

When Lata sang for Bangladesh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Among the myriad chapters of legendary playback singer Lata Mangeshkar's illustrious career, one that's close to Bangladesh's heart is the key role she played in mobilising funds and international opinion in favour of our Liberation War in 1971.

During that time, the singer, who passed away in Mumbai yesterday, travelled to different cities by Indian Air Force planes.

The funds raised at musical soirees where Lata Mangeshkar performed across India were channelled for the upkeep of lakhs of refugees who had crossed over to India from Bangladesh during the Liberation War.

She also sang the song "O Dadabhai" in the film "Raktakto Bangla", which was released in December, 1972.

Remembering the Liberation War, Lata Mangeshkar had shared an anecdote on her official twitter account on September 14, 2019.

She reminisced about the time she visited Bangladesh soon after the liberation and delighted audiences with her performance.

"Namaskar. As soon as the 1971 Bangladesh liberation war ended, we went to Bangladesh and we did several events with (Bollywood actor) Sunil Dutt's group. At the time, we used to

Lata was part of an Indian cultural delegation which called on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family in Dhaka.



commute all around by Army plane."

Lata was part of an Indian cultural delegation which called on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family in Dhaka. Others in the delegation were actress Wahida Rehman, a young Sanjay Dutt and his father-actor Sunil Dutt.

Following her demise yesterday, West Bengal's music fraternity paid rich tributes to the legendary singer who collaborated with some top music directors like Sachin Deb Burman, Hemanta Mukherjee and Salil Chowdhury to produce memorable hits in Bangla.

Mangeshkar, who had sung some 185 songs in Bengali, is remembered by her fans here for classics such as 'Akash Prodip Jwale' (The light burns in the sky) and 'Prem Ekbar Esehchilo Nirobe' (love came once silently).

Salil Chowdhury collaborated with Lata for some 35 Bengali songs, 20 of them for movies. Among their many hits in Bengali were modern numbers like 'Ja re ure ja re pakhi' and 'Ami Choltte, Choltte Theme Gechi'.

Musicians in Kolkata said while Lata understood Bengali as she had many friends among Bangla music directors and singers, at times she had to be explained the finer nuances of Bangla lyrics. But she picked up and rendered the nuances in a manner which only a great singer like her could have ever done.

Popular singer Haimanti Shukla said Lata Mangeshkar did not have any arrogance and she often fretted over audience response before shows.



Lata Mangeshkar and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. She arrived in Bangladesh in 1971 in an Indian Air Force plane.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

PRAYER
TIMING
FEB 7

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5:30	12:45	4:15	5:52	7:15
Jamaat	6:05	1:15	4:30	5:56	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



As the road in front of the Regional Election Office in Agargaon remains closed, local teens took up the opportunity to ride their bikes in style, performing stunts to show-off their moves. With no protective gears on, their moment of enjoyment can turn into a risky endeavour as vehicles still use the road to find parking space. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



Aminbazar resident Mohammad Miah used to make a living out of providing boat rides around the area's low-land, where waterlogging was a constant issue every monsoon. But for the last few years, the problem has subsided to an extent. While this is welcome for the area's residents, for Mohammad, it meant the end of his run with this boat. He was therefore carrying it to a suitable place, where he could break it down and use the scraps as firewood. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

9 faulty bridges to be rebuilt in Dhaka

LGRD minister on restoring canal connectivity; permission from DNCC, DSCC must to build structures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Minister Md Tazul Islam yesterday said nine bridges in and around Dhaka, which obstruct the navigability of their adjacent waterbodies, will be rebuilt to restore connectivity among canals.

The minister also urged authorities concerned to take necessary steps in this regard.

He said this at a meeting to review waterlogging issues in Dhaka and Chattogram.

"We will increase connectivity among canals in Dhaka with this restoration work. This will not only increase waterway connectivity but also increase the beauty of the city," said Tazul, who chaired the meeting.

All organisations will have to take permission from the two city corporations to build any structure in the city, and the mayors will have to be alert so that people don't face harassment in the process.

Directing all organisations to take actions against encroachers to recover canals and water bodies, the minister mentioned the Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) drive to recover the canal in Basila by conducting eviction drives at illegal truck stands, houses and markets.

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) is also conducting drives against illegal encroachers to recover canals and waterbodies, he said.

Saying all organisations will have to take permission from the two city corporations to build any structure in the city, Tazul also urged the mayors to be alert so that people don't face harassment in the process.

Tazul asked Rajuk to involve the city

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MD TAZUL ISLAM
LGRD Minister

corporations for its monitoring activities to check whether building owners are constructing their premises as per approved plans.

Criticising Rajuk for their failure to take action when housing companies filled up or encroached canals, DNCC mayor Md Atiqul Islam said some wide canals have been narrowed down to only two feet.

He said they will start works to set up boundary pillars on canals from February 17.

Meanwhile, DSCC mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said they are taking different steps – like keeping 30 pumps for the rainy season, cleaning canals and drains and repairing sluice gates – to keep Dhaka city free from waterlogging during the coming rainy season.

He mentioned the Taltola Jheel, which is under attack from encroachers. Taposh said if the jheel is handed over to the city corporation from the ministry of housing, DSCC will be able to protect it from encroachers by setting up boundary walls.

Criticising Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), he said BIWTA is initiating some projects for which DSCC projects are facing obstacles.

At the meeting, a sub-committee headed by additional secretary of Local Government Division Muhammad Ibrahim has been formed to solve waterlogging problem and recovering canals in Chattogram.

Must be neutral, transparent Says Quader on search committee

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said members of the search committee, formed to constitute a new Election Commission), have obligations to follow the principles of transparency and impartiality within its legal framework.

The president will form a new EC from the list of the persons recommended by this search committee, he said in a statement.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, said recently the "Appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and Other Commissioners Bill- 2022" was passed in parliament.

Since the country's independence, he said, the EC will be formed for the first time following this specific law.

Responding to an allegation of BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir that the search committee was formed purposively, the AL general secretary said those, who introduced the ill-politics of seizing state power through killing-coup-conspiracy in this country, can make such irresponsible remarks.

Quader said the people of Bangladesh do not tolerate the imperious and irresponsible remarks of any quarter and do not fear any threat of conspirators.



Govt formed 'Awami private committee' Alleges Rizvi

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday alleged that the government has formed a "private" Awami body in the name of a search committee.

Speaking at a press conference at BNP's Nayapaltan central office, BNP senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said, "I think it's justified to call it an 'Awami private committee', not a search committee. This committee and those who will be found out by them for the Election Commission are all the passengers of the same boat. They're birds of a feather."

The BNP leader also said all the names that would be proposed by the search committee would be members of the Awami family.

Rizvi said the intended goal of the search committee will be finding out the tested and genuine Awami family members to hold another "managed" election as per a government blueprint.

On Saturday, a six-member search committee, led by Appellate Division Justice Obaidul Hassan, was formed to suggest the names of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners.

The other members of the committee are High Court Division Justice SM Kuddus Zaman, the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh Md Muslim Chowdhury, Chairman of the Public Service Commission Md Sohrab Hossain, former election commissioner Muhammad Sohul Hussain and noted writer Anwara Syed Haque.

The tenure of incumbent Commission, led by CEC KM Nurul Huda, will expire on February 14.

