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Mahmuda Moumita’s cover of ‘Bhalo Achhi Bhalo Theko’ earns praise

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Singer and journalist Mahmuda Moumita released her latest cover of the popular song “Bhalo Achhi Bhalo Theko”, composed and penned by prominent poet Rudra Mohammad Shahidullah. It has been released on her official YouTube channel, Gaanmita. The music has been arranged by Sheikh Saikat. “This song is one of the most popular numbers not only for Bangladeshi, but to all Bengali speakers around the world,” said the singer. “We have tried our best to keep 60s flavour of the track. However, I have also tried to keep my signature in it.” Moumita is Senior Reporter at Independent Television. She informed The Daily Star that she will also sing originals as well. Sheikh Saikat said that he was pleased to work with Moumita’s melodious voice, while recording the song.

I can’t imagine myself in films

Maria Nur

Maria Nur has dabbled into acting, anchoring, modelling, and radio jockeying throughout her career. Most recently, she garnered wide appreciation for her performance in internationally acclaimed director Mostofa Sarwar Farooki’s web series, “Ladies & Gentlemen,” and is continuing to make great strides on OTT platforms. The multifaceted artiste is also the host of the popular cricket programme, “Straight Drive”, on T-Sports. In a conversation with The Daily Star, Maria Nur reveals details about “Straight Drive”, working with Farooki, and more.

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

How different is ‘Straight Drive’ from other sports programmes? Usually, sports reviews are really short and a 15 to 20-minute show is not enough to dive deep into an analysis of the key players’ performances. “Straight Drive” is an hour long show, where renowned former cricketers and I discuss the key players’ technical skills, from their footwork to bowling movements, during T-20 matches. **You are one of the most popular anchors on television. But for some time, you have been missing from the hosting scene. Did you take a break from anchoring?** Anchoring is my first love and passion. It would be wrong to say that I took a break from hosting. However, I stopped anchoring live shows and weekly episodes from 2016. Nowadays, I only host big shows or programmes for special occasions.

How was it working with Shamol Mawla in Zee5’s ‘Herey Jabar Golpo’? Shamol Mawla is rightfully known as the OTT king for his impeccable performances on screen. I really got to learn a lot from him. I was able to refine my character Meghla in the web film with his support.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

You performance in “Ladies & Gentlemen” was widely appreciated. How did you prepare for the role? When Farooki *bhai* told me about my character, Laura, I was a bit nervous. All of us did workshops so that we could realistically bring out our characters, and I am really happy with the positive response. Laura is a friendly, strong, and determined woman. Farooki *bhai* has a habit of calling his actors by their characters’ names, but he never called me “Laura” as he felt that mine and Laura’s attributes were alike. **Is it true that you will be taking a break from work after T20?** Yes, I will be taking a break as I want to concentrate fully on my health and physique at the moment. I might do some game streaming as I am an avid gamer, but for the time being, I just want to relax and take a break from everything. **Do you plan on doing films in the future?** I don’t have any plans of doing movies any time soon, as I can’t imagine myself in films. I think films do not go with my personality.



Maria Nur in “Straight Drive”.

Avishek Bhattacharjee’s unique renditions of Tagore

SHARMIN JOYA

Talent singer Avishek Bhattacharjee recently released his debut album “Tobu Mone Rekho”, featuring four melodious renditions of Rabindra Sangeet.

The tracks are rearranged with modern instruments, including electrical guitar and keyboard among others. It is a tribute to Rabindranath Tagore. “Each song was very experimental,” asserts the singer, who started attending musical lessons from the age of eight. “It is quite challenging to stay loyal to the roots and being musically modern, I tried to keep the Swaralipi as it is.” The musician is a graduate in Classical Rabindra Sangeet from both BAFA and Chhayanaut. He can play 19 musical instruments. “Progressive rock is my kind of music. I find peace in exploring it,” he adds. He also has a passion for photography. His album’s final song, “Kar Milono Chao Birohi”, has a video featuring talented dancer Alka Das Pranti. “It is my debut directorial music video,” says Avishek, who has been pursuing fine art photography for the past 15 years. “I released the songs on occasions such as 25 Baishakh, 22 Srabon, and on Dashami,” he shares. The song, “Durey Kothay”, pleasantly experiments with saxophone played by Zafriye Abedin. One the other hand, “Aji Jhorer Ratey”, reminds one of a Boishakhi stormy night, where Avishek does a great



PHOTO: COURTESY

job on keyboard and santoor with Navid Imtiaz Chowdhury on guitar. The title track “Tobu Mone Rekho” has Arafat Mohsin on guitar. The album is powered and supervised by digital creator company ZHIR ZHIR. Avishek has been working on his first original song, which is already recorded. “I take a lot of time to make music,” he explains. “For now, I can’t share much, however, I am working on the visuals now. When my originals come out, I want them to create a digital cohesion.” Apart from Avishek’s official YouTube channel, “Tobu Mone Rekho” is available on Spotify, Apple Music, and other music streaming platforms worldwide.



Song cover for Avishek’s rendition of “Kar Milon Chao Birohi”.



Voicing out through art

Prachyanat recently staged “Poth Cherona, Pother Manush” at Dhaka University’s Kala Bhaban, protesting the recent communal attacks that shook the country to its core. The programme included street theatre, performance art, elocution and music, sending a moving message of peace and brotherhood. Prachyanat, Batighor, BOTtala, Theatre 52, Bunophool, Pritilata Brigade, Mime Action, Boikuntho and Srot, among other theatre troupes, performed in the programme.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED