

# Many happy returns, Kumar Bishwajit!



**ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN**  
 With an illustrious music career, Kumar Bishwajit has etched a special place in the hearts of Bangla music lovers of at least two generations. Today is a special day for his fans, as for the acclaimed singer's birthday. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, Kumar Bishwajit imparts some bits of wisdom as well as his reflections on the special occasion. **How do you plan to spend your birthday this year?**  
 Kumar Bishwajit: Birthdays were a lot more charming when I was younger, as I was able to savour the moments and live in the present. However, now I am more aware of my mortality with every year passing by. I don't have any special plans today, as I won't be able to spend time with my family. There are some pressing engagements in Chittagong so I have to be there. But it fills me with great pleasure to receive everyone's wishes, so that is what I look forward to. **If you could have three wishes granted, what would they be?**  
 Kumar Bishwajit: I would love to lead a healthy, simple life, and to leave behind a generation free from afflictions or worry. Secondly, I would like to sing many more good

songs. My last wish would be to be born again, in this beautiful country. **If you could celebrate your birthday anywhere else in the world today, where would it be and why?**  
 Kumar Bishwajit: I'm not really a believer of big celebrations. Whenever I ask my mother about when I was born, she always responds with, "It was during jaishtha month, on a Friday." It is more important for me to know that I have fulfilled my responsibilities in my career, as a father, a husband, and a father. But it feels special regardless, as everyone around the world remembers me on this token special day, no matter where I am. **What is relevant in your life today that wasn't five years ago?**  
 Kumar Bishwajit: Five years ago, I was a more whimsical person, and more desperate in my achievements as well as a risk taker. Today I am more cool and calculative, and take each step decisively. **What advice would you give on ageing gracefully?**  
 Kumar Bishwajit: One must be sincere, dedicated, and hardworking in whatever they do. For even if you cannot achieve your dreams at the end of it all, you will still have a lot to gain.

# FIVE SINGERS come together for cricket-themed song

**A CORRESPONDENT**  
 Five singer-musicians, brought together by their love for the game of cricket, have made a new song to inspire the Bangladesh National Cricket Team. The song, titled "Bangla Tiger", features singers Joy Shahrir, Shaifur Tuhin, Mahmud Jewel, Kishore and IC Mahmud Jewel has written and composed the song, while IK has done the musical arrangement. The music video for the song, directed by Chandan Roy Chowdhury, will be released today, the day Bangladesh takes field in their first match of the Champion's Trophy 2017 against England. Apart from other models, celebrated Bangladesh cricket supporter Tiger Milon also appears in the video.



## NEWS bytes

### "Jagged Little Pill" musical announced

"90s alt-rock singer Alanis Morissette has announced a new stage musical based around her 1995 album "Jagged Little Pill". Headed by Tony Award-winning director Diane Paulus and written by Diablo Cody, the new musical will feature songs of the album as well as other tracks from Morissette's discography. This team that has come together for this "Jagged Little Pill" musical is my musical theatre dream come true. The chemistry between all of us is crackling and I feel honoured to be diving into these songs



again, surrounded by all of this searing talent," Morissette said. Diane and Alanis are already taking on these personal songs that are part of your soul's marking to a whole other level of hope, freedom and complexity. The "Jagged Little Pill" musical has been in development since 2013. It's set to debut at American Repertory Theater in Cambridge, Massachusetts in May of 2018. Source: Pitchfork

## Apurbo and Mehzabien team up for tele-film



**SHAH ALAM SHAZU**  
 Busy actors of the small screen, Apurbo and Mehzabien, have teamed up for an Eid tele-film titled "Rong Tuli o Nee Bhaibobashar Golpo". The redoubtable duo, who have played on screen couples in several TV shows and performed in a music video, are now shooting for the new tele-film. Veteran actors Hasan Imam and Sharmili Ahmed play important roles in the telefilm, written by Shezan Noor and directed by Bil Shuvo. During a short break during the shoot at Uttara, Apurbo and Mehzabien talked about the venture. "The story line is breathtaking and the character I play is as interesting. I have acted several times with Mehzabien previously and she blends very well with her role," said Apurbo. Mehzabien on the other hand shared that it's a treat to work alongside Apurbo. "Apurbo is outstanding both as an actor and human being," she shared. The telefilm is set for release on ATN Bangla during Eid ul Fitr.

## Miftah's new song an instant hit



**A CORRESPONDENT**  
 Miftah Zaman is a familiar name to those who have followed contemporary Bangla music in the post-2000s era. Although he has fallen a little bit off the radar, his music still has the power to draw listeners, as evident by his latest release "Please Najer Kheyal Rekho". The song, written by Miftah's longtime collaborator Tuskar Hasan, has gained over 450,000 views on YouTube since its release less than a month ago. The song, produced and released by Chitrikolpo, stars popular TV actors Apurbo and Nadia in the video. The video is also scripted by Tuskar Hasan and directed by Mifta Khan. ABC radio is the exclusive radio partner of this project. Miftah released his first duet album, with Sarah Billah titled "Shuddu Tomake" in 2010, which featured two solo albums. "Dwitiya" (2012) and "Adorer Shukrata" (2014), along with a number of mixed albums. His melodious, classically-backed voice has earned him a large fan following.

## Priyanka Chopra circles two Hollywood projects

With her ABC show "Quantico" on summer hiatus, Priyanka Chopra is making waves on the big screen. Variety reported that the "Baywatch" star is in negotiations to join the indie drama "A Kid Like Jake" starring Jim Parsons and Claire Danes, and is also in talks to board the New Line comedy "Isn't It Romantic" opposite Rebel Wilson. Chopra will shoot "A Kid Like Jake" in June and then immediately begin production on "Isn't It Romantic" in July before returning to "Quantico" this fall. Most network stars with lengthy TV careers are usually only able to fit one movie into their hiatus schedule, but Chopra will be juggling two, in addition to continuing doing press for "Baywatch". Silas Howard is directing "A Kid Like Jake," which also stars Octavia Spencer. The film follows two parents who are in the process of filling out kindergarten applications for their four-year-old boy who is gender variant. After realising that they

can't afford private school tuition, the director of Jake's preschool encourages them to emphasize Jake's gender variance to help him stand out and earn a scholarship. The movie would mark a strong dramatic turn for Chopra, who showed off her comedic skills in "Baywatch". Todd Strauss-Schulson's "Isn't It Romantic" also stars Adam Devine and Liam Hemsworth. The romantic comedy follows a young woman (Wilson) who gives up on love only to mysteriously find herself trapped inside a romantic comedy. Chopra reigned the Bollywood film industry for over a decade, and caught the attention of Hollywood execs after becoming one of the biggest stars in India. Her first role in the US was the lead in ABC and Mark Gordon's "Quantico", which has become one of the network's most-watched shows among the 18-49 demographic. Source: Variety



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