

Kumar Bishwajit clings to hope for son's recovery



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Renowned Bangladeshi singer Kumar Bishwajit's only son, Nibir, was severely injured in a car accident in Canada some time ago. While three of his friends lost their lives, Nibir miraculously survived. However, he has had to undergo prolonged treatment ever since.

The celebrated artiste has been staying in Toronto for an extended period, patiently waiting for his son's recovery. His sole purpose for residing abroad is to ensure proper treatment for Nibir.

Speaking to The Daily Star over the phone on Sunday, April 27, Kumar Bishwajit shared his emotions about his son, saying, "There is no choice but to wait. I am waiting—waiting with all my heart. I seek everyone's prayers so that everything becomes alright."

When asked about Nibir's current condition, he said, "He cannot speak. A trach tube has been placed in his throat. However, he is growing. Slowly but steadily, he is growing."

In response to whether Nibir can recognise them, the artiste replied, "He does. When he sees us, he smiles a little. But when we leave, he cries."

When asked about how his days are passing in Canada, he said, "I spend my time. I go to meet my son. I pray to the Almighty for him. Time passes like this."

Asked about his own well-being, Kumar Bishwajit said, "I am here. I am fine, living with everyone's love and blessings."

Nibir is currently staying at a rehabilitation centre, where he has been for over a year.

Nibir met with the tragic accident on February 14, 2023, in Canada. Since then, the singer and his wife have been staying there.

Although the artiste briefly returned to Bangladesh once, he soon went back to Canada. Before the accident, Nibir was studying Digital Marketing at a Canadian college, but the sudden tragedy shattered all his dreams.

Despite the hardships, Kumar Bishwajit holds on to hope, dreaming of the day his son will recover and bring joy back to his parents' lives.

Dhaka hosts 'Nriyasudha' for Int'l Dance Day

Dhaka celebrated International Dance Day yesterday with *Nriyasudha*, a special dance event organised by Nriyayam Nriyashilon Kendra. The programme was held at 7pm at the Bangladesh Mohila Samity auditorium.

Curated by renowned dancer Tamanna Rahman, the evening featured performances by Belayet Hossain Khan, Munmun Ahmed, Kabirul Islam Ratan, Prama Avanti, Tamanna Rahman, and Yang Hui along with their respective troupes.

The fifth edition of *Nriyasudha* showcased classical forms such as Manipuri, Odissi, Bharatanatyam, and Kathak, alongside international dances from Korea, Germany, Japan, Hawaii, and Nepal.

A highlight of the evening was the Chinese traditional and contemporary performances presented by Yang Hui's troupe.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Where The Spirit Meets The Bone'

Where the Spirit Meets the Bone, curated by Kehkasha Sabah under the *Art Exchange: Moving Image* programme supported by the British Council, is a two-part, multi-sensory exhibition at Satori Academy of Arts. Featuring transnational artists and experimental workshops, it explores moving images, care, embodiment, healing, and sensory ecologies.



Date: Tuesday-Friday | April 29 - May 16, 2025

Time: 4:30-8pm

Venue: Satori Academy of Arts, Banani

'PRIYO MALOTI' wins award at London Bengali Film Festival

Shankha Das Gupta's debut feature film, *Priyo Maloti*, has won the Audience Award at the 8th London Bengali Film Festival, held from April 22 to 27.

The film was screened at the festival's opening ceremony on April 22 at Barbican Cinema and received an enthusiastic response from viewers. Sharing the news on social media, the director expressed gratitude to audiences for their support. Based on real-life events, *Priyo Maloti* follows the emotional journey of a pregnant woman whose life takes a sudden, dramatic turn. The film stars Mehazabien Chowdhury, Nader Chowdhury, Azad Abul Kalam, Momena Chowdhury, and others. Shankha Das Gupta hopes the film's success will inspire more stories that connect audiences across borders.



Cyndi Lauper, Chubby Checker among Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductees



Chubby Checker, Cyndi Lauper, and Soundgarden are among the 2025 inductees into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, announced by Ryan Seacrest during *American Idol* on Sunday, April 27.

Other inductees include Bad Company, Outkast, Joe Cocker, and The White Stripes. The induction ceremony will stream live from Los Angeles on Disney+ on November 8.

Inductees were selected by fans and industry experts, with eligibility requiring a first release at least 25 years ago. Checker, 83, popularised dances like the twist and limbo in the 1960s.

Lauper rose to fame in the 1980s with hits including *Girls Just Wanna Have Fun*. Soundgarden, led by Chris Cornell, was a key figure in Seattle's 1990s grunge scene.

NEWS

Rohingyas fleeing Arakan Army

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they are escaping to Bangladesh after facing persecution by the Arakan Army. In the homes they leave behind, people from other communities are settling. These accounts have been consistently shared by the fleeing Rohingyas. We have not been able to independently verify this information."

Official sources confirmed that Bangladesh authorities and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have taken fingerprints of the 1.13 lakh Rohingyas who entered Bangladesh since November 2023.

With these new arrivals, the total number of Rohingyas officially sheltered in Bangladesh now stands at least 1.3 lakh. To arrange accommodation for the new arrivals, UNHCR has sent a letter to Bangladesh. The letter was sent last week to the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation

Commissioner. Regarding the matter, Mizanur said, "We have received a letter from UNHCR requesting arrangements for the accommodation of more than one lakh new Rohingyas. We do not have space to build houses for such a large number."

"This effort to build new shelters will make Rohingya repatriation more difficult, as it will encourage more Rohingyas in Rakhine to come to Bangladesh," he added.

Md Zubair, chairman of Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights, said, "Arakan Army is carrying out atrocities against the Rohingyas living in Rakhine State. Rohingyas are called to Arakan Army camps and forced to work as labourers. They are picking Rohingyas for recruitment into their forces to fight against the military junta. They are also detaining many Rohingyas, accusing them of having links with

the junta forces. Some of these Rohingyas were killed, and others, brutally tortured. Many Islamic scholars from the Rohingya community were victims of enforced disappearance.

"Recently, the Arakan Army has started evicting Rohingyas from their houses and resettling Rakhine people (Mogh) from other countries like Bangladesh, Nepal and India into those areas."

That is why Rohingyas are fleeing to Bangladesh, Zubair said.

He described the situation in Rakhine as dire and demanded immediate international intervention and investigation into the Rohingya persecution committed by the Arakan Army.

Until November 2023, around 1.2 million Rohingyas, most of whom fled a brutal military campaign by Myanmar's junta forces, had already taken shelter in Bangladesh.

Locals contradict Rab claims

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of the Rab members fired five warning shots in the air, and the suspects fled. The Rab said it rescued the two injured members and later heard that Siam died at Gournadi Health Complex after being critically injured.

Based on the FIR, the Rab filed a case against the duo and 10 to 15 others on drug related charges. Another case was filed against the fugitive suspects on charges of obstruction of government duties and murder.

FIR WITNESS 'WAS NOT ON SPOT'
The FIR stated that a witness named Sukdeb Baroi, a local union council member, was present on the spot when the Rab searched Siam and Rakib.

When contacted last night, Sukdeb said that he had witnessed no such thing.

"I have not seen the boys, or the dead body. I was not on the spot in the evening, when this incident was said to have occurred. I was called around 11:00pm at night because I am the union parishad member. When I reached there, I only saw shoes lying about," said Sukdeb.

He said that he does not even know Siam and Rakib, and he agreed

to be a witness because he was asked.

WHAT LOCALS SAY
Conversations with over two dozen locals during a visit to the spot on April 26 revealed that the area where the drive was conducted is known as a drug spot.

Locals, however, said they had not seen Siam or Rakib engaging in any drug-related activities.

Titu Hawlader, who lives near the graveyard, told this newspaper that on the day of the incident, a group led by a local man with reported links to drug related activities arrived at the graveyard before Maghrib prayers.

Siam and Rakib were chatting at a nearby shop, Titu said.

At the time, some plainclothes Rab personnel surrounded the spot, but the local man leading the group at the graveyard started shouting "robber, robber", Titu said.

"Siam and Rakib, along with eight to 10 other people, rushed to the scene after hearing the shouts. The locals then got engaged in a scuffle with the Rab members in plainclothes," he said.

Titu's wife Mitu Akter said at one point during the scuffle, the Rab members opened fire, and the locals fled.

Locals said Rakib fell into a pond

but managed to swim ashore after being shot.

They said he was first taken to Gournadi Upazila Health Complex and later transferred to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, where he underwent surgery at 11:00pm on the same day.

The hospital's Assistant Surgeon Akram Hossain said Rakib was shot in the abdomen.

Meanwhile, according to a death certificate obtained from Gournadi Health Complex, Siam was declared dead on arrival around 6:30pm that day.

Family members described Siam as a quiet student who spent most of his time at home or studying. "Siam had no involvement with drugs or crimes. He was simply at the wrong place at the wrong time," said his cousin Mim Akter.

Rakib's sister-in-law Nasrin Begum echoed similar sentiments, saying, "Doctors have forbidden him from talking, but it's clear from the circumstances that he was not involved in any wrongdoing."

The locals demonstrated in front of Saheberhat Secondary School on April 23 against the killing of Siam. "We want justice," said his cousin Mim.

WHAT POLICE SAY

Sub-Inspector (SI) Milton Mondal of Agailjhara Police Station, who is investigating the drug recovery case, told The Daily Star, "We have not yet obtained any information that Siam and Rakib were involved in drug dealings."

Milton also said that they did not find any evidence that Siam and Rakib used firearms. "But our investigation is underway," he added. SI Abbas Uddin of the police station, who is investigating the other case, told this newspaper that no prior criminal records were found on the two students.

Oliul Islam, officer-in-charge of Agailjhara Police Station, said the Rab had not informed the police about the drive beforehand.

"We had no prior knowledge about Rab's raid," he said.

Contacted, Senior Warrant Officer Sheikh Riazul Islam of Rab-8, also the complainant of the case, declined to comment on a matter under investigation. He suggested contacting higher authorities for queries.

Rab-8 Deputy Commander Major Mahmudul Ahsan told The Daily Star, "An investigation is ongoing. So far, no confirmed criminal record has been found against Siam and Rakib."

Political parties

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"We don't want to turn into another Gaza. We don't want to see war anymore. We are already struggling with the Rohingya issue."

Fakhrul made the remarks while speaking at a rally in Khagrabari Sheikh Bazar in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila yesterday as part of a public outreach campaign.

The context for the proposed corridor dates back to the first half of this year, when the United Nations expressed fears of a potential famine in Myanmar's Rakhine state. Consequently, the UN requested that Bangladesh facilitate a corridor for delivering humanitarian assistance to the region, which has been severely

affected by civil war. Bangladesh's policy decision to provide a corridor for Myanmar's civilian population was announced yesterday afternoon by Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain.

He stated that the corridor will be under the supervision of the UN and subject to certain conditions. Narayanjan Bar Association when he was a minister. But he didn't and the junior lawyers were angry with him, so there was some tension."

People did not make Meghna Alam

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"We have not faced any problem where people are saying, 'hand it over as soon as possible,'" Yunus said.

Questioning the claim, Amir Khasru said, "Who are the people? The BNP, as the main opposition party, represents the people."

"The people of Bangladesh did not struggle, protest, or make sacrifices to hand the country's responsibilities to any superhuman," he said.

"There is no reason to believe the people should wait for a superhuman to solve the country's democratic issues," he added. Khasru noted that nearly 50 allied parties have demanded that elections be held before December.

He also stressed that agreed-upon reforms must be implemented immediately, urging the

Election Commission to set an election date, announce a roadmap, and proceed with preparations.

"If 'people' refers to a privileged group opposing democracy and voting rights, confront them... there should be no confusion," Khasru added.

He expressed hope that the chief adviser would honour his earlier commitments made during meetings with political parties.

Meanwhile, three BNP associate bodies - Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, Swechchasebak Dal, and Chhatra Dal - will hold four seminars and four rallies to empower youth to build a just state, said Jubo Dal President Monayem Munna yesterday at a press conference at BNP's Nayapaltan central office.

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woman, she should be granted bail.

Upon hearing both the sides, the magistrate granted her bail upon a bond of Tk 5,000 with two guarantors.

In the order, the magistrate said it was not clear whom she was allegedly extorting from.

Moreover, Meghna Alam is a woman. According to the provision of the Criminal Procedure Code, she has a right to get bail as a woman, said the magistrate in his order.

Meghna was shown arrested in the case on April 17 following a petition filed by case investigation officer Md Akhtar Morshed, an inspector of the Detective Branch of police. Police filed the case against Meghna, her associate Dewan Samir and two others on April 15.



Two directors of LOVELLO to buy shares

The company's directors, Mahsina Taufika Ekram and Muhsinina Sharika Ekram will buy 200,000 shares of Taufika Foods and Lovello Ice Cream PLC, a Food and Allied sector company listed on the stock market.

According to the information given on the DSE website, Muhsinina Taufika Ekram and Muhsinina Sharika Ekram will buy these shares from the public market at the current market price within the next 30 working days. The closing market price of a share of LOVELLO in the stock market yesterday was 81.40 taka. Accordingly, the market value of 200,000 shares stands at almost 1.63 Crore taka. However, if the share price decreases or increases, the value will also decrease or increase.

Muhsinina Taufika Ekram and Muhsinina Sharika Ekram are the daughters of the company's Managing Director, Dato' Engineer Md. Ekramul Haque, and Chairman, Datin' Shamima Nargis Haque. In this regard, the company's Managing Director, Dato' Engineer Md. Ekramul Haque said that after completing their studies from Canada, they will return to the country and will regularly look after the company's business activities. The shares are purchased as part of the company's plan to advance its business by utilizing their education as representatives of the new generation.

Muhsinina Taufika Ekram and Muhsinina Sharika Ekram are directors of Taufika Foods and Lovello Ice Cream PLC, owning 2.41 percent and 3.53 percent of the company's total shares, respectively. Their ownership will increase further by purchasing new shares. It is worth noting that Lovello last paid 20% dividend to shareholders in the financial year 2023-2024. Of which 10% was cash and 10% was bonus dividend.