



A snippet from the 'Habibi' music video.

I backed out of a film for 'Habibi': NUSRAAT FARIA

ZAHID AKBAR

Celebrated actress Nusraat Faria made her singing debut with "Pataka" in 2018. With her very first song, she had created quite a buzz among her fans. Her second song, "Ami Chai Thakte" was also a hit. Her third original track, "Habibi" was released on November 7. The "Premi O Premi" actress got candid about preparing for the song and more in a conversation with *The Daily Star*.

You have truly worked hard for the song, 'Habibi'. What was the process like?

I started preparing for the song 20 days in advance. I also had to study for my third-year law final exams at the time. I shot for "Habibi" on October 14,



PHOTO: HABIB DURJOY/COLLECTED FROM FACEBOOK

and had a paper due the next day. There was a lot of pressure on me, but I was determined to look beautiful and fit for the song. Although I was quite stressed out, those 20 days were memorable and wonderful. I even backed out of a film for "Habibi";

I gave my blood and sweat to it.

Your original songs 'Pataka' and 'Ami Chai Thakte' came out in 2018 and 2020 respectively. What were your expectations from them?

It has been three years since the release of my first song, "Pataka". If the audience had not appreciated that song, I would not have put out "Ami Chai Thakte". I think there is an interest among my fans, for more music from me. I collaborated with the Indian production house SVF Music for all my original songs till now, and I have had a great experience working with them.

You have proved your talents as an actress, a model and a singer. What is your mantra for success?

I believe the secret to my success is the love I have for my work. If you love what you do, everything else is likely to fall into place. Before me, actresses like Diti and Moushumi Apu have dabbled in singing. I have always aimed for something different and spectacular as a singer.

You got engaged over a year ago. Can we expect a wedding any time soon?

I am not thinking about my wedding at the moment, as I am quite busy. I need a few more months to plan everything out.

1 MINUTE PLEASE

DOLA

Aditi Rahman Dola prides herself on being a gym freak, an attribute she picked up along the way of her promising musical career. She sits with us with a round of 'One Minute Please', where she answers these questions within a minute!

What would you do if you were banned from gyms?

I would literally die! There's no way I can survive without going to the gym!

What was your first ever dream in life?

I really, really wanted to become a choreographer. If I wasn't a singer or a lawyer, I'd probably be that by now.

If you were to star in a film, and were given the choice of any co-star, who would it be?

Jason Momoa! (Blushes) I had to be from Bangladesh, no one, because I refer to all the actors as 'bhai'!

What is the toughest part about being an entertainer in 2021?

The negativity for sure. The online space is super-toxic and people love focusing on the negative.

One thing you dislike about the current generation of singers?

Their ears aren't ready yet, a lot of them can't even tell if they're off-tune.

Describe yourself in one word.

A fighter!



Aditi Rahman Dola.

PHOTO: COURTESY



Photographs on display at the exhibition.

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

'A Better Tomorrow' turns the spotlight on climate change

MORMEE MAHTAB

The COP26 Climate Change photography exhibition, "A Better Tomorrow", was inaugurated on November 5 at Drik Gallery in Panthapath, showcasing a collection of 30 photographs, surrounding the various themes of climate change.

Curated from a competition organised by the British Council, the British High Commission, and the Embassy of Italy, in cooperation with Drik Picture Library Bangladesh, Picture People UK, and Fondazione UniVerde Italy, the photographs aim to spread awareness about local climate change among the youth of Bangladesh through the medium of visual arts.

The competition opened for submission in August under three main categories. It received 2,100 entries, from which 30 finalists were selected for the exhibition by international judges from Bangladesh, the UK and Italy. During the inauguration, Tom Miscioscia, the Director of the British Council, handed over the awards to the winners.

Photographs by Md Amdad Hossain, which won the grand prize, highlights the distressing state of homelessness brought on by frequent floods, river erosion and other natural calamities that force many uprooted families to migrate to the city in the hopes for a better future only to discover no refuge or respite. A similar struggle with the climate crisis is apparent in Ziaul Huque's photograph, which won under the Planet in Crisis category. It showcases the perils of unplanned urbanisation as a mother holds on to her daughter while they wait at the ground floor of a hospital in Chattagram, submerged in floodwaters.

In contrast to these categories, Md Rubayed Hossain's photograph, winner of the My Beautiful Planet category, revels on the beauty of nature yet to be tainted by the effects of climate change as it captures a woman moving through the algae-covered waters on a

dinghy in a foggy, winter morning. Moreover, Jannatul Mouwa's photograph, which received an honourable mention for Hope for the Planet category, invites a discussion on different environmental problems.

The aftermath of natural disasters, along with the irrecoverable damage of man-made waste and raw industrial materials on rivers and the aquatic life altogether create a viscous cycle of repetitive destruction, the impact of



which falls directly on the lives of the ordinary people, wreaking havoc into their everyday existence.

The exhibition plays a remarkable role in creating awareness about the different threats of climate change, and drives one to wonder about individual actions that contribute to such realities while instigating a desire to collectively mitigate the crises through conscious environmental choices that bring about sustainable solutions.

The winning photographs are being virtually displayed at the British Council Pavilion during the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, from October 31 to November 12. The exhibition at Drik Gallery will be open to the public till November 20, 2021, every day from 3 pm to 8 pm.

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THE QUEENS OF THE 60S

Considered the Golden Age of Bengali cinema, the 60s was a remarkable decade. Competing with Hindi and Urdu, there was a significance of Bengali cinema, with producing many commercially successful films.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The industry was booming with beautiful actresses, including the likes of Sumita Debi, Sujata, Shuchanda, and Shabnam.

There were other popular actresses, including the likes of Anwara, Sultana Zaman, Rowshan Ara, and Rosy, who were on the list of appreciation.

While reminiscing the actresses of the 60s, one cannot forget Dr Rawshan Ara. She was introduced as one of the first actresses of the decade.

The actress, who was also a doctor, made her first appearance on the silver screens with "Matir Pahar" in 1959. Some of her notable works are "Surjansan", "Je Nodi Morupotho", "Mala", and "Ujala". She passed away on June 24, 2010.

Another renowned actress, Sultana Zaman was introduced in 1959, with "Matir Pahar". Her appearance in the film "Chanda O Jowar" earned her a lot of appreciation as a romantic heroine. She has also worked in Khan Ataur Rahman's "Onek Diner Chena". The actress breathed her last on May 20, 2012.

Noted actress Sumita Devi is also known as the first lady of Dhallywood. She was one of the most popular actresses of her time. "Asia" was her debut film, while her first released film was "Akash Ar Mati". She tied the knot with legendary writer and filmmaker Zahir Raihan, in 1961. However, they parted ways in 1968. Sumita was honoured with the Nigar Award, one of the prestigious awards of the time.

Prominent actress Sujata presented some of the greatest hits of her time. She was



Shabnam.

popular for her glamour and acting prowess. The "Rupban" famed actress also worked in the films "Obujh Mon", "Astru Diye Lekha", "Etotoku Asha", "Chhutih Ghonta", "Ayna O Oboshishto", and "Alor Michhil" among many others.

Although the National Film and Ekushey Padak awardee's appearance on the big screen have become sporadic, the actress is often seen in small screens.

"Kagojer Noutka" famed actress Shuchanda is also one of the most prominent actresses of the 60s. She was much appreciated for her romantic roles in cinemas.

Her remarkable works are "Behula",



Sujata

"Jibon Theke Neyra", "Chawa Pawa", "Je Agune Puri", "Ostru Diye Lekha", "Anowara", and "Nayantara", and "Dhire Bohe Meghna" among many others.

She was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement award in the National Film Awards.

Shabnam is another shining name of the 60s. Her unparalleled performance has won hearts over the decades. After her appearance in the film "Harano Din", she reached another height of popularity. She was one of the most prominent actresses in Pakistani film industry, with many films including "Chanda" in 1962. "Nachghor", "Julie", "Raja", "Shonyashi", "Jowar Bhata" are some of the notable films in her career.

The track "Tomare Legechhe Eto Je Bhalo", "Chaand Bujhi Ta Jane" from the film "Rajdhanir Bukey" is a timeless song.

Anowara is a household name when it comes to Dhallywood films. Her first media appearance was as a dancer. She made her debut in the film "Prit Na Jane Rit", as a dance artiste. Her first film as an actress was "Nachghor". In the film "Sangram", she was a supporting cast. She was highly appreciated for her performance in "Janajani", while "Nawab Shirajuddaula" was considered as one of her best works. In contemporary films, she is seen playing the character of mother.

Noted actress Rosy is known for her role in "Sangram". The actress passed away on March 9, in 2007. She was also known for her roles in "Etotoku Asha", "Neel Akasher Niche", "Alor Pipasha", "Chena O Chena", "Chorabali", "Protikar", and "Beder Meye" among many others.



Suchanda

PHOTOS: COLLECTED



Sumita Debi