

ENDEAVOUR



# A TALENT HUNT: FIRST OF ITS KIND

AHSAN SAJID  
PHOTOS: COURTESY

Nothing speaks to the youth like beats of music. Fanta's new initiative to find the country's first ever teen pop band – a group of five of the zaniest, vibrant and hip teens – will use their music and their appeal to entertain and influence youth of the country. This will be a journey for the carefree generation of teens and a first of its kind reality show to be aired on GTV. Around the world teen pop stars are some of the biggest idols for teens to look up to and aspire to. It is GTV Fanta Band's endeavour to unearth talent that can inspire the youth nationwide and motivate them to follow their passion and

excitement.

The process to find the right talent started when thousands of teens from across the nation sent in self-audition videos in hope of being able to stand out and move up in the competition to grab their dreams of becoming star. The eminent and distinguished artists Elita Karim, Jon Kabir and Fuad Al-Muqtadir, will now don the hat of jurors. Following

the auditions of the top 100, 20 of the most dynamic, bubbly and spontaneous teens will be shortlisted and in the next phase, the judges will decide the absolute top 5 who will go on to become the first ever Fanta Band.

This special Fanta Band will then come up with two original songs, composed by none other than Fuad himself. The newly formed band will also record trendy music

videos for the songs they create. The band will be introduced live for the first time along with original music videos at the gala, which will be attended by crème de la crème of the music business in Bangladesh.

Fanta is a brand centred on fun and youthfulness. Surely, the Fanta Band platform for the young pop musicians of the country is testament to that nature.

NUMBERS

# 160

It's the number of Bangladeshi women police officers taking part of the UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti, who were featured in the documentary called A Journey of a Thousand Miles: Peacekeepers. Geeta Gandhbir from India and Sharmin Obaid-Chinoy from Pakistan, two academy and Emmy award winning women directors made this documentary on a unit of 160 Bangladeshi women who formed one of the world's first all-female predominantly Muslim peacekeeping units.

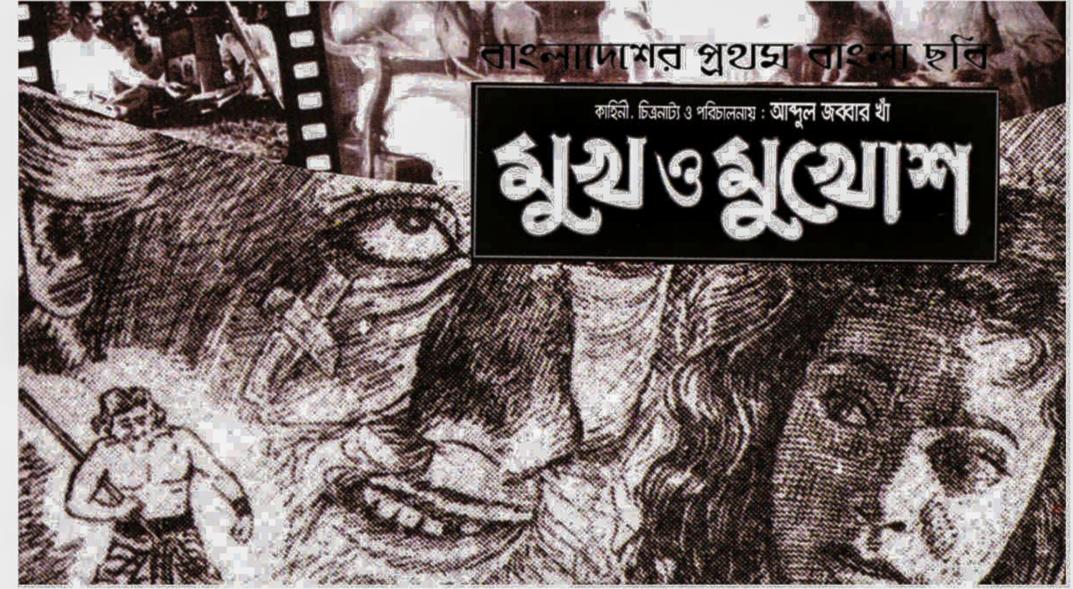
PHOTO: PALLAB

HERITAGE

Making a film at a time when it was impossible to find an experienced cast and crew, with no film production studio and a meagre budget, was no easy feat. Especially when this was the first Bengali film in East Bengal to ever be made. Abdul Jabbar Khan, an engineer by profession, and filmmaker and a dramatist by passion, took up this challenge, thereby cementing the history of Bengali cinema with his first talkie *Mukh o Mukhosh*, which was released on August 3, 1956.

When in a meeting of cultural activists, F Dossani, a non-Bengali movie producer, commented that this region of then united Pakistan was not conducive for making films, the seed for *Mukh O Mukhosh* was taking form in Khan's head. Dossani's statement had in fact reverberated the perception of non-Bengali speaking distributors and producer groups who dominated the film scene.

Being fully aware that many Indian-Bengali films were partially shot in this



## TALKING ABOUT OUR FIRST TALKIE

very land, Khan was not convinced that films could not be made here. Following a heated argument with Dossani, Khan took up the challenge of making a Bengali movie, the first of its kind, in East Pakistan. With that vow, Khan's struggle began. Based on his play *Dakaat*, Khan started working on the movie in 1953, and worked

on it for two years under the banner of Iqbal Films. The flood of 1954 made brought the shooting to a halt on more than one occasion. Local actors, who had no prior experience of acting in films, performed in the movie for free. While Khan played an important role in the film, Inam Ahmed and Purnima Sen were the

FAYEKA ZABEEN SIDDIQUA

other protagonists of the film. Nazma (Peary), Zaharat Ara, Ali Mansur, Fafiq, Narul Anam Khan, Saifuddin were also part of the cast. As there was no local film production studio, the reels had to travel through Shahnoor Studio, Lahore, for editing and printing. Finally, after being done with the processing, Khan could not bring the final prints home easily. He was restricted by the customs of West Pakistan who told him that he was not allowed to take the prints with him. Followed by a meeting with the home minister, Khan was not only able to bring the prints to this region, but was also asked to screen *Mukh O Mukhosh* at the Azaadi movie theatre for 200 Bengali speaking viewers living in Karachi.

After completing the movie, when it was time for him to screen the movie in East Bengal, Khan went through another ordeal. At a time when the local theatres were dominated by Indian, Pakistani and Hollywood movies, most distributors and movie theatre owners did not show any interest in screening the Bengali-language movie. Finally, Khan was able to release the film in Roopmahal movie theatre where Sher-e-Bengali A K Fazlul Haque was present as the chief guest at the premiere show of the film.

The movie was able to earn TK 48 thousand in the initial screening itself. Thus, the first 'talkie' in Bengali film industry was born. The original reel is preserved at the Bengalidish Film Archive. For those who want to watch it at the comfort of their homes, there is a hazy version of the movie available on Youtube.



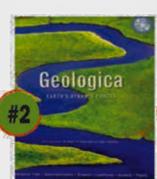
### TOP 7 PICK OF THE WEEK

**#1**



**The Complete Asterix box set (the 35 Title)**  
Publisher: Hachette India  
Price : 34, 930

**#2**



**Geologica: Earth's Dynamic Forces**  
By : Robert Coenraads  
Price : 12,000

**#3**



**Surrealism – Desire Unbound**  
By : Nicholas Serota  
Price : 5, 900

**#4**



**Kama Sutra Aphorisms Of Love**  
By : LANCE DANE  
Price : 5,500

**#5**



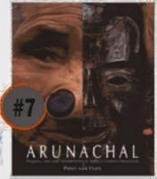
**Weakened States Seeking Renewal: British Official Reports from South Asia**  
By : Lionel Carter  
Price : 5,900

**#6**



**Meditation: Relax Your Body, Clear Your Mind**  
Publisher: Parragon Inc  
Price : 1,950

**#7**



**Arunachal: People, Arts and Adornments in India's Eastern Himalayas**  
By : Ham P.V.  
Price : 4,990



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