

# KONA everywhere

ZAREEN NAWAR

The vivacious songstress with the honeyed voice has had a rather bustling month this year — as divulged by Dilshad Nahar Kona herself. Not only did her latest collaboration with Muza, *Daane Baame*, drop this ongoing month but Kona has been touring and performing in around 17 scheduled concerts across Bangladesh, on top of also accumulating praise for singing a romantic rendition of the Rabindra Sangeet *Bhalobeshe Sokhi* on Pavel Areen's *Living Room Session*. Additionally, the versatile musician lent her voice to 11 songs for different dramas and films on television this month alone.

**How did your participation in 'Daane Baame' come to be?**

Muza and I met while working as judges for a reality show last year, which we had great fun with. He was the one who came to me and told me about having a song he wanted me to sing. He is a musician who prefers to produce music with danceable beats, and I had my share of it with *Daane Baame*.

**As a creative person, what do you prioritise when choosing a project?**

I primarily regard the character of the song, considering I am offered songs to sing for various media. When working on projects where I have a personal stake, I think of the video or at least I imagine what a potential visual could look like. I am a filmy person, so I do try to realise my imagination or vision. For collaborative projects, I tread accordingly or subjectively. For instance, when I sing a track designated for a film, I have to pay attention to what the music producers say. For Muza's project, I prioritised his vision.

**What was taking on a Rabindra Sangeet like for Pavel Areen's 'Living Room Session'?**

Pavel is a good friend of mine, but when I was asked to sing a Rabindra Sangeet, I did hesitate. As a fan and student of his songs, I wasn't sure if I'd be able to do justice to *Bhalobeshe Sokhi*. However, now that the whole project is done and I listen to my rendition of it, I can't help but feel like it was a job done well.

**How did you have to personally dwell with living before and after the age of the social media avalanche?**

It simply felt like a software update for me too, similar to how most of us have to upgrade to a more advanced format of digitisation. Also as an artiste, I have to keep my audiences in mind. If their tastes and preferences shift, then I must also shift accordingly. Social media has proved to be a great way for me to interact with my fans online and I do enjoy the whole process of actively interacting with them.

**What's your take on the current state of the music industry and the state of female singers?**

As far as female singers are concerned, I'd say we have many talented ones. There are, however, only a handful of all-female bands in our industry, not to mention the lack of female music technicians and creatives in terms of lyricists and composers. Then again, I believe that change is already in motion.

**Are there musicians you would love to work with? And what is next for you?**

I feel lucky to have collaborated with a lot of renowned and upcoming musicians, including the likes of Habib Wahid, Fuad, Tahsan, Bappa bhai, Pritom, and Muza, just to name a few. However, I would really like to sing with Arijit Singh.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix

Avatar: The Last Airbender



Hulu

The Rookie: Season 6 Premiere



Amazon Prime  
Apartment404 (2024)



APPLE TV+  
Constellation



HBO

The Man Who Played with Fire



## OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



**Shama Shaiom's solo exhibition 'Azhar'**  
February 23 - 29 | 1pm - 9pm  
Chadni Studio, Banani



**Bonjour Renaissance**  
March 1 | 6pm - 9pm  
Yamaha Flagship Centre, Tejgaon



**Multidisciplinary exhibition 'Recollected'**  
March 2 | 5pm - 11pm  
Alliance Française de Dhaka

## WHAT'S PLAYING

# TAKE MY BREATH AWAY

Berlin's *Take My Breath Away* is an iconic '80s ballad that exudes sensuality and longing. With its dreamy synths and haunting vocals by Terri Nunn, the song encapsulates the passion and intensity of love.

The lyrics evoke imagery of romantic encounters, heightening emotions with lines like "Watching every motion in my foolish lover's game." The song gained further prominence as the soundtrack to the film *Top Gun*, cementing its status as a timeless classic.

A demo of the song, sung by a background singer, impressed the film's director Tony Scott and producers Jerry Bruckheimer and Don Simpson. Because of which, they decided to film more romantic scenes between Tom Cruise and co-star Kelly McGillis in order to feature the song.



## TV TALKIES

# A refreshing take on a covert love story

Each episode of the new spy thriller *Mr & Mrs Smith* encapsulates the spirit of *Mission: Impossible* in condensed form. However, the charming bond between its protagonists truly endears them to the audience. In contrast to the 2005 film featuring Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt as married spies at odds with each other, this Prime Video series presents a refreshing perspective.

In this series, characters John and Jane, portrayed by Donald Glover and Maya Erskine, are strangers recruited by a lucrative organisation to pose as a married couple. The show boasts a stellar

guest star lineup with Alexander Skarsgard, Paul Dano, Parker Posey, and Sharon Horgan.

Yet despite its extravagant settings like Lake Como and luxury ski resorts, the central focus on the duo remains unwavering. As they navigate their dangerous mission, the potential for their fake relationship to develop into genuine affection adds another layer of complexity to their perilous situation.



## STYLE STATEMENT

# Ryan Gosling

Actor Ryan Gosling exuded style in a meticulously tailored white Gucci suit adorned with a sophisticated maroon outline. Embracing this pristine all-donned a custom single-outfit paired elegantly with a white shirt and coordinating the 77th edition of Academy Film Awards ensemble was flawlessly by polished black dress side-parted hairdo added finishing touch to his white ensemble, he breastasted wool with a white pants at the British Academy (Bafta). The complemented shoes, and his perfect impeccable look.

