



'Damal' title track



'Mon Posh Mane Na'



'Ghur Ghur Poka'

The larger-than-life soundtrack of 'Damal'

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

The high-budget promotional title track is to remain one of the only tracks that were built entirely to create hype for the film.



Arafat Mohsin, the music director of the film.

Before 'Damal', Raihan Rafi's football saga based on the legendary Shadhin Bangla football team even released, it was the indomitable soundtrack that attracted the attention of fans.

The title track sung in the sheer might of Cryptic Fate vocalist Shakib Chowdhury and Oyshee, folk 'queen' Momotaz Begum displaying her versatility in the playful *Ghur Ghur Poka*, Pritom Hasan switching up his style in *Ami Durjoy* and the period-fitting romantic track *Mon Posh Mane Na* by Imran Mahmudul and Kona, added to the unsurpassable Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya with her Rabindra Sangeet – all complement the film like a finesse shot lobbed over the head of three defenders like Leo Messi himself.

What surprised me, then, was the lack of mention for the tracks' music director, Arafat Mohsin Nidhi, who compiled a star-studded album, featuring these behemoths, in the media.

"When I met Raihan Rafi, we discussed at length what we wanted to achieve. I made the song *Ghur Ghur Poka*, and after he listened to that, I was tasked with creating the entire soundtrack of the film", said Nidhi. Even though commonplace in Bollywood, it is rare for a director in our industry to trust one musician with the entire soundtrack. "One of



Shakib Chowdhury recording the title track.

his best attributes is that he believes in people he works with."

In fact, the entire team, including the lead cast Siam Ahmed, Bidya Sinha Mim, Sariful Razz were involved in the process till the end. Nidhi attributes the lyricist, Rasel Mahmud, with much of the success of the soundtrack. The songs were mixed and mastered by Arafat Kirty.

The promotional title track that Shakib Chowdhury and Oyshee voiced is to remain one of the only tracks that were built entirely to create hype. "When we listen to songs like 'Cholo Bangladesh', we are infused with patriotic energy. This is why I wanted Shakib bhai to sing this one as well," says the music director, also adding that the team was inspired by Kazi Nazrul Islam's rebellious poetry as well, for the concept of this title track.

"Not just the title song, but in every song, the singers sang out of their own comfort zone, be it Momotaz apa or Pritom," says Nidhi. "Not only that, the entire musical crew were more than accommodating when it came to the promotions as well."

"When the film's opening credits rolled and 7 singers were named, I feel like this was a milestone in our music industry."

Moreover, 160 people and an entire unit were present to shoot the music video, which is nearly unprecedented in Dhallywood.

Although only time will tell if "Damal" will live up to Raihan Rafi's previous super-hit, "Poran" and Mejbaur Rahman Sumon's "Hawa", two films still running in halls after months of its release, it is evident that the soundtrack fires on all cylinders.

Tasnia Farin's film debut coming on December 2

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

In recent times, Tasnia Farin has become one of the most prolific Bangladeshi television actresses. She received a lot of appreciation for her role in Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's web-series, *Ladies and Gentlemen*. Having earned her place in tele-fictions and web-series, the actress is all set to make her silver-screen debut with the Tollywood film *Aro Ek Prithibi*, directed by Atanu Ghosh, on December 2. In the film, Farin plays the role of Protikkha, who is on a journey to find solace and shelter amidst her own struggles.



Shooting of Mosharraf Karim starrer 'Hubba' completed

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The shooting of Mosharraf Karim starrer film *Hubba*, directed by Bratya Basu, has been completed recently. Mosharraf Karim will be playing the title role *Hubba* aka "Daud Ibrahim of Hooghly", in the film.

Karim was a part of Basu's previous feature film *Dictionary*, which won the Best International Film award at the 4th Nepal International Film Festival. He will be appearing in the director's forthcoming movie along with Indraneil Sengupta, Nusrat Jahan, Phalguni Chatterjee, and Poluami Basu.

According to the director, the film will be a 'political' project, and will be about a gangster, who was active in Hoogly from the 1990's. It would focus on the politics-underworld nexus of Kolkata in the era of globalisation.



NEWS

Barishal city almost cut

FROM PAGE 1
The sudden suspension of launch services on Barishal-Bhola route caused sufferings to passengers.

Anwar Hossain, a resident of Bhola town, said, "I need to get my ailing wife admitted to a hospital in Barishal city. But launches are not operating. Now we are compelled to travel by a speedboat spending additional money."

The BNP is holding rallies at the divisional headquarters to protest the price hike of essentials and fuel, recent killings of five party men in police firings in different districts, and also demanding "release" of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

The party has so far held four rallies in Chattogram, Mymensingh, Khulna and Rangpur. Transport strikes were called ahead of those rallies except the one in Chattogram.

The BNP alleged that the strikes were part of the AL's attempts to bar its supporters from joining the meetings.

Visiting different areas of Barishal city, The Daily Star found that the numbers of buses and three-wheelers plying the streets dropped since last evening.

"We will operate buses till midnight [last night]. Then we will suspend services on all routes to and from Barishal," said Badsha Miah, manager at the Barishal ticket counter of Green Line Paribahan.

Golam Mashreq Bablu, president of Barishal District Bus Malik Group, said lesser number of passengers travelled yesterday. Many of them were

panicked.

BNP ACTIVISTS IN CITY
Many BNP leaders and activists from remote areas in nearby districts have reached Barishal city to join tomorrow's rally. They are staying at hotels and relatives' houses.

Several thousand already gathered at Bangabandhu Udyan, the meeting venue, till last evening.

"As transport strikes will begin tomorrow [today], we have come to the rally venue two days ahead. We will stay at the ground till the meeting ends," said Keramot Ali, a BNP activist from Paschim Muguria village in Barishal's Gournadi upazila.

Some party men alleged that they were intercepted and attacked by AL men on their way to Barishal city.

"Awami League men intercepted us at different places, including Fourlane and Rojopara areas along the Barishal-Patuakhali highway. They even snatched moneybags and mobile phones from some of our fellow party activists," alleged Md Salauddin, a BNP worker from Kalapara of Patuakhali.

BNP Organising Secretary Bilkis Jahan Shirin alleged that a group of AL men attacked BNP activists at Bheduria launch terminal of Bhola, leaving one injured by bullets.

Bhola Model Police Station OC Shaheen Fakir said, "Awami League men scuffled with BNP activists at Bheduria launch terminal. No incident of firing took place there. We are investigating the incident."

The AL, Chhatra League, Jubo League and Sramik League have been bringing out processions and staging

rallies in Barishal city for the last three days in a show of strength.

Barishal city AL President AKM Zahangir said, "We are bringing out processions and holding rallies to make Jubo League's November 11 Golden Jubilee programme a success."

Denying the allegations of attacking BNP men, he said they were not much worried about the BNP's rally.

Meanwhile, police on Wednesday night raided a hotel in the city's Folpotti area to "check if any criminals were hiding there".

Law enforcers said they conducted the raid as part of their regular drives.

Our Patuakhali correspondent contributed to this report.

People in a tight

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MARKET conditions in the conference room of the ministry.

Bangladesh is yet to get benefits of the fall in global prices because of the high dollar price, he said.

Meanwhile, traders are importing wheat from Canada at a higher price for the issues in procuring it from Ukraine.

Responding to a question, Tipu Munshi said the tariff commission will hold a meeting to adjust the price of soybean oil. "They will sit again soon and assess the whole thing, study it, and decide."

Regarding the decline in sugar production, he said it happened due to the insufficient gas supply. "However, the gas supply will return to normal in one or two days. Then, sugar production will increase."

Corrupt people plunging country

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The HC ordered the BFIU, IGP and ACC to submit further reports, specifying all these issues within 30 days.

The court also directed the home secretary to take necessary measures to bring back home Sonia's brother Sheikh Sohel Rana, suspended inspector of Banani Police Station.

The bench also set December 4 for hearing and passing further orders.

Sohel was arrested in India on September 4 last year on charge of illegally entering the country. Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik told The Daily Star.

He said Sonia's husband Masukur Rahman, who is the chief executive officer of E-Orange, and her uncle Mohammad Zayedul Firoz are now

in jail in money laundering-related cases.

Lawyer Abdul Kaiyum appeared for the writ petitioners, while lawyers Shamim Khaled Ahmed and Khurshid Alam Khan and DAG Amin Uddin represented the BFIU, ACC and state respectively during the hearing.

On November 2, the BFIU submitted a report to the HC bench through its lawyer Shamim, saying that Sonia took advance payment from customers luring them with hefty discounts and then purchased a plot of land and flat with over Tk 9 crore. Her relatives also purchased properties with customers' money.

The report added that Sonia's husband Masukur, brother Sohel and uncle Mohammad Zayedul Firoz

purchased fixed assets of over Tk 9 crore.

On April 7, the HC bench led by Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder directed the BFIU to conduct a probe into the allegations of embezzlement and laundering of the money by the e-commerce platform.

The court also issued the rule asking the authorities concerned of E-Orange and the government to explain why they should not be directed to bring the laundered money back home and distribute among the depositors.

On April 3, six depositors on behalf of 547 filed the petition, saying that they deposited Tk 77.46 crore to E-Orange for products, but did not get the products.

Defiant Danes can dream of ultimate glory

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In their Euro 2020 opener against Finland, only to miraculously get out of their group and make it all the way to the semi-finals where they narrowly lost to England.

Since taking the reins in 2020, Kasper Hjulmand has the Danish national team playing a breathtaking style of attacking football that blends individual brilliance with a rock-solid organisation that will be hard to beat in Qatar.

The hallmark of his team is the kind of intelligence and tactical

flexibility that is invaluable in the cauldron of tournament football, coupled with a desire for continuous improvement.

They could hardly have been more dominant in qualifying, blazing their way to nine straight wins to qualify directly for the finals.

The teak-tough quartet of centre backs Simon Kjaer and Andreas Christensen and midfielders Thomas Delaney and Pierre-Emil Hojbjerg protects a world class keeper in Kasper Schmeichel, whose father kept goal for the victorious 1992 side.

Around them are the attacking talent of the recovered and rejuvenated Eriksen, marauding wing-back Joakim Maehle, tricky wingers Andreas Skov Olsen and Mikkel Damsgaard, and dependable strikers such as Martin Braithwaite and Kasper Dolberg.

The Danes will contest Group D against Tunisia, France and Australia and, having already beaten world champions France twice in their recent Nations League campaign, they will enter the tournament with their dream of winning it very much alive.

EC mulls stern punishment

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imprisonment for two years or a fine of Tk 20,000 or both if anyone creates an obstacle to the process of the preparation, revision or correction of an electoral roll.

Existing laws have a provision of one-year imprisonment or a fine of Tk 5,000 or both for the same reason.

The EC proposed one-year imprisonment or a fine of Tk 20,000 or both in case of negligence in performing duties, in connection with the preparation, revision or correction of the electoral roll.

'Unpatriotic' cops sent into retirement

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headquarters and the CID was also sent on retirement by the government before the completion of their tenure.

On October 16, the government sent information and broadcasting secretary Md Mokbul Hossain, also a BCS officer of the 1991 batch, on early retirement.

The government as per the Public

Service Act, 2018 can send any public servant on retirement on completion of 25 years in service without mentioning any reason.

Speaking at the discussion, the minister also said the government has no intention of obstructing "normal" political activities.

"The prime minister has said that any political party will carry

out their political activities. We have no objection to that. But if they create public misery and block roads, then our law enforcement agencies will not sit idle. Naturally, they will fulfil the responsibilities assigned to them.... If the political activities are carried out normally, the government has no intention of obstructing it," he added.

'64 native fish species are extinct'

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habitats by rehabilitating, dredging, and dredging water bodies that have become unfit for natural reproduction and free movement, he added.

ADVERSE EFFECTS ON FISHERY RESOURCES

Responding to another question, the minister said Bangladesh was experiencing the effects of climate change, just like other nations.

He said, "Spike in temperature, rise in sea level, and intrusion of saltwater in rivers are negatively affecting coastal fisheries."

"Characteristic changes are being observed in habitats, behaviours, migrations, and reproductions of freshwater fish."

He further said, "The increased temperature and insufficient rain are causing habitats, natural reproduction, and breeding grounds

of native fish to decline.

"Because of the drop in groundwater level, ponds are becoming drier and fewer in number. Ponds which used to have water throughout the year are being converted into seasonal ones."

The minister, however, said the government is taking measures to deal with the adverse effects of climate change on the fisheries sector.