

IN LOVING MEMORY

TRIBUTES POUR IN FOR ABDUL JABBAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Jabbar, the iconic voice behind songs like "Salam Salam Hajar Salam", "O Re Neel Doriya" and "Pitch Dhala Ei Poth ta re Bhalobeshechi" passed away yesterday morning, after a long battle with various old-age health complications. Singers and composers who have seen the artist from up close shared their fond memories and tributes to Jabbar to The Daily Star.

Alam Khan, noted composer
I have been ill myself, and on top of that hearing about Abdul Jabbar's death has made me extremely upset. Even with my ill health, I went to see him for the last time recently. Abdul Jabbar, without a doubt, was one of the frontline pioneering singers of the country. His voice and songs gave inspiration to the Freedom Fighters of our Liberation War. There are some songs which, if not sung by Abdul Jabbar, would never have found success. One of them being the one I had composed - "O Re Neel Doriya". This song, sung by anyone else, would never have gotten the recognition and admiration that it did - that is why there is only one Abdul Jabbar. We won't be able to listen to his sweet harmonious voice anymore- just the thought of it is painful.

Syed Abdul Hadi, eminent singer
There are too many memories to recount, and I am at a loss for words at this moment. Although he was a senior by age, we shared a close and lasting friendship. We used to meet

almost every day at Shabbag Betar Kendra, and shared our experiences and creative work. We had quarrels at times, but there was never a break in the bond we always shared. Our final meeting was last year, when we performed together in a concert in Munshiganj. He was very weak, and he told me, "I think my days are numbered." Death comes for us all, and this is life's reality.

the songs from Shadhin Banglar Betar Kendra, but sadly, even in our lifetimes, we have seen our own recordings disappear and remain forgotten. I implore that instead of shedding tears, we remember him through his work and ensure that they are never lost.

Sabina Yasmin, renowned singer
We are all stunned by the news, and his passing has left a void, not just in our hearts, but in our musical heritage. I

more. His musical genius was one of a kind, and unlike anything I have seen before in my life.

Rafiqul Alam, noted singer
Abdul Jabbar was a Freedom Fighter, and a warrior in every sense relating to our music. We were all in Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra to fight for cultural freedom and our heritage, but he was a revolutionary surpassing most. He was always encouraging us to fight, and to sing for our freedom. During a time when Indian and Pakistan singers dominated East Pakistan with their talents, Abdul Jabbar and Abdul Alim rose to the top with their extraordinary talents. My elder brother, who is also a singer, used to tell us a story about Abdul Jabbar back in 1966. When he was working for Rajshahi Radio, he approached the Regional Director of the station and demanded to know why there was a disparity in payments. Such a personality has taken our musical traditions to such great heights, and I pray for his eternal peace.

Kumar Bishwajit, noted singer
No one else will now lovingly call me 'Bishshu' anymore. He took it in his own hands to bring glory to our patriotic songs and Bangla adhunik songs. He will live on generation after generation through his work. Jabbar bhai was so mentally strong, that even in his final days he used to dream about making more music. He was a true patriotic artist. His absence will now have created a kind of emptiness in the industry, an emptiness that can never be filled again. All I pray for is that his soul finds peace.



Alam Khan



Sujeyo Shyam



Sabina Yasmin



Syed Abdul Hadi



Kumar Bishwajit



Rafiqul Alam



Sujeyo Shyam, noted composer
We worked together in Shadhin Banglar Betar Kendra and were close friends. He was ill for a very long time, and sadly I could not be there for him as much as I would have liked, as I was in Kolkata for my own treatment. My other compatriots are also struggling with their health, and it makes me worry for the future of our land. We fought all our lives to keep alive

have known him since I was a little girl - my older sisters Farida Yasmin and Fauzia Khan used to perform with him, and I would always accompany them. He was extremely affectionate, and I learned many things from him, particularly how to sing in duet performances. We recorded many duet songs together for films. The last time our paths crossed was a year and half ago, and it is hard for me to accept that he is no



WIND OF CHANGE returns for Eid-ul-Azha

A CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of Eid al-Azha, Gaanbangla TV will reprise their musical show "Wind of Change". The second season of the show will air everyday for the first three days of Eid, at 9pm. "Wind of Change", in its first season created a storm in the music scene with its elaborate, innovative musical arrangements. The return of "Wind of Change" is largely due

to the positive response it got from viewers the first time around. Like last time, popular and promising vocalists of the country will participate in the programme along with renowned international instrumentalists. Featured singers of this season are Ustad Niaz Mohammad Chowdhury, Bari Siddiqui, Subir Nandi, Kaushik Hossain Tapash, Jan-e Alam, Aditi Mohsin, Chisti Baul, Hridoy Khan, Pathik Nabi, Belal Khan, Luipa and Shamim. Reputed instrumentalists from

countries such as Latvia, US, Russia and India have joined the performers. About the show, composer and producer of "Wind of Change" Kaushik Hossain Tapash says: "We started off to bring our music and our love for music to international corners. We have seen how well received the first season was, and that confidence has encouraged us to go into the second season of the show. I think we have come a long way."

Tahsan releasing solo album OBHIMAN AMAR

A CORRESPONDENT

Tahsan, one of the biggest pop stars of the country, is dropping his seventh studio album just in time for Eid. "Obhiman Amar" is set to release tomorrow as a CD, and also on online streaming platforms. The title of the album is reportedly a reflection of Tahsan's recent personal turmoil. Of the seven songs, six has been written by Tahsan himself and one song by Fazbir Taz. Tahsan has also composed music for three songs, and the rest have been composed by Sajid Sarkar and Nahid Noman.

CD Choice is bringing out the physical album, which is set to drop on the eve of Eid (September 1). The songs will also be available on the smartphone-based music streaming service GP Music, and the music video of the title track will be available on GP Bioscope app and its web platform. Tahsan's other solo albums include "Kritodasher Nirban" (2005), "Ichche" (2006), "Nei" (2008) and "Prottabornton" (2011). His most recent single "Cholo Na Harai" released in May this year along with a music video.



Deepika reverses the Bollywood wage gap

For the first time in Indian cinema, an actress will be seen getting paid more than her male co-stars of the film, reports Times of India. With so much conversation about pay scale, Deepika Padukone has reversed the wage gap with "Padmavati", where she plays the titular role. As opposed to the usual norm of actors bagging a heavier paycheck than the actress, "Padmavati" has Deepika take home the highest remuneration. According to sources, "There are a lot of speculations about the pay structure of 'Padmavati'. However, Sanjay Sir was clear that the film belongs to Deepika. The film is mounted on its female protagonist with the title being a testimony of the actress' investment in the project. As for the remuneration, Deepika has taken home a whopping Rs. 13 crore, while Ranveer and Shahid share equal digits that read close to Rs. 10 crores respectively."

This reverse pay scale of "Padmavati" sets a new precedent in Bollywood, owing to Deepika's stardom and primacy of her role. "Padmavati" is a period film that tells the story of Alauddin Khilji, the medieval-era Delhi ruler, who was infatuated with Rajput queen Padmavati. The film is all set to release in November.

Source: TOI

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