

How acting made PRITOM HASAN a better MUSICIAN



While the internet continues to obsess over Pritom Hasan's latest release "Shoroter Shesh Thekey" being a prequel to "Morey Jak", both superlative outings by the singer-turned-actor, his entourage continues to plan the definitive ending to what Pritom revealed to be a trilogy.

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Both of the songs were conceptualized and executed by Team Pritom – a robust group of talented artistes that now act as the think-tank for Pritom Hasan's unorthodox ideas. "A lot of questions will be answered in the last chapter," says the singer. "I am indebted to team Pritom – Leo, Ashik, Noodles, Mango and Clever, for their outstanding work."

Neither of the aforementioned names

are, however, their real ones. "These people actually have full-time jobs, which might be imperilled if their employers find out they've been working with me," laughs Pritom. "I'd like to thank Afan Aziz Pritul, Parbot Raihan, Kawsar Hamid Sharot, Waliun Nabi and Titu for their work as well."

Pritom Hasan has come a long way since he tinkered with his theatrical skills in Nuhash Humayun's "700 Taka", opposite Sabila Nur. Since then, he has starred in "Wedding Bells," "Close-up Kache Ashar Golpo" and "WTFry", among many projects, earning accolades for his breakthrough performance in Adnan Al Rajeev's "YouTumor" in 2021.

Pritom's best acting performance, however, was pictured in his own song, "Bhenge Porona Ebhaba" in 2020.

He recently starred in a much-talked

about role in Nuhash Humayun's "Pett Kata Shaw". "I feel privileged to have worked alongside some of the most talented directors of this generation – Adnan Al Rajeev, Taneem Rahman Angshu, Piplu R Khan, Anam Biswas and of course, Nuhash," says the composer.

Through working in many TVCs, web series and many music videos, Pritom has learned how to better pace himself in front of the camera, which helps him as a musician as well. "Expression is a vital aspect of both music and acting, and having accustomed myself in front of the camera, I now know how to operate better in the studio as well," he says.

Pritom, having started his career in his early 20's, has always been measured in his approach – having a profound understanding of metrics, and more often than not, having a gameplan.

What is next for the musician? "A lot is, but you'll just have to wait to find out," he pauses, as if to ponder on infinite possibilities.

As for the third instalment and actual sequel of "Morey Jak", it is best left to Team Pritom to deliver something special again.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE ONLINE.



PHOTOS: COLLECTED

KK's last song was with Gulzar, after 26 years

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

It has been just a week since we have lost one of Bollywood's finest singers, Krishnakumar Kunnath, better known as KK. His first ever playback for Bollywood was "Chhor aye hum woh galiyan" from the film "Maachis". The track was penned by eminent lyricist Gulzar.

After 26 years, KK voiced Gulzar's lyrics once again, for Srijit Mukherji's latest film "Sherdil: The Pilibhit Saga". Little did fate know it would be KK's very last project.

The track, "Dhoop Paani Behne De" is composed by prominent Indian music director Shantanu Moirta. The release drew frenzied responses from his fans.

KK passed away on May 31 after performing at a concert in Kolkata's Nazrul Mancha auditorium.

25th Shanghai International Film Festival postponed due to COVID-19

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



This year the largest events across the globe including the Academy Awards, and the Cannes Film Festival were successfully held in a post-pandemic world.

Meanwhile, the Shanghai Film Festival has been postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The 25th edition of China's most prestigious film festival was due to run from June 10 until June 19 of this month. However, due to the country's zero-COVID policy, they have placed travel restrictions which has resulted in the festival being postponed to 2023.

The organisers announced the news of postponement at the very last minute.

NEWS

ACC to review allegations

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militancy and spreading communal hatred. The Gono Commission called upon the ACC to take actions against them.

Asked on what basis they worked on this issue, Barrister Tureen Afroz, member secretary of the Commission, said the Nirmul Committee have so far published 12 white papers on various issues, including the country's education system and Hefajat-e-Islam.

"There are many instances of publishing white papers by civil society members in different countries. Publication of such white papers has a social and political basis," she told The Daily Star.

Speaking at the May 12 event, Gono Commission Chairman Justice Manik said names of those who do business in the name of religion were mentioned in the white paper. Among them is former Hefajat-e-Islam joint secretary general Mamunul Haque.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman said the white paper opened their eyes to the allegations. He insisted that he would inform Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina about the committee's recommendations after examining the report.

ACC Chairman Moinuddin Abdullah said he would also examine the white paper.

Immediately after the release of the report, different religious organisations came down hard on the Gono Commission and the white paper, saying that its information was not correct.

They said an identified anti-Islam group prepared the report to malign religious leaders. They also warned that this might lead to an unstable situation in

the country.

Following the protest, the home minister on May 20 apparently changed his stance and said there was no legal basis for the commission and its report.

"I don't know what the Gono Commission has written in its report. We didn't see those named in it are responsible for terrorism or corruption. Therefore, we cannot say anything about it," Asaduzzaman said.

Sayed Mahbub Khan, director general of ACC, said an investigation would be launched if they found any substance to the allegations after reviewing the white paper.

"The Gono Commission has provided some data and the white paper is quite long. The ACC will investigate the matter if it finds that a crime has been committed, which falls under the scope of the ACC law," he said.

The Public Inquiry Commission, however, rejected the allegations, saying that the white paper was not published to undermine Islam or religious leaders.

Tureen Afroz, member secretary of the commission, said it was proved that many religious leaders collected money in the name of holding Waz Mahfil, but they did not pay taxes.

"This is the main reason why the people on the list are angry. But we have said this after finding evidence. We visited many madrasas and held several public hearings," she told this newspaper.

Rejecting the white paper, Hefajat Ameer Muhibullah Babunagari said, "Calling us 'dhormo babosayee' [those who use religion to make money] is insulting to us."

Farid Uddin Masood, chief of Bangladesh Jamiatul Ulama, said,

"We think that the Gono Commission's move is a bad attempt to confront Islamist scholars and the government by destroying the present stable situation in the country."

Farid Uddin is also known as a pro-government religious leader.

Abul Kasem Kasimi, senior naye-e-amir of Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan, denied the allegation of collecting money.

"Why should we take money? If we do anything against the law, then the law enforcement agencies are there to look into it. Any individual or a group of people cannot assassinate the characters of Islamic scholars in this way," said Kasimi, also a Hefajat leader.

Tureen Afroz said they did not mention any name of Islamic scholars in the report; rather they named those against whom there were specific allegations.

"We didn't talk about all madrasas, but gave some information about 1,000 and the government should look into the activities of those."

Shahriar Kabir, president of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, said though the Gono Commission has no legal basis, its report certainly has social and political basis.

"We want to help the government curb militancy and religious fundamentalism." About the methodology of their work, Tureen Afroz said they held mass hearings in different areas for about nine months, took interviews of victims of communal attacks, local people, law enforcement officials, talked to stakeholders and collected "secondary data" from various sources, including newspapers.

Monkeypox

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International Airport on a Turkish Airlines flight around 2:00pm yesterday, said an official.

Meanwhile, a health ministry press release said there was no confirmed monkeypox case in the country as of yesterday.

Japan hopes

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exporting equipment to Vietnam, the Philippines and ASEAN countries, he said.

DCAB President Rezaul Karim Lotus and Secretary AKM Moinuddin also spoke on the occasion.

Researchers

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over 51.7km, NICT noted in a press release detailing the achievement.

Russia

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hub as part of its bid to conquer a vast swathe of eastern Ukraine but Kyiv's forces have so far managed to hold out.

"We have already lost too many people to simply cede our territory," President Volodymyr Zelensky said by video link at an event hosted by Britain's Financial Times newspaper. Stalemate was "not an option," he said. "We have to achieve a full deoccupation of our entire territory."

With fighting raging in the east, Ukraine yesterday accused Russian forces of detaining some 600 people, mainly journalists and pro-Kyiv elements in the southern region of Kherson, which Moscow's military now holds in its grip.

In Donetsk, the leader of Ukraine's pro-Russian separatists, Denis Pushilin, confirmed the death of another Russian general in the fighting.

BPDB to pay Tk 1,219.1cr for power not used

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four months that power is not imported from Adani Power, which is founded by Gautam Adani, the world's fifth richest person.

"But had we built it by ourselves and did not use the power, we would still have to make the capacity payment."

The government policy of 'no electricity, no payment' is not applicable for such large-scale independent power producers, he told The Daily Star.

"If we apply it, no one will agree to build a plant. Adani will invest and we have to pay a minimum return to them. If we don't take electricity, they will be in trouble," Hamid added.

To offtake electricity from the Godda coal power

plant, BPDB would be doing away with its usual 'merit order dispatch' method and go with the 'priority-based dispatch'.

Under the 'merit order dispatch' method, the power plants supplying cheaper electricity are given the first opportunity to generate.

But under the 'priority-based dispatch' method, the imported power will be transmitted first keeping the domestic power plants idle even if those generate electricity at a cheaper rate.

So the power from Adani Godda will be 56.2 percent more expensive than other imported power, 36.9 percent more than imported coal power and 4.3 percent more than domestic coal power, according to the study by

the Bangladesh Working Group on the External Debt and India-based Growthwatch.

Bangladesh will have to pay more than Tk 1 lakh crore to the Adani coal power plant as a capacity charge over the 25-year lifetime of the agreement, which is equal to enough to build three Padma bridges, said the study published on Monday.

In the worst-case scenario, BPDB will have to pay \$423.3 million (Tk 3,657.2 crore), in capacity charges annually, and \$11.01 billion (Tk 108,360.6 crore) over the plant's 25 years operational lifetime.

The Padma bridge was built for \$3.87 billion, the Dhaka metro rail for \$2.59 billion and the Karnaphuli river tunnel for \$1.22

billion, the report added.

In the best-case scenario, the annual capacity charges payable to the Adani Godda power plant would be \$331.66 million (Tk 2,865.55 crore), while the lifetime capacity charges would reach \$8.62 billion (Tk 84,903.7 crore).

Adani Power will have its investment returned in a maximum of six years and a minimum of 4.67 years, according to the report.

"Capacity charge will depend on the availability of the power plant. If the power plant runs with 85 percent plant load factor (PLF), it will be the highest scenario and the power plant may drop its PLF at 53 percent, which is the lowest average in India," said Hasan Mehedi, one of the authors of the report.

Many victims risk losing eyesight

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"We will make a decision after talking to senior police officials," he added.

When visiting CMCH yesterday, Dwin Mohammad Nurul Haque, former director of National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital, said he attended to 63 patients and almost all had eye injuries.

"Many may lose vision permanently if proper treatment is not started immediately," he said. "They should be shifted to Dhaka for that, but they also have burn injuries, which is why they cannot be shifted right now."

"The eyes of six patients are in critical condition," he added. The eye specialist also announced that a high-level medical team would be formed to provide their treatment.

On Monday, Samanta Lal Sen visited the CMCH and stressed on installing a burn ICU in Chattogram.

"Due to a lack of burn ICUs in Chattogram, many critical patients have to be shifted to Dhaka," he told journalists.

Doctors at CMCH's burn and plastic surgery ward are struggling to cope with the number of patients.

"Our ward has the capacity to serve 60 patients, but around 100 are now admitted. We are trying our best to provide proper treatment, despite shortage of doctors, nurses, staffs and other limitations," said Rafiq Uddin Ahmed, the ward's chief.

CONTAINERS WITH CHEMICALS SET ASIDE

Fire Service and Civil Defence officials yesterday said the depot had around 27 chemical-laden containers, said Md Akhtaruzzaman, fire service assistant director.

Of those, 15 containers with hydrogen peroxide had exploded following the fire. The remaining 12

are still inside the depot premises, and were shifted to a safe distance of the compound to avoid further fires.

As the chemical-laden containers had close contact with fire for a long time, there is a chance of further explosions, said firefighters.

"We've lost our fellow firefighters in the fire as the depot authorities did not inform us about the chemical-laden containers," Anisur Rahman, deputy director of Fire Service and Civil Defence, said at a press briefing in front of the depot.

Around 12:30pm, fire service officials recovered two more charred bodies from under the wreckage of containers, Akhtaruzzaman said.

"We suspect that one of the bodies is of a firefighter as we found a piece of uniform. Another victim may be a security guard.

We're still searching for bodies."

Three firefighters have been missing since the incident.

After three days, the fire is under control and almost doused, said Lt Col Ariful Islam, commander of Brigade-18 of Bangladesh Army's 24 Infantry Division which is helping with the search and rescue.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Dr Benazir Ahmed yesterday visited the spot and said legal action would be taken against those responsible for the fire and subsequent container explosions.

The probe committee of Chattogram Divisional Commissioner's office yesterday visited the spot and collected evidence.

So far, identities of 26 deceased were confirmed. According to police and fire service at least 200 persons including police and fire service personnel had suffered injuries.