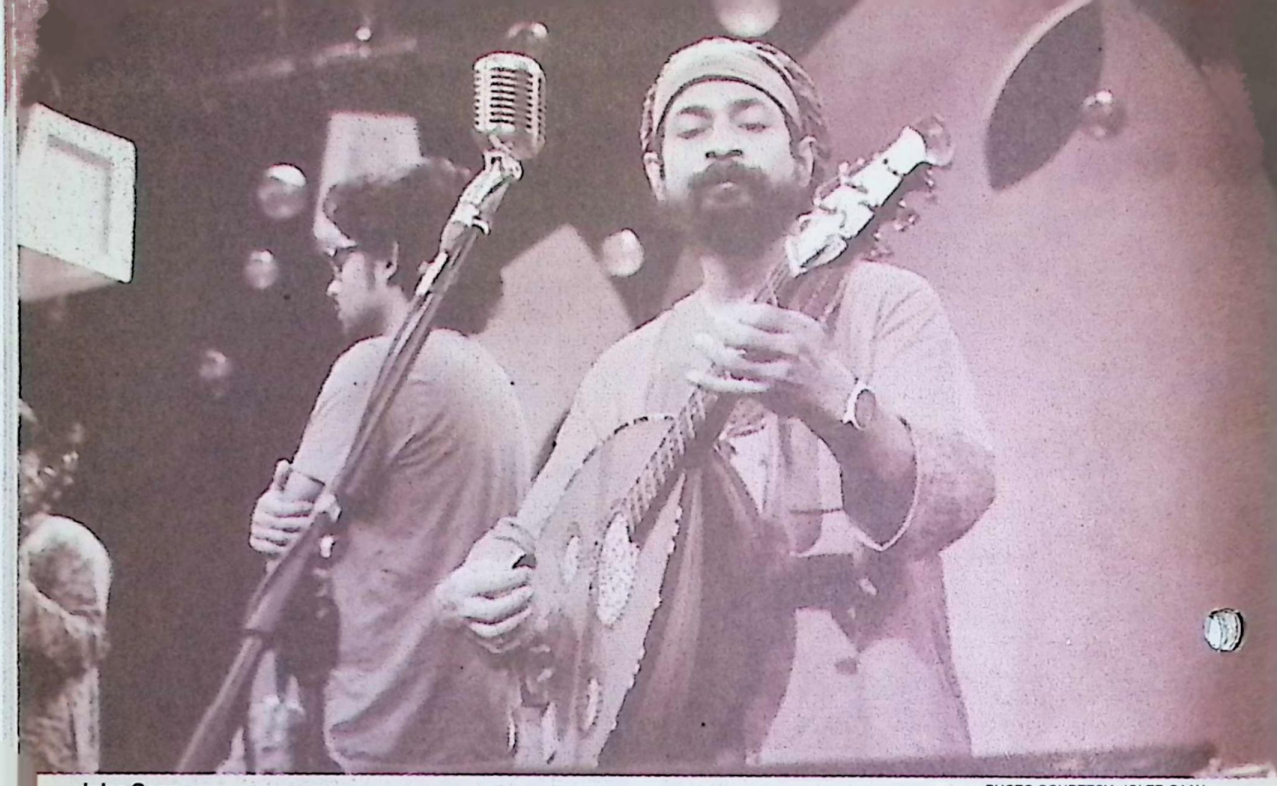


Joler Gaan

PHOTO COURTESY: JOLER GAAN

Want to see a genuine group of artists who truly don't think beyond their music? Meet Joler Gaan, the quintessential mad artists, who eat, drink and breathe their music. Before they released their debut album *Otol Joler Gaan* in 2013, they would frequently be asked about releasing the audio tracks of their songs but their reply would always be the same, 'we will when we will.' They don't perform to earn money as proven by their lead vocalist Rahul Ananda who has rejected any talks of approaching or accepting offers of multinational companies to release their albums. They release their albums for a palsy Tk 35 and yet hopes that they will be able to lower the rates by cutting production costs.

Joler Gaan's experimentations are not limited to their compositions and lyrics; the band creates their own musical instruments according to their needs. They prefer to perform with acoustic instruments so that they can easily take these with them wherever they travel. "We have even used regular items like toys and tea cups as instruments so that people can relate to them, and a sense of nostalgia is created within them," says Rahul Ananda. They have recently released their second studio album *Patalpurer Gaan* but we have to admit, we love it when the band performs live. When they sing *Bokul Phool*, which resonates with the flavour of folk, the live audience joins in, repeating the lyrics, their heads swaying to the soft, rural energy of the song. But that does not detract from the genius of their first album which is filled with pleasant surprises like *Aaina*, introduced by a earthy female voice or *Urchi Keno*, a song which beautifully blends the dreamy sounds of the violin with the folksy notes of the flute.

If there is one new, young talent that you hear mentioned time and time again, it is Sandhi. Only in his early 20s, the musician has captured hearts through his voice as well as his compositions. Music is in his blood; his sisters Shagota and Shovvota are both trained singers, and Sandhi too was trained in classical Indian music, Rabindra Sangeet and Nazrul Geeti. Unbelievably, the prodigy's first stage performance was when he was a little over two in front of a full audience at Shishu Academy. He formed the alternative rock band Mohakal while he was still in school and their single even made it to the mixed album Shopnochura, featuring prominent bands like Black, Aurtohin and Yatri. What catapulted the talented musician to fame was the country's first radio musical project *Bhalobashi Tomake* composed by Sandhi. The songs, most of which were written by his close friend and another budding talent Urmi Noor Binte Giash, were interwoven into the narrative of the radio play, which involved conversations between a girl and a boy. The project aired on Radio Foorti, was an instant hit, youngsters loved the idea and were eager for more, resulting in an even more successful sequel. He had experimented with a range of genres starting from punk rock, romantic ballads, folk groove to classical in the musical and attributes its success to the blend of different music forms.

"I had to reject many offers to compose music for movies because I felt that I could not try out new ideas or forms. However, Animesh Aich's film *Zero Degree*, gave me the freedom to experiment and maintain my identity, and so I agreed to rearrange a