

Indebted to my family for everything I have: Oyshee

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

In her relatively young career, Oyshee has recorded multiple hit albums, won the National Film Award for her playback singing, and spawned multiple blockbusters including *Dushu Polapain* and *Garir Mechanic*. Recently, she started a new chapter in her life. We talk to the talented singer for more.

Congratulations on your engagement! How did you meet your fiancé?

I met my fiancé, Arefin Sakib Zilani, at a get-together two years ago. After we got to know each other, our families decided that it is now the perfect time to get engaged. He works at a pharmaceutical company. I am very happy, and waiting for both the families to get to know each other better. Please pray for us.

Your parents have been incredibly supportive of your career.

Absolutely, I would be nowhere without them. My late father, Abdul Mannan Milan, gracefully managed everything for me. He coached me about how to carry myself, how to talk to the media, every gesture and every movement.

He was a teacher for me and my siblings. Now that he is no more, I barely know what to say – his absence is disorienting for me. My mother has now taken over that responsibility.

For a girl like me, it would be impossible to stay in the industry and do playback singing without my family's support.

You are now managed by TM Galaxy, I believe. Many believe that you are working exclusively with Gaan Bangla and TM Music. Is that true?
That could not be further from the truth.

I am working with everyone, its just that they now have to contact me through my management company, TM Galaxy. I feel like every artiste should have a professional manager, and I am glad that they are looking over my shows, recordings and contracts. Outside of that, anyone can approach my management company for work.

'Dushu Polapain' elevated your career in a sense. Do you fear getting stuck in this genre?

Dushu Polapain was released in December 2021, and I haven't even recovered from that song yet – people all over the country have given it tremendous love. I definitely will do other genres, as I have in the past, and my Gaan Bangla family, especially Taposh bhai, has a strategy set for that. I believe in them wholeheartedly.

It is important for musicians to not stay in their bubbles and think about what 80 percent of the population wants.

Do you have anything to say to your fans?

I have been incredibly lucky to have not just supportive fans, but also well-wishers in media and journalism who have supported me so selflessly. They have genuinely made my life

easier. There is frankly no reason we cannot take Bangla music to an international level before – if Korea can do it with K-pop, so can we! Just believe.



PHOTO: COURTESY



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

Badhan, Tushi, Sabila performing in 'Ityadi' Eid special

Popular stars Azmeri Haque Badhan, Nazifa Tushi and Sabila Nur will be performing in the Eid special episode of *Ityadi*. They will be a part of short plays that will raise social awareness amongst the audience.

Apart from them, three members of the audience (selected by lottery) will also accompany them on stage.

"Our society is polluted with various social problems. To eliminate these types of social issues, we designed the episode so that it can raise awareness," said the authorities.

Apart from this, this year's show will feature thematic dance recitals, choreographed by the famed dance maestros Shamim Ara Nipa and Shibli Mohammad. Moreover, the current Bangladesh Women's National Football Team, along with the Bangladesh Women's National Cricket Team will be part of a special episode called *Desh Gaan*.

Apu Biswas' film will release in 35 Shilpakala Academies

The Apu Biswas starrer, *Prem Pritir Bandhan*, directed by Solaiman Ali Lebu, will be releasing this Eid in theatres. In this film, Joy Chowdhury stars opposite Dhallywood actress Apu Biswas.

"The film received censor board clearance last week. Now, we are all ready to release the film in theatres. We have booked 20 halls already. Apart from this, the film will also be screened at 35 branches of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy all over the country. If the audience wants to taste a different film without Shakib Khan, they can watch this movie. We have left no stone unturned for this film," said Joy to The Daily Star.



NEWS

Mob beats UPDF

FROM PAGE 14

treatment around 10:30pm, the OC added.

Speaking on the matter, UPDF spokesperson Aongya Marma said, "Hlachingmong Marma went to the Schoolpara area for organisational activities around 3:30pm on Sunday.

"Around 10-12 Bangalee settlers led by some unknown people beat him up mercilessly leaving him seriously injured. Later, he died at Khagrachhari hospital."

A procession was brought out in protest of the incident, he said adding that, UPDF would file a case in this regard on Tuesday.

Finland to join Nato

FROM PAGE 14

Turkey continues to hold up Sweden's application. It says that Stockholm harbours members of what Ankara considers terrorist groups – a charge Sweden denies – and has demanded their extradition as a step toward ratifying Swedish membership.

Hungary is also holding up Sweden's admission, citing grievances over criticism of Prime Minister Viktor Orban's policies. But Nato diplomats say they expect Budapest will approve Sweden's bid if it sees Turkey moving to do so.

Stoltenberg pledged to work hard to get Sweden into Nato as soon as possible. He also stressed that Nato and Swedish officials were already working to bring Sweden closer to the alliance even as they wait for membership to be finalised.

In Moscow, Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko said Russia will boost its forces in its west and northwest.

No need for UN help

FROM PAGE 2

"They are not used for political purposes. They are used for security purposes," the minister said.

He added that the force was formed as per suggestions of the US government and the European Union following the rise of extremists like "Bangla Bhai" back in 2003.

In this regard, the minister mentioned the blasts of bombs in 63 districts in 2003.

"They [Rab] might have done excesses at the beginning. But now they have become very mature," he said.

PM lauds country's

FROM PAGE 14

PM's Deputy Press Secretary KM Shakhawat Moon briefed reporters after the meeting.

Hasina said her government has reached healthcare services to every doorstep following the footsteps of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

She said her government has given the highest priority to extending healthcare services to the people.

The physicians who have recently performed the first successful transplantation of organs from brain-dead patient Sara Islam were present at the meeting along with Sara's mother. Also present were Shamima Akhter and Shabnam Sultana, who successfully received the kidneys donated by Sara.

Unease in BNP

FROM PAGE 1

The opposition party's candidates won all five mayoral polls in those cities in 2013.

Party sources said there are many qualified and popular central and local BNP leaders, including former ministers, lawmakers and mayors, who are eying mayoral posts in those five city corporations.

They may contest the polls for at least two reasons – being cornered in the party, and not having a good portfolio in the BNP.

"So, some party leaders can take part in the polls out of grievances," said a senior BNP leader, wishing not to be named.

He also said the AL may entice local BNP leaders to take part in the elections and Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan is an example of that.

Sattar, who resigned from parliament and the BNP, was re-elected MP from Brahmanbaria-2 as an independent candidate in the by-election to the parliamentary constituency in February. Many AL leaders campaigned for Sattar as the party didn't field any candidate in that by-polls.

"So, the government will try to replicate the Brahmanbaria model in the five city corporations. And it is a challenge for the BNP to protect its leaders from falling into the trap

of such a plot," said the senior BNP leader.

A section of party leaders, however, believe that the electoral field should not be left empty, and the BNP should contest the coming city polls to prove that free and fair election is not possible under the incumbent government.

They said that many local BNP leaders worked for the rebel AL candidates in various local elections, and some of them even worked for the ruling party candidates to avoid police harassment.

So, the five city polls could be an opportunity for the party to bring its leaders out from those traps, they added.

Hasan Uddin Sarkar, BNP's mayoral candidate in Gazipur city polls in 2018, said, "The party has decided not to participate in the polls. So, I will not take part in the election. But the party men may run for councillor posts."

Nazrul Islam Manju, who contested Khulna city mayoral polls in 2018, said, "I think the party should review its decision of not participating in the local government elections."

Asked whether he would run for mayor, he said, "I am under pressure from my party colleagues to contest the polls, but I am yet to make a decision in this regard."

Scrap DSA

FROM PAGE 14

January to March this year.

The network claimed that violations of human rights and extrajudicial killings by law enforcement agencies are still ongoing.

They also demanded a trial of law enforcement agency members, if they are found responsible for the death of Sultana Jasmine, 38, an office assistant of Naogaon's Chandipur union land office, who died in the custody of Rab on March 24, two days after she was detained by the battalion.

Meanwhile, in a separate statement yesterday, the cultural organisation Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigoshthi also expressed deep concern over the case against Matiur Rahman and demanded repealing of the DSA.

Udichi thinks the DSA is a major tool for curbing freedom of speech and democracy.

"Attempts are going on to gag the voices that go in favour of people," said the statement.

"Journalists, teachers, artists, intellectuals, students, and common people are being harassed by misusing the act," it added.

Udichi demanded repealing the act and releasing all who are kept arrested under this act.

Similarly in Bandarban, a group of journalists also demanded the withdrawal of the case against Prothom Alo editor and the scrapping of the DSA.

They came up with the demand at a human chain in front of the Bandarban press club yesterday.

Covering their face with black cloth, they joined the hour-long programme protesting the DSA, which they termed as a tool for harassing journalists.

Meanwhile in Pabna, a group of journalists and civil society members yesterday formed a human chain in front of the district press club, demanding an end to harassing journalists under DSA.

They also demanded repealing of the act and the withdrawal of the case filed against Matiur Rahman, Samsuzzaman Shams and other journalists.

Single entry exam

FROM PAGE 14

in the interest of students and parents.

"There will be a discussion with university deans and the examination committees regarding the new system. It will be ensured that the single test will be inclusive and will not hurt the uniqueness and autonomy of a university," she added.

Currently, 22 general, science, and other public universities hold a central admission test under a cluster. Besides, seven agriculture and three engineering and technology universities hold tests in two different clusters.

Nine universities – including Dhaka University, Buet, Jahangirnagar University and Chittagong University – are still out of the cluster system.

Asked whether Dhaka University, Buet, Jahangirnagar University and Chittagong University will be part of the new system, Alamgir said, "We are hopeful that they will join it."

Dhaka University Pro VC Prof ASM

Maksud Kamal told this newspaper that at the meeting, he said they would be able to take a final decision on joining the single test only after discussions at the DU academic council and other decision-making bodies.

"If the classes of all higher education institutions start at the same time, it will be good for students," he also said.

At the meeting, UGC member Prof Dil Afroza Begum gave a presentation on the single test method.

According to it, applicants will have the opportunity to migrate to their subject or university of choice only once. But for this, they have to complete the process within five days after the admission process is completed.

Teachers and other individuals involved in the entry test will receive an honorarium through the sale of application forms.

It will be possible to start classes within a month after the admission completes, said the members in her presentation.

Scientists film

FROM PAGE 14

as part of a 10-year study into the deepest fish populations in the world. Snailfish are members of Liparidae family, and while most snailfish live in shallow water, others survive at some of the greatest depths ever recorded, Jamieson said.

During the two-month survey last year, three "landers" – automatic sea robots fitted with high-resolution cameras – were dropped into three trenches – the Japan, Izu Ogasawara and Ryukyu trenches – at varying depths.

In the Izu-Ogasawara trench, footage showed the deepest snailfish hovering calmly alongside other crustaceans on the seabed.

Jamieson classified the fish as a juvenile and said younger deep sea snailfish often stay as deep as possible to avoid being eaten by bigger predators that swim at shallower depths.

Another clip shot at between 7,500 and 8,200 metres in the same trench showed a colony of fish and crustaceans munching at bait tied to an undersea robot.

5 cities

FROM PAGE 1

Alamgir and Md Anisur Rahman were present at the meeting.

As per the decisions, the EC staffers will keep the commission updated about the elections through tablet PCs.

The commission's staffers will perform the duties of returning officers in all city elections.

GAZIPUR

According to the schedule, the last date for the submission of nomination papers for the Gazipur city corporation election is April 27. The papers will be scrutinised on April 30.

The last date for withdrawal of candidacy is May 8.

KHULNA AND BARISHAL

The last date for submission of nomination papers for Khulna and Barishal city corporation polls is May 16, and the scrutiny of the papers will take place on May 18. The last date for withdrawal of nomination is May 25.

RAJSHAHI AND SYLHET

The deadline for nomination paper submission is May 23, and they will be scrutinised on May 25. Candidates can withdraw the nominations by June 1.