

Continued my father's legacy through 'Murir Tin'

TOWFIQUE

ANTARA RAISA

A bright star in Bangla rap, Towfique Ahmed started his musical journey in 2008. Towfique gradually carved his place in the Bangladeshi music scene, with his unique voice and delivery.

Recently, the first song of Coke Studio Bangla Season 2, *Murir Tin*, captivated the audience with its fusion of local dialects of Chittagong, Sylhet, and Khulna. In that song, Towfique sang in his native Khulna tongue, which gave the song a different vibe.

How was the audience's response to the song *Murir Tin*?

We got an outstanding response from the audience, which was really unexpected for me. I personally didn't think people would love and receive this song so positively. I have got messages from in and outside the country for this song. They all liked the song, because it represented their roots and culture.

What was your experience of singing in your regional dialect?

When we recorded the song, we had no idea that it would be the first song of Coke Studio Bangla season 2. As I always sing in proper Bangla, it was a different experience for me to sing in a particular dialect. If you listen to my rap songs, you will know that even in rap I don't use any other dialect. So, it was overwhelming for me when I saw that people really liked my part of the song.

Tell us about your musical journey. When did you start rapping?

My rap music started back in 2008 in the UK, when I was there for my

studies. I performed a freestyle rap at a Bengali festival in London in front of a big crowd, which boosted my confidence in rapping. Then, in 2010, I formed my band, *Rajotto*, and released my first self-titled album, *Rajotto* along with my bandmate Faisal Roddy. Songs like *Bidrohi* and *Protishshuti*,

My father was a very popular leftist politician in our hometown, Khulna. He was so dedicated to his hometown that he never left Khulna in his entire life. As a son, I feel a certain responsibility towards my hometown too.

among others, played a vital role in my musical career.

I always try to give a social message through my songs.

What's your opinion on the rap music scene in our country?

When I started rap music in our country, the genre was not very popular. I didn't get enough support from the brands. However, the present scenario is quite different from the past. Now, the corporate brands sponsor these types of songs and encourage the youth to try out different genres. Today's young generation sings a different style of rap, which I appreciate a lot.

How did it feel to represent your dialect on such a great platform?

My father was a very popular leftist politician in our hometown, Khulna. He was so dedicated to his hometown that he never left Khulna in his entire life and died there. As a son, I feel a certain responsibility towards my hometown too. Although, I haven't done anything like my father, but I tried to represent my Khulna dialect to the country through this song. It's a great deal for me. The people of my hometown are telling me that I am continuing my father's legacy, which makes me emotional.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSVED



Shakib Khan receives recognition from YouTube

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

In a short video, Shakib Khan announced that he has received a golden play button and a silver play button for his two YouTube channels, SK Films, and Shakib Khan.

On the other hand, the YouTube channel of Shakib's production company, SK Films has crossed 1 million subscribers. The channel started its journey in 2018.

In this short video, Shakib Khan unboxed the golden and silver play buttons and expressed his love and joy to the audience. On the work front, Shakib Khan has three films titled, *Leader: Amic Bangladesh*, *Agun* and *Antoratta* in the pipeline.

Puja Chery visits Boi Mela to buy Abdul Aziz's book

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Renowned Dhallywood actress Puja Chery recently took to her social media, and wrote a post, apologising to Jazz Multimedia and Abdul Aziz. Yesterday, the *Dohon* famed actress visited the Ekushey Boi Mela.

Puja was seen sitting in the book stall which displayed Abdul Aziz's book of poems titled, *Priotoma Tomake Boluchi*.

Previously on her social media post, the actress had mentioned, "Due to my childlessness, I have wronged the place which gave me the platform to rise. I want to apologise to everyone as I have made a mistake. As your younger sister and also as a colleague, I want to apologise for my mistake and I hope you all can forgive me."

NEWS

President blasts big businesses

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they only think about how to get rich overnight, leaving their ethics aside.

The same could be said about the government employees.

"They also bother only about how to own a car and a house after getting the job."

"They forget that they are the employees of the republic and servants of the people. For their own petty interests, they sometimes don't hesitate to undermine the bigger interests of the nation."

Mentioning that students are the future, Hamid said some will become politicians, some businesspeople, and some bureaucrats.

"Remember that a country moves forward on the path of development only with coordinated efforts of politicians, businessmen and bureaucrats. But any failure to do so brings on extreme danger for the country."

Referring to news reports of a SAARC country's bankrupt economy, he said, "Syndicates of bureaucrats, politicians and businesspeople have been blamed for the bankruptcy. The sinister nexus of such syndicates can spell danger for any country."

Indigenous woman raped in Bandarban

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abducted the woman when she was plucking vegetables from a land next to her home, according to the case statement.

This incident, which occurred around 1:00pm on Friday in Fasiakhali union, came to light when the 24-year-old woman, was taken to Lalmi Upazila Health Complex Hospital yesterday morning for treatment.

Protasha Mallick, the hospital's duty doctor, confirmed the admission of the woman.

According to witnesses, Kaiser was beaten by the villagers as he was caught trying to flee the scene.

When they were going to hand him over to the police, Josna Akhtar, a union parishad member, arrived at the scene and took Kaiser to the chairman of Fasiakhali union chairman.

Chairman Noor Hossain Chowdhury sent injured Kaiser to a hospital and sent the villagers home assuring them of arbitration when the alleged rapist recovered, locals

while properly maintaining their academic activities.

"It's sad but true that in most of the universities, more time is being given to non-academic activities. That is why the universities are not found in the top 1,000 universities in the world ranking. Development is not possible with only certificate-based education."

The president, also canceller of the university, added, "Recently, many negative news reports were published on the recruitment and tender business in different universities ... Stay away from such corruption and nepotism."

Chief Justice of Bangladesh Justice Hasan Foez Siddique spoke as the convocation speaker at the JU's sixth convocation.

"Each university is governed by its own laws. But unfortunately, in most universities, a section misuses the law to obtain privileges and benefits. They don't hesitate to use their universities and students to retain power."

Hamid further told the students that education cannot be compromised in any way and students can take part in politics, social services, and cultural activities

added.

Noor said, "I was informed by the female member that it was a minor incident. The Mogh (indigenous) people beat up Kaiser in such a way that he could not even speak. So, I sent him to a hospital. We will settle the matter after he is released from the hospital."

When asked if he had the right to judge a rape case, the chairman said, "I asked the woman in public whether Kaiser raped her. She admitted in front of everyone that she was not raped."

Female member Josna Akhtar told The Daily Star she took Kaiser into her custody and requested the chairman to settle the matter.

When asked why she took Kaiser into her custody instead of handing him over to the police, Josna said, "I took Kaiser into my custody as the woman said she was not raped."

Josna said she saw injury marks on the woman's face.

Meanwhile, the woman told The Daily Star that Kaiser indeed raped

the teacher was arrested in the case filed by the boy's mother and subsequently sent to jail via a court order.

"We are talking to students and teachers of madrasa to learn more about the incident," he added.

Another security analyst Maj Gen (retd) Abdur Rashid thinks that as US and EU are now stronger and

No comparison between the AL and the BNP

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doesn't get any person, who is not convicted, to make its leader, adding Tarique Rahman was convicted in August 21, 2004 grenade attack, 10-truck arms haul and graft cases.

"The BNP itself doesn't maintain its party's constitution, law and rules. It is not right to compare the AL with the BNP. Some people are comparing the AL with the BNP, saying, both are two big political parties. They said two big parties, but, they are wrong," he added.

The premier said the country had become a haven of militancy, terrorism and corruption during the BNP government's tenure as grenade attacks took place and 500 bombs were exploded across the country in a day and Bangladesh became five times champion in corruption.

Referring to the 2008 election, in which, the BNP led 20-party alliance got only 30 seats out of 300 while the AL-led grand alliance secured the rest of the seats, she said, "So, how are the two parties the same?"

The premier said the country had become a haven of militancy, terrorism and corruption during the BNP government's tenure as grenade attacks took place and 500 bombs were exploded across the country in a day and Bangladesh became five times champion in corruption.

"They gave nothing to the people rather looted the public money and laundered those abroad. But, whenever the Awami League comes to power, the people of the country get something and their fate changes," she said.

AL General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader and its Presidium Member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, among others, spoke at the rally organised by the Kotalipara Upazila Awami League.

Balancing act may get trickier

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from the US, and if that is provided, there is a likelihood Russia will retaliate strongly. That will add a new dimension to the war," Muniruzzaman told this correspondent yesterday.

"We can see more and more militarisation in many countries as a result of the Ukraine-Russia war. Japan, for example, has significantly increased its defence budget," he added.

"Also, militarisation is happening in European countries that have more sense of insecurity. Sweden and Finland are also trying to join NATO. The importance of NATO in Europe has increased manifold now -- in a policy shift from the Trump period when Europe sought to be independent of US influence in terms of security."

"Ukrainian president Zelensky is repeating that this is not a Ukraine war, but a European war. If there is an attack, even by accident, on a NATO member in Europe, the war will be expanded beyond Ukraine. If that happens, the war will take a serious turn," he said.

He said the war has also exposed a tendency that the West is losing its strategic weight. "For example, India is indifferent to the concerns of the US, especially when it comes to India buying energy from Russia. Also, Russia is finding new allies like Iran, North Korea, and Syria."

"Russia has definitely been affected by the US and European sanctions but not to the extent that was thought," Muniruzzaman said.

Another security analyst Maj Gen (retd) Abdur Rashid thinks that as US and EU are now stronger and

more united than before, Russia will be on the back foot, while Ukraine energised by new weapons may retake the areas still under Russia's control.

"US President Biden's surprise visit to Kyiv and Poland means a lot for Ukraine. Russia already faced colossal loss in terms of its army and weapons," he added.

Abdur Rashid said the visit of Chinese top diplomat Wang Yi and the upcoming visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to Moscow may be significant efforts for peace.

"I am hopeful that Ukraine and Russia are going to sit for talks. That's what is the most needed thing we want to see."

Otherwise, the world will face further challenges of hunger, energy crisis and inflation, said the security analysts.

Bangladesh, like many other countries, is already paying the price of the war, he said, adding that, the countries whose internal financial management is good are able to handle the situation, but those who don't are now facing real trouble.

"If the war goes on, the West will be in recession and Bangladesh's economy will be further affected as much of its export is to the US and Europe," Abdur Rashid said.

"To avert any further economic upheaval, Bangladesh's financial management should be improved," he said.

Muniruzzaman said Bangladesh should improve its diplomatic skills to navigate the new challenges in the new possibly highly polarised world to ensure the country's national interest.

RMP finds

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evening of February 12.

He was confined to a torture cell in a two-storey building. The kidnappers demanded Tk 2 lakh as ransom, said the RMP additional commissioner.

Delwar was tortured until the afternoon of the following day. He was released that day after his family paid the kidnappers Tk 50,000.

The RMP official claimed that the gang had been operating for a long time, abducted several people, and extorted large sums of money from the victims' families.

No restrictions

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About the BNP chief engaging in politics, the minister said, Khaleda was released after her brother Shamim Iskandar had submitted a written application. The application said Khaleda Zia is seriously ill and her life is at stake. She needs medical attention. In view of this application, the prime minister suspended her jail sentence on two conditions and released her on humanitarian grounds. The two conditions are: she will receive treatment in the country staying at her residence in Dhaka, and she cannot go abroad."

Nasirul Alam, president of Jamsherpur High School management committee, presided over the function.

Former lawmaker from Brahmanbaria 4 Md Shah Alam, Law Ministry Secretary Golam Sarwar, Kasba Upazila Parishad Chairman Rashedul Kawsar Bhuiyan Jibon, and Kasba Municipality Mayor MG Hakkani were present, among others, as special guests.