



PHOTO: RAE, TAKEN FROM SHITHI'S FACEBOOK

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SHARMIN JOYA

After garnering accolades for the track “Raat Jaga Pakhi”, a collaboration with Pakistani sensation Shafqat Amanat Ali, talented singer Shithi Saha has now worked with eminent Indian musician Anup Jalota. Anup, considered a legend in his own field, is often referred to as the ‘Bhajan Samrat’.

The singer has now returned to Dhaka after recording the duet ghazal, titled “Unkey Khayalon Mein”, in Mumbai’s Re N Raga Studios. “I am extremely honoured to have earned this opportunity,” shares the singer. The song is written by Abrar Lakhnawi and composed by Anup Jalota himself.

“We were first introduced through my online show, ‘Shithir Otithi’, where we instantly hit it off,” says Shithi. “After listening to my voice, he shared his interest in collaboration.”

Although this is Shithi’s second Urdu song, it is her first project in Mumbai. She will soon be returning to Mumbai to

shoot for the music video. Aired on Maasranga television, the musical adda “Shithir Otithi” began its journey after the pandemic had hit the country.

“Like everyone, I was depressed, and looking to initiate something, which resulted in the show. Since then, we have successfully completed 80 episodes,” shares the artiste, who is a trained classical singer, also adept in folk and contemporary styles.

Making her playback debut in the film “Projapoti”, directed by Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Raz, Shithi wants to work in more films. “It’s not like that I don’t want to lend my voice in films,” she says. However, I have had a bad experience recently, which really upset me.”

The singer informs that after recording a



Shithi with Anup Jalota in Mumbai.

song for a film, the actress purposely dropped it. “I was shocked – I really did not expect it. It would have been easier to accept if the composer or director made that call,” says a disappointed Shithi Saha.

She has recently collaborated with Habib Wahid, and she is in talks for more projects, both in Bangladesh and India. “I believe in working slow and steady. I urge my fans to wait for even more surprises in the future.”

## Where is Farukh Ahmed?

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Chorki released the teaser of Shatabdi Wadud and Afsana Mimi starrer thriller “Nikhoj”. Directed by Reehan Rahman, the series revolves around the mysterious disappearance of Farukh Ahmed who has been missing since 1999.

“Nikhoj” stars an ensemble cast - Intekhab Dinar, Shamol Mawla, Sporshia, Khairul Basar, Masum Rezwana, Shilpi Sarkar, Deepanwita Martin, among others.

“Nikhoj” is slated to be released on the streaming platform on March 17.



## “Waiting for Godot” to be staged today at DU

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Samuel Beckett’s play “Waiting for Godot” is set in the backdrop of the class struggle of man, fight against exploitation, and endless exhaustion of the post-World War II.

Commemorating the 75th anniversary of this historic creation, the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies of The University of Dhaka will present the play on stage from today until March 16 every day at 7 pm, at the Natmandal Auditorium and at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), from March 18 till 20.

The play has been directed by professor Dr Israfil Shaheen and translated by Asadul Islam in collaboration with the Academy of Arts. It was played by the second semester students of Dhobi’s post graduation.



# COUNTRYWIDE

TANGAIL-ARICHA REGIONAL HIGHWAY

## Traffic movement halted as bridge deck collapses again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Vehicular movement on Tangail-Aricha regional highway came to a halt as a steel plate of the deck of a Bailey bridge, repaired just a few days ago, on a canal at Tengripura in Nagarpur upazila collapsed again yesterday.

As a result, a good number of vehicles including passenger buses and goods-laden trucks got stranded on either side of the vulnerable bridge.

Locals said due to the sudden collapse, passengers were compelled to cross the bridge on foot and board another vehicle on the opposite side of the bridge to go to their destinations.

Bhadra Union Parishad Chairman Shawkat Ali said vehicular movements on the bridge remained suspended on August 23 and September 17 last year due to collapse of the bridge deck in other spots.

Though the bridge was repaired later, but it got damaged again due to substandard repair work, he alleged.

“Hundreds of vehicles as well as nearly one lakh people, who move on the road every day, are facing immense sufferings due to suspension of traffic movement through the bridge,” the chairman added.

RHD officials, however, claimed that they were trying to hold a sustainable repair work of the old bridge, but could



A large steel plate of the deck of this Bailey bridge over a canal in Tangail's Nagarpur upazila collapsed yesterday, halting vehicular movement on the busy Tangail-Aricha regional highway.

PHOTO: STAR

Meanwhile, in a temporary fix, workers put a bundle of logs on the broken part so that some heavy vehicles could cross the bridge amid serious risk of accident.

On March 8, another portion of the bridge deck collapsed when a mustard-laden truck was crossing it.

After couple of days of suspension, vehicular movement on the bridge resumed when workers engaged by the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) repaired the damaged part.

“I have informed the matter to the RHD officials after one of the steel plates of the bridge deck collapsed again yesterday morning,” Nagarpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Waheduzzaman said.

not do so due to plying of overloaded heavy vehicles, defying ban.

Of the 55.5 kilometre Tangail-Aricha regional highway, 35.5 kilometre area is under Tangail, RHD officials said.

Besides, almost all the 12 Bailey bridges under Tangail portion of the regional road, constructed over two decades ago, have turned awfully risky.

Although, RHD hung caution notices on both sides of all the old bridges, prohibiting movement of overloaded vehicles, nobody pay heed to it.

Tangail RHD Executive Engineer Aliul Hossain said a project has already been approved to construct 10 concrete bridges in places of the risky Bailey bridges.

## 22-year drive around the world

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The couple had been married six years, had good jobs and had just built a house, with plans to have kids, too, when wanderlust hit. Their round-the-world journey began with a backpacking trip in Alaska.

And somebody offered them a car, a 1928 model of an American make called Graham-Paige. The engine was bad and the paint looked terrible. They went through only eight sets of tires in 22 years and only twice needed to do major engine work.

While out on the road, and with the first two kids born – Pampa, now 19, came into this world in the US and Tehue, 16, during a visit back to Argentina – they enlarged the car by actually cutting it in half and adding 40 cm (16 inches) of length and another seat.

That made room for the arrival of Paloma, now 14 and born in Canada, and Wallaby, 12, down under in Australia.

The last additions to the family were a dog named Timon and a cat called Hakuna during a stay in Brazil, where the Zapps were stranded for a while in 2020 because of Covid-19.