu Akram



Rakhi

through a process of change, and a positive one at that. The situation is a tad chaotic right now because of the transition, but it is going in the right direction.

Kalyan Corraiya, Actor
There has been a lot of development in the TV drama industry this year. A number of new directors have emerged, the number of TV channels has gone up, and the volume of work that has been done for TV has also been significant. In terms of films, I'd say it might take a while, but the industry will go up to a good position; the change has started. There are more good movies coming out in a year than before, and the confidence of both filmmakers and the audience is increasing, which I see as a big positive for the sector.

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Masud Akhond

for my TV series "Joyjol Jadukor" that I had started with a lot of hope, and it was received by the audience very positively as well. However, I could not finish it the way I wanted to, as I had to abruptly end it because the central character of my show, Zahid Hassan, could not continue with the project.

On the other hand, one of the biggest positives of recent times has been the new directors who are very knowledgeable about their work. They watch a lot of movies from around the world, read a lot and are always looking to innovate.

My personal goal for 2013 is to bring new drama serials to the small screen. I have at least 5 projects to be aired on TV this year. Besides, I also have plans to make my directorial debut with a full-length feature film.

Ali Emran, TV Play Director and Playwright
There have been a lot of experimental works on TV in 2012. However, the channels are apprehensive because of the heavy influence of Indian TV shows on our viewers. Upcoming directors are coming and doing new work, but it is difficult to sustain it if it's not financially viable. The ray of hope, however is that some TV channels are focusing more on story and making instead of star value, which will give low-budget projects a fair chance.

The biggest hurdles in the sector are finance related. While some channels are uncooperative at times, there are too many ad breaks that take away viewers' attention.

My target for 2013 is to come out of my usual style of work, and deliver some comedy-based TV shows that will also have messages. Most TV viewers want to be entertained more than anything, and the format of new stories with the same stock characters will hopefully be taken well by the audience.

Himu Akram, TV Play Director and Playwright
There are reasons to be very happy and very sad about the current television scenario. While most of the current TV serials are better in terms of story and making than the Indian soap operas, most TV viewers are still inclined towards the latter. I believe if people start watching local TV channels more for entertainment, the quality of work will improve even further.

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BTV	10:30 Mati O Manush 12:35 Shaubhi Paribar 08:40 Drama Serial: Shamudra Mon 09:25 Matir Taney	04:10 Concert (Live) 08:00 Drama Serial: Kobraj Golapgha 09:30 Drama Serial: College 11:00 Modhyateater Train 11:30 Adda O Gaan	Maasranga Television
ATN BANGLA	09:05 Business and Finance 09:20 Bangly Mela Pratidin 05:10 Diksha Odisha Bangladesh 08:00 Drama Serial: Rudanta Rabura	09:00 Bangla Feature Film 10:30 Drama Serial: Nishidagha Sports Daily	CHANNEL 9 CHANNEL 24
CHANNEL 1	01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan 09:20 Amar Chhobi 07:50 Shresthanta 09:35 Drama: Tukro Chhobir Album	01:00 Musical Programme 06:30 Life Style 24 08:00 Rock Star GTV 11:30 Bangla Feature Film 05:45 Gaan-e Gaan-e Adda	CHANNEL 24 CHANNEL 24

abc radio FM 89.2	09:30 Etek Otek 03:25 Cinema Taal 05:30 Kacha Lanka 06:30 Mena Kora 07:20 GP Lounch 07:45 Megh Barata 08:10 Adda 09:30 Bache Hole Jante Hobe Radio Footit 07:30 Hello Dhaka	10:00 No Tension 12:00 Dhaka Calling 09:00 Kapti Riders RADIO TODAY FM 89.6 06:00 Green FM 08:00 Good Morning Dhaka 12:00 Today's Adda 09:00 U Turn 01:00 Today's Hit Hook 10:00 Raat Bhor Gaan	RADIO Morning Express
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Metro Life
On ntv at 08:20pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Shah Ahmed, Mosharrar Karim

Julie & Julia
On Fox Movies at 07:00pm
Genre: Biography/Romance
Cast: Amy Adams, Meryl Streep & Chris Messina

Makrasha
On Rtv at 08:15pm
Drama Serial
Cast: MS Rana, Lamia Momo

ntv	11:00 Rupmadhuri 04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey 08:15 Drama Serial: Metro Life 09:00 Glamour World ETV 11:30 Ekusher-er Business 05:25 Ichhyo Ghuri 06:30 Desh Juray Shlangup 07:50 Taal	08:15 Drama Serial: Bagha Sher 09:35 Straight Line Fox Movies 11:05 Spider-Man 3 05:00 I, Robot 07:00 Julie & Julia 09:05 In Time 10:55 The Grey HBO 01:40 New Year's Eve 03:45 First Born 05:30 Cowboys & Aliens	BANGLAVISION 01:05 Bangla Feature Film 06:30 Bichitra 09:05 Nacho Bangladesh Nacho Raat Biratey	National Geographic Channel
Rtv	12:35 Bangla Feature Film 09:05 Drama Serial: Boya Paribar 09:50 Look at Me 12:05 Business Talk	02:30 Banged Up 04:30 Alien Deep 09:30 Nordic Wild 11:30 Don't Tell My Mother	Discovery Channel 03:30 Gaan R Gaan 05:00 Durpur 08:15 Drama Serial: Radio Chocolate 09:45 Old is Gold	02:30 Ganges 08:30 Wildest Latin America 09:30 Man vs. Wild 11:30 A Haunting

Comics, Cosplay, and Collectibles

First Dhaka Comicon wraps up

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Dhaka's pop culture following is not big, but it is not new either. Starting from teenagers to veteran entrepreneurs, there are collectors and ardent followers of movies, comics and video games spread across the capital. Samdani Art Foundation made a wonderful initiative to bring all of them under one roof, and for two days recently, the Bench cafe in Gulshan bustled as youth from all around poured in to be a part of the first Dhaka Comicon.

nirs come together to celebrate their passion. Dhaka Comicon, although rather small in scale, was at no shortage of that enthusiasm and colours. One of the most striking features of comicons across the world, cosplay -- or dressing up as characters from movies, comics and video games -- was also aplenty.

Scores came dressed up at the festival, ranging from the very familiar Batman to the more hardcore zombie character Hunter from the video game "Left4Dead". Alfred D' Silva, who came in the gruesome make-up of a zombie and bandages on his leg, termed the festival "a huge leap" for the fans of movies and video games, and strongly

hoped that the festival would get bigger every year. Puly, dressed up as Rogue from the "X-Men" comics, said there is a super-hero in everyone, and it felt good to be dressed as one.

A number of collectors also put their possessions on display, ranging from action figures of the video game "God of War" to miniature batsignals (from the "Batman" comics and movies). One of the collectors, Salman, said that he has been collecting G.I. Joe action figures for 15 years, and was excited about displaying his prized collection. The festival also had a fan-art competition, a traders' corner, live cartoon and caricature drawing, souvenir sales and a concert.



Cosplayers dressed up as Boba Fett ("Star Wars") and V ("V For Vendetta")

A fight to save a flower (Rushan)

A group art exhibition, titled "A moral fight to save a flower (Rushan)", has begun at Galerie Zoom of Alliance Française de Dhaka, according to a press release.

Professor Somorjit Roy Chowdhury, Department of Graphic Design, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka formally inaugurated the exhibition recently as chief guest. He was then accompanied by Sarah Begum Kabori, actress and MP, and Jérôme Charbonneau, deputy director of Alliance Française de Dhaka.

Jérôme Charbonneau in his welcome speech appreciated the initiatives of 'somewhere in...blog' team to help save Rushan's life.

Kabori in her speech requested everyone to contribute to such humanitarian causes and help save Rushan's life.

Professor Somorjit Roy Chowdhury thanked the 'somewhere in...blog' team and Alliance Française de Dhaka for organising the group art exhibition to raise funds for three-year-old Rushan's treatment.

With a missing valve and a perforation in his heart, Rushan is in excruciating pain. He can no longer run or laugh. He needs immediate surgery and treatment, which his parents cannot afford. On learning about Rushan's plight, the 'somewhere in...blog' team, a Bangla bloggers' community has come forward to organise a group art exhibition in Galerie Zoom of Alliance Française de Dhaka with a mission to generate funds for Rushan's treatment. The artists have tried to project the strength of love for life and humanity on the canvases. The proceeds generated from the painting exhibition will be donated for Rushan's treatment.

The Participating artists in the group exhibition are eminent sculptor Hamiduzzaman, Professor Somorjit Roy Chowdhury, artist Ivy Zaman, artist and poet Farah Deeba Zaman and artist Nazmul Hossain.

The exhibition will be open to all until January 4, 2013 in Galerie Zoom, Alliance Française de Dhaka.

সকালের একটি গোসল আপনার ত্বককে রাখবে দিনভর ময়শ্চারাইজড...

100% ন্যাচারাল ময়শ্চারাইজার

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