

ANKAN'S aspirations

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

There is a sense of melancholy and serenity in Ankan Kumar's voice that draws listeners into the emotions he pours into his songs. Though an introvert at heart, the moment he begins to sing he lets go completely and invites you into his world of melody.

I first discovered his music through *Upo* from Hatirpool Sessions, and his recent Coke Studio Bangla track *Long Distance Love* infatuated me with his voice, all over again.

"From a young age, I have been practicing pure classical music. Back then, I always thought about how to play with notations and create melody. I am a curious soul, which is why I always want to explore new sounds. However, I believe the essence of Bangla music should remain the same even while experimenting," said Ankan, sipping coffee at The Daily Star.

Upo went on to become one of the most viewed

that people began sharing their own love stories in my comment section," he said.

The song came together under the guidance of Arnob. "Arnob *da* reached out to Pragata and me, asking if we could create a song about long-distance love. I prefer acoustic instruments for orchestration, and Shuvo *bhai* and Arnob *da* arranged everything beautifully. During the recording, I saw violin and cello players laying down their parts alongside my track. I had always dreamed of a full orchestral setup, and with this song, I finally experienced it. Shuvendu *bhai* and Arnob *da* nailed it," said Ankan.

Some felt that *Upo* and *Long Distance Love* sounded similar. Ankan smiled at the comparison. "When Shuvendu *bhai* and I sat together, we were deciding how to begin



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songs from Hatirpool Sessions. Talking about its origin, Ankan said, "I made this song during Covid, when I had a 102-degree fever. I couldn't go outside, and my thoughts felt trapped within me. In that vulnerable state, at the break of dawn, something inside me sparked and I composed the tune. Later, I met the people behind Hatirpool Sessions. They told me they were working on a lot of original tracks, and asked me to create one. I felt surreal that the song I wrote in isolation during Covid was finally recorded after the pandemic." At the time, Ankan had no idea that the song would go viral on social media.

There are also specific compositions in which he completely loses himself while singing. "Certain notations make me feel as though I am zoning out and travelling back to those emotions. Each time I go through that, I relive the pain. But as an artiste, revisiting that emotion adds more honesty and integrity to my music," he reflected.

Recently, Ankan has been making waves with *Long Distance Love*, composed by Shuvendu Das Shuvo, with lyrics co-written by Pragata Naoha and Ankan himself. The song resonated deeply with listeners who related to the pain of separation. "Some loved it, while others didn't. But what I cherished most was

the song. I had seven favourite chords that I also used in *Upo*, and naturally they slipped into this one too. That is why some thought it sounded similar. But the approach was different. We created the whole song in a conversational tone, which gave it its own identity."

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PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



Melody & Memories
Sep 25 | 7 pm-10 pm
Jatra Biroti



Play: Kohey Facebook
Sep 27 | 7 pm-9 pm
Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA



Play: Clockwork Conversations
Sep 29 | 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm onwards
Studio Theatre Hall, BSA

1-MINUTE REVIEW

'The Conjuring: LAST RITES'



The Warrens return for one final haunting in *The Conjuring: Last Rites*, closing out one of horror's most successful franchises. Director Michael Chaves leans on atmospheric dread more than gore, weaving a story that balances intimate family stakes with supernatural spectacle. Vera Farmiga and Patrick Wilson once again ground the

terror with heartfelt performances, their chemistry anchoring the chaos. While some scares feel familiar, the film shines in its quieter moments — grief, faith, and love battling against darkness. Supported by moody cinematography and a stirring score, *Last Rites* offers a satisfying, spine-tingling farewell that honours the Warrens' legacy.

WHAT'S PLAYING

'LADY LADY' by Olivia Dean

Olivia Dean returns with *Lady Lady*, a sun-kissed hymn to growth and identity. It's a graceful blend of neo-soul warmth and pop clarity — earthy, honest, and steeped in a kind of golden-light nostalgia.

Since its July 11 release as the second single from her upcoming album *The Art of Loving*, *Lady Lady* has quietly become a buzz pick in the UK, reaching No 38 on the Official Singles Chart and making its mark in the Official Trending Chart. It's music for the thresholds — changing seasons, changing selves; a song you play late at night while reflecting on both who you were and who you're becoming.

TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix The Wrong Paris



Hulu Swiped



Prime Video Gen V



Chorki Ondho Balok



Apple TV+ The Morning Show



STYLE STATEMENT

Mehazabien Chowdhury

Mehazabien steps into the spotlight at the Blender's Choice–The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards in an ocean-hued gown that redefines elegance. The soft aqua satin flows like liquid silk, while a silver off-shoulder bodice shimmers in striking contrast. A matching satin clutch and minimal jewelry let the dress shine, complemented by luminous makeup and softly styled hair. The overall effect is serene yet regal — a timeless display of femininity that feels both refreshing and unforgettable.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED