

# I will never sell the copyright for my songs: Angel Noor

SHARMIN JOYA

Humble by nature, young musician Angel Noor has already created music in his short career that holds a special place in the minds of music lovers.

After the success of *Jodi Abar*, another one of Angel's singles, *Teel*, has also won over audiences. Now, he has announced an entire album, titled *Prano-to*, to be released on Spotify in October.

In a conversation with The Daily Star, the artiste shared details about the album, his recent visit to Nepal, and new acting ventures.

"This album will contain seven songs, including *Kichhu Kotha*, *Bondhunama*, *Morichikaar*, *Protikkha*, and *Ichche*, among others. The music video will be available soon after the release. All of the songs have been written and composed by me, while the arrangements were handled by Asif

Ahmed (also the keyboardist of his band), whose contribution accounts for half of my career's success, and I will always be grateful to him."

Angel just landed in Dhaka the day before yesterday from Nepal. He attended the International Conference on Cultural Heritage of South Asia at Kathmandu University, where he was a cultural representative of Bangladesh.

"It was amazing attending the event. I met many Nepali fans there, and Binod Abraham, based in the United Arab Emirates and currently a Regional Commercial Manager at Flydubai, also expressed his admiration for my music. He posted a video with me on his social media where he sent a message to the Bangladeshi audience that 'We'll sing *Jodi Abar* together.' That was a sweet gesture from him, which amazed me!"



Asif with Angel.

Meanwhile, Angel is in talks for a couple of films for the silver screen in both Tollywood and South India. His latest Bangladeshi project is in the pre-production stage. "The film is being produced and written by Ahmed Rizve, and a Lebanese DOP will be shooting the entire film. If the political situation remains stable in Bangladesh, we will begin shooting in December."

Angel recently received a nomination for the Best Music Digital Platforms at the Blender's Choice The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024 for *Jodi Abar*. Elated with the nomination, he shared, "I'm thankful and blessed." Additionally, his song is in talks to be used in a Kolkata film under a big banner. "They have approached me about using my song. However, I will never sell the copyright to my songs. I might permit the use of my music, though."



## Taylor Swift announces 12th studio album 'The Life of a Showgirl'

Taylor Swift has announced her 12th studio album, *The Life of a Showgirl*, after a day of fan speculation. The news followed a social media post from her team and confirmation from partner Travis Kelce on his podcast *New Heights*, alongside a countdown on Swift's official website.

Her previous album, *The Tortured Poets Department* (2024), set a Spotify record for most streams in a single day. The new album's release date is yet to be revealed, though pre-orders are open.

The singer wrapped her *Eras Tour* in December 2024, performing 149 shows in 53 cities and boosting the UK economy by an estimated £1 billion.



PHOTO: ZIAUDDIN SHIPLU

## Abul Hayat and Dilara Zaman take the lead in drama 'Bela O Bikel'

Veteran actors Abul Hayat and Dilara Zaman have taken on the leading roles in *Bela O Bikel*, a new drama written and directed by Shariful Islam Shamim.

Abul Hayat plays Bikel, while Zaman portrays Bela—marking, they believe, their first collaboration in titular roles despite decades of shared screen history.

The actors praised Shamim's meticulous approach, expressing confidence in audience reception. Zaman lauded the project's rare focus on character-driven storytelling, calling it a welcome challenge in today's television landscape.

The cast of *Bela O Bikel* also includes



Nabila Binte Islam and Golam Kibria Tanvir. It will premiere soon on the YouTube channel Enigma TV.



## Bassbaba Sumon and Shakib Chowdhury to pen Raihan Rafi's 'Andhar'

Saidus Salehin Sumon of Arthohin and Shakib Chowdhury of Cryptic Fate are set to bring their shared passion for horror to the big screen with *Andhar*, directed by Raihan Rafi. Co-written with Adnan Adib Khan, the film's screenplay and dialogue are by Shakib and Adnan.

Inspired by their radio show *Bhoutist*, the project was initially delayed due to Sumon's illness but has now been revived. Set in a Bangladeshi context,

*Andhar* aims to blend horror, mystery, thriller, murder, and emotion while maintaining international production standards.

Shakib described it as a bold genre entry for Bangladesh's evolving film industry. Produced under 221B Production, with Shakib, Adnan, and Sarah Ali as producers, filming is set to begin next month, with the cast announcement forthcoming.

## Ryan Reynolds hints at Deadpool's Avengers entry

Ryan Reynolds has sparked speculation of his character Deadpool's entry into the Marvel Cinematic Universe's *Avengers* franchise.

The actor posted an image of the *Avengers* logo defaced with Deadpool's signature red spray-painted "A", prompting theories of his appearance in *Avengers: Doomsday* or *Avengers: Secret Wars*. Marvel previously confirmed the return of Robert Downey Jr, now cast as Doctor Doom, in the Russo brothers-directed *Avengers: Doomsday*, set for December 18, 2026, with its sequel arriving December 17, 2027.

Downey last portrayed Iron Man, who died in *Avengers: Endgame*. Deadpool was last seen in 2024's *Deadpool & Wolverine*, alongside Hugh Jackman.



# NEWS

## BB to outline merger process

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and EXIM Bank.

Four of the banks' chairmen attended the meeting, chaired by Governor Mansur, along with Deputy Governor Md Kabir Ahmed and other senior BB officials. Those present were Mohammad Abdul Mannan of First Security Islami Bank, Md Fariduddin Ahmed of Union Bank, Mohammed Nurul Amin of Global Islami Bank, and M Sadiqul Islam of Social Islami Bank.

However, EXIM Bank Chairman Md Nazrul Islam Swapan claimed he was not invited. "The financial health of the bank is better than other weak banks. That's why we are not interested in the merger," he told The Daily Star. "We requested the central bank in different ways to exclude us, but it did not accept our plea."

Contacted, BB Executive Director and spokesperson Aref Hossain Khan said the meeting was part of the merger initiative and aimed at expediting the process.

A chairman who attended the meeting, requesting anonymity, said the government would make an official announcement within days and send letters to the banks.

Union Bank Chairman Fariduddin said the BB governor sought their views and assured them the move would be done legally.

BB officials said the central bank decided to set up an office at Sena Kalyan Bhaban in Motijheel to oversee the process.

The five banks again requested liquidity support from the BB, but the regulator refused, saying no new funds would be provided during the merger.

The central bank decided in June to merge the five troubled lenders due to their weak financial health revealed by a forensic audit conducted by global audit firms KPMG and Ernst & Young. The asset quality review found their non-performing loans were four times higher than previously reported.

The banks will be placed under temporary government control once the merger begins.

The move is part of the interim government's wider effort to stabilise the banking sector, for which it passed the Bank Resolution Ordinance giving the BB expanded powers to resolve distressed financial institutions.

## Fighting across Myanmar border

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They reportedly gathered in Laldwip after learning that Myanmar junta forces were preparing to launch airstrikes in southern Maungdaw Township, prompting many AA members stationed there to flee towards the border in search of safety, according to intelligence sources.

The BGB said it has already intensified patrols and surveillance to prevent illegal entry.

"We are keeping a close watch on the border — we are determined to prevent any illegal intrusion," Ashiqur Rahman, commanding officer of the BGB Teknaf Battalion 2, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Earlier on Monday, around 8:45am, BGB 64 Battalion detained an armed member of AA after he crossed into Bangladesh from Myanmar through the Balukhali border in Ukhiya of Cox's Bazar.

The detainee — Jiban Tonchongya, 21 — surrendered with an AK-47 rifle, 52 rounds of ammunition and two magazines.

During interrogation, Jiban said that he fled to Bangladesh due to security threats, said Mohammad Jasim Uddin, commanding officer of BGB 64 Battalion in Ukhiya.

Jiban was produced in front of a court following the arrest and the court sent him to jail, said Arif Hossain, the officer-in-charge Ukhiya police station.

Over at the border, residents have been on edge for weeks.

Between July 25 and July 27, bursts of automatic weapons fire were heard intermittently near border pillars 44, 45, 46, 48 and 49.

Residents of Chakdhala, Ghumdhum, Douchhari and other nearby villages say the fighting has

severely disrupted their lives.

Then on Sunday night, gunshots were heard again.

This time, it took place around 300 to 330 metres from the zero line near border pillars 34 and 35, according to BGB.

The border situation is currently calm, said SM Khairul Alam, commanding officer of BGB 34 Battalion 34.

"After the gunfire incidents, local residents were feeling uneasy, but we assured them that the incidents took place inside Myanmar and there is no lapse in security on our side," he said, adding that residents had since been reassured.

Md Mazharul Islam Chowdhury, Naikhiyangchhari upazila nirbahi officer, said: "We are closely monitoring the situation with BGB, and border forces are on maximum alert."

"It's been a long time since we last heard gunfire — we heard it for quite a while, but it's hard to understand what's happening in Myanmar," said Local resident Mahamudul Hasan.

In December last year, more than a year after launching resistance against Myanmar's junta, the rebel AA claimed full control of the 271-kilometre stretch of the Rakhine portion of the Myanmar-Bangladesh border.

Earlier in February last year, heavy gun battles between the AA and Myanmar junta troops raged for days in the Ghumdhum border.

Multiple sources and intelligence reports indicate the AA has been struggling in northern Maungdaw since July, suffering from manpower shortages, internal disputes and low morale.

Disagreements over narcotics smuggling profits, loot-sharing and the very necessity of continued fighting have driven many to desert the group, they said.

## Atpara UNO sued

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after hearing about allegations of rice looting, the case statement said.

Plaintiff Raihan said, "I was present at the time. That day, the UNO arrived with police and beat Durjoy with a baton. We tried to stop him, but he didn't stop. A government officer should not behave like this."

Durjoy said, "I went to collect rice for my mother. The bamboo barricade at the front broke due to the crowd, and I fell. At that moment, the UNO came and beat me, then detained me until 4:00pm before releasing me after taking my signature."

"I'm not the kind of person who loots rice."

The court took the case into cognisance and instructed the Police Bureau of Investigation to investigate it.

Mizanur Rahman, lawyer for the plaintiff, said that a video of the assault was attached to the case statement.

Denying the allegations, UNO Ruel Sangma said, "I didn't beat anyone. Some people were trying to loot the rice, so I took action to maintain law and order. There's a conspiracy going on against me."

Mymensingh Divisional Commissioner Md Mokhter Ahmed said the matter was under investigation. Netrakona Deputy Commissioner Bonani Biswas could not be reached for comment.

## 83% in favour of caretaker govt system

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Eighty-seven percent want article 70 of the constitution to be amended, and 90 percent support governing the state based on the principles outlined in Tajuddin Ahmad's declaration of April 10, 1971.

Eighty-eight percent of respondents believe internet services should be recognised as a basic right, alongside food, education, healthcare, and housing.

Eighty percent support the creation of a National Constitutional Council. Ninety percent want the Anti-Corruption Commission, Human Rights Commission, Information Commission, and the proposed Local Government Commission to be made constitutional bodies.

Eighty-seven percent support requiring approval from the Election Commission for any executive actions during the polls period that could

influence the elections.

Eighty-four percent want an independent delimitation commission of experts formed after every census. Eighty-eight percent back cancellation of candidacy or results of any candidate who provides false information on election expenses.

Ninety-two percent want individuals identified as criminals, extortionists, corrupt figures, or convicts to be declared ineligible for political parties.

Eighty-seven percent support using passport data to enable postal or online voting for expatriates. Eighty-eight percent back creating a national voter registration authority, 83 percent support a "no" vote option, and 90 percent want a permanent independent police commission.

Talking about the findings, Shujan Secretary Badiul Alam said the survey clearly proved that citizens are in favour of reforms and

want a change.

He added that the existing systems, processes, and institutions have enabled Sheikh Hasina to become an autocrat and so changes are a must.

"If we are to establish a democratic state, we need a complete overhaul of these systems, processes, and institutions. Reforms are necessary," he said.

Speaking at the event, Robaet Ferdous, professor at Dhaka University, said, "Elections alone do not guarantee good governance."

Citing examples such as money laundering and corruption during past governments, he stressed the need for reforms within political parties.

Highlighting the Shujan's proposed National Charter, the speakers at the press conference opined that this charter would help build a democratic, humane, and prosperous Bangladesh if implemented.

## Educationist Mahfuza Khanam passes away

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Her first namaz-e-janaza was held at her Indira Road residence after Asr prayers yesterday.

Today, her body will be taken to the Central Shaheed Minar and kept there from 10:00am to 11:30am for people to pay their last respects, followed by a tribute at the DUCSU building at 12:00pm.

Her second janaza will be held after Zuhr prayers at the Dhaka University Central Mosque, and she will be laid to rest at Azampur Graveyard.

Born on April 14, 1946, in Kolkata, Mahfuza graduated from the physics

department at Dhaka University in 1966 and completed her master's from the same department the following year.

She served as DUCSU VP for the 1966-67 term as a nominee of the East Pakistan Chhatra Union.

Later, she went on to hold several prominent positions, including the director general of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, president and general secretary of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, chairperson of the central Khelaghar Ashor, adviser to Bangladesh Uddi Shilpigoshthi, and member of the

Dhaka University Senate.

She taught at various government colleges for many years.

In recognition of her contributions to education, she was awarded the Ekushey Padak in 2021.

She was married to eminent lawyer and former law minister Shafique Ahmed. They had two sons and a daughter.

Political, cultural, and social organisations have expressed their condolences, remembering her as a fearless activist against military rule in the 1960s and a lifelong campaigner for social progress.

## Cops forced to retreat

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were pushing and slapping the two. Within 20 to 25 minutes, around 12-13 policemen came here on two police vans. They tried to calm the crowd. But people became more agitated seeing police."

Contacted, Taraganj Police Station's Officer-in-Charge MA Faruk said some policemen were present there. But they were too few in number.

"There were around 2,000 to 3,000 angry people. They became

aggressive. Police were compelled to leave the scene to save themselves. Upon receiving the news, I informed the army. I went to the scene myself and with the army's help controlled the situation. We rescued the two injured men from Burirhat school field," the OC said.

Ruplal was declared dead at Taraganj Upazila Hospital, and Pradip died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital, he added.

Ruplal Robidas, 48, of Ghanirampur Dangapara village

under Taraganj upazila, and his relative Pradip Lal Robidas, 47, of Khamar Mokimpur village under Mithapukur upazila were hurrying home on a battery-powered van on Saturday night to begin planning for Ruplal's daughter's wedding.

The mob waylaid the two and accused them of stealing the van.

On Sunday, Ruplal's wife Maloti Robidas filed a case accusing some 700 unidentified people.

Police have so far arrested four people, said the OC yesterday.