



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

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.

Fakhru 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.

Fakhru urged the youth to come

forward and respond to these threats immediately.

Highlighting BNP's major weakness, Fakhru 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.

Sinner the new king of Wimbledon

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back before hitting a spectacular return at full stretch to wrap up the opening set and he celebrated by cupping his ear and soaking up the cheers.

Sinner was gifted a break in the opening game of next set and he let out a rare yell of "Let's go" after winning a point en route to holding in a tight game before surging ahead 3-1 after a brief interruption when a champagne cork flew from the stands and landed on Centre Court.

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

FROM PAGE 12
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.

He said 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.

NCP firm on getting 'Shapla'

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Secretary Zahirul Islam Musa, and Joint Convener Khalid Saifullah.

Besides NCP, Nagarik Oikya earlier sought the "Shapla" as its electoral symbol in place of its previous one, the kettle.

On July 9, the EC has decided not to include "Shapla" as an election symbol under the Election Conduct Rules.

As the "Shapla" is the national emblem of Bangladesh, the commission, led by the CEC, made the decision.

Speaking to reporters after yesterday's meeting, NCP leader Nasiruddin said, "We have no alternative to the shapla. We have seen there is no legal bar to getting this symbol. If it is denied, we will fight politically."

"The EC must be reconstituted before the polls, and the law under which it was formed needs to be amended."

He added that the current commission could keep those election officials who demonstrated competence in the past.

Ahead of the upcoming election, the EC has already increased the number of electoral symbols from the current 69 to at least 115 for registered parties and independent candidates.

The EC started reserving electoral symbols for registered political parties

when the party registration system was introduced in 2008.

On May 13, the government issued a gazette prohibiting all activities of the Awami League, along with its affiliated and associate bodies, until trials at the International Crimes Tribunal ended.

The same day, the EC suspended its registration as a political party.

Demanding the exclusion of the "Boat" from EC's electoral symbol list, Zahirul Islam, another member of NCP delegation, said, "As per the Election Commission's decision, the registration of the Awami League is currently suspended. Yet, the "Boat" symbol remains on the list. We raised this issue with the commission, and it should be excluded."

The NCP submitted its application to the EC for registration on June 22.

Zahirul added that the EC updated them on the process of registration and expatriates' voting.

Contacted, Election Commissioner Abdur Rahmani Masud said that despite AL's suspended registration, the "Boat" symbol will remain on the list of election symbols.

"Even if a party is dissolved, its symbol is preserved as the EC is the custodian," he said, adding that the "Boat" belongs to the commission, not any party, and won't be cancelled if the party ceases to exist.

Malnutrition in Gaza rises since March

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including six children near a water distribution point.

The attacks came with apparent deadlock in a week of indirect talks in Qatar between Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas for a ceasefire in the territory.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP that Gaza City was hit by several strikes overnight and in the early morning, killing eight, "including women and children" and wounding others.

An Israeli air strike hit a family home near the Nuseirat refugee camp, south of Gaza City, resulting in "10 martyrs and several injured", Bassal said.

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, he added. Several other people were wounded, he 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 GHF aid distribution mechanism in Gaza.

In a statement, the Geneva-based organisation urged international bodies to hold Trump accountable for supporting GHF 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.