

The entire world will listen to Bangla music: Nachiketa

Nachiketa Chakraborty – a man, an institution. Endearingly dubbed the ‘agoon pakhi’, loosely translated as the ‘bird of fire’, he is an icon of Bangla music who sings about life, love and our urban realities. He is legendary, but relatable, fiery, but down-to-earth.

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

The artiste, who admits to being the ‘son of Barishal’, is in Dhaka, recording with renowned composer-singer Kaushik Hossain Taposh for a new project. We had a chance to talk to the legend at the premises of Gaan Bangla television, in the capital.

“I am doing very well, thank you,” started an ever-energetic Nachiketa, with a gleaming Taposh by his side. “I really don’t know why rumours about me being ill circulate all the time, just because I lost a bit of weight”, jested the artiste, who was performing at a show in Chandpur a few days ago, when he got the proposal to work with the Gaan Bangla CEO. “When I told my daughter that I was working with Taposh, she confirmed that he was changing the Bangla music industry!”

Generations apart, the artistes claim to be bonded by their immense spontaneity and passion for music. “He is truly very talented,” Nachiketa heaped praise on Taposh. “The way he gave soul to our songs with his unique musical language, I was



PHOTOS: COURTESY

me away, so I don’t think that the industry is in any danger as of yet.”

Humility is one of the defining traits of the great artiste, and it became all-the-more evident when he was asked if he would further collaborate with newer artistes. “Look, music is my livelihood, and I don’t have a choice but to make songs. I made so many terrible songs during Covid!”, he laughed.

On another instance, he displayed severe disdain towards the word ‘collaboration’. “This word has a foreign, distant feel to it. Taposh and I are working together because he resonated with me, and vice-versa.” The superstar of Bangla music clearly has high hopes for the upcoming song, which will be launched under the banner of TM Music.

“The time will come when the entire world will listen to Bangla music, with talents like Taposh and of course, the newer generation.”

While he went off to the more restricted jamming zone, it was hard to resist the urge to peak in and listen. It was there that I could confirm that the beloved singer was still in his musical prime, with ethereal vocal arpeggios reached effortlessly. Are we in for a Nachiketa classic on Bangladeshi soil? Only time will tell.

Meanwhile, what beautifully resonated throughout the interview was the sense of belonging that he feels towards Bangladesh – “I’ve always felt that every single person who speaks in Bangla is my brother.”



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mesmerised”.

While gleefully excited for the project that they are working on together, the artiste urged everyone to wait for the end-product. Despite multiple requests for mild spoilers, all that we got from that excerpt was the fact that he had inserted his own soulful poetry to the song as well. The

conversation took to a different tangent when we asked him about how unlike him, the music of today does not depend as much on lyrics.

“I don’t agree at all on this one,” he said, ready to defend next-gen talent. “There’s no such thing as lyric-based music – there’s only good music and bad music.”

He continued, “While it is true that the advent of the internet has, in a way, barred people from being able to concentrate as much on lyrics, some recent work that I’ve heard from newer musicians have blown

NEWS

Lone suspect makes

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companions were the victim and her 14-year-old elder sister.

Caretakers of the six-storey building, neighbours, and grocery store owners said they have never seen her leave the flat in the last three years.

SI Rafiqul said he found that Mou had CCTV cameras installed on the street in front of the building and on the staircase.

The house staff and the caretaker of the building used to buy essentials for her, he said.

Rafiqul said the flat was small and a substantial amount of space was taken up by five refrigerators.

The caretaker and a security guard told police that Mou seemed to buy one year’s worth of groceries at once.

Rafiqul added that he found numerous toy animals and dolls at the flat.

The victim’s father told police that Mou on Monday informed him about his daughter’s death and offered him Tk 70,000 and a piece of land in Savar if he agreed to bury her without telling anyone.

He then called 999. Officers first interrogated her and then recovered the body.

Revised primary

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results, 82,383 students were selected for the scholarships. Of them, 33,000 students got scholarships in talent pool category.

Malan seals

FROM PAGE 12
the tricky Mirpur surface while recognising the importance of his wicket after the bowlers had made life difficult for the English.

Shakib Al Hasan, who opened the innings with the ball, struck early as Tamim Iqbal completed a sharp catch to remove Jason Roy. Although Malan, coming in at number three, bided his time at one end, the Bangladeshi bowlers kept scalping wickets at the other.

Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam, staging a comeback to the ODI side, scalped three wickets while off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz bagged two.

Bangladesh were sensing victory with England on 176 for seven at the completion of the 39th over, but the in-form Malan, who reached his fourth ODI ton off 134 deliveries, paired with Adil Rashid and added an unbeaten and ultimately match-winning 51 run stand, which became the highest eighth-wicket stand against Bangladesh.

Earlier, Bangladesh failed to post a fighting total after electing to bat.

Najmul Hossain Shanto’s maiden ODI fifty remained the only significant contribution. Apart from Shanto’s 58 off 82 balls, Mahmudullah Riyad added 30 and none of the batters were able to make an impact.

The hosts were eventually bundled out for 209 in 47.2 overs after some disciplined bowling from the visitors. Jofra Archer, Mark Wood, Adil Rashid and Moeen Ali picked up a couple of wickets each.

Top al-Qaeda figure killed in Yemen air strike: sources

AFP, Dubai

A senior al-Qaeda figure was killed in a suspected US air strike in war-torn Yemen, security and local government sources told AFP yesterday.

Hamad bin Hamoud al-Tamimi, a top leader of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), which Washington regards as among the global jihadist network’s most dangerous branches, died in the strike along with a bodyguard, a security official said, requesting anonymity.

political identities, are taking part in untoward incidents at dormitories of educational institutions. They are tarnishing the glorious history of student politics and the political parties,” the HC bench said.

“History teaches us that student politics is needed. But the disobedient students harm the academic environment and even breach the rules of the political parties. This is alarming and all should remain cautious about it.”

On Tuesday, Tushar placed two probe reports before the HC bench, saying that inquiry committees found Chhatra League activists’ involvement in torturing Phulpori.

One of the committees found serious negligence on the part of the university authorities in dealing with the incident.

The probe committee formed by the university said that the torture was planned and Sanjida Chowdhury was its mastermind.

The other probe body said the hall provost and others did not take any steps to prevent such incidents. The university proctor was also indifferent, it added.

The university and the hall authorities separately formed two probe bodies to look into the incident.

After Gazi Md Mohsin filed the writ petition on February 16, the court directed the DC of Kushitia to constitute a three member-committee to probe the incident and to submit the probe report to it.

On Monday, the five Chhatra League activists lost their dormitory seats.

[Our correspondent in Kushitia contributed to the report.]

Life lost amid irregularities

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Captain Fariduzzaman, a veteran pilot, who has not had a valid pilot’s licence in years, since he is well over the age limit of 65, was evaluating Irfan from the jump seat in the cockpit.

Irfan failed his test that day. He was deemed “not eligible to fly in command for Boeing 777-300ER with multiple issues”.

The issues included setting the wrong power settings and the wrong speed during turbulence, missing three cautions of the plane’s annunciator panel, and missing clearance from the air traffic controller, according to his evaluation sheet.

So, when Captain Tufail went into the rest area, he left the plane in the hands of people who are not authorised to fly the plane. The cockpit was technically unmanned.

Biman was obligated to put a qualified first officer in the cockpit but it did not do so.

The Daily Star spoke to several crew members and civil aviation authority insiders with knowledge of the matter and they all confirmed the details while choosing to remain anonymous.

After Kabir suffered a heart attack, the chief purser went to the cockpit to notify the captain of the emergency

and get an idea about when they would be making an emergency landing and where.

The chief purser realised that the captain was napping elsewhere.

A doctor on board, ABM Haroon, managing director of Samorita Hospital, told this paper the progression of events.

“The patient fell sick over an hour into the flight. The flight was about six hours and I was woken up by an announcement looking for a doctor on board. Half an hour before landing in Dhaka, the pilot came to me to tell me that we are flying over India, and asked if we should land there, which would take 20 minutes, or proceed to Dhaka which would take 30,” he said.

He said the captain asked him if they should make an emergency landing over four hours after Kabir had the heart attack.

The doctor added that the patient was in critical condition and the cabin crew attempted to use whatever they had at their disposal to save him.

According to aviation rules, in such cases, a “medical emergency” is to be raised by the pilot, which notifies every nearby airport of a possible arrival with the need for emergency medical support.

However, Tufail did not divert or raise the alarm, confirmed civil aviation insiders looking into the

event. The mandatory air safety report was also not filed after the flight.

Investigators also found that upon landing in Dhaka, it took a further 40 minutes to get Kabir out of the plane due to a lack of preparedness, since “medical emergency” was not declared.

He was still alive then. Kabir’s death certificate, issued by Kuwait Bangladesh Friendship Government Hospital, shows that he was brought in dead.

ATM Nazrul Islam, an aviation expert, told this newspaper that the pilots violated the rules.

“The pilot in command may leave his/her seat for a brief period of time in case of necessity but s/he cannot go to sleep in the crew rest bunk,” he said, calling for an investigation.

Asked about all the irregularities and flouting of rules regarding the flight, CAAB chairman Air Vice Marshall Mafidur Rahman said, “We have asked Biman to investigate.” He said CAAB would decide on the next course of action after receiving the Biman probe report.

Even though this paper called Captain Tufail repeatedly, he did not pick up the phone.

Irfan could be reached but he refused to comment on what had happened during the flight.

No country

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At the G20 Foreign Minister’s Meeting, Bangladesh will advocate for a comprehensive diplomatic initiative to end the Russia-Ukraine war that is rattling the economies across the world, especially the developing countries, a source said.

He will call on Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and foreign ministers of France and Sweden on the sideline of the formal meeting today. A meeting with Lavrov is also expected.

Constitutional rights

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Barrister Shahzeb Mahmood, a digital rights specialist, said the law focuses more on the control of freedom of expression instead of protecting it.

Miraj Ahmed Chowdhury, founder of Digitally Right, said that this law would lead to the decimation of the startup ecosystem because of its requirements for data localisation.

“This will make our export of digital services go down. This is deprivation.”

He also pointed out that the

draft law requires the government to establish many data centres, which will increase the demand for electricity manifold.

Speakers also feared that the localisation of the citizens’ data at the data centres established within the country will run the risk of the government gaining access to the data without any safeguards in place.

The implementation of the law will be one-sided and the citizens will be disempowered, the speakers concluded.

Scientists uncover earliest insects

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rock with a hammer.

“The insect-bearing rocks of Chekarda were deposited at the bottom of an ancient lagoon about 280 million years ago, in the early Permian period (the last period of the

Paleozoic era).

“This was a time when ambers with insect inclusions did not exist.

“It was really unexpected to discover that pollen could be preserved on body surfaces of

Paleozoic insects flattened in the rock.”

The researchers said that judging by the pollen composition, the tillyardembiids only ever visited a narrow range of host plants.