

# THE MELODIES OF 2023

## Music that touched Bangladesh



Prince Mahmud



Imran Mahmudul



Konal



Balam



Naved Parvez

In the year 2023, there was a notable preference for Bangla songs amongst the audience, with several catchy Bengali songs gaining popularity. It is noteworthy that listeners actively engaged with and discussed Bengali songs, marking a significant accomplishment this year. The amount of releases by audio production houses went down, as their emphasis shifted towards drama production. Despite this, listeners continued to enjoy and appreciate the existing Bengali songs.

### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The more popular songs that made it to this year's mentionable list were those based on films as well as songs released by Coke Studio Bangla. The fact that audiences are actively listening to these songs is promising news for the Bengali music industry. This article thus sheds light on the singers, lyricists, and composers of the songs that listeners have been tuning into throughout the passing year.

#### Songs from films

Musician Konal emerged as the most talked-about singer in 2023, particularly for her lending her voice to the song *O Priyotoma* from the movie *Priyotoma*. The song, featuring lyrics by Asif Iqbal and composed by Akassh, has garnered significant attention. In this song, Konal's co-singer is Balam.

Additionally, Konal collaborated with Imran as her co-artist for two other songs, namely *Surma Surma* and *Megher Noutka*. The former was composed by Naved Parvez and penned by Zahid Akbar, while Imran himself composed the music



Abanthi Sithi

for the latter.

Up-and-coming singer Riyad has captured the affection of the audience with his voice in the song *Eshwar* from the movie *Priyotoma*. This heartwarming song, penned by Someshwar Oli and composed by Prince Mahmud, has allowed Riyad to carve a special place in the minds of listeners.

The composition of the song *Ochin Majhi* by Indian composer Shantanu Moitra and lyricist Zahid Akbar in the movie *Mujib: The*



Deora

*Making of a Nation* garnered appreciation from the audience. The soulful arrangement of the song has been delivered melodiously by singer Rathijit Bhattacharjee.

The duet song *Gaa Chhuye Bolo* from the movie *Surongo* performed by Tanjib Sarowar and Abanti Sithi, has left a lasting impression on the audience. Tanjib Sarowar is credited with both the lyrics and composition of this noteworthy song.

The song *Jachchho Kothay* from the film *1971 Shei Shob Din*

received appreciation from the audience. With lyrics by Hridi Huq and music composed by Debojyoti Mishra, the song features the vocals of Kamruzzaman Ronnie and Ishrat Annie.

#### Coke Studio Bangla

In the second season, Coke Studio Bangla introduced numerous new songs, with particular attention on the widely loved track *Deora*. Sung by Pritom Hasan and Islam Uddin Palakar, the song amassed



Xefur

significant attention and secured the top spot amongst the audience's preferences.

The song *Kotha Koibo Na* performed by Aleya Begum and Arfan Mredha Shiblu, with extraordinary music by Emon Chowdhury, gained favour with the audience. Additionally, two other well-received songs from Coke Studio Bangla are *Murir Tin* and *Darale Duaarey*.

#### Popular 'indie' songs

Noteworthy songs that made the

headlines this year include *Jhumka* featuring lyrics by Xefur Rahman, Muza, and Shibu and sung by Xefur and Muza. Rapper Aly Hasan's *Bazar Gorom*, Ishaan Mozumder's *Nithur Monohor* and Tosiba's *Kalachan* have gained considerable popularity amongst the audience, becoming widely listened to and appreciated.

#### Band festivities and songs

Throughout 2023, several prominent musical events took place at the Army Stadium, encompassing the *Joy Bangla Concert*, *Coke Studio Bangla Live*, *Cholo Bangladesh Concert*, *The Night of Pritom Hasan*, *Rock in the City* and *To Gaza from Dhaka*. Notable bands and artists such as Nagar Baul, Warfaze, Artcell, Shironamhin, Maqsood O' dhAKA, and many others contributed to the vibrant music scene in the aforementioned events.

This year, several bands, including Artcell, Chirkutt, Lalon Band, Meghdol, Nemesis, Odd Signature, Ashes, and Black, have actively contributed to the release of new songs, adding fresh and diverse pieces to the scene.

## NEWS

### Two BNP vice chairmen jailed

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damaging properties, arson attacks on vehicles, vandalism, and assaulting the law enforcers and obstructing them from discharging duties.

In a case filed with Gulshan Police Station in June 2011, a Dhaka court yesterday sentenced Altaf, also a former home minister, and Hafiz, along with former party leader Major (ret'd) Mohammad Hanif to 21 months' imprisonment, and another five BNP members to 42 months' imprisonment for illegal gathering and damaging vehicles.

Among the convicts, only Altaf attended the trial proceedings virtually from jail when Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury delivered the verdict.

The magistrate also acquitted 11 accused.

Seven prosecution witnesses testified during the trial.

According to the case statement, a group of leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations illegally gathered on the street in front of Mohakhali Wireless Gate Panir Tank area in Gulshan and obstructed police from conducting their duties. They also attacked the law enforcers and vandalised and torched vehicles.

Police filed a case with Gulshan Police Station in this connection the same day.

Altaf's lawyer Taherul Islam Tawhid said, "My client was not present at the scene. He was out of Dhaka at the time. We submitted the supporting documents before the court, but he was still convicted."

Also yesterday, 13 BNP members were jailed for 24 months on charges of political violence in Shahbagh in June 2017.

No convicts were present in the courtroom when Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Saddam Hossain delivered the verdict.

Twenty-two others were acquitted.

Five prosecution witnesses testified before the court.

According to the case statement, on June 22, 2017, some 70 to 80 BNP leaders and activists gathered in front of the Jatiya Eidgah Masjid in Shahbagh to demand the withdrawal of graft cases filed against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

They threw brick chunks towards police and obstructed them from discharging duties.

Sub-Inspector Moinul Islam filed a case with Shahbagh Police Station following the incident.

Another Dhaka court yesterday sentenced 32 BNP-Jamaat members to 20 months' imprisonment over political violence in the Uttar Khan area in September 2018.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mosharraf Hossain pronounced the judgement in their absence, after five prosecution witnesses gave their statements.

The case statement said a group of BNP-Jamaat members illegally gathered on an open space beside Purbopara road in Uttar Khan on September 24, 2018, during a political programme.

They blasted crude bombs, threw brick chunks towards policemen and obstructed them from discharging their duties.

SI Monirujjaman Akanda filed a case with Uttar Khan Police Station in this regard.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Saifur Rahman sentenced five Jamaat men for six months for illegal gathering and barring the law enforcers from discharging their duties on the street in front of Khalil Mansion in Paltan on November 1, 2014.

The court recorded statements of six prosecution witnesses in the case filed with Paltan Model Police Station.

### Pre-election violence leaves 16 injured

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Awami League candidate attacked us," said Abdullah Al Mahamud Delwar, chairman of Shanthia Upazila Parishad and a supporter of the independent aspirant.

Tuku could not be contacted over phone.

On information, police rushed to the scene and brought the situation under control, said Anwar Hossain, OC of Shanthia Police Station.

In another incident, a supporter of Jhenaidah-2 independent Nasser Shahrear Zahedee, also a vice-president of Jhenaidah AL, was stabbed and beaten up allegedly by the followers of AL nominee Tahjib Alam Siddique at Chartola of Harinakunda upazila yesterday morning.

Locals said Hafizur Rahman Tuku, a resident of Payradanga, was going to a pond for having a bath in the morning. At that time, three supporters of the AL candidate attacked him.

AL candidate Tahjib denied the allegation.

The injured was hospitalised. Law enforcers were deployed in the area to fend off further untoward incidents, said Ziara Rahman, OC of Harinakunda Police Station.

In Noakhali-2, an election office of AL nominee Morshed Alam was vandalised and torched at Khalifatola of Senbagh upazila early yesterday. Morshed at a press conference blamed the supporters of independent aspirant Ataur Rahman Bhuiyan Manik, former vice-president of Noakhali AL, for this.

Manik refuted the allegation and said none of his men was involved in any such attack.

OC Nazim Uddin of Senbagh Police Station said police were investigating the incident.

On Wednesday night, Bangladesh Congress candidate for Patuakhali-1 Nasir Uddin Talukder filed a complaint with the returning officer alleging that one of his supporters was physically assaulted and campaign materials like loudspeakers and posters were

damaged by Rahim Howlader, a follower of Jatiyo Party contender ABM Ruhul Amin Howlader.

The incident took place in Kumarkhali village of Patuakhali Sadar upazila on Wednesday afternoon, according to the complaint.

Rahim could not be reached over the phone for comments.

Noor Qutubul Alam, returning officer and also the deputy commissioner of Patuakhali, said they were probing the incident.

In Savar's Aminbazar, a supporter of independent candidate for Dhaka-2 Habibur Rahman, also a member of Keraniganj Model thana AL, came under attack allegedly by those of AL nominee Qamrul Islam yesterday afternoon.

Qamrul did not answer phone calls.

OC Akbar Ali Khan of Savar Model Police Station said they received a complaint to this end and that police were investigating the incident.

[Our correspondents from respective districts contributed to this report.]

### Will look into unusual rise

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8,000pc over the last 15 years.

Termining the recent electoral violence in different districts "isolated", the AL general secretary said, "No candidate will pull out due to such incidents."

The aspirants want to take voters to the polling centres by convincing them, he said.

Talking about the BNP's movement, Quader said it was on the downward spiral due to a lack of public support.

"No party would have launched

attacks to overthrow a government if they had public support," he said.

Regarding the AL's election manifesto, he said, "We have pledged to create employment for the youths. One crore jobs will be created in five years, with 20 lakh per annum. This is our goal."

Responding to a question regarding the AL's strategy to take voters to the polling centres, Quader said, "The strategy is to make people understand that they need to visit the polling stations and exercise their voting right."

### Brother of deceased

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Asked whether he found any marks of injury on the body, Baniachong Assistant Commissioner (land) Md Saiful Islam yesterday refused to comment.

Habiganj Civil Surgeon Nurul Haque said he was yet to receive the postmortem report and after receiving the report he would be able to provide the cause of death.

Additional SP Palash Ranjan Dey of Baniachong Circle said Rabbani was kept in the room for the women and children's helpdesk so that he could be interrogated. That was why his belt and other belongings were not taken away, the official claimed.

He said Moin should file a general diary with the police station if he received any threat and that the police would take necessary steps.

Rabbani was buried at Dibir

Dargah at Baniachong after Maghrib prayers on Wednesday.

#### PROBE BODY FORMED

Habiganj Superintendent of Police Akter Hossain yesterday said he formed a three-member committee, led by Additional Superintendent of Police (administration) Hasibul Islam, on Wednesday night to investigate Rabbani's death.

The committee has been asked to submit its report within seven days, he told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation yesterday said the police narrative regarding the incident was not credible.

It is well-known that police lock-ups are located in places where people and guards are always present making it absolutely impossible for someone to die by suicide, it said.

### Israeli strikes wipe out

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Gaza's health ministry.

The Israeli army says 167 of its soldiers have been killed inside Gaza.

An Israeli siege imposed on October 09 – following years of crippling blockade – has deprived Gazans of food, water, fuel and medicine.

The severe shortages have only been sporadically eased by humanitarian aid convoys entering primarily via Egypt.

"We are tired of everything," said Ekkhas Shnenou who fled her Gaza City home. "Enough with the war, enough with the pain, enough with the hunger."

The Palestinian Red Crescent

society reported fresh shelling Thursday near Al-Amal hospital in Khan Yunis, killing at least 10 people.

It decried in a statement the "intensification" of Israeli strikes in the area of the facility, already hit earlier this week, where about 14,000 Palestinians are sheltering.

Violence has also flared across the Israel-occupied West Bank, with at least 314 Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or settlers since October 7, according to the territory's health ministry.

Israeli forces overnight raided money exchange shops across the West Bank which the military said had provided funds for armed groups.

#### Forcing anyone

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The EC should keep an eye on whether the members of religious and ethnic minorities and disabled persons face any kind of obstacle when going out to vote.

"We urged them [EC] to ensure people can cast their votes to the candidates of their choice."

The law enforcement agencies should perform their duties properly, he said, citing the post-election violence that took place following the 2001 polls.

"We remain concerned about post polls violence," he said.

### Tigers eye another Bay Oval success

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saw the visitors end their nine-match losing streak in T20s in New Zealand, registering a win over the Black Caps in New Zealand in all formats.

Earlier in the tour, they thrashed the hosts by nine wickets in the third and final ODI of the series in Napier on December 23, snapping a winless rut over the same opponents at their den in the 19th attempt this time. The bowlers set up both wins for Bangladesh, dismissing the hosts for a paltry 98 in that ODI before restricting them to 134 for nine in the T20I.

Now the new-look Bangladesh team – missing regular skipper Shakib Al Hasan, experienced opener Tamim Iqbal and pace spearhead Taskin Ahmed – have an opportunity to accomplish something unprecedented and add some joy to what has been a dull year in the country's men's cricket.