



A busy year ahead for BAPPY

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular actor Bappy Chowdhury, who was last seen in Shah Alam Mondal's *Dongiri* (2019), has signed two new films, Safiuddin Safi's *Secret Agent* and Rumman Rony's untitled project. "I will be playing completely different roles in these films, which is exciting. As always, my aim is to offer something new to my audience with every project," said Bappy, who hopes to start working on these two films in 2020.

Currently, the actor is shooting for Dipankar Dipon's *Dhaka 2040* and awaiting the release of Debasish Biswas' *Shoshurbari Zindabaad 2*.

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Line-up:
Sabbir Hossain Farukh: Vocals
Tanvir Sarwar Khan: Guitar
Muhit Rahman: Guitar
Mong Sai: Bass
Showrov Dewan: Drums

One of the bands to perform at the phenomenal *20 Years of Artcellism*, Unmaad showed why they are considered one of the most promising upcoming bands with their rendition of *Bhul Jonmo*. The Chittagonians, having recently released their debut album *Run to Bahaddarhat*, talk to *The Daily Star* about their insurgency, future plans, and more.

You recently performed at the biggest stage in your career yet, *20 Years of Artcellism*. Tell us about the experience.

Mong: It was absolutely overwhelming. As soon as we reached the event, we were stunned by the sheer size of the venue! It took us a while to process the platform we had just been given, and we are grateful to Artcell for believing in us.

Sabbir: It was our biggest performance till date. I was very nervous before the performance, and more so when the flare, which is a part of our act, did not light up. Thankfully, we pulled everything off in the end. It was the experience of a lifetime.

I'd like to call your debut album, *Run to Bahaddarhat*, a runaway success. When did you start recording for it?

Muhit: The compositions for the nine songs in the album were essentially done by

2016, and we finished the recording soon after that. However, we were very nitpicky about getting the sound right, and this is why the release took this long.

Tanvir: We started out as a pseudo-metal band who were adept at all genres, and gradually switched to hard rock. Even though we are inspired by bands like AC/DC, we were successful in finding our own sound.

Tell us about the music scene in Chattogram.

Muhit: In our city, there used to be a very vibrant underground scene. However, with time, those concerts started decreasing in number, as the venues started to decrease. However, we still have many shows in the form of rag days and other events, which serve as a platform for new bands and musicians to emerge.

Sabbir: Honestly, an 'underground' scene is not as essential as it used

to be. There are a lot of platforms from which musicians can earn fame, provided that they can differentiate themselves from the crowd. We spent a lot of time familiarising our audience with the type of music that we do, to get to where we are today.

What should an upcoming band do to stand out?

Muhit: Shows, shows and shows. Nothing beats the experience of performing live. That should be mixed with a good presence on social media.

Sabbir: Musicians today should be adept at promoting themselves, both offline and online.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Suchanda and Rafi Hossain to receive the Fazlul Haque Memorial Award 2019 today

PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

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Actor Kohinoor Akhter Suchanda and journalist Rafi Hossain will be honoured with the 16th Fazlul Haque Memorial Award 2019

for direction and cine-journalism, respectively. The programme will be held today, at 6pm, at Westin, Dhaka. Both winners will receive prize money of BDT 25,000, crests and certificates of honour.

The Fazlul Haque Memorial Committee has organised this event since 2004, in honour of the late photo-journalist Fazlul Haque. Eminent novelist Rabeya Khatun initiated this award.

Filmmaker Ritwik Ghatak's family objects to BJP's use of his films to promote CAA

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, from New Delhi

The West Bengal unit of India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has decided to use legendary director Ritwik Ghatak's partition trilogy films, which depict the tragic consequences of largescale human displacement, caused by the vivisection of the Indian subcontinent, to defend the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The BJP said that the CAA is aimed at benefitting the refugees who have come from across the border to India over the years, but the law's opponents claimed that it is discriminatory to Muslims.

Ghatak's *Subarnarekha*, *Meghe Dhaka Tara* and *Komol Gandhar*

protests from family members of the director, known for his Leftist political views. They claimed that Ghatak was "secular to the bone" and his works should not be used for a "discriminatory" legislation. Among them is well-known actor Parambrata Chattopadhyay, Ghatak's grandson. Chattopadhyay said that as a family, they do not want Ghatak's name and work to be used for anything which violated the fundamental principles that he stood for.

Moreover, West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress took a dig at the BJP for turning to Ghatak in desperation. "Those who insult Amartya Sen, make oblique comments about Abhijit Banerjee

PHOTO: COLLECTED

poignantly recreate the plight of people who were forced to migrate to India after the partition in 1947. The BJP's youth wing, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), has made a six-minute video using footages from these three films of Ghatak, with an objective to showcase the trauma of post-partition years and make people understand the need for the CAA. According to BJP leader Shamik Bhattacharya, the video begins from the Great Calcutta Killings of 1946 and stretches into the present times, up to the granting of citizenships to the uprooted people now.

However, the move has triggered

winning the Nobel Prize, are now turning to such a personality. This is the biggest example of political bankruptcy," said Trinamool Secretary General Partha Chatterjee. On the other hand, Bhattacharya added that Ghatak's political identity is not important in the present context. "The pain of people during the partition has come up repeatedly in his films. This is what we are highlighting," he said.

In a statement, relatives of Ghatak, including his nieces and nephews, objected to the use of video footages from his films, divorced from context, to support the CAA.

First look of Kangana Ranaut starrer 'Panga' out

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The first-look poster of *Panga*, Kangana Ranaut's upcoming film with director Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari, is out. The film is a light-hearted story about a national-level kabaddi player.

Produced by Fox Stars Studios, the film also stars Jassi Gill, Neena Gupta, and Mukesh Tiwari. The songs of *Panga* are composed by Shankar, Ehsaan and Loy.

After playing an edgy and volatile role in her last film, *Judgementall Hai Kya*, Kangana will be seen as a mother in Ashwiny Tiwari's film.

Meanwhile, Kangana is also part of the multilingual biopic on the Tamil Nadu CM J Jayalalithaa, which is titled *Thalaivi*.