



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

Development to be the focus

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politician who is the president of Barishal district Awami League, the lawmaker from Barishal-1 constituency and a member of AL's central working committee.

Meanwhile, expressing his gratitude to the prime minister for giving him the party's nomination, Khulna mayor-elect Talukdar Abdul Khaleque said, "I am grateful that the dwellers of Khulna city have

voted for me."

He made the remark while talking to journalists last night. He also promised that he'd turn Khulna into a better city.

Khaleque, also a veteran AL leader, is president of AL Khulna city unit. He has become the city's mayor for the third time. He won the mayoral race in Khulna in 2008 for the first time.

There were seven mayoral

candidates in Barishal and five in Khula, according to the offices of Returning Officers.

Voter turnout was about 50 percent in Barishal while it was between 42 and 45 percent in Khulna, said Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Habibur Awal. He was speaking at a press briefing at the EC Office in Dhaka immediately after the voting ended.

Collect dues from real estate within 2 months

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Supreme Court lawyer Syed Sayedul Haque Suman, who filed the petition, told this correspondent that the amount of dues for constructing the building on the DNCC land and for using it stood around Tk 600 crore in the last 17 years.

Borak Real Estate lawyer Ramzan Ali Sikder, however, said the issues regarding the shares of the building in question have already been settled between the DNCC and the real estate company and it was also finalised by the DNCC board. It was later sent to the LGRD ministry for approval, he added.

The building was constructed as per the Rajuk plan, he said, adding that the ACC had conducted an enquiry into this issue, but could not find any irregularities.

On June 11, Barrister Suman submitted the petition as a public interest litigation to the HC, seeking its directive to conduct an enquiry into reported corruption in signing a contract between Borak Real Estate and the DNCC for constructing a 14-storey building.

The lawyer made the move after a report was published in Bangla daily Prothom Alo on June 1 headlined, "Sorkari Jamite Panch Taroka Hotel" (Five-star hotel on government land).

Barrister Suman himself moved the petition, while lawyers Ramzan Ali and Md Abu Taleb appeared for Borak Real Estate, senior lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan and Deputy Attorney General Saifuddin Khaled represented the ACC and the state respectively and lawyer Imtiaz Moinul Islam argued for DNCC.

Country will be destroyed

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League is in power, the country develops and people's quality of living improves. The country is moving forward as Awami League is in power. The respect for and status of Bangladesh abroad has increased a lot," she said.

"The change that has been visible since 2009 till date has been possible because Awami League has been in power consistently. We have come to power by winning people's hearts," she said.

She mentioned that Awami League did not avenge the torture that was done to its leaders and activists from 1975 to 2008.

"We respond to injustice with development," she asserted.

Hasina, the chief of Awami League, said that the government has planned development in every district. As a result, the number of poor people in the village is very negligible.

"All the progress we have made in the last 14 and a half years will be destroyed if the continuity of the government is not maintained."

She asked the party leaders and activists to publicise the development

made by the AL government.

"At the same time, the development should continue and Awami League needs to be brought back to power. People's trust must be earned and attained," she said.

Commenting that the upcoming national elections will be challenging, PM Hasina asked the leaders and activists to make the party stronger and better organised up to the grassroots level.

In this context, he called for paying special attention to the leaders and activists who were beside the party during the bad times. They must not be neglected.

Hasina said that her only strength is the party.

"No great achievement is possible without organisational strength. So the party has to be well organised from the grass root level."

Mentioning that many conspiracies have started regarding Bangladesh, the prime minister said, many vested quarters do not want our country to move forward.

Referring to the international conspiracy in this context, the prime minister said, those who provoked the

BNP will not put the party in power. "They will just use them."

She said that many attempts have been made to destroy the Awami League by killing the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family on August 15, 1975.

"But that attempt was never successful. Bangladesh Awami League today has become a powerful organisation by winning people's hearts."

Commenting on the need to strengthen the party, the PM said, "After losing my parents and my brothers, Awami League is my family."

She said that the people of Bangladesh are her strength.

"They are my only hope. We are working tirelessly to improve the quality of their lives. Awami League is the only party that has contributed the most on the side of the people during the Corona epidemic."

Introducing Awami League nominated candidate for Dhaka-17 by-polls, Mohammad A Arafat, the prime minister said, "I have handed over Arafat to you and everyone will have to work together to ensure the victory of the boat."

UN should enhance screening before appointing them

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service", the HRW said.

It said the UN should require Bangladeshi officers to disclose previous deployments with Rab, then automatically bar anyone affiliated with Rab from UN peacekeeping.

"The UN Department of Peace Operations should ensure adequate resources for human rights screening of all Bangladeshi troops, not just high-level commanders."

The HRW stated that Lacroix has yet to formally respond to previous communications from human rights organisations calling for the

Department of Peace Operations to enhance the human rights screening process for Bangladeshi peacekeepers, and to ban from UN deployment anyone affiliated with Rab.

During his visit, Lacroix should publicly commit to an enhanced human rights screening that addresses well-documented abuses by Bangladesh security forces, the government's failure to hold those responsible to account, and the threat they pose to the integrity of UN peacekeeping worldwide, added the statement.



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