



OTT is the new stage for Bengali songs

ADITI RAHMAN DOLA

Seasoned singer Aditi Rahman Dola took the nation by storm this year since voicing *Chand Mama*, alongside Pritom Hasan, for the hit Shakib Khan starrer *Borbaad*. A lawyer and full-time High Court practitioner, she made waves again last month by lending her voice to the brand-new rendition of the beloved song *Shopno Jabe Bari*, originally composed by Habib Wahid and rearranged by Emon Chowdhury.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

When she attended the press conference of *Blender's Choice - The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards* a

few weeks ago, Dola articulated the hopes of many artistes who've waited for their rightful place in the spotlight of the music scene.

"I believe all of us artistes are tremendously excited about the fourth round of The Daily Star's OTT & Digital Content Awards, where we are all properly appreciated. If I were to talk about the other existing award shows in the country, only singers tend to get recognised. But The Daily Star honours the people behind the different components of a song, including composers, lyricists, and so on," she expressed.

"This is the kind of attention we musicians have often called for. By including broad music award categories, The Daily Star persistently takes a meaningful step, and I truly commend them for embracing the music community," she added.

Referring to the creation of new music for OOT-based projects, the vocalist claimed, "The new music pouring in through and because of the OTT platforms has furthermore become a new scope for musical artistes to gear up and get to work."

"Somewhere along the way, not too long ago, our people's interest in new Bengali songs began to wane, as they became more drawn to music from other countries. However, the rise and growing popularity of our OTT platforms have helped bring Bengali songs back into the spotlight. In recent years, we've also seen a steady stream of fresh, high-quality Bengali music, which has offered meaningful encouragement to our musicians."

Aditi Rahman Dola stands as yet another voice in both music and advocacy, bridging her artistry and insight to uplift the industry. As fresh Bengali music finds new life through OTT platforms, her journey—from voicing popular advertisement jingles to now being part of chart-topping tracks—reflects the evolving landscape, one where talent, tradition, and recognition finally come together in harmony.

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NEWS

Plot afoot to oust Tarique from politics

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ways. This is very alarming," he added.

He also said BNP is under "cyberattack", which appears to be a deliberate effort to discredit and break down the party.

"BNP cannot be blown away with the snap of a finger. BNP has proven again and again, BNP knows how to rise from the rubble... For 15 years, it was said at every moment that the BNP was finished. Rising above greed and temptation, our BNP leaders remained united," he said.

While in prison, BNP leaders were offered money, but none of them responded — which, he said, is the

party's strength.

Fakhrul said that false campaigns against the BNP must be responded to immediately.

"I have said this repeatedly within the party, but it hasn't been given enough importance. The media landscape is changing now. It's not just newspapers or electronic media influencing us anymore — social media is having a massive impact on people. Along with that, there is a war in the cyber world."

"I have repeatedly spoken about the need to prepare for that war. In that area, we are quite weak. This side needs to be strengthened," he added.

Fakhrul urged the youth to come

forward and respond to these threats immediately.

Highlighting BNP's major weakness, Fakhrul said, "One of our biggest weaknesses is that we don't like to read. I don't know whether you will admit it or not, but studying is not something we take seriously. This needs to change. All of us have to read."

"The better we study, the stronger we can fight...."

The book "Tarique Rahman: The Hope of Bangladesh" highlights the political journey, visionary leadership, experiences during the 1/11 crackdown, political struggles, and state-building vision of Tarique.

Hesaid they wanted to build Bangladesh

forward and respond to these threats immediately.

The NCP chief said they did not want the return of the corrupt-ridden old system, but their struggle has been for building a discrimination-free society and eliminating all religious, social, and economic inequalities.

Demanding the speedy announcement of the "July Declaration" and "July Charter", he said they would hold a rally on August 3 on the Central Shaheed Minar to press home their demand.

The rally will also address pressing issues like problems in the education and health sectors as well as river erosion, he added.

Hesaid they wanted to build Bangladesh

as a just country for all, regardless of religion, ethnicity, or ideology.

The NCP chief called everyone to extend their support to the interim government but warned those in the government not to forget that it is the outcome of the uprising and sacrifice made by the martyrs.

He also criticised the killings of Bangladeshis by India's Border Security Force along India borders and said they would hold a long march if such killings were not stopped.

Pointing to the recent flood situation in Feni, Nahid said sustainable embankments and long-term measures are necessary to protect the people from flooding.

In the territory's south, three people were killed when Israeli jets hit a tent sheltering displaced Palestinians in the coastal Al-Mawasi area, according to the civil defence spokesman.

In central Gaza, six children were among eight people killed when a drone hit a potable water distribution point in an area for displaced people in the Nuseirat camp, resulting in "10 martyrs and several injured", Bassal said.

In the territory's south, three people were killed when Israeli jets hit a tent sheltering displaced Palestinians in the coastal Al-Mawasi area, according to the civil defence spokesman.

On Saturday, the military said fighter jets had hit more than 35 "Hamas terror targets" around Beit Hanun in northern Gaza.

The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor has called for US President Donald Trump to face criminal prosecution for complicity in genocide for his support of the GIDF aid distribution mechanism in Gaza.

In a statement, the Geneva-based organisation urged international bodies to hold Trump accountable for supporting GIDF in Gaza, which operates sites where hundreds of Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces over the past weeks.

There was a suggestion from the US envoy Steve Witkoff for the Israeli and Palestinian sides to put aside the outstanding issues, the stumbling blocks, and talk about details on ceasefire.

But that's not going to work because talking about implementing a ceasefire without agreeing on the framework of that ceasefire, which is where the ceasefire talks are at, really defeats the purpose, reports Al Jazeera online.

Man held in Savar

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Foyal also claimed that Engineer Imran Haider played a central role in recruiting and motivating Bangladeshi youths for TTP. He and several other suspects, including Rezaul, Asif, Zakaria, and Sanaf, were also reportedly involved in spreading TTP ideology online and "preparing for jihad".

The Daily Star could not independently verify these claims.

Contacted, Inspector Mannan declined to comment on the case.

Barrister Mahbujul Alam Russel, special superintendent (Media and Awareness) of the ATU, said, "A youth named Foyal was arrested on charges of being involved with the TTP under CrPC on July 2, before a regular case was filed on July 5."

He said Foyal has been in jail since July 3. "We have not sought his remand yet as we are busy with the Malaysian incident."

Last month, Malaysian police detained 36 Bangladeshi nationals on charges of links to a "militant" network, according to Malaysian outlet New Straits Times.

Meanwhile, an official of the Special Branch, also involved in the investigation into TTP activities, told this newspaper that 54 TTP members were killed by the Pakistan army on April 27 in Wazirabad. Among them was Jubair, a Bangladeshi passport holder from Savar's Arapara area.

The official claimed that Jubair and Foyal met an aeronautical engineer named Imran Haider in Afghanistan and joined training with other foreign fighters.

Officer in Charge of Savar Model Police Station Mohammad Jewel Mia said Foyal had been detained for questioning earlier last month but was released due to a lack of evidence. ATU later filed the case and arrested him after confirming his involvement."

Set up by the Bangladesh Police in September 2017, the ATU is an intelligence-led, technology-based specialised unit mandated to counter terrorism.

The top seed shrugged off the distraction and hit a running crosscourt winner to take the second set before tightening his grip on the contest by unleashing a superb volley at the net to break for 5-4 and then holding in the next game to seal the third set with minimum fuss.

With shadows drifting across the main showcourt that had basked in bright sunshine, Sinner wheeled away to a 3-1 lead in the fourth set as Alcaraz began to display the smallest signs of dejection, and the monk-like world number one held firm from there to complete a famous victory.

There was to be no Roland Garros-like resurrection for Alcaraz, who fought back from three match-points down in the Paris finale just 35 days ago, as the Spaniard's bid to claim three successive All England Club titles was extinguished.

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Extortionists will have to leave

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