

# Rising like a phoenix from the ashes

Aurthohin's new album to release in December

Every note has the capacity to carry a certain emotion. What gets tricky, is finding the exact notes to convey the emotions required, so that it is one the same wavelength as the lyrics. A song is a journey, and it is the combination of music and lyrics that get us to the final destination.

AL FAZLY RABBY & ZARIN TASNIM

After almost six years, Aurthohin will finally be launching a new album, titled *Phoenix Er Diary-1*, sometime in December of this year.

With the album's release drawing ever closer, we sat down with the legendary band to discuss what fans can expect from the much anticipated album.

**What can fans expect from "Phoenix Er Diary-1"?**

**Bassbaba Sumon:** We will be introducing a whole new genre with this album. In our albums, changes usually take place in terms of our musical arrangement. In *Phoenix Er Diary-1*, we tried to do the arrangements in a diverse manner, so much so, that even we couldn't define the genre by the end. It will be something new altogether.

**This new genre that you're talking about, will it be some form of fusion or will it be something new entirely?**

**Sumon:** In this album, listeners might get the flavour of an early 90's vibe-incorporating a bit of jazz and funk. Currently, we are still working on the album. So, after we finish, we'll be able to say with certainty which direction it leans towards.

**Mark Don:** We have so much to offer on this album. There was no pressure to maintain a structure or conform to any particular styles. So, we have been able to really showcase our creativity with this record.

**Sumon:** The senior musicians of our country have worked tirelessly to establish this industry. So, we have the responsibility to establish a style of music that we can call our own. This album is an attempt at achieving this goal.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

**When you are making a song, do the lyrics set the direction of the music, or is it the other way around?**

**Sumon:** We develop both parallelly. Of course, the lyrics sometimes require certain emotional principles that reflect in the music.

**Mark:** When Sumon *bhai* discusses the lyrics with us, we try our best to resonate the same emotions through our instruments.

**Mahaan Fahim:** It is crucial for us to do our best to relate the lyrics with our music.

**Shishir Ahmed:** Every note has the capacity to carry a certain emotion. What gets tricky, is finding the exact notes to convey the emotions

required, so that it is one the same wavelength as the lyrics. A song is a journey, and it is the combination of music and lyrics that get us to the final destination.

**When you're performing on stage, do you usually improvise on existing songs?**

**Shishir:** There are times when I will experiment a bit with the notes I use on stage, shifting away from the original notes we used when recording the songs. However, I am careful to ensure it harmonises with the rest of the band.

**Sumon:** At the beginning of this year, our first show was at ICCB. A record number of people showed up, and the security team were not able to close the gates. Suddenly, I decided to pick up the acoustic guitar and began playing *Jodi Konodin*—a song I last played on stage in 2008. After a while, I stopped playing and let the audience carry on singing the song. In my 32 years in the industry, I have never gotten that kind of response anywhere. It was amazing and I was truly blown away!!

## Apurba starrer 'Mayashalik' now on OTT



The premiere show of the web-film, *Mayashalik*—starring popular actor Ziaul Faruq Apurba— took place on Monday, around 6:30 pm, in Bashundhara City's Star Cineplex. Following the premiere, the web-film was also released on the OTT platform, Binge. *Mayashalik* has been directed by Shihab Shaheen.

The story of *Mayashalik* revolves around a young, retired military officer, who had to leave the army due to physical injuries. To get rid of his depression, he moves away from the chaotic city life, to a place where there is no mobile network.

The film has also cast Sadia Ayman, Imtiaz Barshon, and Shahiduzzaman Selim in vital roles.

## Nolan's 'Oppenheimer' drops intense trailer

The official trailer for Christopher Nolan's upcoming historical-thriller, *Oppenheimer*, was released by Universal Pictures yesterday. The film stars Cillian Murphy, of *Peaky Blinders* fame, as theoretical physicist J Robert Oppenheimer—commonly known as the 'father of the atomic bomb'.

The film is based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning biographical novel, *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J Robert Oppenheimer* by Kai Bird and the late Martin J Sherwin.

*Oppenheimer* will be released in theaters on July 21, 2023.



# NEWS

## Follow chain of command

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The construction of the first-phase 317km border roads in is in progress, she said.

The PM thanked the BGB for removing the words "Pak" or "Pakistan" from 14,005 border pillars along Bangladesh-India border and writing "Bangladesh" or "BD" in their places.

Hasina said an unthinkable tragedy occurred only 52 days after

the formation of her government in 2009. "The whole nation expects that such an incident won't happen again."

She prayed for the salvation of the departed souls who were martyred in the tragedy and expressed her sympathy to the bereaved families.

On her arrival at the venue, the PM was received by Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, Senior Secretary of Public Security Division Aminul

Islam Khan and BGB Director General Major General Shakil Ahmed.

Hasina inspected the parade at Bir Uttam Anwar Hossain Parade Ground of BGB headquarters in Pilkhana.

She also handed over the BGB Medal, President BGB Medal, BGB Medal Service and President BGB Medal Service to the selected BGB members in recognition of their courageous and outstanding contributions.

## Nothing to worry about

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president Ziaur Rahman, founder of BNP, in 1977.

After Mayer Kanna members tried to enter the building, Haas ended his visit early and as he was exiting the venue, some of the protesters surrounded the ambassador's vehicle.

Haas raised the incident with the foreign ministry. The US government then summoned the Bangladesh ambassador in Washington DC.

At yesterday's event at the BISS auditorium, the foreign minister said his ministry assigned BISS to look into whether the country would join "Quad", a US-led strategic initiative.

"Recently there is a debate about the Quad and the Indo-Pacific

Business Forum [IPBF]. To understand the issues, we requested the BISS to look into the matter," he said.

"They have submitted one report on the Indo-Pacific Business Forum, with pros and cons of Bangladesh joining ... we are working on it," Momen said.

US, India, Japan and Australia are part of an informal strategic alliance—the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or Quad—and the governments of the United States and India co-hosted the fourth annual IPBF virtually on October 28-29, 2021.

The IPBF advances the United States' vision for an open, interconnected, resilient, and secure Indo-Pacific region. BISS is a statutory government

institution established with the aim of undertaking and promoting research and deliberation on international affairs, security and developmental issues.

"The foreign ministry expects more innovative research activities along with traditional ones. With impending global climatic, political and economic crises, its [BISS's] role will be greater than ever in our decision-making."

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs stand ready to extend cooperation," Momen said.

BISS Director General Major General Sheikh Pasha Habib Uddin delivered the welcome speech in the inaugural session that was chaired by BISS Chairman Ambassador Kazi Imtiaz Hossain.

## Ex-BCL leader

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Squadron Leader Touhidul Mobin Khan told The Daily Star, "We did not go to arrest this expelled leader of Chhatra League. The name of the person we went to arrest is also Abdur Rauf, a suspected fraud. While talking to him we learnt that their fathers' names do not match. So, he was let go."

When asked about Rauf being snatched from Rab, he said, "There was a rally of Chhatra League going on when we caught him. They thought we were going to take him, so they took him from Satmatha."

Bogra District Chhatra League General Secretary Al Mahidul Islam Joy told The Daily Star, "Abdur Rauf is not a member of our Chhatra League. He is a former Chhatra League leader... Rab members were talking to him and at that time our boys talked to Rab and got him back."

## Taliban bans univ edu

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the country, with many aspiring to choose teaching and medicine as future careers.

After the takeover of the country by the Taliban, universities were forced to implement new rules including gender segregated classrooms and entrances, while women were only permitted to be taught by women professors or old men.

Most teenage girls across the country have already been banned from secondary school education, severely limiting university intake.

The Taliban adheres to an austere version of Islam, with the movement's supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada and his inner circle of Afghan clerics against modern education, particularly for girls and women.

But they are at odds with many officials in Kabul and among their rank and file who had hoped girls

would be allied to continue learning following the takeover.

Women have been pushed out of many government jobs—or are being paid a slashed salary to stay at home. They are also barred from travelling without a male relative, and must cover up outside of the home, ideally with a burqa.

In November they were also prohibited from going to parks, funfairs, gyms and public baths.

In a cruel U-turn, the Taliban in March blocked girls from returning to secondary schools on the morning they were supposed to reopen.

Several Taliban officials say the secondary education ban is only temporary, but they have also wheeled out a litany of excuses for the closure—from a lack of funds to time needed to remodel the syllabus along Islamic lines.

## Saddam new

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Riaz Mahmud and Sagor Ahmed have been named president and general secretary of the Dhaka city (north) unit Chhatra League while Rajibul Islam and Sajal Kundu were made president and general secretary of Dhaka city (south) unit BCL.

The 30th BCL council was held on December 6, while the councils for Dhaka's two units and the DU unit were held on December 2 and 3.

## Govt sends another

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the government also sent Mokbul Hossain, information and broadcasting secretary, into retirement on the same grounds.

Like the previous orders, yesterday's circular too invoked section 45 of Bangladesh Service Rules-2018.

According to the section, upon the president's approval, the government can send an employee, who has completed 25 years of service, into retirement in public interest, without showing any specific reason.

## Russia against

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domestic affairs, as evidenced by the Ad Hoc Commission on Protecting State Sovereignty of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation in its 2017 report."

Such measures are manifold and include establishing or supporting controlled non-commercial organisations, working with educational institutions, using media and social networks to shape public opinion, inciting protests, and meddling in federal or regional elections, according to the statement.

Under the pretext of protecting "democratic values", work is underway to interfere in the internal affairs of those who are out of favour with the states that consider themselves "rulers of the world," said the Russian Embassy.

"Such policy evidently results in undermining the sustainability of the world order, brings chaos and havoc. The incomplete list includes Yugoslavia, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, Syria and Afghanistan," the statement reads.

## Police on alert over possible

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from police on November 20.

In a letter to the superintendents of police across the country recently, the Police Headquarters has also suspected that there might be an attack on religious sites. Officials said it may take place on Christmas eve.

According to the letter, signed by Mohammad Abdullah Baqui, additional deputy inspector general of the PHQ's confidential wing on December 7, a group of people, linked to the Al-Qaeda, is planning an attack, and militants have even gone on to conduct reces for "possible targets" in two districts.

The PHQ has suggested stepping up security and vigilance at all religious sites, on foreign nationals and inmates in jails, and conducting block raids and patrols.

SM Ruhul Amin, additional inspector general of the anti-terrorism unit, however, said there were no specific threats centring Christmas or New Year.

"There remains a possible threat and alert centring the two upcoming occasions. We generally remain on alert [on these days] and will be vigilant so that no untoward situation takes place," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Sources said Ansar Al Islam mainly follows the strategy of Al Qaeda (AQ).

Recently, some leaders and supporters of the outfit, previously known as the Ansarullah Bangla Team, have formed a new militant outfit— "Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya".

A high official of the police, who has been tracing the steps of the AQ-inspired militant outfits, said the attack could be carried out by Ansar Al Islam or Sharqiya, as both are AQ affiliated.

Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) on December 13 arrested Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman for his links to Sharqiya and for funding it.

The PHQ letter said a possible attack may also be led by activists of former Jamaat's student wing—Islamic Chhatra Shibir.

"We have come to know that some new leaders have taken over Ansar Al Islam's military wing activities, which had been carrying out attacks under the leadership of sacked Major Sayed Ziaul Hoque, alias Major Zia," said the official, requesting anonymity.

Regarding the new leaders, he told The Daily Star they were yet to get details.

Ayman alias Mashiur Rahman is currently leading the military wing of the outfit, and the two militants were whisked away from police custody under his leadership.

Major Zia and Ayman are currently believed to be in hiding somewhere in the country, police said.

Ansar Al Islam last took part in the killing of USAID staffer Xulhaz Mannan and his friend Khandoker Mahbub Rabby Tonoy.

The two men were hacked to death inside Xulhaz's flat in the capital on April 25, 2016.

Meanwhile, a month has passed but law enforcers are yet to trace any hideout or arrest the two snatched militants.

The CTTC unit investigating the incident said they are yet to get any breakthrough.

Khandker Golam Faruq, commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, recently said they have been able to identify the militants, who were involved in the snatching, and they are now under surveillance.

In another development, the four-member home ministry probe committee, which was formed with an additional secretary (prisons) of the Security Service Division as the chief to investigate the snatching, submitted its report.

Confirming the development, Md Abdullah Al Masud Chowdhury, secretary of the security service division of the home ministry, told The Daily Star yesterday, "We have received the report from the committee and are taking action according to the findings."

Masud, however, refused to disclose any further details.

Meanwhile, the US embassy, in a security alert issued on Monday, said there is a potential for the increase of criminal activity and violent terrorism during the holiday season in Bangladesh.

"Most of these occur in crowded public locations, such as holiday markets, shopping malls, airports, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, transportation hubs, schools, and other areas frequented by tourists. Public events, such as demonstrations, holiday events, and celebratory gatherings, are also at a higher risk for violence."

The alert suggested exercising vigilance at holidays festivals and events, places of worship, and locations with large crowds.