



ENTERTAINMENT'S RISING STARS

FAIROOZ NAZIFA in all her husky glory

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Coke Studio Bangla, despite all its criticisms, keeps marching along with its own brand of unique renditions. This time, *Ghum Ghum*, a mellifluous homage to one of the country's all-time great musicians in Lucky Akhand, paved way for an exciting young singer to take centre-stage – Fairooz Nazifa.

For those not following the intricacies of the Bangladeshi music scene, Fairooz burst on to the scene in 2016 with simple ukulele covers of songs on YouTube, namely Vance Joy's *Riptide*. Since coming to the foray, the girl from Chattogram had to face an uphill battle to stay in Dhaka, do music, complete her degree and receive acceptance from her own family for her music.

"I don't know what to say," said a nervous Fairooz over the phone, "When I recorded the demo for *Ghum Ghum*, I was soaking wet. I had just come through a thunderstorm for the recording." That would explain the prime husk that she could conjure during the actual vocal takes of the smooth jazz-inspired rendition of the classic.

"The warmth that the Coke Studio Bangla family, specifically Shuvendu Das Shuvo exuded towards me while recording

this, actually helped me get through this," continued Fairooz, who plans to direct her own music video for her upcoming release on August 1. She also credited the likes of Fuad Almuqtadir and Zubair Ahmed Chowdhury as her mentors, guiding and inspiring her to do better. With Zubair, she fronts an indie band called Mime on the Radio.

After her version of *Tumi Hina* released on Gaan Bangla's Wind of Change, her life changed as she started becoming more of a public figure. She balanced her job, musical gigs and even dabbled in modelling – earning as much experience as she could from the cutthroat media industry.

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Fairooz Nazifa, who also dabbles in art, feels like it complements her music. She is also adept at Karate, as she has trained in the martial art form from her teens.

In a few weeks' time, the young singer will fly off to Philadelphia to pursue further studies, but she will not let that hamper her music. "It's all online now, so I will hold on to all my art and music," she said. "It is, however, a bit intimidating to think that a tiny little dreamer from Chittagong will make art across continents," smiled the multi-talented artiste.

It is, perhaps fitting, that the singer continues to win hearts globally, with her glorious husky voice. As an artiste in her mid-twenties, time is definitely on her side.

Zeena Aman ready to make silver screen comeback



Veteran actor Zeena Aman is set to make a grand return to the silver screen in Faraz Arif Ansari's upcoming movie, *Bun Tikki*. Having last appeared in *Panipat*, she will join forces with acclaimed actors Shabana Azmi and Abhay Deol for this much-anticipated film. The production is scheduled to kick-off in Himachal Pradesh by November. Director Faraz Arif Ansari aims to explore themes of parenting and gender identity throughout the movie. Abhay Deol will portray the role of a father, and the film will revolve around his relationship with his on-screen son.

Paramount+ confirms first-ever musical 'Star Trek' episode

Recently, Paramount+ thrilled fans with the confirmation of a musical *Star Trek* episode in the works. The surprise trailer for the upcoming episode titled, *Subspace Rhapsody*, was released, marking the first-ever musical-themed installment in the franchise's illustrious 57-year history.

While there have been musical scenes in the past, this episode will feature 10 original songs and a musical rendition of the series' main title, with music and lyrics penned by Kay Hanley (*Letters to Cleo*) and Tom Polce (*Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*). The trailer teases an intriguing storyline, as the USS Enterprise encounters a space anomaly that prompts the crew to unexpectedly break into song, adding a unique twist to the beloved sci-fi series.



NEWS

Fatal exhaustion

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Islam, 50, a battery-run auto-rickshaw driver, and Amjad Hossain, 52, said police and fire service officials.

Jahangir, a driver at Hajiganj Fire Station, and Salauddin died on the spot. Sirajul died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 2:00pm.

"I think Jahangir suffered a cardiac arrest while driving the vehicle," said Obaidul, the station officer.

"When we were crossing Chashara intersection, Jahangir suddenly fell over the steering. Subsequently, our fire engine hit several vehicles and pedestrians," he added.

Talking to The Daily Star, a number of his colleagues said Jahangir fought a fire till dawn at a garment factory in Fatullah's Sastapur area. He returned to the station around 5:00am and took about three hours' rest. He then headed for Fatullah around 8:00am to respond to another fire.

Usually, a firefighter is on duty

for 48 hours straight before he can rest for 24 hours, said Fakhar Uddin Ahmmad, deputy assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defence in Narayanganj.

"Jahangir had heart diseases, for which he even took treatment from abroad," said Fakhar Uddin.

Witnesses said the fire engine ploughed into a bus, a car, a rickshaw, two auto-rickshaws and some pedestrians.

Anichur Rahman Mollah, officer-in-charge of Narayanganj Sadar Police Station, said they are investigating the accident.

"We are trying to determine whether the fire service driver fell sick or if there are any other factors involved," he added.

Meanwhile, the fire service authorities issued directives to its top officials to conduct medical checkups of all its drivers to avoid such accidents in the future, according to a press release sent out to the media yesterday.

AL, BNP look to different

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"From where does the question arise of sending an election observation mission when there is virtually no election?" said Khasru.

The EU mission held talks with major political parties, including the AL, BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, Amar Bangladesh Party, the EC, the National Human Rights Commission, top officials of the administration, civil society members, representatives from the media, religious minority communities, and

election observers.

During their stay in Bangladesh, the BNP and the AL held rallies and organised marches in the capital and outside.

At its meeting with the EU delegation, the BNP made it clear that no acceptable election is possible under the government of the AL, which has been in power since 2009.

The ruling party on the other hand took a firm stance that a free and fair election is possible only under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

US to impose visa

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running in the election by the National Election Committee.

The US, the European Union and other Western countries refused to send observers to the election, saying it lacked the conditions to be considered free and fair. Russia and China were among those that did send observers.

Late Sunday, the US State Department said it had "taken steps" to impose visa restrictions "on individuals who undermined democracy and implemented a pause of foreign assistance programs" after determining the elections were "neither free nor fair."

"Cambodian authorities engaged in a pattern of threats

and harassment against the political opposition, media, and civil society that undermined the spirit of the country's constitution and Cambodia's international obligations," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said.

"These actions denied the Cambodian people a voice and a choice in determining the future of their country."

Michael Greenwald, spokesman for the US Embassy in Phnom Penh, yesterday said the visa restrictions would be placed on people involved in "threatening and harassing the political opposition, media and civil society" but he would not specify who or how many individuals that would entail.

Wildfires kill 34 in Algeria as heatwave sweeps N Africa

AGENCIES

The death toll as wildfires sweep across regions of Algeria has risen to 34 people including 10 soldiers yesterday, the interior ministry said, as a heatwave spreads across north Africa and southern Europe.

Some 8,000 firefighters were battling to bring the flames under control, authorities said.

Some 1,500 people were evacuated from the Bejaia, Bouira and Jijel provinces east of the capital Algiers, according to the ministry.

The three provinces in Algeria's Mediterranean coastal region have seen the worst of the fires.

President Abdelmadjid Tebboune on Monday expressed his condolences to the families of the deceased, noting both civilian and military victims.

The interior ministry said that 7,500 firefighters and 350 firetrucks were mobilised to fight the flames, aided by aerial fire-fighting support.

Operations were underway to extinguish fires in six provinces, it added, calling on citizens to "avoid areas affected by the fires" and to report new blazes on toll-free phone numbers.

"Civil protection services remain mobilised until the fires are completely extinguished," the ministry said.

In the northeastern province of Tizi Ouzou, 15 fires were extinguished late Sunday, according to civil protection forces.

Fires regularly rage through forests and fields in Algeria in summer, and this year have been exacerbated by a heatwave that has seen several Mediterranean countries break temperature records.

In neighbouring Tunisia, temperatures on Monday neared 50 degrees Celsius.

Tunisia's state energy supplies STEG announced planned half-hour to one-hour power cuts in a bid to preserve the network's performance.

Last week, a major blaze raged in a Tunisian pine forest near the border with Algeria.

A border crossing had to close temporarily, according to Tunisian officials who confirmed 470 hectares (1,100 acres) of forest had been burned. In some other North African countries such as Morocco and Libya, temperatures were relatively normal compared to annual averages.

Scientists rank the Mediterranean region as a climate-change "hot spot", with the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warning of more heatwaves, crop failures, droughts, rising seas and influxes of invasive species.

PM places five-point

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the theme of "Sustainable Food Systems for People, Planet and Prosperity: Diverse Pathways in a Shared Journey".

"Financial incentives and policy support at the international level are needed to encourage multilateral development banks and private entrepreneurs to invest in modern agriculture," Hasina said raising her first proposal.

In her second proposal, she said taking concerted actions is absolutely required to remove any trade barrier, including the lifting of restrictions on food and fertiliser exports, to continue the effectiveness of the Black Sea Grain Deal initiated by the UN secretary-general.

Placing the third proposal, she said the international community should come forward to establish global and regional "food banks" to deal with emergency situations and also help developing countries transform the food production systems in the situation given by climate change.

N a n o - t e c h n o l o g y , bioinformatics, and advanced agricultural technologies developed keeping pace with the 4th industrial revolution in agricultural education and research should be made available to all, said the premier in her fourth proposal.

Making her final proposal, she said it needs to develop a massive social

movement involving young people to prevent the waste of about one-third of the food produced worldwide every year.

"If we can collectively adopt and implement the necessary action plans, we'll be able to achieve sustainable global food security," she said.

Hasina also asked the international community to introduce inclusive and sustainable food management for all as two billion people still remain out of food security in the world.

"Financial incentives and policy support at the international level are needed to encourage multilateral development banks and private entrepreneurs to invest in modern agriculture," Hasina said raising her first proposal.

"Food, fertiliser, energy and financial crises induced by the ongoing Ukraine war and sanctions and counter-sanctions have intensified the problem of hunger and malnutrition around the world. However, the cost of agriculture and food products is not the only constraint to the inability to procure nutritious food. It needs the introduction of inclusive and sustainable food management for all," she said.

Co-operatives.

The report recommended taking necessary steps to rectify all the errors subject to receipt of the complete Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT) report of the web application of the concerned institution.

The software architecture of the existing web application needs to be tested by the Software Quality Testing and Certification Centre of the Bangladesh Computer Council.

The committee also called for increasing the overall technical capacity along with increasing the number of technical team members of the concerned institutions.

Probe fails to detect extent of breach

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"We cannot say that data of 5 million people were exposed. The claim that data from 5 million individuals have been exposed cannot be confirmed as true or false at this point, as it has not been determined in the investigation."

The representative of the birth and death registration office said they also did not know how many people's data were breached.

Earlier, government officials including Palak said CIRT had not received any email from Markopoulos alerting them of the citizens' data leak.

But yesterday, Palak acknowledged

that Markopoulos had indeed written to them.

"He sent an email, but it wasn't properly addressed. So, there was a communication gap. We sent a letter of appreciation to Markopoulos for informing us about the leak."

Palak read out the committee's findings at the press conference.

According to the investigation report, the data leak could have taken place for either of two reasons: technical weakness of the web applications or a lack of proper monitoring of the web applications due to limited manpower with proper technical knowledge.

The leaked information has not

been found on the dark web so far and there was no evidence that the data had been hacked, Palak said.

Asked if it will create a culture of impunity as the investigation report did not recommend any punishment, Palak said: "It will not. Emphasis is placed on fulfilling one's own responsibility."

The report will be sent to the prime minister.

Besides, the report's recommendations will be sent to the concerned minister and the ministry's secretary. The Registrar General, Birth & Death Registration is a Bangladesh government regulatory agency under the ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and