

300 SONGS

ONE KONAL



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ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Somnur Monir Konal never had to look back after “Channel i Shera Kontho”, making her presence felt with her lively and mellifluous voice in films, singles and albums.

The singer recently received the National Award for her performance in “Bhalobashar Manush Tumi”, in the Kazi Hayat directorial “Bir”.

We talk to the songbird about this milestone, her career, and more.

What first came to mind when you have to know about the award?
I lost my father to Covid in 2020, and missed him very much at that moment. I dedicated this success to him, as he always inspired me to follow my passion for music. I shared the news with my mother, she was obviously happy, but an emptiness remained, as we were missing our rock.

However, as we started getting calls from friends, relatives, and loved ones from my village -- their elation made everything worthwhile, and our bittersweet moments turned into jubilation.

I would especially like to thank Shakib Khan, as he personally chose me to lend my voice to this beautiful romantic track.

Like some other entries in the National Awards this year, your triumph did not come without controversy. What do you have to say about it?
The disagreements or controversies revolve around the lyrics of the song. “Bhalobashar Manush Tumi” has not received the ‘Best Song’; rather, I have received the award in the category of ‘Best Singer’ for my vocalisation. The two categories are completely different.

I find the argument irrelevant, and thus, it does not concern me.

Are you looking forward to any new film tracks?
I have already recorded three upcoming playback numbers, directed by Emon Saha.

We recently finished shooting the music video for a single, composed by Bappa Mazumder. We shot the production in Old Dhaka, and I am really looking forward to its release.

Besides these, I have worked with renowned artistes like Emon Chowdhury, Mushfik Litu, and promising music directors like Avral Sahir, Akash Mahmud, over the past few months, and I am excited for the release of these songs.

What else are you busy with?

“I feel like my true place is in playback. I have been singing for movies since 2009, have voiced more than 300 songs since then.”

Since I returned from the USA in December last year, I have been busy with stage. I had to stop performing last month, but have resumed work in full swing since the first day of March.

Are you looking forward to releasing another solo album anytime soon?
I am not ready to go for a full-fledged solo album at this moment.

I feel like my true place is in playback. I have been singing for movies since 2009, have voiced more than 300 songs since then.

Be an artist with ‘Cartoon Cartoon’

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

Prominent cartoonist Syed Rashad Imam Tanmoy, in association with A2i HD Media and Cartoon People, a community of Bangladeshi cartoonists and visual storytellers, has launched a show titled, “Cartoon Cartoon”. It airs on BTV, and is awaiting release on Duronto Television.

Besides, Cartoon People broadcasts one episode weekly on their YouTube channel.

In creating “Cartoon Cartoon”, Tanmoy was inspired by children’s television shows like “Moner Kotha”, “Art Attack” and “M.A.D.”

The show is directed by Tanmoy himself.



The target audience for “Cartoon Cartoon” are teenagers. “Instead of just feeding concepts and techniques to teenagers, we want to initiate ideation in them,” shares Tanmoy.

From strip comics to caricature, character design, and animation, the show covers a variety of topics, along with conversations with seasoned artists and popular personalities.

“Very rarely do we see artists draw, while sharing their professional stories. We want our show to be an archive for future generations to know about the history and trajectory of our cartoonists,” shares Tanmoy.

Ahsan Habib, Mehedi Haque, and Morshed Mishu, among others were featured as guests on “Cartoon Cartoon”.

Junaid Iqbal Ishmam and Oishik Jawad are the animators of the show, while the lyrics of the title track is written by Tanmoy himself.

Although “Cartoon Cartoon” is created for teenagers, Tanmoy shared that younger kids are enjoying it too.



‘Mukhosh’ hits theatres today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The highly-anticipated film, “Mukhosh”, starring Mosharraf Karim, Pori Moni, Roshan and Iresh Zaker, among others, releases in 38 theatres across the country today.

“Mukhosh” is based on a novel written by Iftekhar Shuvo, who also directed and produced the government grant-winning film. “Mukhosh” focuses on the mysteries in the life of thriller writer Ibrahim Khaleedi.

Before the release, a special screening of the movie was organised at the Bashundhara City branch of STAR Cineplex on March 2. Pori Moni, along with other stars and media personalities, attended the screening.



Kim Kardashian declared legally single

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

A Los Angeles judge granted American reality TV star Kim Kardashian’s request to be declared legally single from rapper Kanye West after nearly eight years of marriage.

Kardashian filed for divorce a year ago, citing irreconcilable differences with West, who has legally changed his name to Ye. The couple have four children ranging in age from 2 to 8.

West had objected to the divorce and publicly appealed for his wife to return to their marriage. In recent Instagram posts, he criticised her parenting and her new relationship with “Saturday Night Live” actor Pete Davidson.

NAZRUL UTSAV 2022

to commemorate the National Poet’s legacy

MORMEE MAHTAB

A press conference for ‘Nazrul Utsav 2022’, a two-day festival to commemorate the work of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, was held yesterday at the Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) premises at Shegunbagicha.

The event, organised by the Bangladesh Nazrul Sangeet Sanstha, Arunaranjani and Gulshan Society, will also commemorate the golden jubilee of Bangladesh’s independence. It is set to be held on March 11 and 12 at the capital’s Gulshan Society Lake Park. ‘Nazrul Utsav 2022’ is sponsored by the German Chamber of Commerce and HSBC.

Karim Hasan Khan, Syed Ahsan Habib, Khairul Anam Shakil, Yakub Ali Khan and Masuda Nargis Ahmed were present at the conference, as a part of the organising committee.

“We are proud to present artistes and singers of our generation who have specialised in Nazrul Sangeet. If we can work towards uniting Nazrul singers from all over Bangladesh, we will be able to promote the significance and influence of the

“Through this event, we not only plan to promote Nazrul’s influence in music and poetry, but also inspire the younger generation of artistes to carry his legacy forward. We will celebrate the life of the poet by bringing together artistes from both the Bengals.”

National Poet,” shared Ekushey Padak-winning Nazrul Sangeet exponent, General Secretary of the Bangladesh Nazrul Sangeet Sanstha, and Director of Arunaranjani Khairul Anam Shakil.

He also stated that the younger generations still have a long way to go in understanding Nazrul’s struggles and philosophies.

“Through this event, we not only plan to promote Nazrul’s influence in music and poetry, but also inspire the younger generation of artistes to carry his legacy forward. We will celebrate the life of the poet by bringing

together artistes from both the Bengals,” shares noted singer and Acting President of Bangladesh Nazrul Sangeet Sanstha Yakub Ali Khan.

‘Nazrul Utsav 2022’ will feature an audio anthology of 125 Nazrul songs performed by seasoned veterans and emerging artistes from Bangladesh and West Bengal.

Eminent actor and Member of Parliament Asaduzzaman Noor, Liberation War Museum Trustee Dr Sarwar Ali, Gulshan Society President ATM Shamsul Huda, Founder Trustee of the Liberation War Museum Mofidul Hoque, noted singers Khairul Alam Shakil and Yakub Ali Khan, along with Khilkhil Kazi, granddaughter of Kazi Nazrul Islam, will be present at the festival as special guests.

2,000 to 2,200 songs by Nazrul in their authentic form will be launched during the event. Noted artistes from Bangladesh and West Bengal, including Sreeradha Bandyopadhyay, Susmita Goswami, Srikanta Acharya, Manomay Bhattacharyya, Jayati Chakraborty, and Priyanka Gope will perform Nazrul Sangeet at the programme.



A press conference, announcing the event, was held at Dhaka Reporters’ Unity yesterday. PHOTO: THABIT AL BASHAR