

‘We are the first, but definitely not the last’

Dr Nashid Kamal and Armeen Musa on their album’s Grammy Nomination



PHOTOS: ATA MOHAMMAD ADNAN

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

There was a time when it was a big deal for Bangladeshi celebrities when they got to attend the Grammys – also known as the biggest musical award show on earth.

Now, the mother daughter duo of Prof Dr Nashid Kamal and Armeen Musa have made history by being included in the nominations for the 65th Grammy Awards, through their inclusion in the album *Shuruaat*. The album by Berklee Indian Ensemble also includes South Asian Maestros like Shankar Mahadevan and Ustad Zakir Hossain.

Their song, *Jaago Piya*, was voiced-composed by Armeen, and written by Dr Nashid Kamal.

“I wrote it in two and a half minutes,” said Dr Nashid Kamal. The eminent Nazrul Sangeet exponent, academician and author, in her entire academic career rates this as one of her life’s top achievements.

“I was watching television when Armeen called me and explained that she needed lyrics for this particular tune.”

The artiste, who claims to have memorised every Nazrul Sangeet, says that there was a divine connection responsible for the song. “I feel like I had a connection with the divine when I wrote it, because if you ask me to write a song now, I might not be able to do it as fast.”

Armeen is understandably still in shock after hearing the news. “I was watching the nominations being unveiled by John Legend, while ma was praying *Namaz*. I

was the last to see our nomination because my internet was slow.”

“I am still waiting for the news to sink in.” Ever since Armeen was a child, she has been taking musical lessons from Sujit Mustafa. “I am heading there right now to get his blessings!”

Armeen is arguably in her musical prime at the moment, providing playback for films, and also as a part of the wildly popular Coke Studio Bangla. Her one-of-a-kind Ghashphoring Choir also regularly recruits and trains singers to be a part of it.

“We invested so much for Armeen to study at Berklee College of Music (US), and she could have done so much outside the country, but she stayed behind to chase her own dreams, and even teach students here. She makes me incredibly proud – not just me, but our friends and family who have provided her immeasurable support. This is a win for them as well,” said Dr Kamal, who was trained by the legendary Pandit Jasraj.

“I remember having Armeen on my lap sometimes, when I took lessons from him”, she said. “Years later, when I made him listen to her music, he said that she really has potential, and should keep at it. He did not ask why she wasn’t pursuing classical music, like I am. He just gave her his blessings.”

The 65th Grammy Awards will take place at Los Angeles’ Crypto.com Arena on Sunday, February 5, 2023, where the mother-daughter duo will be present, alongside the people involved in *Shuruaat*.

Armeen’s journey in the music industry was full of roadblocks and self-doubt, but this achievement will propel her career to the next level. “I just want to stay grounded, and make sure that it doesn’t get to me. I want all our local musicians to succeed. We might be the first to get our name on a Grammy-nominated album, but we definitely aren’t the last!”



Bassbaba, Aurthohin return with new single after 6 years

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

For almost four years, Aurthohin has remained inactive due to Bassbaba Sumon’s health issues. After Sumon’s recovery, the band once again began performing live, at the end of last year.

Now, like a phoenix rising from the ashes, Aurthohin has returned with a new single from their upcoming album, *Phoenix Diary 1*.

The single, titled *Amar E Gaan*, was released on November 16 at 12:00 am.

In order to make the occasion even more memorable, Samsung hosted an exclusive premiere of the song’s music video on Tuesday. Present at the event were Bassbaba Sumon, the members of Aurthohin, Ashfaq Bipul—the director of the music video for *Amar E Gaan*—and Shakib Chowdhury of Cryptic Fate.

BGMEA releases music video ‘Made in Bangladesh’



Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has released its theme song, *Made in Bangladesh* on November 11. BGMEA released the song, which has been sung by Mehreen and composed by Sharadindu Das Moon, on their official Facebook page.

BGMEA believes that if the music video is showcased on television, radio, LED screens, etc., it will help promote the branding of BGMEA in both the local and international arena.

NEWS

2013 contempt of court law discriminatory

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person, attorney general’s office is supposed to act as prosecutor but in the instant statute, the attorney general’s office is made to defend them,” the HC bench said in the full text of the verdict.

“Since contempt of court is a personal liability of the contemnor, neither the attorney general, additional attorney general, deputy attorney general nor any assistant attorney general should appear on behalf of any contemnor.”

Earlier on September 26, 2013, the HC bench had declared the Contempt of Court Act, 2013, void, illegal and unconstitutional after a writ petition was filed as a public interest litigation by SC lawyers Asaduzzaman Siddiqui and Ayesha Khatoun, challenging the legality of sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13(2) of the act (2013).

Responding to their petition, the HC verdict read, “Upon simple reading of the impugned sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13(2), it appears that the whole statute is drafted and made to throttle the court’s power disregarding articles 108, 112 and 27 of the constitution.”

Section 4 of the act (2013) stated that innocent publications or distribution are not contempt of court, while section 6 said that

bringing allegations against the presiding judge of a subordinate court is not a contempt of court.

The HC bench said section 5 of the 2013 act, which stated publication of impartial and authentic report is not contempt of court, has given a blank cheque to the journalists.

“The right to freedom of the press is guaranteed under article 39 (of the constitution), subject to law. Section 5 of the act [2013] tries to override the constitutional provision as enunciated in article 39 of the constitution,” the verdict read.

As per section 7, publication of information on ongoing proceedings (of cases) in a chamber or close-door room except a few events does not constitute contempt of court.

Section 10 stated that contempt allegations cannot be brought against government officials for failure to implement court orders. Section 11 said the court can exempt an accused in a contempt of court case if he/she can provide satisfactory information in reply to a show cause notice.

According to section 13 (2), the court can pardon any accused in a contempt case if he/she offers unconditional apology before court.

“It is very surprising to note that the alleged sections protect the interest of only the government

officials and journalists, totally disregarding all other citizens. It is time and again decided in different courts of different jurisdiction that the Supreme Court is a court of record and shall have all power of contempt itself. However, the impugned sections of the instant statute look like to have been made to curtail this power of this court, as provided in article 108 of the constitution,” the HC bench said in the verdict.

About the long delay in releasing the full text of the judgment, Manzill Murshid, a lawyer who moved the writ petition before the HC bench, said, “There is no specific time limit for the High Court for releasing the full text of a verdict after its announcement.”

He also said the HC has been exercising article 108 of the constitution and lower courts have been applying Contempt of Court Act, 1926 while dealing with the contempt of court cases after the HC rescinded the Contempt of Court Act, 2013.

Contacted, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin said he is yet to go through the HC verdict on the contempt of court law.

“I will discuss it with the government authorities concerned and take necessary steps in this regard,” he added.

A business to give back

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essentials, they decided to start selling beef to them by taking payments in installments.

The four sit together in front of the Kazipur school in the village every morning with the meat, as the villagers gather to take their pick.

By 11:00am, all the beef for the day is sold out.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Lalon said many poor people in his village only get the chance to consume beef when it is donated by those from upper classes during Eid-ul-Azha.

“Most of the villagers are either day labourers or farmers. They have been struggling with the recent price hikes. However, they are now happy to be able to buy beef easily.”

The four had come up with the plan a few years ago and turned it

into a reality after discussing their idea with mentors and social leaders of their village.

Every Friday morning, they slaughter cows and begin selling the meat at market price – Tk 650 per kg. The difference is that they take payments in installments.

Their buyers have the option to buy what they need according to their needs and capabilities, and are not required to make immediate payments.

“We usually ask our customers to try and complete their payments in two weeks. But sometimes, months pass by. Still, at the end of the day, knowing that we are doing something for them and that they are happy brings us immense joy,” Lalon said.

Zahid Hasan and Abu Sayed said it is a big deal for them to be able to do something for the people with

whatever means they have.

Alfaz Hossain, a villager, “I work as a security guard in the town. With my measly salary, I could barely ever afford beef for my family.

“After the boys took this initiative, I am finally able to buy some beef for my family at least once a month. Sometimes I pay in two installments, sometimes in three.”

Tariqul Islam, another villager, said, “This is the first such initiative in our village. I don’t know if there is any such initiative anywhere else.

“Just a few days ago I bought four kgs of meat and paid Tk 800 on the spot. I will pay the remaining amount in three weeks.”

Mahmud Hasan Jibon, chairman of Ramnagar Union Parishad, said, “It’s a very good thing that these boys are doing.”

Mahbub Jamil no more

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Rubaiyat Jamil told The Daily Star.

He is survived by his wife and two children.

Jamil was laid to rest at the Banani Graveyard after his namaaz-e-janaza at the Gulshan Azad Mosque following Zohr prayers.

He was famous for being the one steering Singer Bangladesh Ltd to reach the households even in remote villages.

“Mahbub Jamil has long been identified as the face of Singer Bangladesh. His departure is a great loss for the business community, cultural community and the intellectual society of the country. His lifelong contribution will remain unparalleled and the void of his absence will remain unfulfilled,” said the company in a statement.

Jamil joined Singer in September 1984 as a marketing manager. He was appointed as managing director of Singer on January 15, 1985, and became chairman on October 4, 1987.

He was the chairman of Singer Bangladesh Board until April 2015. He was also a senior vice president of Singer Asia Ltd.

Apart from running Singer, Jamil led the Foreign Investors’ Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) as its president.

He was also president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

and Industry and board member of the International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh.

He was also a member of the academic council of Brac University, committee member of Bangladesh Employers’ Federation, and founder member of American Chamber of Commerce.

“With his passing, we have lost a great leader, mentor and friend,” said Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, former chief executive officer of Robi Axiata Ltd.

Sharing his experience when Jamil was president of the FICCI and he was working at the Unilever, Mahtab said, “I saw a leader who drew respect and adulation from everyone present in the room. I learnt in my early days from the way he handled the chamber, the policymakers, and how he articulated issues effortlessly.”

Mahtab said one of the key successes Jamil had during his tenure as special assistant to the chief adviser was restructuring Biman and ordering new Boeing aircraft through direct negotiation.

Rupali Haque Chowdhury, former president of FICCI and managing director of Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd, said Jamil was a true Bangladeshi managing director of a multinational company who created brand image of Singer in Bangladesh.

Mamun Rashid, managing director of PwC Bangladesh and

former managing director & country officer of Citibank, NA, said, “He was a perfect gentleman and an insightful business leader with a lot of love for the country, especially its cultural heritage.”

Quader must not

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Asked whether the JP will be divided following the order, he said, “I think most of the leaders are with me. There might be two to four leaders, who are beneficiaries of this order, are acting against the party,” he added.

“This order didn’t come as a surprise to me as we know the government is using some people [of JP] against us,” he also said.

Asked whether the party could overcome the crisis, Quader said the latest development will create temporary problems for the party.

“Now we have got the opportunity of getting the real taste of politics which will help unite the party,” he added.

On November 10, Quader’s lawyer Sheikh Muhammad Serajul Islam placed the arguments for lifting the injunction.

On October 31, the court issued the injunction. The order was passed after former JP lawmaker Ziaul Haque Mridha filed an application.

Mridha, also a former adviser to the JP chief, was removed of the party on September 17.

Bushra back in jail

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Upon hearing both sides, the magistrate turned down the defence’s plea and ordered to send her to jail.

On November 10, a Rampura police team arrested Bushra, a third-year student of East West University, from Banasree, two days after Fardin’s father Kazi Nuruddin filed an FIR against her.

Bushra’s family has been claiming that she was just a friend of Fardin and had nothing to do with the murder.

The decomposed body of Fardin, a third-year student of civil engineering at Buet, was recovered from the Sitalakkhya in Narayanganj’s Siddhirganj on November 7 – three days after he went missing.

Rab conducted a shadow investigation into the murder and also said it did not find any evidence of Bushra’s involvement yet.

It said Fardin might have been

killed by a drug gang member in the Chonpara slums or adjacent areas in Ruppaganj. However, the motive is still unknown.

A drug ring, led by one Raihan Mahmud, is suspected to be directly involved in the murder, said Commander Khandaker Al Moin, director of Rab’s legal and media wing.

However, the DB earlier on Saturday said police were suspecting that Fardin was killed somewhere in Dhaka.

G20 breathes

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The G20 statement also reiterated a commitment to phase out “inefficient” fossil fuel subsidies over the medium term, while also saying the leaders recognise the importance of the transition to renewable energy and pledge “efforts towards the phasedown of unabated coal power”.