



## THE MULTIFACETED Shibu Kumer Shill

ZAREEN NAWAR

Meghdol's main vocalist Shibu Kumer Shill has recently been making headlines for having lent his voice to *Nirbashito Chaand*, from the upcoming Tollywood film *Shri Swapan Kumarer Badami Hyenar Kobole*. The multifaceted personality, who also moonlights as a filmmaker, author, and an illustrator, had a chat with The Daily Star over the phone.

Right off the bat, the singer began the conversation noting the more pronounced way in which the productions of and within the two Bengals are

increasingly becoming more hospitable towards each other—be it in terms of music or films. “I feel like we, Bangladeshis, used to be underestimated by West Bengal in terms of art and culture, even though we have simply just remained ourselves. So, in this context, I’d say the other Bengal’s perspective towards us has been shattering in a rejuvenating and decolonising way, particularly thanks to our artistes excelling exceptionally via OTT projects. Thus, when the makers of the film eventually decided to pick a Bangladeshi singer, they chose me.”

The artiste mentioned that he found the song and film interesting when music director Amit Chatterjee reached out to him. He said, “I have to repeatedly mention Emon Chowdhury’s name in this whole scenario because they contacted me via him. Emon additionally inspired me to take on the project, as I had never ventured into the other Bengal, musically.”

In response to being asked whether Shibu added any form of input to the track, he said, “I might have added subtle observations and tuned my voice in a manner that I had suggested but that is honestly not worth taking credit for. Moreover, creators today are receptive to such suggestions.”

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Shibu’s band, Meghdol, has been increasingly successful ever since the release of *E Hava* in the film *Hava*. Now, the band is being managed by Talantwala, an agency from Kolkata.

“It is a company that arranges shows not only across India, but other countries as well. A spokesperson of theirs reached out to us last year after which we even performed under their banner for the first time, last November at Kolkata’s Hard Rock Cafe. We are gearing up for another performance this upcoming February.”

The singer also elaborated that musicians such as themselves hope for audiences to remain with new Bangla compositions. “Regardless of the appreciation coming through film soundtracks or Meghdol, their acceptance is what truly matters,” he expressed. even if the company wanted to manage their shows in Dhaka, they did not commit to anything regarding domestic ventures because Meghdol would rather prefer to manage Bangladeshi schedules on their own.

Concerning the upcoming Ekushey Book Fair, the multi-talented artiste said, “This year, an edition of an interview compilation that I made, will be available. The publication *Kotha Joto* will feature some renowned and respected personalities I have interviewed, including the likes of Humayun Faridee, Shahaduzzaman, Nisar Hossain, and Hasnat Abdul Hye, to name a few.”



## Pink Floyd unveils hidden gems in annual ‘copyright dump’ strategy

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

As part of an annual tradition, experienced artistes discreetly release unsanctioned-quality recordings in the final days of each year. This practice aims to safeguard their copyrights, driven by a somewhat ambiguous European Union regulation dictating that artistes must officially release sound recordings within 50 years of their creation, following a “use it or lose it” principle. Failure to do so results in the recordings entering the public domain, allowing anyone to legally release them without compensating the creators.

This practice started gaining traction approximately a decade ago when the early recordings of artistes like Bob Dylan, Motown Records, the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and others reached the 50-year milestone. However, due to the perception that the material might not be robust enough for official release, even as an archival item, these artistes typically conceal them within limited edition CD compilations or make them briefly available for streaming.

Despite enduring prolonged internal conflicts over the decades, Pink Floyd stands out as one of the most astute artistes in recognising the value of their catalogue. Two years ago, they initiated a strategy to essentially reclaim bootleg recordings of their early career concerts. They achieved this by temporarily posting them on streaming services, thereby officially releasing the material, before subsequently removing them.

While the group officially released nearly all of their 1960s material, irrespective of sound quality, through an extensive boxed set in 2016, the abundance of bootleg recordings from the early 1970s onwards necessitated the “copyright dump” tactic.

Consequently, in late 2021, they released a dozen concerts spanning 1970 through early 1972, and last year they unveiled 18 concerts from 1972. Approximately a month ago, Pink Floyd adhered to their routine and released another set of 18 concert recordings on streaming services, just before they were about to expire.

## Bongo’s ‘Short Love Stories’: Celebrity directors, star-studded cast

SHARMIN JOYA

To mark Valentine’s Day (February 14), the OTT platform Bongo is set to release a series, titled *Short Love Stories*, featuring four short films directed by celebrity directors and showcasing a star-studded cast.

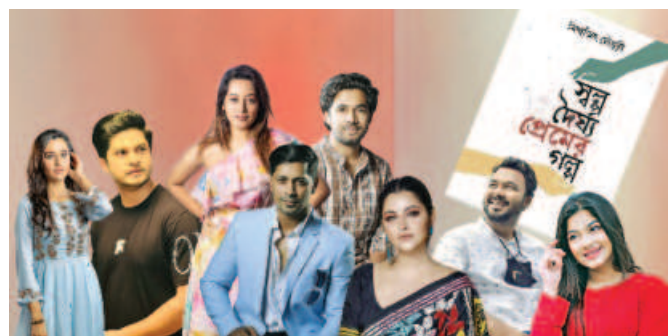
The stories have been adapted from Bishwajit Chowdhury’s book *Sholpodhoirgho Premier Golpo*, published by Prothoma in 2022, and written by the joint editor of Daily Prothoma.

Confirming the matter to The Daily Star, Bongo’s Senior Content Manager Yeassir Arafat shared, “Bishwajit Chowdhury’s book consists of 16 short stories, and Bongo has acquired the story and visual rights for them.”

He also informed that, to celebrate Valentine’s Day, four stories have been selected, with plans to work on the remaining stories in the future. “While the duration of these short films is around 30 minutes each, the quality of dubbing, filming, and editing will be no less than a full-fledged cinema!”

Amongst them, one is titled *Gayecya*, which will star Prarthona Fardin Dighi under the direction of Gias Uddin Selim. This short film marks their first collaboration. Khairul Basar will be seen opposite Dighi in this film, while her father Shahrulh Fardin Subrata will also play a pivotal role in this production.

Another story, originally named *Amader Sania Mirza* and later renamed as *Extra*, will be directed by Vicky Zahed, starring Sabila Nur and Niloy Alamgir. Earlier, Mizanur Rahman Aryan announced his project from the series titled *Booking* (adapted from the story *Mimir Khala*), featuring Pori Moni and ABM



Sumon in the lead roles. The other short film is Kajal Arefin Ome’s *Dukkhito*, starring Ziaul Hoque Polash and Parsa Evana.

Alongside streaming this series on Valentine’s Day, Bongo has introduced some exciting opportunities for 25 lucky couples. Sharing their plan, Yeassir stated, “A person who subscribes to one of the films can gift it to their loved ones as a recommendation, and the receiver would be able to watch it for free.” According to him, amongst the participants of the contest, *Gift of Love*, 25 lucky individuals will get the opportunity to attend a gala event where they can bring one of their loved ones each to the event, hosted by the platform.

“Through a raffle draw, three couples will receive exciting gifts from us as a token of love,” he further added.

Bongo aims to hold a press meet elaborating on the entire process soon. The series will start streaming on the platform from Valentine’s Day onwards.

## DHAKA INT’L FILM FESTIVAL When and where to watch Bangladeshi films



Mujib: The Making of a Nation



Barir Naam Shahana



1971 Shei Shob Din



Nona Pani

**The Dhaka International Film Festival can be named as one of the biggest film festivals in our country. It has been going on for over two decades and the 22nd edition is set to kick off on January 20 and will run until January 28.**

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The festival features a diverse array of films hailing from various corners of the globe. Attendees have the opportunity to enjoy these cinematic offerings free of charge at select venues. However, the highlight for the local audience remains the Bangladesh Panorama-Full Length category, showcasing carefully curated films from the country. Amongst them, one standout movie will be chosen for recognition and receive an award.

The first film in the Bangladesh Panorama-Full Length category will be *Mujib: The Making of a Nation*, a compelling biopic chronicling the life of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Directed by Shyam Benegal and featuring Arifin Shuvoo in the role of Bangabandhu, the film is scheduled to be screened at the main auditorium of the National Museum on January 20 at 7:00pm.

Following this, on January 21 at 5:00pm, *Muntasir* will captivate

audiences at the National Museum. Directed by Iffat Jahan Momo, the film stars Elina Shammi, Manoj Pramanik, and Shatabdi Wadud in pivotal roles.

*Barir Naam Shahana* is set to grace the same auditorium on January 23 at 7:00pm. Directed by Leesa Gazi, this internationally acclaimed film features Aanon Siddiqua as Dipa, alongside a stellar cast including Lutfur Rahman George, Iresh Zaker, Kazi Ruma, Kamrunnahar Munni, Mughdha Morshed Wriddhi, Amirul Haque Chowdhury, Naila Azad, Arif Islam, Naimur Rahman Apon, and Jayanto Chattopadhyay in key roles.

Syeda Neegar Banu’s poignant film, *Nona Pani* (Barren Waters), will be showcased on January 26 at 7:00pm in the main auditorium of the museum. Exploring the life story of the people in the Khulna region, the film stars Bilkis Banu, Kazi Rakibul Haque, Jayita Mahalanobish, and many others.

Meanwhile, Manik Manobik’s *Ajob*

*Chele* will captivate audiences at the National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on January 22 at 7:00pm starring Tauquir Ahmed, Rizwan Siddiqui, Sazu Khadem, and more, the film promises a captivating cinematic experience.

**Jaya Ahsan’s Iranian film ‘Fereshte’ will be showcased in the Asian Film Competition segment at 5:00pm on January 20.**

Imtiaz Hossain’s movie, *Just a Joke Darling*, is scheduled for screening at the same venue on January 23 at 5:00 pm. Following this, Walid Ahmed’s *Megher Kopat* will grace the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) at 5:00pm on January 25. The film features Rakib Hossain Evon, Cindy Rolling, Zaman Saif,

Afroza Momen, Razu Ahsan, Tonni, Rezaur Rahman Rizvi, Rehana Parvin Hashi, Borno, and others in significant roles.

On January 26, Hridi Huq’s *1971 Shei Shob Din* will be showcased at the National Art Gallery at 5:00pm, starring Ferdous Ahmed, Shajal Noor, Tareen, Litu Anam, and Sanjida Preeti, amongst others.

The final evening of the festival will feature *Eti Chitra*, directed by Raisul Islam Anik, at the same auditorium. This film stars Rakib Hossain Evon and Jannatul Ritu.

Pantho Prosadh’s *Savitri* is scheduled for screening at the BSA’s Music and Dance Centre Auditorium on January 27 at 7:00pm. Nargis, Anant Hira, and Boishakhi Ghosh play important roles in this captivating movie.

In addition, Jaya Ahsan’s *Fereshte*, directed by Iranian filmmaker Morteza Atashzamazam, will be showcased in the Asian Film Competition segment at approximately 5:00pm on January 20.