



Entertainment’s Rising Stars

Nadeem plays with Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, wants to help Bangladeshi musicians

Nadeem A Salam is a British-Bangladeshi musician and entrepreneur who has been actively working in the industry for over 10 years. He has worked with famous bands such as Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Megadeth, The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, Simple Plan, Secondhand Serenade, among others. He is also the founder of Skesh Entertainment, a music management and production company that aims to revolutionise the music industry in Asia.

AAQIB HASIB

How did your journey in music start out?

Growing up, I wanted to make a living out of music. Being from Bangladesh our parents will obviously gauge our success based on how well we are doing financially in our careers. So, I had the same struggles of trying to convince my parents about my ambitions.

I saw more opportunities in managing and working behind the scenes, rather than in the spotlight. While there was potential to make money while being in the spotlight, I knew that it was extremely risky.

That is why 10 years ago, we started signing a lot of international acts, hoping to bridge the gap in Asia. We wanted to help Asian bands, not just with opportunities, but by helping them get to the next level.

How did the gig with Red Jumpsuit Apparatus come about?

When I was 17, one of the first bands I started working with was Red Jumpsuit Apparatus. I was lucky to come across a band like them at an early age, where the lead singer, Ronnie, took the time to teach me and train me over the past 10 years to survive in this music industry.



Nadeem with Red Jumpsuit Apparatus

PHOTOS: COURTESY

Over the past three or four months, we have found ourselves all together on stage and I have been able to play piano with the band. It has been a beautiful, full-circle experience, as in the last 10 years, I have done everything I could do for the band off-stage.

Now I get to perform right there on stage with them. It is a big deal for me because I always hoped to see Bengalis on stage, being the starst I was working with. It was something I thought I would never be able to see.

Whenever we perform now, Ronnie

introduces me as Nadeem from Bangladesh on stage and it is incredible.

How is the experience of being on stage with such a globally recognised band?

A while ago, we were in Indonesia, at a festival. There, we played with Secondhand Serenade, Simple Plan and Hoobastank. I couldn't wait to see the other bands after I was done with my set.

Halfway through our set, I look to my right and see the members of Hoobastank and Secondhand Serenade rocking out to our performance. I remember thinking to myself that 10-year-old Nadeem would be losing his mind if he saw this.

Through Skesh, you were an integral part of why Dads in the Park were at Hammersonic. Do you have plans to do that with other bands in Bangladesh? In the last 10 years, we have taken over 50 musicians from Malaysia to international stages.

We have set the target to take 50 Bengali musicians to an international stage in the next two years.

I want to take any act that has either the funding, capability or mindset to go international. With Dads in the Park, I think they learned significant lessons that will change the course of their career, by performing at Hammersonic.

BSA honours legendary artistes with three-day tribute event

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) is paying homage to legendary Bangladeshi artistes Tareque Masud, Sarah Begum Kabori, Alamgir Kabir, Munir Chowdhury and Amalendu Biswas through a remarkable three-day event titled, **Smriti Satta Bhabishyat** which started on Sunday (June 11) and will end today (June 13).

The event serves as a platform to celebrate the indelible contributions of these artistes to the realms of film, music, and theatre.



Bangladeshi stars will rock LA in ‘West Coast Bangla Music Fest’

There will be an exciting concert titled **West Coast Bangla Music Fest** in Los Angeles, United States, on July 9. This star-studded concert promises to showcase some of the biggest music sensations from Bangladesh, including Habib, Tahsan, Fuad, Pantha Kanai, Tashlee, Muza, Nayeem, Hasib, Tomal, Nick, Sanjoy, and Adhnan.

West Coast Music Fest is organised by BlackBox Studio LA and Ok Bro Records on July 8 in Bay Area and July 9 in Los Angeles.

Fans and music enthusiasts are urged to secure their tickets early to ensure they don't miss out on this epic show.



NEWS

Ex-Italian PM Berlusconi dies at 86

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Milan tomorrow.

Backed by huge wealth and a media, real estate and football empire, Berlusconi launched into politics in 1994, upending traditional parties and becoming premier. Another businessman, Donald Trump, would mirror that approach in the United States two decades later.

Berlusconi's Forza Italia party is now a junior partner in Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's right-wing coalition, and although he himself did not have a role in government, his death may bring fresh realignments in Italian politics.

His business empire also faces an uncertain future. He never publicly indicated who would take full charge of his MFE MFEB.MI company

following his death, even though his eldest daughter Marina is expected to play a prominent role.

Berlusconi's passing was mourned by political allies and rivals at home and leaders abroad, including Putin who said he was "a true friend. I have always sincerely admired his wisdom, his ability to make balanced, far-sighted decisions even in the most difficult situations."

That relationship was one of many from Berlusconi's colourful public and private life that caused a headache for allies and fodder for his foes.

Berlusconi refused to blame Putin for the 2022 invasion of Ukraine, saying Moscow only wanted to put "decent people" in charge. When Meloni was visiting Kyiv this year,

she insisted Rome backs Ukraine regardless of remarks by any individuals.

Yesterday, she said: "We fought, won, lost many battles with him, and also for him we will bring home the goals that we had jointly set ourselves. Farewell Silvio."

Enrico Letta, a former center-left premier, wrote on Twitter: "Berlusconi made the history of our country. His death marks one of those moments in which everyone, whether or not they backed his choices, feel affected."

Another former premier Mario Draghi, a non-partisan figure and one-time head of the European Central Bank, said Berlusconi "transformed politics and was loved by millions of Italians for his humanity and charisma."

Iran says indirect talks with US continue via Oman

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday said it has continued indirect negotiations with the United States through the Sultanate of Oman over its nuclear deal and a possible prisoner swap.

Iran's nuclear programme has long been the subject of scrutiny from Western powers, resulting in sanctions that have crippled the country's economy.

A 2015 deal granted Tehran much-needed sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear programme before it was torpedoed by the United States' unilateral pullout in 2018.

In recent days, the two capitals have denied media reports that they were close to reaching an interim deal to replace the 2015 accord.

"We welcome the efforts of Omani officials and we exchanged messages with the other party through this mediator" over the lifting of US sanctions, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said yesterday.

"We have never stopped the diplomatic processes," he added during his weekly press conference, emphasising that the talks "were not secret".

Diplomatic ties between Tehran and Washington soured in 1980 following the 1979 Islamic revolution led by Iran's first supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Efforts to revive the 2015 nuclear deal have so far failed to yield results.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Sunday reiterated the denial of moves towards acquiring a nuclear weapon.

He also said deals could be reached, provided they do not change "the existing infrastructure of the nuclear industry".

Iran and its arch-nemesis the United States have also been involved in Oman-mediated talks over a possible prisoner swap.

Kanani yesterday said a prisoner exchange could be agreed "in

the near future", provided that Washington exhibits "the same level of seriousness" as Tehran.

At least three Iranian-Americans are being held in Iran, including businessman Siamak Namazi, arrested in October 2015 and sentenced to 10 years in prison for espionage.

In the last few weeks, Iran has released six European citizens and recovered an Iranian diplomat, Assadollah Assadi, who was convicted of terrorism and imprisoned in Belgium.

Kanani also denied that Iran had provided Russia with equipment to "build a drone factory".

White House national security spokesman John Kirby on Friday warned that Russia was receiving materials from Iran to build a drone factory on its territory.

"We deny any accusations regarding the export of arms to Russia for use in the war against Ukraine," Kanani said.

King Charles III takes to saddle to restore royal tradition

AFP, London

King Charles III will become the first reigning British monarch in more than 30 years to take the salute from troops on horseback at the annual Trooping the Colour, Buckingham Palace announced yesterday.

Saturday's parade -- which marks the sovereign's official birthday -- is a minutely choreographed military tradition dating back more than two centuries.

Charles's mother, Queen Elizabeth II, was the last monarch to ride at the event in 1986, when she was 60.

She decided after that to be driven in a carriage as Burmese, the horse she used for 18 years, was retired from duty.

The parade starts at Buckingham Palace in central London and moves down The Mall to Horse Guards Parade, where Charles, 74, will receive a royal salute.

He will then inspect soldiers on parade before returning with other members of the royal family to watch a ceremonial fly-past of aircraft from the palace balcony.

Charles, his only sister Princess Anne and heir Prince William, all rode at last year's Trooping the Colour.

It formed part of four days of celebrations for the late queen's Platinum Jubilee, marking her 70th year on the throne, and was one of her last public appearances before her death in September, aged 96.

Charles's younger son Prince Harry and his American wife Meghan kept a low profile at the event but have reportedly not been invited this year.

The couple moved to the United States in 2020 and have repeatedly criticised royal life since.

William reviewed troops on horseback in another military ceremonial Saturday. Temperatures of up to 28 Celsius (82 Fahrenheit) saw several soldiers faint.

Charles' actual birthday is on November 14.

The double birthday tradition was started by German-born King George II in 1748, who wanted to have a summer celebration as his own birthday was on October 30.



A makeshift buoy is placed during a protest outside the Chinese Consulate in Makati, Philippines yesterday, to coincide with the country's Independence Day celebrations.

PHOTO: AFP