



## Minar moves forward with music

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Very few artists can say that they started their career at 15 years of age, but that's exactly what Minar Rahman did with his album, *Danpita*. Over almost two decades, he has given us hits like *Shada*, *Jhoom*, *Ahare*, *Deyale Deyale*, *Karone Okarone*, *Keu Kotha Rakhnei* and dozens of others.

"I walked into G-Series with a 3-quarter pant and a hand-designed demo," said Minar. The interview was taken while we were driving to a fast food eatery. "Khaled bhai (proprietor of G-series) was impressed by the presentation, and told me to come back the next day after listening to the songs." Little did he know that he had a surprise waiting, in the form of Tahsan. "Khaled bhai had made him listen to *Shada*, and Tahsan bhai told me that he had never heard anything like that before, and he was ready to arrange the music for this album".

Minar is a self-taught musician, who also takes pride in being an artiste. "Everything that I know, I have taught myself - be it my music or art." He is the author of *Rudro Ebong Ekti Grand Piano*, a comic book named *Gablu*, and often implements his art in his music videos, like his latest song, *Tomar Oi Duto Chokh*. "I'm actually looking to regularly draw, be it for newspapers or columns, because practice is crucial for any form of art."

What further differentiates the artiste from others is his own YouTube channel, on which the organic reach is outstanding. *Keu Kotha Rakhnei* has almost reached the milestone of 70 million views, parallelly to *Jhoom*, which crossed this milestone. "Although I obviously can't keep all of my

songs in my channel because some of them have been uploaded by labels, I pour my heart out to whatever songs that I write - music is my only passion, and I feel like I was put on earth to do this exact thing."

He admits that this long journey has not always been smooth. "Since I entered this industry at such a young age, I've had to learn from my mistakes. I've been betrayed monetarily by people I trusted, and a mistake from a media institution had really bothered me," said Minar, visibly distraught while bringing up those painful memories. "While I took the 'monetary



mishap as a lesson, the absurd rumour still burdens me to this day."

The singer is ready to take the next step in life now, having achieved the adoration of fans and listeners that most musicians dream of. "At this point in life, I am ready to 'settle down' in the conventional sense," he said, after being repeatedly badgered by my question. "I am a family-oriented person, and at some point, everyone needs a partner to motivate them in life."

So, what is the artiste looking for in a partner? "Well, she has to be a good, honest person, and that's pretty much it." While we are yet to have found the lucky woman with a lifetime of free passes to Minar's concerts, here's to hoping that we could finally write an 'original' news about his wedding.

## Zayed Khan's membership cancelled by Film Artistes Association



Zayed Khan's membership in the Bangladesh Film Artistes Association has been revoked by the current committee during the bi-general meeting of the organisation held on March 2.

The committee's statement declares the cancellation of Zayed Khan's membership, citing the dissemination of false, fabricated, and derogatory information in the name of Nipun Akter, the general secretary of the association, driven by personal agenda.

Chief Election Commissioner Khorshed Alam Khosru, overseeing the 2024-26 elections of the Film Artistes Association, has confirmed the news.

Zayed Khan, three-time elected general secretary, expressed to local media his surprise at learning of his membership cancellation. He reiterated his indifference to decisions made by the unauthorised individual [Nipun] and affirmed his commitment to organisational rules.

## Anupam Roy shares wedding photo, captions it 'beginning anew'



Popular singer Anupam Roy tied the knot with Kolkata-based singer Prashmita Paul in a private, intimate ceremony on March 1, as reported by Hindustan Times Bangla.

The wedding reception took place at a club in South Kolkata

on last Saturday evening, where the newlyweds made an appearance before the camera, smiling radiantly. Anupam shared the first picture after their marriage on Instagram, captioning, "Beginning anew."

Notable guests including Upal Sengupta, Anindya Chatterjee, Chandril Bhattacharya, Lopamudra Mitra, Joy Sarkar, Srijit Mukherji, and Prabuddha Raha, amongst others, graced the event.

## NEWS

### Recruit under single ministry

FROM PAGE 12  
Speaking to the news portal, earlier on Friday, Tanvir Shakil Joy, a lawmaker from Sirajganj-1 constituency, said that over 1,000 Bangladeshis are currently in Malaysian prisons due to their undocumented status.

"This could be one reason why, despite the unprecedented influx of Bangladeshis to Malaysia last year, Bangladesh is not recording a corresponding increase in foreign remittances. It's very important for the Bangladesh government to address issues plaguing overseas employment effectively," said Tanvir, also the chairperson of the Bangladesh Parliamentarians' Caucus on Migration and Development.

Since mid-2022, over 400,000 Bangladeshis have been recording in Malaysia, bringing the total number of Bangladeshis employed in the Southeast Asian country to around

800,000. However, there were frequent reports of migrants being duped, losing their jobs, and falling in debt.

Lim Lip Eng further stated that the plight of over 1,000 undocumented Bangladeshis in Malaysian prisons highlights the need to consolidate the processing of foreign worker applications under a single ministry.

Lim said, "As an MP, I'm deeply grieved over the plight of these prisoners and their families in Bangladesh, many of whom have been scammed, exploited, and extorted in hopes of working in Malaysia."

"Many of them have sold their properties to pay their way here but they ended up being placed behind bars for crimes they did not commit."

"These Bangladeshis come to Malaysia hoping to get unattractive, lowly paid menial work often labelled 'dirty, dangerous, and difficult' (3D) that

very few Malaysians are willing to do." He added that many from other countries took on these jobs to escape poverty.

"The question that many of us have been asking time and again is: 'How on earth could these undocumented migrant workers be allowed to enter our country without the knowledge of our authorities, especially the immigration department?'"

"There must be some loopholes and corruption involved, and the culprits that brought them here or facilitated their entry must, therefore, face the full wrath of the law."

"Furthermore, unless they were involved in criminal activities, these Bangladeshis who have become victims of injustice should be allowed to apply for job vacancies in the country instead of bringing in new workers," said Lim, adding that placing them behind bars will only strain prison resources.

### Whole world is watching

FROM PAGE 12  
Mahmud Hossain Jahangir.

Prof Yunus, also chairman of Grameen Telecom, said, "This allegation of embezzlement against a Nobel laureate is a historic event."

"Today's photo is historic. The ACC and we are at 'Bottola' [court premises]. It will be a witness to history.... I am not alone, there are seven others who've worked hard all their lives for the poor.... Even they are accused of embezzlement and money laundering. It will be an important picture."

He said, "It's important because laws are written for the good of the people. Laws bring peace and comfort to the people. But law also causes anxiety and fear.... The ACC sat for a trial today, you [the people] decide whether it had done it for the right reason...."

The Nobel laureate said, "Our children will study about this in school. When people will speak about the Nobel prize, they [the children] will learn that he [Yunus] was accused of embezzlement and money laundering. They will be confused about what is real. They will wonder, 'Is this a mask? Who is the real person? He is not even alone; he has his gang with him'. Thus, this

[trial] is not limited to this place or this country."

"The whole world is watching what is happening in this trial. Whatever we are doing, they are watching every detail."

Prof Yunus further spoke about how he usually does not take part in television interviews.

"But recently you have seen my interviews on various television channels. They say I must speak, so I am speaking.... I say to them, write in detail about these incidents [the cases against Yunus]. It will be recorded and become a part of history. Should we be proud of this or feel guilty?"

Grameen Telecom Managing Director Nazmul Islam; and directors Ashraful Hassan, Naznin Sultana, Parvin Mahmud, M Shahjahan, Nurjahan Begum and SM Huzzatul Islam Latifee were also present at the courtroom during yesterday's hearing.

On May 30 last year, Gulshan Anwar Prodhan, a deputy director of ACC, filed the case with its integrated district office in Dhaka.

On February 2, Investigation Officer Gulshan Anwar Prodhan submitted a charge sheet before the court against Yunus and 13 others.

LABOUR LAW VIOLATION CASE

The Labour Appellate Tribunal of Dhaka yesterday extended the bail of Prof Yunus and three others in a case filed over the violation of the labour law.

On January 28, the tribunal granted bail to them after they filed appeals against a Dhaka labour court verdict and sought bail.

The tribunal yesterday set April 16 as the next date for the hearing on the appeal, said defense lawyer Abdullah-Al Mamun.

After yesterday's hearing, Yunus said, "We all want the country's welfare. Everyone wants to work for the country. We have to spend time dealing with various legal issues, which harms us; it harms everyone. However, let the legal process continue, and in the meantime, we want to be able to work in peace."

"I hope I will get justice. I will get justice from the judiciary of the country - this is what a citizen of the country desires."

He asked for prayers from the public. "We'll be at peace if the country is at peace."

On January 1, the Third Labour Court of Dhaka, sentenced Yunus, Ashraful, Nurjahan and Shahjahan to six months in jail in the case.

### Tigers seek to buck SL trend

FROM PAGE 12  
Riyad and Liton Das, along with skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, with the latter coming on the back of a lacklustre Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) campaign.

On the bowling front, Shoriful Islam - who finished as BPL's highest wicket-taker in its recently concluded season - is expected to spearhead the attack alongside fellow pacers Mustafizur

Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, and spinners Tajjul Islam and Rishad Hossain.

Sri Lanka, on the other hand, lost their last T20I against Afghanistan in February but had won the series before that match.

In the first two matches, Charith Asalanka will lead Sri Lanka in the absence of their regular skipper Wanindu Hasaranga, who has been suspended for indecent behaviour

with the umpire during their previous series.

Although the gathering at the ticket booths yesterday was underwhelming, the fans will undoubtedly stay tuned to see the evolution of the two teams' rivalry. And with Angelo Mathews set to play, his controversial timed-out dismissal against Bangladesh during last year's ICC ODI World Cup only adds to the excitement this time.

### Mediators push for Gaza

FROM PAGE 12  
air strikes hit southern Rafah and Khan Yunis overnight, and the Hamas government media office reported intense tank shelling in northern Gaza.

Armed forces spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said an initial review "has indicated that following the warning shots fired to disperse the stampede... several looters approached our forces and posed an immediate threat to them".

Troops then fired "towards several individuals", Hagari said, adding that an "independent" army body would launch an investigation.

A UN team that visited some of the wounded in Gaza City's Al-Shifa Hospital on Friday saw a "large number of gunshot wounds", said UN chief Antonio Guterres's spokesman Stephane Dujarric. In the worst ever Gaza war, more

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### Cops raid

FROM PAGE 12  
in Dhanmondi. Process of filing cases against them is underway," Parvez Islam, officer-in-charge of Dhanmondi Police Station, told The Daily Star.

The drives began around 6:00pm and continued until 10:45pm, police sources said.

They said they were detaining people under sections 285 and 286 of the penal code, which deal with negligence regarding fire and combustible and explosive substances.

At least 46 people, including 26 women and three children, were killed and 22 critically injured in a fire that broke out at the seven-storey Green Cozy Cottage Shopping Mall on Bailey Road in Dhaka on Thursday night.

The fire originated at the building that housed shops and diners.

### Ensure thorough probe, punishment

FROM PAGE 12  
policy formulation, ensuring adequate compensation for affected families, taking steps to prevent fire incidents in urban and industrial areas and forming citizen protection committees.

Additionally, they called for the enforcement of compulsory fire extinguishing systems in places where many people gather such as restaurants, industries and factories as an interim measure.

The signatories of the statement include Sultana Kamal, human rights activist; Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori; Hamida Human, human rights activist; Ali Imam Majumder, former cabinet secretary; Anu Muhammad, former Jahangirnagar University professor; and Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh.

Zi Khan Panna, senior advocate at the Supreme Court; Rana Dasgupta,

general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad; Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive officer of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association; Salma Ali, executive director at Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers' Association; and Sara Hossain, honorary executive director of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, also signed off on the statement.

Meanwhile, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Kamal Uddin Ahmed said that it will be possible to prevent the recurrence of fire and deaths if punishment is ensured against the responsible organisations, individuals, building owners and the others involved.

"A culture of impunity has been created as action is not taken against those responsible day after day. That's why fire incidents are repeating time and again," he said at

a press conference held at the NHRC conference room yesterday.

It is necessary to bring the responsible government departments under accountability to ensure the fire safety of buildings.

There should be a provision for maximum penalties against the officers and institutions who fail to perform such duties, he said.

"Our law also has detailed mentions, but it is not being implemented properly. That is what is keeping the problem alive. The apathy of government regulators, the tendency to manage and irresponsibility are evident."

No cases were filed in connection with most of the fire incidents and deaths. "In most cases, those responsible have been identified, but no action has been taken against them. We have not learned proper lessons from the major fires and explosions that have taken place over the years, and that is why these incidents are repeating."