

গজল আপিকে বাংলা গান

অনুব্র

বাঞা মজুদার X গালিব হাসান

BAPPA MAZUMDER'S  
odyssey lives on

**Bappa Mazumder's journey into the world of music seems almost predestined. Born into a family deeply rooted in classical music traditions, his childhood was filled with melodies and rhythms that shaped him, even though his heart once dreamt of becoming an architect. But as fate would have it, music took over.**

**DOWEL BISWAS**

Bappa, who has just welcomed a baby girl with his wife, actress Tania Hossain, is overjoyed with the arrival of his second daughter. "As parents, this is an incredibly meaningful moment for us. We believe that the arrival of a girl brings immense blessings to a family. With the birth of our second daughter, our hearts are filled with joy, love, and laughter. We truly feel fortunate."

For over three decades, Bappa has been an invaluable asset to the country's music industry, and he continues to work on several projects, including his latest song *Shohorer Chokh*. Additionally, the musician launched a Bangla Ghazal album, titled *Onubhob*, just yesterday.

hours of practice for his students. I may not have practised as rigorously as them, but living in a household so immersed in music prepared me in ways I couldn't fully understand at the time," he recalls.

Growing up in Dhaka, Bappa was surrounded by a lineage of musical excellence. He mastered the craft from his parents without needing formal training. His early lessons in music were as natural as breathing as his foundation in classical music was cultivated by his father and mother.

"When it comes to creating music, I always need to have the lyrics in front of me. Whether I'm composing, tuning, or singing, the words must resonate with me first. If a lyric touches my heart, the composition naturally flows for it."

However, Bappa's life doesn't follow a set script. He muses, "I live in the moment, letting my emotions and instincts guide me, wherever they might lead."

"From lyrics to tunes, compositions to performances, I've always tried to explore different approaches," Bappa confides. Experimentation has defined his art, but one thing remains consistent—his refusal to compromise on quality. In a world tempted by fleeting fame, Bappa has always chosen to march to the beat of his own drum.

It all began with a guitar; Bappa's entry into music wasn't as a singer but as a guitarist. He played for various artistes, contributing behind the scenes, and shaping his identity through each note. His first solo album, *Tokhon Bhor Bela* (1995), marked his official arrival as a solo artiste. Soon after, he co-founded the iconic band Dalchhut in 1996 with poet and songwriter Sanjeeb Chowdhury. Together, they influenced a generation's musical taste, blending folk and rock.

Over the years, the musician released 10 solo albums, including *Rater Train*, *Dhulo Pora Chithi*, and *Janina Kon Montorey*. His songs like *Din Bari Jay*, *Shurjo Sname*

*Chol*, and *Tumi Amar Bayanno Tash* have become timeless hits, etched into the consciousness of his fans.

But his work extends beyond just his solo career. The band Dalchhut, now 28 years old, has endured the test of time, even after the untimely passing of Sanjeeb in 2007.

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Their latest album, released after a decade, is titled *Sanjeeb*, an emotional tribute to the late musician who had been the band's heartbeat.

Now, Bappa is exploring his love for Bangla Ghazal with *Onubhob*. He shares, "I've always had a deep desire to sing ghazals. After nearly eight years of planning, I'm finally embarking on a project called *Onubhob—Bangla Songs in the Ghazal Style*. While my roots are in classical music, I've always explored different genres and feel ready to expand further at this stage in my career."

Excited about the album, Bappa reveals, "The Ghazals are written by Syed Galib Hasan, and two songs have already been completed, along with their music videos. Besides me, Konal and Tanvir Alam Sajib have lent their voices to the project. We're still in the process of selecting a few more singers, preferably those with a classical background, but I'll keep those names under wraps for now."

For Bappa, music is much more than a profession. Even in today's fast-paced, social media-driven world, the artiste stands firm against fleeting fame. "It scares me to see

how shallow social media has become, promoting fame without substance. What are we teaching our children? Does popularity come easily? That's not how I see it. True art takes time, effort, and soul," he shares.

His philosophy is simple: "I believe in hard work, in honing your craft through years of practice. Instant fame is no substitute for the deep sense of fulfilment that comes from creating something meaningful." Though he has strong opinions about social media's impact on music, he's not entirely against it. "I just don't believe in shortcuts," he says firmly.

Clarifying his stance on autotuning in the digital music scene, Bappa notes, "There's often a misunderstanding around autotuning in music. When recording digitally, autotuning is essential to harmonise different tonalities and instruments. The problem arises when it's overused or misused, and that's where I have some reservations."

Reflecting on the rise of instant fame in today's music scene, the singer expressed his concern, stating, "There have always been songs with simple, commercial appeal, and they don't pose a threat to us as musicians. But my fear is that if this trend isn't kept in check, it could gradually steer public taste away from what I believe is 'real' or 'pure' music."

Regarding his fans' expectations, the musician shares, "Every festival, every special occasion, there's an expectation from fans. I try to meet that but in my own way."

At the heart of it all, Bappa remains a man devoted to his art, a torchbearer of a musical legacy that spans generations. "My parents wanted me to have a job alongside my music. For a while, I did both. But eventually, music became my everything," he says. For his fans, Bappa's "everything" continues to be the melodies that fill their hearts, making him a true maestro of his time.

# NEWS

## Ministry decides

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The move came amid widespread allegations that many projects were undertaken by the previous Awami League government at inflated costs without carrying out proper feasibility studies.

However, the Kalurghat road-rail bridge project was approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) on October 7 with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus in the chair.

The approval came following a decade of planning to build a new bridge over the Karnaphuli river at Chattogram's Kalurghat to replace the century-old bridge there.

Of the total cost, South Korea will provide Tk 7,125.14 crore as soft loan while the government bear the rest.

The deadline of the project is December 2030. Construction of the dual-gauge double-line rail plus double-lane road bridge aims at reducing bottleneck on Dhaka-Chattogram-Cox's Bazar rail corridor.

Built in 1931, the existing metre-gauge single-line rail bridge at Kalurghat

was reconfigured in 1962 so that vehicles could use it too.

With time, the bridge has become unsafe, and the authorities had to repair the bridge occasionally. The bridge was repaired last year when Bangladesh Railway launched Dhaka-Cox's Bazar train service via the bridge.

However, the process to replace the bridge started in 2014 when the government decided to build the new bridge and decommission the British-era single-lane rail and road bridge there.

A feasibility study, financed by South Korea, was conducted in December 2015 that recommended building a two-lane road and single-line rail bridge.

A Development Project Proposal (DPP) for the new bridge with an estimated cost of Tk 1,163.27 crore was placed before an Ecne meeting in August 2018, which decided that it would build a dedicated rail bridge with double lines. The DPP was not approved at that time.

BR submitted a fresh DPP this year following a new study and conceptual design by consultants of South Korea last year, estimating the project cost at

11,560.77 crore.

BR sources said that as per the DPP prepared in 2018, the bridge was supposed to be dual-gauge single-line road-rail bridge, and the length of the proposed bridge was 700m along with a 3.8km embankment.

But the new one would be a dual-gauge double-line road-rail bridge.

In 2018, the vessel clearance (vertical limit) was 7.62 metres, but now the vessel clearance must be 12.2 metres following the directive of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA).

Due to the rise in vessel clearance, the railway authorities have to build a total of 6.20km long (3.32km + 2.88km) viaduct on both sides of the 700m long main bridge, raising the project cost many folds, the BR sources added.

Moreover, a sharp rise in the US dollar exchange rate and prices of construction materials were the other reasons behind going up the project cost, they said.

A BR official, wishing anonymity, said the review would have been done before approval of the project, because it would cause delay in starting the work.

## Graft was biggest hurdle in drawing

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Strengthening the financial sector, especially foreign currency management, alongside reforms in infrastructure and energy, will support business expansion and attract large-scale investments. A clearer path for ownership and profit transfer is also crucial for foreign investors, he added.

Chowdhury said he is adopting a multipronged approach to improve ease of doing business, with digitalisation at the centre. "We are streamlining processes, improving land access and ensuring policy consistency," he said.

One of the key initiatives will be the launch of the D-Nothi (digital file management system) in November to simplify approval processes and improve coordination with other government agencies to deliver a more integrated investor experience, he said.

BIDA, the government's apex investment promotion agency, has been ramping up efforts to attract FDI through targeted sectoral promotion and direct engagement with industry leaders, according to him.

"We are building a positive narrative by showcasing success stories and competitive advantages. We're using digital engagement platforms to facilitate virtual investment opportunities and organise site visits tailored to investor interests. Our facilitation goal is to build direct connections between high-value businesses and decision-makers.

"We are working closely with international chambers of commerce and industry associations to address concerns and offer customised solutions. We are also enhancing our communication channels to deliver timely and accurate information to investors," he said.

In the coming days, BIDA and BEZA will focus on enhancing capacity and leveraging private-sector expertise, he said. "We want to be the top government agency for investment in the next year by providing a positive experience that inspires people to become ambassadors for Bangladesh."

In order to ensure accountability, BIDA is enhancing its monitoring and evaluation systems and collaborating

closely with other government agencies to expedite critical processes such as land acquisition, environmental clearances, and utility connections.

He believes together, these efforts, along with a stable policy framework, will create an environment more conducive to private sector investment, and promote sustainable economic growth.

Chowdhury was an investment banker at HSBC Singapore, specialising in infrastructure and sustainable finance.

He began his banking career at Standard Chartered and headed finance at American Airlines, covering Europe and Asia. He has also advised the Grameen Telecom Trust.

Chowdhury has an MSc in finance from the London Business School. He got his BBA in finance and economics from the Institute of Business Administration at Dhaka University.

A chartered financial analyst, Chowdhury is a certified skydiver and holds the Guinness World Record for the longest freefall with a flag. He is also a private pilot licensed in the UK.

## Decision after proposals, talks

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When asked whether the current government or the next elected government will implement the commission's proposals, Special Assistant to Chief Adviser, Mahfuj Alam, said the announcement of the one-point demand during the July-August movement nullified the previous political settlements.

"I'm not speaking as a member of the government or the Constitution Reform Commission regarding how the proposals will be implemented. It is a political decision. However, as a student representative, I can say that these will definitely be implementable by the current government."

In a written statement, Prof Riaz said

the Constitution Reform Commission has decided not to involve in the reform process the individuals, organisations, agencies, institutions, or parties who were against the July-August uprising and supported the killings and repression, or helped legitimise the "fascist actions".

He said the commission is responsible for reviewing and evaluating the constitution to establish a representative and effective democracy to empower the people.

He also outlined seven objectives of constitutional reforms.

These include the establishment of a democratic state free from discrimination, based on the ideals of the Liberation War, which promised

equality, dignity, and social justice; reflection of the people's aspiration for a participatory democratic state as revealed by the student-led mass uprising in 2024; and ensuring people's effective participation at all levels of politics and governance.

The other objectives are preventing the emergence of any future fascist regime; ensuring separation of three branches of the state — executive, legislative, and judicial — to maintain a balance of power; decentralising the state power and adequately empowering institutions; and ensuring the effective independence of autonomous, constitutional, and statutory organisations.

All the commission members were present at yesterday's press conference.

## Interim govt okays merger of 2 divisions

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Division oversees police matters, while the Security Services Division is responsible for immigration—a function also handled by the police. The merger is expected to resolve such overlaps and improve departmental efficiency, said the source, requesting anonymity.

Sources from the home ministry noted that the ministry was initially divided into two divisions on January 19, 2017, to enhance functionality. Two secretaries were given charge of both divisions.

Since then, there has been a disagreement between the Public Security Division and the Security Services Division over the facilities and responsibilities.

Sources said that Mohammad Abdul Momen, senior secretary of the Public Security Division has already given the responsibility of the Security Services Division. After getting the responsibility, Momen held a meeting with the officials of

the Security Services Division, where the issue of the merger was discussed.

A ministry official, requesting anonymity, said the merger of the two divisions will remove internal tensions and speed up functions.

According to the database, presently the Bangladesh Police, Border Guard Bangladesh, Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Force, Bangladesh Coast Guard, Investigation Agency of the International Crimes Tribunal, and National Telecommunication Monitoring System are under the jurisdiction of the Public Security Division.

On the other hand, the Department of Immigration and Passport, Prisons Department, Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence, and Department of Narcotics Control are under the jurisdiction of the Security Services Division.

According to sources, the two division officials were at odds over the lack of overseas posting

opportunities. There are Bangladeshi passport offices abroad, and dissatisfaction always revolved around the posting.

The work of issuing passports is done by the Security Services Department, so the employees of the division used to get the opportunity to work abroad.

At one stage, a circular was issued to allow employees of both divisions to go abroad equally, according to sources.

Another source said that police members conduct passport verification and immigration works under the Security Service Division. However, the Public Security Department is in charge of the deploying the police.

This is another reason for the discomfort and dissatisfaction between both divisions, and the proposed merger is expected to eliminate these conflicts by consolidating responsibilities under a single unified division.

## Dream and drive change

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today's young generation is the most powerful in human history — not just because of their intelligence, but because they have technology at their fingertips.

"The student revolution is all about technology. Students could communicate instantly with each other, without any command structure," the chief adviser said.

Speaking about the student-led

movement, he added, "The youth of this country want to see a new Bangladesh."

He noted that young people aren't politicians and aren't pursuing political agendas; rather, they envision a new country for themselves.

Referring to global peace efforts, the Nobel Peace Laureate observed that, ironically, people often kill each other in the name of peace.

He said the irony is that while every

government has a defence ministry, which is essentially a "war ministry", no one has a peace ministry.

"If your aim is peace, shouldn't you have a peace ministry?" he questioned.

Observing the need for self-defence, he emphasised that governments worldwide should have both a peace ministry and a war ministry.

He proposed incorporating peace initiatives into foreign relations alongside defence efforts.