



Fahmida Nabi



Foad Nasser Babu



Shafin Ahmed



Kumar Bishwajit



Syed Abdul Hadi

In loving memory of Kausar Ahmed Chaudhury

He will continue to live in the hearts of music lovers through his creations. He was really poetic.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Celebrated astrologer and lyricist Kausar Ahmed Chaudhury passed away on the night of February 22, after battling with various health complications. While he was known for his horoscope readings on popular daily Prothom Alo's "Apner Rashi", he also wrote many timeless hits for some of the most respected musicians of the country. The eminent lyricist's demise left the entire industry in a state of grief. Some of his peers reminisced about their bond with him.

Extra Sensory Perception (ESP) to observe faces to reveal details from the past that almost matched, and also give people insights into their future.

He was like an elder brother to me: Foad Nasser Babu

Kausar Ahmed Chaudhury wrote some of the most popular songs of Feedback, including "Moushumi" and "Ek Jhak Projapoti". He also wrote lyrics for many of my solo songs and other compositions. He was like an elder brother to me, and I admired his calmness, positivity, and patience.

The man behind many hit songs, Kausar Ahmed Chaudhury preferred to stay away from the limelight. He guided and inspired his peers. His soft-spoken nature earned him immense respect in the industry. I visited him around three weeks ago, but I was unable to meet him for one last time, which is one my biggest regrets.

His words truly resonated with people: Kumar Bishwajit

I am deeply saddened by the demise of Kausar Ahmed Chaudhury. He has given us many timeless songs to his credit, his importance in the world of our music is unparalleled. He will continue to live in the hearts of music lovers through his creations. He was really poetic.

I met Kausar Ahmed Chaudhury through legendary singer Lucky Akhand, and we became great friends quickly. I was always fascinated by his lyrics, and in awe of his

talent. His words truly resonated with people. I think very few people have written such wonderful songs since our independence. The song, "Jekhane Shimanto Tomar", which he wrote beautifully, brought me immense popularity. I have lost a loved one, but my love for him will never diminish.

After Lucky's demise, Kausar kept himself away from music: Syed Abdul Hadi

I got acquainted with Kausar in the 70s. We were good friends. Although I have sung many songs written by him, "Cholona Jolsha Ghore" really stands out for me.

The song was composed by Lucky Akhand. We did it for television, but it was later used in the Syed Salahuddin Zaki film "Ghuddi". The song was picturised on Raisul Islam Asad, who starred opposite Suborna Mustafa in the film.

Kausar was very choosy about writing lyrics, and most of his songs were composed by Lucky Akhand. Their collaborations were amazing. After Lucky's demise, Kausar kept himself away from music.

Renowned singer Fahmida Nabi remembered her uncle Kausar Ahmed on Facebook, with a heartfelt post and family photo, featuring her late father Mahmudun Nabi and two of her other uncles. "Death is inevitable, it leaves memories for the ones who are left behind. Such a lively photo is just a part of our memories now. May Allah grant them Jannah," read a part of her caption.

PHOTOS: STAR & COLLECTED



Kausar Ahmed Chaudhury



Fahmida Nabi remembered her uncle Kausar Ahmed Chaudhury on Facebook, with a heartfelt post and family photo, featuring her late father Mahmudun Nabi and two of her other uncles.

PHOTO: COLLECTED FROM FACEBOOK

He was one of the finest lyricists of our industry: Shafin Ahmed

Kausar Ahmed Chaudhury penned the songs "Majhi" from Miles' album "Protisruti" and "Noshto Oteet" from "Prottasha". I found a unique depth in his writing.

There is no denying that Kausar bhai was one of the finest lyricists of our industry. However, very few of us know that he was a man of many talents.

He was a skilled face reader and followed

National Award-winning film 'Gor' to return to theatres

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

After bagging the National Film Award in II categories, the Gazi Rakayet directorial, "Gor" (The Grave) is set to return to movie theatres.

The film will have four shows every day from February 25 onwards, at Shyamoli Cinema Hall. It also competed at the Oscars in the main category.

Besides directing and writing the screenplay of the film, Gazi Rakayet also acted in it.

Initially, the film was released in December 2020.

"Gor" also stars Mamunur Rashid, Dilara Zaman, S M Mohsin and Deepanwita Martin among others.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Alia Bhatt to star in Hollywood film?

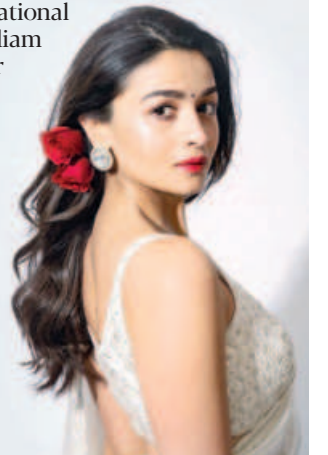
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Alia Bhatt is set to conquer the hearts of the audience with her performance in ace director Sanjay Leela Bhansali's "Gangubai Kathiawadi".

The film recently had its world premiere at the 72nd Berlin International Film Festival.

In a recent interview with DNA India, Alia Bhatt revealed that she hopes to do a Hollywood film next.

According to reports, she has signed international talent agency William Morris Endeavour to get Hollywood projects as she eyes opportunities in the US. It is the same agency that represents international stars like Gal Gadot, Emma Stone, and Charlize Theron, among others.



COUNTRYWIDE

Illegal brickfields wreaking havoc on Padma shoal

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

At least 51 brickfields have mushroomed in Luxmikunda union I Pabna's Ishwardi upazila in last five years encroaching vast shoal of the Padma. Apart from this, mindless sand and earth extraction in the area has been going on in broad daylight.

The clique has also constructed several roads in different points crisscrossing the lagoons to facilitate transportation of soil to the brickfields.

While visiting Luxmikunda union, it was found that the encroachers have erected barriers in Dadpur, Luxmikunda, Nabinagar and Char Kurulia areas and constructed roads so that they can easily extract soil from the shoal and carry it to the brickfields, locals said.

Influential people started establishing brickfields since 2014 and within a few years, 51 brick fields were established in 20-kilometre area from Nabinagar to Char Kurulia in the union, said Ziaul Islam Zia, panel chairman of Luxmikunda Union Parishad.

However, most of them have no legal permission, he also said.

"The UP has not issued licenses to the brickfields but the influential quarter started establishing brick fields illegally; now the brickfields are established closer to the Padma wreaking havoc on the river and natural environment," said the panel chairman.

Brickfield workers and the encroachers have been extracting soil from the shoal illegally damaging cropland.

"Brickfield workers are extracting soil with excavators. Due to rampant sand extraction, the area is becoming more erosion prone damaging crop production," Zia added.

Besides, natural environment is being badly affected due to the encroachment resulting into the reduction of fish population in the river, he added.

Talking with the Daily Star, Md Rafikul Islam, executive engineer of Pabna Water Development Board (WDB), however, said Padma is rapidly drying up due to the rampant encroachment.

"Encroachment and construction of roads in the middle of the river have been speeding up the geomorphological change of the river," the WDB engineer said.

Nobody has the right to obstruct the flow of water of a river, he said adding, that

the lagoons have connection with the main river so the encroachment badly affects the main river.

Shahidur Rahman, secretary of Bangladesh Nodi Bachao Andolan (Save the River Movement, Bangladesh), Pabna district unit, said river encroachment is a crime, the criminals must be punished.

"What is going on in Luxmikunda union is a crime on broad daylight. Local administration must stop this crime. This is a matter of question how so many illegal brickfields could be established encroaching river," Shahid said.

Talking with the Daily Star, Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Md Abdulla Al Mamun said the district administration is continuing raids in different areas whenever allegation surfaces.

"Whenever we get information about illegal sand and soil extraction from the river, we conduct drive in the area, recently we have arrested four people in connection with illegal sand lifting," the ADM said.

Asked about the mushrooming illegal brickfields in the union, the ADM said, "We have already asked the department of environment and BSTI to look into their papers."



A row of chimneys, set at brickfields on the shoal of Padma in Pabna's Ishwardi upazila, spewing smoke.

PHOTO: AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

Take steps

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and flight handlings will be of international standard. "Passengers must not suffer after getting down from planes. You have to give special attention in this regard," Hasina directed.

She also put emphasis on digitisation of customs system totally.

The PM mentioned that people coming from abroad might buy some products and bring those home for their families.

Putting emphasis on the smooth and quick communication network, Hasina said this will bring more investors in the country as the government is setting up 100 economic zones across the country.

The long history of a movement

FROM PAGE 12

of a man who was shot in the head. There was so much blood -- I can still visualise the blood and brain oozing out.

Munier Chowdhury was imprisoned for his role in the Language Movement and in 1953, he wrote his famous play Kabor from jail. His fellow inmates acted out the play inside the prison house. And in 1954 we staged it.

In 1953, we had virtually claimed the Bardhaman House for Bangla Academy, and one of the 21 point manifestos of the United Front was to build an institution which would be a research centre for Bangla language and literature. When the United Front

was victorious in 1954, the education minister Syed Azizul Haque placed the order that the academy be built.

In 1955, there was a movement yet again as the central government ruled against observing Ekushey February under Section 92. The history of 1952 was repeated and many students of Dhaka University were killed and injured. There were female students too who participated in the rally and were wounded. The authorities had built a special prison for women.

Situation was somewhat better in 1956-58 because the United Front had regained power. Ekushey February was observed

peacefully. However, by the end of 1958, things changed for the worse once more. There was a military coup in Pakistan and we saw the end of democracy. Yet we continued to celebrate Ekushey February.

The Shaheed Minar was finally built on a small scale, and on February 21, 1963, we were able to pay homage to our Language Martyrs properly. But it was a struggle every year as the Shaheed Minar was a symbol of the Bengali spirit that the Government of West Pakistan wanted to subdue.

Rafiqul Islam was a student of Dhaka University during the Language Movement

Source: The Daily Star

A sub-inspector planned it all

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cow-stealing syndicate and said this is all politics. Police also tortured me to say the same but I refused to lie."

Akhter Mia, another arrestee, said he too was tortured to say Wazir was their crime boss.

According to the case documents (dispatch order), SI Debashish said Shamim was accused in five cases, while Wazir, Shahidul and Akther were mentioned as

suspects.

Contacted, UP member Ranjit denied being involved in the incident but said the SI is a "distant relative".

"Our feud with Wazir's family was settled years ago. I even signed the complaint Wazir brought against the cow thieves. How could they allege I am involved?"

Debashish could not be contacted over the phone despite repeated attempts.

Shamim also could not be reached as he is still behind bars.

After Wazir's death, villagers blocked Sunamganj Sylhet road at Pagla Bazar for three hours, staged a demonstration and demanded punishment of the law enforcers who tortured him to death.

Wazir's mother Banesa Begum said, "They tortured my son to death. I want these cops to be punished."

Meanwhile, two probe bodies -- one by the district administration and another by police -- were formed on Tuesday to probe Wazir's death.

Contacted, Mizanur Rahman, superintendent of Sunamganj police, said, "I don't understand why this is such a big issue to report on for three consecutive days. The probe body is working and I can't comment in this regard now."

ACC sues IGW operator over Tk 463.37cr

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Between September 18, 2014, and June 23, 2015, it provided about 1,740 million minutes. At the rate of \$0.015 per minute, the total revenue of the service stood at \$26.13 million.

As per law, the \$64.23 million was supposed to be repatriated to Bangladesh as remittance, reads the first information report (FIR). However, only around \$4

million was remitted to two accounts of the company at the Southeast Bank's corporate branch.

"The remaining \$60.17 million, which is about Tk 463.37 crore, was not remitted to Bangladesh," it said.

The company has not repatriated the money till date. There is an obligation to pay fees to the BTRC from revenue, as per the licence.

But the company has also yet not paid fees to the government.

"Oviur Rahman while working as the managing director of the IGW operator committed offence by not repatriating valuable foreign currency and [instead] laundering it," reads the FIR.

The ACC will bring charges if anyone else is found involved during further investigation.