

# No gimmicks, just music

## Level Five look to make a mark

“My friend actually made me listen to Level Five’s songs. He put on Gholate Megh, but I was like this is an acoustic song and I am a metal guitarist. Afterwards, I listened to the rest of the album and liked it. So, I called Razin bhai to say I was ready to join,” said Yaber.

AAQIB HASIB

60’s Love, you’ve surely heard the name, but the faces behind this song might not be familiar to most. Shockingly enough, Level Five have been in the music scene for quite some time now, having originally formed in 2011.

Level Five came into fruition with founding members Ehsan Kaizer and Aiedid Rashid. The two wanted to do something a little different and so chose to focus on being an indie band, initially starting out covering a variety of bands.

Soon, after a year, they would be joined by their drummer, Sadmaan Asif Guppu and would start performing more regularly. A little after that, Kaizer would see Razin performing a cover of Snow and would ask him to join the band as their bassist. With all members assembled, Level Five would start working on their album Obosheshey.

After they were done with most of the recordings and arrangements for the album, Kaizer had to leave for the US.

“After finishing the recording of the last song for the album, Obosheshey, all we had



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Thankfully, all of them kept at it. Soon, they would release Obosheshey with an album release concert, when Kaiser returned in February, 2019.

They would soon bring in Ashiquil Alam Ashiq, a junior in the same university club as Guppu, to join as their guitarist. While things were looking up, there was still a struggle to get booked on shows.

“We thought one particular show in Adamjee would be our last. Me and Razin had planned to stop after,” shared Aiedid, “That show changed everything. The reception they gave us, the way they sang our songs. After finishing the show, Razin and I looked at each other and came to a decision to keep going.”

Then the quest came to get another guitarist. Level Five wanted to make more music and needed fresh blood to join the fray. A friend of the band helped them find Yaber Hasan.

“My friend actually made me listen to Level Five’s songs. He put on Gholate Megh, but I was like this is an acoustic song and I am a metal guitarist. Afterwards, I listened to the

rest of the album and liked it. So, I called Razin bhai to say I was ready to join,” said Yaber.

It would be during the pandemic that 60’s Love would blow up, becoming their first song to cross a million views on YouTube.

“One day I woke up and saw the comments on 60’s Love. I remember seeing someone write that their girlfriend had died during COVID and that he was sitting next to her grave, listening to the song and relating to the lyrics. This touched me and humbled me. It was this moment that helped motivate me to keep making music,” shared Guppu.

I have interviewed a lot of bands and musicians, but I have rarely become as invested in their story and journey as I have with Level Five.

Currently, Level Five have 7-8 songs ready as demos and are planning to release them in the near future. Whenever they release their songs, whether as an album or as singles, I will definitely be following them closely, because if nothing else, I want to see them flourish.



## Bangladesh to start importing Hindi films?

Concerning the demand to screen Hindi films in their halls, cinema hall owners sat with the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Dr Hasan Mahmud, yesterday. The meeting took place at the offices of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

“The government is willing to import 10 Hindi films every year, if the associated stakeholders of the film industry submit an application,” said Dr Hasan Mahmud at the discussion.

The minister asked four associated stakeholders, namely Bangladesh Motion Picture Exhibitor Association, Bangladesh Film Directors Association, Bangladesh Film Artists Association and Bangladesh Film Producers and Distributors Association to submit a written application to the government.

## Tasnia Farin provides Bangla dub for ‘Legend of the Blue Sea’



Popular actress Tasnia Farin has provided her voice for the Bangla dub of Lee Min-ho’s superhot Korean series, Legend of the Blue Sea. The Ladies and Gentlemen actress is known for her singing talent and has covered many songs over the years.

Fans of Tasnia Farin who enjoy K-dramas are all super excited to watch the series, as it features their favourite actress providing the Bangla dub for the mermaid—played by noted Korean actress Jun Ji-hyun. The dubbing has been done by SRK Studios.

# NEWS

## Re-polling in Gaibandha-5 today

FROM PAGE 12

“They [voters] will vote if they find a congenial atmosphere,” he added.

Jatiya Party candidate Golam Shaheed Ranju said, “So far, the Election Commission and the local administration have performed their duties impartially ahead of the re-polling. So, we are trying to encourage voters to go to polling centres tomorrow [today].”

Meanwhile, Faridul Islam, returning officer of Gaibandha-5 by-polls, told journalists yesterday that all out measures were taken to ensure that the election was held in a free and fair manner.

“We have taken steps to ensure that voters can freely get to polling centres and also return home safely,” he said.

“Voting will start at 8:30am

through EVM and continue till 4:30pm without interruptions. As in the previous election, all 145 polling centres will be under CCTV surveillance. Besides, sufficient law enforcers and executive magistrates will be deployed to combat irregularities and violence, if any,” said Faridul.

Abdul Mottalib, assistant returning officer, said the presiding officers in the October 12 by-polls were replaced to ensure a fair election.

Speaking to journalists at the EC office in the capital’s Agargaon yesterday, Election Commissioner Ahsan Habib Khan, said, “We will not tolerate any irregularities tomorrow [today]. Our returning officer, election officials, and law enforcement are all working together to ensure that the nation

sees a fair election.”

However, independent candidate Nahiduzzaman Nishad withdrew his candidacy last week, alleging that the EC failed to identify and punish those who were involved in the electoral irregularities on October 12.

Now four candidates, including ruling Awami League’s nominee Mahmudul Hasan Ripon, are in the electoral race.

Seeking anonymity, many voters and polling officials pointed fingers at the supporters of Ripon, also a former president of Bangladesh Chhatra League, for widespread irregularities in the October 12 by-elections.

The parliamentary seat of Gaibandha-5 fell vacant after the death of lawmaker and deputy speaker Fazle Rabbi Miah on July 22.

## Russian fury grows

FROM PAGE 12

“Russian forces) are used to having a complete advantage in both artillery and shells. Now we have reached parity and our artillerymen are shooting better, hitting more ammunition depots and barracks, while firing far fewer shots,” Governor Serhiy Haidai told Ukrainian television.

Elsewhere, Ukraine’s military General Staff said a Dec. 31 strike on a Russian-held area of the southern Kherson region had killed or injured some 500 Russian troops.

Reuters could not independently confirm the battlefield accounts.

The governor of Donetsk region, Pavlo Kyrylenko, yesterday said in an update for his region that Russian forces had attacked Ukrainian positions overnight along the front line, with one person killed in the Ukraine-held city of Bakhmut.

Russian military bloggers said the extent of the destruction at Makiivka was a result of storing ammunition in the same building as a barracks, despite commanders knowing it was within range of Ukrainian rockets.

Igor Girkin, a former commander of pro-Russian troops in eastern Ukraine who is now one of the highest-profile Russian nationalist military bloggers, said hundreds had been killed or wounded. Military equipment stored at the site was

uncamouflaged, he said.

“What happened in Makiivka is horrible,” wrote Archangel Spetznaz Z, a Russian military blogger with more than 700,000 followers on the Telegram messaging app.

“Who came up with the idea to place personnel in large numbers in one building, where even a fool understands that even if they hit with artillery, there will be many wounded or dead?” he wrote. Commanders “couldn’t care less,” he said.

Ukraine almost never publicly claims responsibility for attacks on Russian-controlled territory in Ukraine and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy did not address the Makiivka strike in his nightly speech on Monday.

However, the General Staff of Ukraine’s Armed Forces reported the Makiivka attack as “a strike on Russian manpower and military equipment”. It did not mention casualties.

The fury in Russia extended to lawmakers.

Grigory Karasin, a member of the Russian Senate and former deputy foreign minister, not only demanded vengeance against Ukraine and its Nato supporters but also “an exacting internal analysis”.

Sergei Mironov, a legislator and former chairman of the Senate, Russia’s upper house, demanded

criminal liability for the officials who had “allowed the concentration of military personnel in an unprotected building” and “all the higher authorities who did not provide the proper level of security”.

Unverified footage posted online of the aftermath of the blast at the Russian barracks in Makiivka showed a huge building reduced to smoking rubble.

Some of the dead came from the southwestern Russian region of Samara, the region’s governor told Russian media, urging concerned relatives to contact recruitment centres for information.

Having suffered defeats on the battlefield in the second half of 2022, Russia resorted to mass air strikes against Ukrainian cities.

Ukraine said on Monday it had shot down all 39 drones Russia had launched in a third night of air strikes on civilian targets in Kyiv and other cities.

Meanwhile, Zelensky’s office on Monday said Ukraine and the European Union will hold a summit in Kyiv on February 3 to discuss financial and military support.

Zelensky discussed details of the high-level meeting with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in his first phone call of the year, the statement said.

## Mahbub Hossain

FROM PAGE 12

retirement leave.

Mahbub joined the energy division on January 2, 2022, before which he served as the secretary of the Secondary and Higher Education Division from December 31, 2019 till January 1, 2022.

He was a member of the BCS (administration) of 1986 and joined civil services on December 20, 1989.

## ‘Green Sarcophagus’

FROM PAGE 12

base,” Waziri added during the news conference, saying it is known as the “Green Sarcophagus” because of the green face on top of it.

“Our sincere thanks to USA authorities for their cooperation in returning this precious piece,” the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs tweeted on Monday.

Over the past 10 years, Egypt has recovered around 29,300 ancient pieces smuggled out of the country, according to Egypt’s Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, who attended the ceremony.

Over 110 of those were recovered in 2022 from the United States, New Zealand, France and other countries, according to the minister of tourism and antiquities.

## Sumitra Sen

FROM PAGE 12

Her condition further worsened on January 2 and she passed away in the early hours of the next day, the report further read.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, in a statement, expressed her condolences over Sen’s death.

“I am deeply saddened by the sudden demise of Sumitra Sen, who had enthralled the audience for decades. I had a close relationship with her for a long time. The West Bengal government had awarded her ‘Sangeet Mahasamman’ in 2012. Her passing is an irreparable loss to the world of music. My sincere condolences to Sumitra di’s daughters Indrani and Srabani, and her fans.”

Sen had given innumerable Rabindra Sangeet renditions during her long and illustrious career spanning four decades, including “Megh Bolechhe Jabo Jabo”, “Tomari Jharnatar Nirjone”, and “Sakhi Bhabona Kahare Bole”.

## Fertility rate on rise

FROM PAGE 12

“C-SECTION UNACCEPTABLY HIGH”

The survey also revealed that the Caesarean section (C-section) delivery was unacceptably high among women in non-slum, slum and the rest of the urban areas.

Some 59 percent of babies in non-slums, 51 percent in remaining urban, and 31 percent births in slums were delivered by C-sections.

Nearly 77 percent of facility deliveries among women in non-slums and 75 percent of the rest of the urban areas, and 58 percent in slums were done through C-sections.

According to the World Health Organization, the international healthcare community has considered the ideal rate for C-sections to be between 10-15 percent since 1985.

“High C-section rate is extremely dangerous for maternal health. There is a need for immediate regulatory intervention to reduce unnecessary C-sections,” Prof Mainul said.

LACK OF ANTENATAL CARE

The BUHS 2021 has also revealed another concerning aspect regarding antenatal care, which requires a pregnant woman to have at least four doctor visits before delivery.

The antenatal care coverage is the percentage of women aged 15 to 49 with a live birth in a given time period who received antenatal care (ANC).

The survey revealed that only 40 percent of pregnant mothers in slums received proper ANC, while it was 53 percent in non-slum and 39 percent in semi-urban areas.

Mortality rate in urban areas was 27 percent among the newborns, 36 percent among infants, and 39 percent among children under five.

Exclusive breastfeeding among children under six months both in slums and non-slum areas have decreased in 2021 compared to 2013— from 59 percent to 54 in slums and 58 percent from 49 in non-slums.

The survey also revealed that a big number children under five suffer from malnutrition related complications.

In the slums, around 34 percent of all under-five children were stunted.

In non-slums, it was 27 percent and in rest of the urban areas it was 28.5.

Overall, 16 percent of under-five children in slums were wasted. In non-slums, it was 14 percent and in the remaining urban areas 16 percent.

In slums, 28 percent of the under-five children were underweight, while in non-slums it was 20 percent and 23 in the rest of the urban areas, the survey said.

Speaking at the unveiling of the BUHS 2021, Professor Dr AKM Nurun Nabi, population expert and former vice-chancellor of Begum Rokeya University, said the survey has revealed how urban health has been neglected.

“The policymakers should focus on this.”

Speaking as the chief guest, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said the number of C-sections needs to come down.

“For this, we have to work at the root level. If we can ensure 24/7 delivery services, the number of [unnecessary C-sections] can be brought under control.”

## Man sentenced

FROM PAGE 2

“After all evidence proved that Rakesh Roy posted those on social media, the court delivered the verdict,” he said.

In June 2017, Rakesh, organising secretary of the Mahajate’s Sylhet divisional unit, made several Facebook posts “hurting religious sentiment and issuing death threat” to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

One Fuzael Ahmed lodged the case against Rakesh under section 57 of the Information Technology Act with Zakiganj Police Station on June 5.

Police arrested him on June 7 that year.

## Freeze bank

FROM PAGE 12

Unit Fund, and UFS-Padma Life Islamic Unit Fund.

Tk 125 crore was embezzled from the cash and fixed deposits of the mutual funds and the rest of the amount from its interest income and through the overcharging of management fees, the team found.