

## She went to Pakistan, SANG RABINDRA SANGEET on their national television

**A Bangladeshi girl went viral on the internet for singing Rabindra Sangeet on Pakistan's national channel, ARY. Musician Sheikh Dina, the NSU graduate who now resides in the US, told us the story that is still circulating on social media.**

SHARMIN JOYA

"I met this group of Pakistani musicians in the UK, who have a band named Sounds of Kolachi. We met while we performed in the UK, for Birmingham Contemporary Music Group," said the artiste. "As we were discussing about Pakistani artistes performing at Bangladeshi folk festival, they said that they wish to invite some Bangladeshi artistes to perform at their festival as well."

Deep inside, the young singer did not want to miss this opportunity. "I felt it would be a great chance to present my mother tongue in Pakistan."

Dina, is currently pursuing her Masters in Business Administration (MBA) - Business Analytics at Midwestern State University, in Texas.

After she received the official invitation, she was still in dilemma as people around her were making negative remarks about her visit to Pakistan. "I was discouraged, and some even told me that I will struggle to get a Visa for many countries, especially the US. These were all stereotypes, as I am sitting in the US and talking to you right now."

Rabindranath Tagore was considered a taboo and controversial figure in Pakistan, since the partition of India and the formation of Pakistan in 1947. Twenty years later, all works of Tagore were officially banned in all government media (radio, TV, government newspapers, etc.) by the orders of Ayub Khan's powerful information and broadcasting minister, Khwaja Shahabuddin, and East Pakistan governor Monem Khan, in 1967.

Dina had previously performed on several international platforms representing our local folk music to the world. She has been collaborating with the British Council and Art Council England, on their digital platforms,

which was arranged by Transforming Narratives.

"This initiative has been taken by the British Council and with their sponsored amount, I have produced a short film, 'Dhaka Say Karachi', that connects Pakistan and Bangladesh." Besides this, Dina is also the Global Ambassador at the Office of Global Education at MSU Texas.

On March 8, 2020, Dina performed at Pakistan's NAPA (National Academy of Performing Arts) International Folk Festival, alongside some other international artistes. They performed in some other countries including Germany and Nepal, among 15 other countries.

"When I entered the stage, I saw that the centre was adorned with red flowers representing Bangladesh," Dina recalled. "I performed the song 'Amar Haat Bandhibi', and it was a collaboration with a musical theatre group. The performers who danced with me literally had their limbs tied, and I was in tears during my performance."

Dina's performance was a representation



of the brutal rapes and war crimes that took place during our Liberation War. She explained that the lyrics of the song were translated and the audience were in pin drop



PHOTOS: COURTESY

silence, as they could clearly understand what the performance signified.

Born and brought up in Chattogram, Dina comes from a conservative family, who did not allow her to explore the world of art initially, which was her only passion. "I managed to come to Dhaka all alone and from there my journey towards my dream began," shared Dina.

She is also the vocalist of the band Ektara, along with other members Amit Rajbongshi, SN Tonwi, Zaim Mustakim, and Azmain Mahtab. "We formed the band while studying at North South University," she adds.

Dina stayed in Pakistan for a week, and apart from participating in the festival, she met many people who left behind

their families in Bangladesh. "Being a Bangladeshi citizen visiting them as a guest was delightful, and learning about their stories was heartbreaking as well," shared an emotional Dina. "I didn't want to miss the opportunity to perform in my mother language in the land of Pakistan," asserts the singer.

Dina had experienced the unheard stories that were left behind, and buried many years ago. Amongst many memories, Dina shared some which will always remain in her heart. "I went on a radio show, where I met an elderly person who has been working in a low-level position. Upon hearing that a Bangladeshi girl has come to their radio for a show, the man couldn't resist meeting me,"

said the singer. "Without uttering a word, he hugged me and cried like a child, and shared that he used to work in West Pakistan during the war, and his family lived in the then East Pakistan."

"Dhaka Say Karachi— A Tale of Two Lost Souls" was released on February 22, 2021, as a collaboration between Bangladesh, Pakistan and the UK. The film highlights Dina's travels to Pakistan. Dina's journey and her experience of visiting the country that still shares a bittersweet relationship, has brought her inner South Asian identity to the forefront. It was not easy for Dina either.

As many people are captioning the video of Dina's performance on social media, Dina shared that she is upset about it. "It is absolutely upsetting that people are making fun of such a critical moment a country is going through," spoke Dina, about Pakistan's current financial crisis.

Many even captioned that sinking Pakistan is desperate to build a relationship with Bangladesh. "I am totally against this, and I would request everyone not to spread hatred connecting with such a special moment that we brought after many decades."

"Since I have travelled there and I have been maintaining a bond with a group of Pakistani musicians who are my friends, I know what perspective they have towards us. They are extremely sorry about the brutality that happened in 1971, and it was interesting to know that they actually had a completely different idea about the history we share. Even the new generation of Pakistan grew up knowing that 1971 was a conflict with India. Many, with their own effort, identified the true history, and they felt guilty for their lack of knowledge. Thus, we should at least show our empathy during their crisis," she concluded.

## NEWS

### Russia took

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war "remains extremely low".

"ISW continues to assess that Putin is a risk-averse actor who repeatedly threatens to use nuclear weapons without any intention of following through in order to break Western resolve," it wrote.

However, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons called Putin's announcement an extremely dangerous escalation.

"In the context of the war in Ukraine, the likelihood of miscalculation or misinterpretation is extremely high. Sharing nuclear weapons makes the situation much worse and risks catastrophic humanitarian consequences," it said on Twitter.

### 7 BNP men

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in an altercation around 10:00am.

At one stage, police attacked BNP men, resulting in chases and counter-chases, alleged Johirul.

Police fired blanks during the incident. Abu Chan, Rukku, and Chhatra Dal activist Shishir were admitted to Durgapur Upazila Health Complex with injuries, Johurul said.

Contacted, Shibirul Islam, officer-in-charge of Durgapur Police Station, meanwhile, claimed the BNP men attacked police first and later they retaliated.

He also admitted to firing four rounds of blanks to bring the situation under control.

Sub-Inspectors Sanwar Hossain and Shuvashish Ganguly filed two separate cases against the BNP men over the attack on police and obstructing them in conducting their duties.

However, police did not disclose the number of accused in the cases. The detainees were being interrogated at the police station as of filing this report.

### Records tumble

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by Marco Jansen, South Africa's best bowler with 3-52. He hit 11 sixes -- half of the West Indies total for the innings -- which equalled the record 22 in an innings set by Afghanistan's against Ireland three years ago.

Charles was ably supported by Kyle Mayers (5) in a 135-run second-wicket partnership followed by an unbeaten 41 from Romario Shepherd.

South Africa began at blistering pace in reply and by scoring 150 without loss off the first 10 overs set another T20 record.

### No ransom

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server was infected with ransomware.

On Friday, hackers said the national carrier has approximately four days to comply with the ransom demand or else they would make public about 100GB of data, which include passport details of passengers, employees, and reports on other carriers, according to Biman sources.

The data also included flight, cargo, and crew information of all flights, the hackers claimed.

Asked about the reported demand about ransom yesterday, Mahbub Ali said the information that hackers have demanded ransom was not correct.

"We do not have any such information. Biman has issued a press release in this regard," he also said.

"The hackers could not enter through the firewall. Because of this, they could not cause much damage. They could not steal any information. Everything that needs to be done in case of a cyberattack has been done

### Six injured

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establishing supremacy on the campus, they added.

Yesterday, an altercation broke out between the groups over laying wreaths at the Shaheed Minar around 11:30am, leading to the clash, said witnesses.

The groups attacked each other with sticks and iron rods, they said.

A chase and counter-chase also took place between them, added the witnesses.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Contacted, Irfan said when they were leaving the Shaheed Minar premises after placing a wreath, his rivals, led by Tarek, attacked them, adding that he and three of his men were wounded in the incident.

"Of them, the condition of Shuvo and Hridoy is critical. They were taken to Chattogram Medical College Hospital," Irfan added.

However, denying the allegation, Tarek said Irfan's supporters attacked them with the help of outsiders, leaving three of his men injured.

Tarek further said he also got

by Biman. A general diary has been lodged and all measures have been taken."

Asked why Biman could not recover its email server from the hackers even after 9 days, the Biman MD said, "There was no disruption in the operations of Biman. Our activities are going on as usual. There was no problem. We hope to be able to give a complete picture of the incident tomorrow."

"A team of experts is working. We will be able to know about the hacking when the work will be done. However, there was no major damage to the airline."

He also said, "No such warning was given in advance regarding the possibility that the airline might be a victim of a cyberattack."

Asked if the hackers caused this incident due to negligence in the security system of Biman, he replied, "If we have any deficiencies, we will bring this forward. Biman will also work on how to prevent such incidents in the future."

injured and received treatment at Boalkhali Upazila Health Complex.

Abdur Razzak, officer-in-charge of Boalkhali Police Station, said no one filed any complaint over the incident. "We will take legal action if we receive any formal complaints."

Prof Partha Pratim Dutta, principal of Sir Ashutosh Government College, could not be communicated over the phone for comments.

### 2,000 mummified

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of ancient trees, leather clothes and shoes.

Abydos, which lies some 435 kilometres (270 miles) on the Nile river south of Cairo, is famed for its temples such as that of Seti I, as well as its necropolises.

Cairo regularly announces new archaeological discoveries, which some suggest are made more for political and economic impact than their scientific or historic importance.

Egypt, home to some 105 million people, is mired in an economic crisis and relies on tourism for 10 percent of GDP, employing two million people.

### Bangladesh can feel proud

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Bangladesh has demonstrated its humanitarian commitment to sheltering vulnerable refugees.

Also, by developing adaptation strategies to the climate crisis, the country has shown leadership in protecting the environment and strengthening climate resilience, reads the statement.

Noting that the US has made real strides battling Covid, tackling climate change, and promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific region, the US secretary said Americans and Bangladeshis are stronger together because of cooperation on the defining issues of this era.

"I look forward to deepening our partnership in the year ahead."

The US is committed to working with Bangladesh in support of free and fair elections, open to all, said Blinken, commenting on the national polls due late this year or early next year.

In a message, Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the

multifaceted partnership between the two countries is founded on shared sacrifices.

"Bangladesh will always be a strong pillar of India's Neighbourhood First Policy," he said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping too lauded the remarkable progress of Bangladesh.

China and Bangladesh are enjoying solid and profound political trust, and practical cooperation has been advancing steadily, he said, referring to the development projects under the "Belt and Road Initiative".

He said China attaches great importance to the development of China-Bangladesh relations and stands ready to work to push the strategic partnership of cooperation to a new height.

In a congratulatory letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the relations between the two countries are based on good traditions of friendship and mutual respect.

Putin said he is confident that

further development of constructive bilateral cooperation fully meets the core interests of the people of Russia and Bangladesh, and goes in line with the promotion of regional security and stability.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said his country accords importance to its relationship with Bangladesh and looks forward to further strengthening the bilateral ties to the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries.

He wished good health to Hasina and continued progress and prosperity of the brotherly Bangladeshi people.

UN Resident Coordinator Gwyn Lewis said since independence, Bangladesh evolved from a war-torn country to one of the leading economic powers in South Asia.

"The hospitality of Bangladesh's diverse people is just one of the many facets of a country that my colleagues and I have been fortunate to experience every day," she said.

### Govt agencies

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WHAT WILL BE THE SYSTEM?

According to section II of the Road Transport Act 2018, all sorts of drivers' licences, except the ones for learners, will be assigned 12 points.

The authorities issued a gazette on December 27 last year putting the rules of the act in effect. The rules mentioned 13 offences.

A driver may lose two points for overloading and intentionally obstructing movement of other vehicles and one point each for 11 other offences including illegal parking, speeding, and violation of traffic signals, the rules said.

A mobile court or a BRTA official not below the rank of motor vehicle inspector or police officer not below the rank of sergeant can deduct the points. The officer must have a photo or video footage of the offence and inform the driver and the authority immediately after deducting a point.

A driver can request a review of the decision within a month by paying a fee and the authorities will make a decision within a month.

If a driver does not violate any rules for six months, the authority can give them back two points following an appeal. The drivers will get two more

points if they do not violate any rules for another six months in a row.

But drivers will not be allowed to appeal for points for two years after losing eight points.

The BRTA has already held meetings about the matter and directed its software vendor to prepare a system so that it can be implemented, said a top official.

But it will be very difficult to implement the system because of the large number of drivers and vehicles without valid documents, said the official, requesting anonymity.

Moreover, the transport associations may become an impediment as they often obstruct government initiatives that go against their vested interests, he added.

Sources at the road transport and bridges ministry said the authority may consider these matters and pilot the system before starting full implementation.

Similar systems of demerit points are used in different countries, officials said.

Contacted, Monibur Rahman, additional commissioner (Traffic) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the police are reviewing the system.

"We are hopeful about starting the

system, but it may take some time," he said.

Shahed Al Masud, a deputy commissioner of Tejgaon Traffic division, told The Daily Star that implementation of a new system always poses some challenges.

### Congress holds

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Countering the BJP's efforts to bill Gandhi's remark which led to his defamation conviction and parliament disqualification as an insult to the Other Backward Class (OBC) community, Kharge said, "Is Nirav Modi OBC? Is Mehul Choksi OBC? Is Lalit Modi OBC? They are fugitives."

"Rahul Gandhi only raised the issue of these fugitives fleeing with black money. The Congress will hold hundreds of such protests across the country. We will fight to preserve Freedom of Speech. I thank all opposition parties for standing with Rahul Gandhi," he said.

Top party leaders P Chidambaram, Jairam Ramesh, Salman Khurshid, Pramod Tiwari, Ajay Maken, Mukul Wasnik and Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary, were also seen at the protest. Delhi Police maintained a tight vigil in the area and banned large gatherings around Raj Ghat.