

FLYING FOR THE FIRST TIME

KIDWA ARIF

We have all wanted to fly since the first time we saw a plane fly over our heads when we were kids. But whether we're 15 or 25, we're all a little nervous before our first flight. So, this is to let you know it isn't really a big deal.

The first thing you should do when you reach the airport is to check-in at the counter of your airline. They are easy to find at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport since it isn't that big. Then proceed to security and then your gates. Remember to check and recheck your passport, ticket etc before starting for the airport. It is best if you keep them handy because you will need them repeatedly. Sit on your assigned seat (as indicated on your boarding pass). After everyone has boarded and if there are still empty seats, you can move to a more comfortable one *after* you have asked for permission.

You should make sure your hand-luggage, more commonly termed as "carry-on", are not too heavy. You'll have to lift it up to the overhead bins yourself and heavy bags will cause more trouble than they're worth. There is also a chance it might fall off during turbulence and cause serious injuries.

There are specific things you can't carry with you; these include knives (even that cool Swiss-knife you have), firearms, liquid/paste more than 100ml, cooked



food, etc. I have seen people try to smuggle in cooked meat for the beloved ones they were travelling to. The tiffin-carrier was thrown away mercilessly. However, no one will stop you from carrying dried food like *chanachur*. If you have meds with you which include inhalers or sprays in pressurized containers, inform the crew before you board the plane.

Listen to the flight attendants. If they tell you to turn off your electronics for it might interfere with the plane's navigation system, do it. Once the plane is in air, you'll be permitted to turn them on again. Put your seat up and fasten your seat-belts when they ask you to. Feel free to ask for help from the crew. They will always be at your service. Don't be afraid to embarrass yourself. It's your first time, there's nothing wrong with not knowing which button to press to recline your seat or how to turn the TV off.

And lastly, be considerate of others. Don't recline your seat too much so that the person sitting behind you is uncomfortable. Don't engage yourself in conversation with the guy next to you if he's trying to sleep or read. Don't spread around when you are eating. Don't keep pressing the call button every ten minutes to call flight attendants and complain about every little thing or just because they're pretty.

Happy flying!

P.S. Brace yourself before you're flushing the toilet. They are LOUD.

ARTIST PROFILE



Rakib Erick

AS INDIE AS IT GETS

RAYAAN IBTESHAM CHOWDHURY

Despite being inspired by bands such as Green Day, Bloc Party and Arctic Monkeys, he sounds nothing like them. He's released three EP's so far and in a scene diluted with the same old, 23-year-old Rakib Erick is a breath of very fresh air.

He started playing the guitar after Green Day's "American Idiot", and to quote him it "blew his mind away." He then joined a metal cover band named "Septentriones", with whom he played in Dhaka for a few years before the inevitable happened, he had to move overseas for higher studies. But it was when he was locked in his room in Perth that a new musical journey seemed to take off. He started experimenting with different sounds and moved beyond just the rock/metal spectrum. The results of those explorations have certainly been special.

His very first project was an EP titled "Middle Earth." No points for guessing what this is about. This is also the "easiest" listen of his three EP's as the music is slightly more straightforward, at least compared to his other projects. The tracks are ethereal, haunting even. His music really leaves you to interpret it in any way you like. It's also quite the "audiophile" experience, so do get those special headphones out. Nuren Mahnoor offers vocals throughout the EP and although vocals never really get a lead role, the bits she does get are executed to perfection.

There's a thing about musicians who do "Space/Alternative" music or similar genres; their tracks seem inaccessible or like they're from a far off place that is beyond our grasp. Rakib's music doesn't do that. It holds its artistic integrity but also lends itself easily to every listener. The EP's third track "700 Years" is a great example of that.

Rakib's next two EP's take two different directions: a statement of his versatility. "Dhaka City Riverfront" has a more urban sound while keeping the ethereal feel. Rakib describes it as "Indie/Alternative/Orchestra". You put those three together and you realise you can't predict anything. But that's just characteristic of his music and it carries onto his final (thus far) EP, "Perfume Lake." Rakib describes this as "experimental," as if to say the earlier projects weren't any less experimental.

One thing that came to my attention is that Rakib did all this within the resources available in his room. You can expect some rich aural experiences once he gets his hands on a fully fledged studio. He says he does it all just as an experiment. But if what he has produced so far is just an "experiment," I'd love to see what we get when he devotes himself completely.

Film being another passion of his, Rakib is directing his own short film called "Stella Nox" right now.

All three of his EP's can be streamed for free on his SoundCloud: soundcloud.com/rakib-erick