

Dhaka traffic inspired the music video: KORNIA

Who would have thought someone could create a lively and colourful music video centered around Dhaka's traffic jams? Singer Zakiya Sultana Kornia did just that with her latest track, *Dhaka Te Jam* — showcasing her charming dance moves and honeyed voice all whilst adding a vibrant energy to the entire production.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

For her latest music video Kornia, known for her popular tracks *Lukochuri* and *Tomake Je Chai*, departs from her usual Western wear, opting instead for a unique lehenga made from materials used for rickshaw art. She also added colourful sunglasses to bring in a funky-retro theme in the video, released last Friday (May 3).

Directed by Raj Biswas Sankor, the tune and music have been composed by Amlaan A Chakraborty, with lyrics penned by Sudip Kumar Dip.

The enthusiastic singer recently spoke with The Daily Star about this new single, which has already won people's attention.

When asked about the response to the music video so far, the singer replied, "The response has been fantastic. Audiences have shown a lot of love and appreciation towards the song. I'm thrilled that my fans have embraced this unique concept."

Upon watching the music video, one is immediately drawn to the title *Dhaka Te Jam*.

When we asked her how she came up with this title, she credited the music director, who resides in Kolkata but was inspired after getting caught up in Dhaka's notorious stream of heavy traffic.

"Dhaka's traffic is something we're accustomed to dealing with daily. In Kolkata, such circumstances are hardly seen. When my music director encountered a massive traffic flow en route to the airport, he thought of this idea and shared it with me. That's how the lyrics for the song came

about."

Even before the music video was released, there was a huge demand for it, she explained, "I performed this song at various stage shows before creating the music video, and audiences have been eagerly anticipating its release since then."

She also shared an interesting anecdote from one of her shows, "Once, during a stage show in Jhenaidah, many people asked me when the music video would be coming out. And now that it is out they are showing their love."

Kornia is currently busy with stage shows and working on new songs. She recently performed at a stage show in Naogaon, where she was delighted by the large turnout of the audience.

"I had a great time at the Naogaon show. I also performed my song *Dhaka Te Jam* there," she expressed.

The music video for the song *Dhake Te Jam* was filmed in various locations across Dhaka, including Gulshan and Tejgaon. Nafisa Nushrat Pronome and Shishir Sardar are also featured in the video. Kornia expressed gratitude towards the police for their assistance during the shoot.

The singer was born and raised in Dhaka, but her ancestral roots lie in Jhenaidah. When asked how people from her hometown feel about her status as a singer, she replied, "They appreciate it greatly and whenever I grace a stage with my performance, they perceive me as one of their own. I am truly grateful to them for their love."

Reflecting on her achievements in the music industry after a decade, Kornia emphasised that the love of the people is her greatest accomplishment. "Being recognised and listened to by people means a lot to me. I aim to continue singing with the support and affection of my audience," she concluded.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Badhan to appear in a Tollywood film next



Actress Azmeri Haque Badhan made her debut in the Indian acting scene with the web-series *Robindronath Ekhanekawkhono Khete Aashenni*, directed by Srijit Mukherji. Her performance in the series has received widespread praise, contributing to its significant popularity.

The thriving actress is now set to star in a Kolkata-based anthology film, titled *Fair and Ugly* with filming scheduled to commence later this month if all goes according to plan. This project is being directed by Prasennjit Biswas.

On the other hand, the Sunny Sanwar directorial film *Esha Murder*, starring Badhan in the leading role, is scheduled to release this Eid-ul-Azha.

The National Film Award-winning actress has also completed filming for *Master*, directed by Rezwan Shahriar Sumit.

Hridi Huq receives yet another prestigious award for her film

Since the release of her debut film *1971 Shei Shob Din*, talented director Hridi Huq has garnered numerous awards and acclaim.

Hridi Huq recently achieved another milestone in the successful journey of her Liberation War-based film *1971 Shei Shob Din* by winning the Best Director Award at the 14th Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival 2024.

In her social media post, she thanked the festival organisers for recognising her film and expressed, "This prestigious award is a significant achievement for us, and I am thankful to everyone for loving our film."



NEWS

India lifts ban on onion export

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Maharashtra went up by an average of ₹200 per quintal after the Union Government yesterday lifted the ban on exports. Lasalgaon is the biggest wholesale onion market.

Average prices of onions have increased by around ₹200 per quintal, and farmers will benefit from the decision, said Balasaheb Kshirsagar, chairman of the Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC).

Political sources said the main reason for removing the ban is the coming Lok Sabha polls in onion-growing areas of Maharashtra, which is electorally crucial because it has the second-highest number of seats (49) after Uttar Pradesh (80).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seeking a rare third consecutive term in office since assuming the top post in May 2014. His party's performance in the ongoing elections holds the key to his objective.

Onion traders and farmers, especially from Maharashtra, have been demanding the lifting of the ban, contending it would assist farmers in getting better prices. However, the government had remained hesitant,

fearing that the export of this crucial kitchen staple could lead to a surge in domestic prices.

Last month, the main opposition Congress attacked the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for neglecting Maharashtra's onion farmers affected by the export ban.

They mentioned that their manifesto pledges a predictable import-export policy to avoid sudden and harmful policies being enforced on farmers.

In December last year, India clamped the ban on the export of onions till March 31 of this year and allowed their shipments based on permission granted by the central government at the request of other countries. Last month, India extended the export ban on onions until further orders.

To check the soaring price of onions, the Indian government imposed a minimum export price of \$800 per tonne from October 28 till December 31, 2023. In August last year, India imposed a 40 percent duty on the export of onions to improve supplies of the staple vegetable in the domestic market until December

31, 2023. On May 3, the government again imposed a 40 percent duty on onion export.

India's onion production for 2023-24 (as per the official data of the First Advance Estimates of the Agriculture Ministry) is projected at about 254.73 lakh tonnes, down from about 302.08 lakh tonnes the previous year.

This decline is mainly attributed to a fall in production in key onion-growing states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

Meanwhile, the price of the local variety of onions has seen a rise to Tk 65-75 a kg from last week's Tk 58-60, according to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

Several onion traders blamed the price hike on their suppliers, alleging that they were stockpiling onions ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

The ban's lifting had no immediate impact on the Bangladeshi market, said Md Abdul Mazed, general secretary of the Shyambazar Onion Wholesalers' Association.

"On Friday, onions were sold at Tk 60-62 per kg, which was the same on Saturday [yesterday]."

'Excesses by executive magistrates worrying'

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the dredger to Liton in seven days, and also issued a rule asking the government and Mamun to explain why his action should not be declared illegal.

On November 20, 2022, the HC directed the government to suspend Khagrachhari's Ramgarh UNO Khondker Md Ikhtiar Uddin Ararat from conducting mobile court for illegally sentencing two labourers on August 1 that year.

The HC also issued a rule asking the government and the UNO to explain why the conviction and sentence handed by him through a mobile court should not be declared illegal and why they should not be directed to give Tk 10 lakh in compensation to labourers Abul Kalam and Ruhul Amin.

The rules are yet to be heard and disposed of, court sources said.

On August 6, 2021, an HC bench ordered the government authorities concerned to provide training to the executive magistrates so they could conduct mobile courts properly and legally.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur

Rahim (now a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court) asked Attorney General AM Amin Uddin to talk to the Cabinet Division secretary to take necessary steps.

"After going through newspaper reports, I have noticed that some executive magistrates conducted mobile courts for punishing offenders a few days after the crimes were committed, which is not allowed under the relevant law. The mobile court must hold the trial of the offense at the scene," Justice Enayetur Rahim said that day.

After holding three writ petitions, the HC on May 11, 2017, scrapped the rules under which executive magistrates run the mobile courts.

In its verdict, the HC observed that empowering executive magistrates with judicial powers is "a frontal attack on the independence of the judiciary and is violative of the theory of separation of powers", and said mobile courts could be run by judicial or metropolitan magistrates.

Following three petitions filed by the government, the Appellate Division on January 8, 2018, stayed the operation

of the HC verdict until further order.

The hearing on the appeals is yet to be held.

Contacted, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin has earlier told The Daily Star that the executive magistrates are being provided training on a regular basis to run mobile courts properly.

Asked about abuse of power by executive magistrates, an additional secretary and a joint secretary (district magistracy) of the Cabinet Division refused to comment.

Another official concerned, speaking on condition of anonymity, told this newspaper that more emphasis is being given on the training of the field level officials so that the number of errors is smaller.

"It is quite natural that all field level officials cannot demonstrate the same level of skills. The administration officials are heavily criticised by the media for their small mistakes, but that doesn't happen in the case of other officials. About 1,000 officials of the ranks of UNO and AC [land] carry out duties at the field level. It is difficult to expect that all these young officials would work flawlessly," he said.

Man used fake NIDs to buy 8 Dhaka flats

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Police Centre of CID, told The Daily Star.

A DB official, who led the drive to arrest Pallab, expressed concern over appointing outsourced employees to a sensitive office like the NID wing.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, Rafiqul Haque, system manager at the NID wing, said they hired around 3,000 outsourced employees under the project titled Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services.

He claimed that Pallab, who worked as an operator, did not have access to the NID server.

"If someone deceitfully uses the toe to give the impression for a fingerprint, how would you detect it?" Rafiqul asked.

LOAN SCAM

Milon KAM (not his real name) wanted to buy a flat in Dhaka's Bashundhara residential area. Joynal took him to a flat and asked Tk 2.10

crore for it.

As Milon had only Tk 90 lakh, Joynal assured him of arranging a home loan from a bank.

After securing a home loan, Milon gave Tk 2.10 crore to Joynal. He could not reach Joynal after paying the money as the latter switched off his phone.

The victim recently filed a complaint with the CID.

CID investigators said the gang led by Joynal would collect copies of deeds and other documents from prospective flat sellers saying that they would verify the documents with the land office.

Using the copies of the original documents, the racket members would prepare fake flat ownership documents with the help of some corrupt staffers at the land registry office. They would then trap the buyers into buying flats, the CID said.

Joynal invested the embezzled

money in different businesses including Rumana Jewelers, Nir Estate Properties Limited, Sneha Enterprises, and ER International, the investigators found.

He also purchased a seven-storey building and three flats in Dhaka's Bashundhara residential area, and five more apartments in Mirpur and Ashkona.

According to CID, Joynal's accomplices Rakib Hossain, 33, and Abdus Sattar, 54, took loans from five banks and financial institutions by mortgaging a flat in Bashundhara residential area.

CID Additional SP Jewel said Joynal opened more than 50 accounts in various banks using the six NIDs.

Investigators have identified at least 25 members of the racket, including some officials of banks and financial institutions.

The CID has filed a case accusing 25 people, including the 11 arrestees, of laundering Tk 8.7 crore.