

Fuad Almuqtadir BACK AFTER 7 YEARS



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SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

It has been 24 years since Fuad Almuqtadir's first album, "Maya", released. Since then, the musician, composer and sound engineer has been synonymous with hit music.

After 7 years, Fuad has announced that he is ready to return to making new music full-time, in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star.

We heard that you have moved into a new studio.

I indeed have. It is called Blackbox Studio LA, and I am excited to be back to music full-time – hoping to be a part of projects both in Bangladesh and the USA.

I'd been on a break of sorts for the past 7 years, focusing mainly on commercial projects and the occasional concert tour to Bangladesh.

You disrupted the musical landscape when you debuted. Musical practices, for both artists and listeners, have changed drastically.

Global cultures are different, and will keep evolving. As a musician, I myself have to educate myself of latest trends in music, what's 'in' or not, and how to reach out to a new audience.

For example, many of my songs from my



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF FUAD

previous albums are infamous for songs with long intros, which dragged on for more than a minute sometimes. I simply cannot do that now, as people do not have the same attention span. Within 12 seconds, you have to introduce the vocalist and the tone in the song.

What do you think keeps you up to date, as a producer?

I definitely try to unlearn things as I go. For years, you learn to do things one way, and some people tend to be so set in their ways that they cannot innovate or change.

As a musician, this is something I make a conscious effort to stay open-minded.

Streaming-based artistes of today often use sampling as one of their techniques. You, however, did it successfully two decades ago. What is your take on that?

As an artiste, it is extremely difficult to stand out amidst the audience in this day and age. I really respect the young producers who are doing great things today.

Also, much like today, I received a lot of flack for sampling music as well, even though I had all the official rights to do so.

15 years ago, you just had to make a good song, and that was the end of it. Now, you have to invest a lot in the visuals, promotions and possibly a high-budget music video.

You now have another identity, as a full-time dad. Did doing a father change you as a musician?

I love being a dad, and I don't know if it changes you as a musician, but it definitely does change you as a person. I have been a family-oriented person for a long time, and even more now – my family always comes first for me.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Nichelle Nichols, Star Trek's Uhura, passes away

Trailblazing actress Nichelle Nichols became a global icon through her portrayal of starship officer, Lieutenant Uhura, in the 1960s sci-fi TV series "Star Trek". The actress "succumbed to natural causes and passed away" on Saturday night, her son, Kyle Johnson, wrote on Facebook.

"Star Trek" became a cultural phenomenon after it broke racial stereotypes by casting Black actors in prominent roles on the show. Nichols' involvement with the show inspired the recruitment of first Black woman astronaut, Mae Jemison in NASA.

Armeen Musa in the same album as Ustad Zakir Hossain, Shankar Mahadevan

Celebrated global Indian music collective Berklee Indian Ensemble recently announced the release of their debut album "Shuruaat".

The 10-track stand-out compilation features an impressive total of 98 prolific musicians from 39 countries, including Bangladesh's own Armeen Musa.

Armeen's "Jaago Piya", written by her mother, the prolific Dr. Nashid Kamal, will feature alongside Grammy-winning tabla maestro Zakir Hussain, virtuosic composer-singer Shankar Mahadevan, Oscar and Grammy winning Kannada vocalist Vijay Prakash and one of Bollywood's finest playback singers Shreya Ghoshal.



COUNTRYWIDE

KULaura HEALTH COMPLEX

Lone X-ray machine lies idle for 3 decades

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The lone X-ray machine at Kulaura Upazila Health Complex has remained inoperative since its installation nearly three decades ago due to shortage of necessary manpower, depriving treatment seekers from the service.

According to the hospital authorities, the X-ray machine was installed near the emergency department at the ground floor of the health complex in February, 1995.

But since then, it never came into operation as the authorities concerned are yet to appoint an operator to make it operational.

Meanwhile, as the machine remained inoperative, patients have to pay extra money for getting their X-rays done outside.

However, the device has been gathering dust inside a room at the

The X-ray machine was installed at the ground floor of the hospital in February, 1995, but it never came into operation since then.

hospital for nearly three decades, depriving patients of treatment and wasting resources.

During a recent visit to the 50-bed government hospital this correspondent found the costly machine lying idle alongside different types of other equipment inside a room near the emergency department of the hospital.

While returning, one of the patients Mahfuz Mia, a resident of Karmadha in the upazila, said recently he fell on the road and sustained severe injuries on his right leg.

The doctor at the emergency



The lone X-ray machine at Kulaura Upazila Health Complex in Moulvibazar has remained inoperative since its installation over 27 years ago, causing suffering to the patients.

PHOTO: STAR

department of the hospital recommended for an X-ray of the injured leg, he said, adding that as the hospital has no X-ray facility the doctor asked him to go to a private diagnosis centre for the purpose.

Another patient Rehana Akhter of Bhuksimoil area, who had to go to a private clinic for the same purpose, said although it is a government hospital, they have to go to other hospitals or clinics for all kinds of diagnosis.

Like Mahfuz and Rehana, most of the patients, who come to the health complex for treatment purpose, have the same complaint.

According to the hospital sources, on an average, about 300 to 500 patients receive medical treatment there daily, while many of them need to conduct X-ray.

Saidur Rahman, medical technologist (Lab) at the hospital, said the X-ray machine has remained inoperative as no medical

technologist (radiology) was appointed in the last 27 years, depriving the poor patients from the service.

Saidul Hasan Shipon, general secretary of Kulaura Journalists' Association, said people, mostly from low- and middle-income group, of 13 unions and a municipality area receive treatment at Kulaura Health Complex, but unfortunately, the X-ray machine remained unused since its installation due to lack of manpower.

Kulaura Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Mohammad Ferdous Akhtar said the X-ray machine at the upazila health complex may not be functional as it hasn't been used since its installation in 1995. The authorities concerned have been informed about the vacant post of a medical technologist (radiology) for long, but no step has been taken in this regard yet, he added.

Tigers eye series win

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Zimbabwe with scores of seven and four respectively. Prior to the Zimbabwe series, the right-handed opener scored 23 runs in three games after making his debut earlier this year.

The visitors will be keen to keep their flawless record against Zimbabwe intact, having never lost a bilateral T20I series against the African nation.

Japan's cats

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days came early, and in that sense, I think we developed a product that is right for the market," she said.

After the rainy season in Tokyo ended in late June, the Japanese capital suffered the longest heatwave on record with temperatures up to 35 degrees Celsius (95 Fahrenheit) for nine days.

"I usually use dry ice packs (to keep the dog cool). But I think it's easier to walk my dog if we have this fan," said Mami Kumamoto, 48, owner of a miniature poodle named Pudding and a terrier named Maco.

The device debuted in early July and Sweet Mommy has received around 100 orders for the product, Uzawa said. It comes in five different sizes and is priced at 9,900 yen (\$74).

India

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the previous day that he had tested positive in the United Arab Emirates before returning to India.

India's federal health ministry had no comment on the death, except for saying that the government had formed a task force of senior officials to monitor monkeypox cases in the country, where local media have reported at least five infections.

The WHO said late last month 78 countries had reported more than 18,000 cases of monkeypox, the majority in Europe.

It says the monkeypox virus causes a disease with less severe symptoms than smallpox and occurs mainly in central and west Africa. The disease is transmitted from animals to humans.

Human-to-human transmission happens through contact with bodily fluids, lesions on the skin or on internal mucosal surfaces, such as in the mouth or throat, respiratory droplets and contaminated objects.

SC asks HC to dispose

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lawsuits with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Hazaribagh and Kamrangirchar police stations on March 9, 10, and 11 in 2020.

Investigation Officer Mohammad Russell Mollah, also a sub-inspector of the Detective Branch of police, submitted three charge sheets in the cases to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka on April 8, February 4, and March 14 last year respectively.

Kajol was accused of circulating indecent, defamatory, objectionable, and fake information about some ministers, lawmakers, and top Jubo Mahila League leaders on Facebook.

The photojournalist went missing on March 10, 2020. The Border Guard

Bangladesh found him roaming around the Benapole border area on May 3 that year and detained him. He was sent to jail by a Jashore court the same day under section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

Later, he was shown arrested in the three cases.

The lower court denied him bail for seven months until the HC on November 24, 2020, granted him bail in one of the cases. The HC on December 17 that year granted Kajol bail in two other cases after his lawyer argued that probes had to be completed within 75 days of filing of cases, and the investigators failed to do so.

The photojournalist walked out of jail on bail on December 25, 2020.

Almost half the parties

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neither they nor the people of the country have any confidence in the machines.

Apart from Jatiya Party, nine other parties directly opposed the use of EVM during their dialogues with EC that started on July 17. The parties are: Gono Forum, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, Bangladesh Islami Front, Revolutionary Workers Party, Khelafat Majlis, Bangladesh Khelafat Andolon, Bangladesh Muslim League, Jamiat e Ulama e Islam Bangladesh, and Bangladesh National Awami Party (Bangladesh Nap).

Top leaders of seven political parties who abstained from the talks, told The Daily Star that they were against the use of EVMs. The parties are: Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Bangladesh Kalyan Party,

Bangladesh Muslim League (BML), Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Islami Andolan Bangladesh and Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP).

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rob) in a statement last week expressed reservations about the use of EVMs.

The EC in June held a series of views-exchange meetings on EVM with 28 political parties. Four of them said that they were against the use of EVMs in national elections.

Four parties, including the AL, supported EVM use.

Twelve parties expressed doubts about the use of EVM and eight others did not make a clear stance on the issue.

Five out of 11 parties who skipped the meetings were directly against the use of the machine. The five included the BNP.

Algeria talks of joining Russia-linked BRICS group

AFP, Algiers

Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has suggested that his country, Africa's largest natural gas exporter, could join the BRICS economic group that includes Russia and China.

Tebboune's comment comes after Russian President Vladimir Putin – whose country is hit with Western sanctions over its Ukraine

invasion – in June called on BRICS leaders to move towards "formation of a truly multipolar system of inter-government relations".

The BRICS group also includes the major emerging economies of Brazil, India and South Africa.

"The BRICS interest us" as an alternative to traditional power centres, Tebboune said in a televised interview late Sunday. "They constitute an economic and political force."