



From Kalurghat to COKE STUDIO BANGLA

I was inspired by the likes of Shyam Shundor Boishnob and Shefali Ghosh, local folk artistes who based their songs around local issues and themes. So, when I was writing this song for Coke Studio, I wanted to highlight contemporary issues that are relatable with most people.

AAQIB HASIB

Murir Tin – This is the latest instalment of Coke Studio Bangla, as the platform kick-starts season two with something most of us Bangalees can relate to, buses. Upon its release the song immediately captivated audiences with both the song and the visuals in the music video.

Written and composed by Riad Hasan, a Chattogram native, **Murir Tin** is quite different from anything else Coke Studio Bangla has already ventured into. In hopes of learning more about the origin and inspiration for the song, The Daily Star sat down with Riad Hasan.

As a Chattogram local, how does it feel to have your dialect and song represented on a platform as big as Coke Studio?

I have been performing in the Chittagong dialect for a long time.

Around 2007 or 2008, I released a song called **GEC**, which is about the GEC circle area in Chattogram. I was inspired by the likes of Shyam Shundor Boishnob and Shefali Ghosh, local folk

artistes who based their songs around local issues and themes. So, when I was writing this song for



Coke Studio, I wanted to highlight contemporary issues that are relatable with most people.

There are very few platforms in the Bangladeshi music industry where an artiste can showcase their music to a large audience. My own songs in the Chittagong dialect, **GEC** and **Satkaniya Fatikchori**, garnered some five to six lakh views on YouTube.

How has the audience's reaction to 'Murir Tin' been?

I have not gone too in depth with tracking the audience's response, but from what I have observed, I can see that people from Chattogram have particularly loved the song.

Neither Pollob, Towfique or I are mainstream artistes. We do have a core audience who faithfully listen to our music, but it isn't on the same level as a top mainstream

that their 70-year-old father, 60-year-old uncle and 85-year-old grandparent were all enjoying the song together.

While there will always be negative opinions, overall, the reception has been quite positive. I am happy to see people enjoying my music.

'Murir Tin' has been inspired by the buses you saw growing up in Kalurghat. Could you tell us more about the song's origin?

Growing up in Kalurghat, we would see buses with wooden or metal bodies, which we would call "Murir Tin". As I grew up, these buses slowly began to disappear.

But the stories and experiences of being in those buses are still there. So, it is a symbolic reference. Now, when we are saying "Murir Tin", we mean a somewhat broken down vehicle where a lot of people travelling while crammed together.

I am a big fan of using humour in my music, so I wanted to make this a humorous and satirical song that people could connect to.

What can we expect from you in the future?

As an artiste, I still feel that I am trying to find my own unique sound. What I seem to enjoy doing the most is playing the acoustic guitar while also singing. So, I hope to continue releasing one or two songs every year on my YouTube channel.



Bangladesh Film Festival kicks off at BSA

The third Bangladesh Film Festival kicked off at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) premises on Friday. The film festival is currently underway at all of the branches of BSA in 64 districts.

The inaugural ceremony took place at the National Theatre Hall of BSA. The 15 day long film festival will feature 36 movies, among which 23 are contemporary movies while the rest are from other periods.

Laal Moroger Jhuti, directed by Nurul Alam Atique, was screened on the first day of the festival.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid was the chief guest, with film exponent Haider Rizvi, actor Ilias Kanchan, and filmmaker Shamim Akhter who were special guests at the event, presided over by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Director General Liaquat Ali Lucky.

'The Last of Us' beats HBO's premier dragon show

HBO's **The Last of Us** beat the channel's much-highlighted series **House of the Dragon** in terms of streaming. According to the Nielsen top ten streaming chart, **The Last of Us** has been streamed for 837 million minutes, securing the sixth place on the chart.

The television series was adapted from 2013's famed video game **The Last of Us**, and earned its grand stream-time score from January 22 to 27. Interestingly, only two episodes of the series were available at that time.



Shooting concludes of Afzal Hossain starrer 'Oporajeyo'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Oporajeyo, directed by Syed Salahuddin Zaki, has been completed recently. Based on the book **Eka**, written by Faridur Reza Sagar. The director is famed for his classic film **Ghuddi**.

In this film, renowned Ekushey Padak winning actor Afzal Hossain will be pairing up with Deepa Khandakar for the first time. They will play the roles of husband and wife.

"Syed Salahuddin Zaki is like my guardian. I have known him for a long time. Just appearing in his film is like a matter of joy for me. I am very happy to get this opportunity," said Afzal Hossain earlier to The Daily Star.

The actor just finished the shooting of another film titled **Japito Jibon**. Directed by Habibul Islam Habib, the film follows the storyline of famed novelist Selina Hossain's novel of the same name. Apart from this, his film, **Manik Ar Lal Kakra** is awaiting its release.



'Hera Pheri 3' Akshay reunites with Paresh Rawal and Suniel Shetty

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular film actor Akshay Kumar has lately been occupied with the release of his new film opposite Emraan Hashmi titled, **Selfiee**. Hitting the theatres on February 24, the film has already been making headlines for the plot and the dynamic cast. Despite the talks of Akshay leaving the

Hera Pheri franchise, news of the third installation of the series has risen, as the original trio got together.

According to reports by Times of India, Suniel Shetty, Paresh Rawal along with Akshay are set to join hands for not one but three new sequels- **Hera Pheri 3, Awara**

Indian news outlet Pinkvilla also reported that Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty and Paresh Rawal have recently met producer Firoz Nadiadwala in Mumbai, to discuss **Hera Pheri 3**.

"This is the first time in years that the original team of Hera Pheri was under the same roof. In fact, on seeing them all together, the entire staff at Empire Studio got emotional and expressed their excitement," said one of the sources.



This Eid will be a festival of films



AKHLAKUR RAHMAN

Eid has always been a festive time for films to appear in theatres. After Covid-19 had devastated the film industry for two years straight, actors, producers, and directors are quite hopeful for the coming two Eids this year.

While last year was dominated by **Hawa** and **Poran**, this year the industry seems to be injected with new vitality as a strong lineup of films is expected to be released within the two remaining months of Eid ul-Fitr.

The probable Eid lineup includes **Leader Amie Bangladesh**, **Agun**, **Antarjaal**, **Laal Sari**, **Noor**, **Kill Him** and **Shurongo**, amongst

others.

According to media outlets, Shakib Khan featuring film **Leader: Amie Bangladesh** has already gotten a censor board clearance, though the release date is yet to be announced. Meanwhile, Badiul Alam Khokon, the director of **Agun**, told the media that the project will appear on the silver screen on Eid.

On the other hand, the Siam Ahmed starrer film **Antarjaal** is expected to greet the audience on the occasion of Eid. The director of the film shared with the media that he wishes to release the film on Eid.

Raihan Rafi's **Noor** might also greet the audience during the festive season of Eid.

According to the recent rumours about its release, the film's authorities will soon make an official announcement.

Furthermore, Ananta Jalil's **Kill Him** is still completing its shoot. However, word about the film being released this Eid has come around.

All in all, fans can expect this Eid ul-Fitr to be a carnival of films and enjoy good content. According to the Bangladesh Motion Pictures Exhibitors Association, there are about 70 active cinema halls in Bangladesh now and due to the Eid season, many closed halls will be reopened. They mentioned to the media that about 150 cinema halls will be active due to the Eid season.