



Imran–Nancy's new song to pay tribute to Andrew Kishore

Imran Mahmudul and Nazmun Munira Nancy have reunited for a playback duet. Under the banner of Anupam Music, the two have lent their voices to a new track titled *Ami Pathore Phool Fotobo 2.0*.

Originally featured in the 1997 film *Shesh Thikana, Ami Pathore Phool Fotobo* gained timeless popularity through Andrew Kishore's vocals, lyrics by Milton Khondokar, and music composed by Alam Khan. In the new version, the first two lines of the original have been used as a bridge, which inspired the title *Ami Pathore Phool Fotobo 2.0*.

Imran did the new arrangement, while Ahmed Rizvi wrote the lyrics. Recording for the song was recently completed at Imran's studio.

The upcoming music video will also be a grand production. Director Soikat Reza will shoot the video in Malaysia. Although the shoot is planned for next month, the casting will be finalised beforehand. If all goes well, *Ami Pathore Phool Fotobo 2.0* will be released on Anupam Music's YouTube channel at the very beginning of the New Year.

SUSHANTA GHOSH

A two-day group art exhibition featuring works inspired by poet Jibanananda Das' depiction of nature concluded in Dhaka on Sunday evening. The show, showcasing paintings by 28 artists, was held at the Land Gallery in Lalmatia.

The exhibition was inaugurated on Saturday by eminent artist Shahid Kabir. Artist Abdul Mannan, artist Dr Kazi Mozammel Hossain were presented as chief guests, and Moinuddin Khaled and Shamsul Alam Azad were also presented as special guests at the opening ceremony.

The paintings—created in watercolour, acrylic, and mixed media—portrayed various elements found in Jibanananda's poetry and nature imagery. Motifs such as the Dhanshiri river, the 'chalta flower', 'bhorer doyel pakhi', owls, ducks, dinghy boats, and verses from his poems featured prominently across the works. A total of 33 paintings by 28 artists were displayed.

Artist Abdul Mannan, one of the participants, said Jibanananda's poems capture the timeless beauty of rural Bengal. "That eternal landscape is what we tried to portray in this exhibition," he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Several artists painted their own interpretations of the Dhanshiri River. Artist Tapas Karmakar noted, "The poet wrote, 'I will come back again to the Dhanshiri's bank.' That longing makes me depict this river."

The exhibition was organised by Charukola Barishal. Its coordinator, Sushanta Ghosh, said the show will later travel to Barishal. "Seventy-one years after the poet's passing, this exhibition stands as our tribute to him," he said.

In his inaugural speech, artist Shahid Kabir said, "The nature that Jibanananda brought to life through

his poems has been reimagined here by painters in their own colours and forms. This is our homage to the poet." He added, "No destructive force can diminish the creative spirit of Bengal."

Another chief guest, artist Kazi Mozammel Hossain, said the exhibition not only expresses the artists' admiration for Jibanananda Das but also brings forth the everlasting beauty of Bengal's nature on canvas.

Eminent artist Chinmaye Sikder said artists paid their respects to Jibanananda Das.

'Squid Game: America': David Fincher's project set to begin filming



The pink-uniformed army is returning to screens in an American adaptation. Following Cate Blanchett's cameo in the final season of *Squid Game*, David Fincher's western version is moving forward, with filming reportedly beginning in February 2026.

The new series titled *Squid Game: America* will be disconnected from the original Korean series. The cast remains undisclosed, including whether Blanchett will reprise her recruiter role. Fincher is known for thrillers like *Gone Girl*, *Zodiac*, and *Fight Club*. The original creator Hwang Dong-hyuk confirmed the American version's existence. The American version is projected for release in February 2028.

Since its 2021 debut, *Squid Game* became a streaming phenomenon, spawning seasons 2 and 3, and reality show *Squid Game: The Challenge*.

NEWS

Ex-OC Pradeep was mastermind

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file appeals with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court within 30 days, challenging the HC verdict.

On June 2 this year, the HC bench delivered the verdict after hearing the death reference (trial court documents) and the appeals filed by the convicts challenging the trial court judgement.

In the judgement, the HC upheld the death sentences for Pradeep and Laiqat as well as the life imprisonment for six others handed down by the trial court in the same case.

The six are ex-SL Nanda Dulal Rakshit, former constables Sagar Deb and Rubel Sharma, and police informants Md Nezamuddin, Md Nurul Amin, and Md Ayaz Uddin. All eight convicts are in jail.

According to the HC verdict, Sinha arrived in Cox's Bazar on July 2, 2020, with his associates Sahedul Islam Sifat,

Shipra Debnath, and Rupi to film scenic footage of hills, forests, and sea beaches for his YouTube channel "Just Go".

On July 7, 2020, they moved into Nilima Resort and travelled around Cox's Bazar, Teknaf, and Ramu to record videos. During this time, they learnt from locals about various illegal activities of then OC Pradeep and some of his subordinates, including extortion, enforced disappearances, and "crossfire" killings.

When Pradeep learnt this through his informants, he threatened Sinha in mid July 2020 and instructed him to stop such activities and leave the area.

Despite this threat, Sinha continued his work. Thereafter, Pradeep, along with Nanda Dulal, Sagar, Nurul, Ayaz, and Nezamuddin, conspired to kill Sinha.

The HC verdict said these actions are corroborated by multiple confessions, witness testimony, phone records, and the autopsy report.

On July 31, 2020, Laiqat and Nanda Dulal, acting on information, positioned themselves at the Shamalpur APBn checkpoint on Marine Drive to intercept Sinha. When Sinha's car arrived, they blocked the road.

On Laiqat's orders, Sinha stepped out with hands raised. Laiqat then fired four shots at Sinha's upper body, critically wounding him. As Sinha pleaded for water and air, he was abused, handcuffed, and assaulted.

Laiqat then informed Pradeep, who soon arrived with other officers. Pradeep verbally abused Sinha, kicked his chest, breaking his ribs, and pressed his neck with his boot until Sinha breathed his last.

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Polling time, booths likely to increase

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announce the election schedule will be fixed within two to three days.

The EC had earlier said it plans to announce the schedule in the first week of December.

Masud said the EC may need to increase the number of polling booths in the upcoming election. "If possible, voting hours may also be extended so voters have more time to cast their referendum ballots," he said.

National elections typically run from 8:00am to 4:00pm without a break. The starting time may be brought forward in the upcoming polls, officials said.

For the election planned for February, the EC has designated 42,761 polling centres and 244,739 booths

nationwide -- one centre for every 3,000 voters, with one booth for every 500 male voters and 400 female voters.

Officials said these calculations were made only for the parliamentary election. If both votes are held together, the number of booths will need to rise, even if the number of centres remains unchanged, since casting two ballots will take longer.

Some commissioners also suggested deploying more polling officials to ease the ballot count.

Usually, the EC appoints one presiding officer for each centre, one assistant presiding officer, and two polling officials for each booth. These officials are also responsible for counting the votes.

Masud also said the commission

must first be legally empowered to conduct the referendum.

An ordinance must be enacted before the July charter referendum can take place, and it will be ready within three to four working days, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul said at a press briefing in Dhaka on November 20.

Bangladesh has held three referendums so far. Those in 1977 and 1985 were widely seen as attempts to legitimise the military regimes of Ziaur Rahman and HM Ershad, while the 1991 referendum marked the country's return to parliamentary democracy.

The first two referendums were held under the Referendum Orders of 1977 and 1985, and the third under the Referendum Act of 1991.

of democracy.

"Unfortunately, there's no agreement on one effective solution, but it's clear that we need a multi-prong approach, including legal measures and media interventions such as fact-checking and increased accountability," she said.

Nurul Kabir, editor of the New Age, said disinformation existed in the past, but technology has amplified its reach to an unprecedented scale, making fact-checking even more challenging for the media.

There are suggestions that newsrooms employ dedicated fact-checkers, he said, but ultimately, "every professional journalist should be a fact-checker", he added.

Three hurt in attack

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Commissioner's office premises, demanded exemplary punishment for Abul Sarkar.

At one stage, members of Touhid Janata chased Sarkar's followers and beat them up with sticks and hurled brick chips. Some of the victims jumped into the waterbody beside the stadium out of fear, the police official said, adding that law enforcers later rescued them and took them to Sadar Hospital for treatment.

No case was filed over the incident or the filing of this report around 10:00pm.

Meanwhile, the Communist Party of Bangladesh and National Citizen Party strongly condemned the violence and expressed deep outrage over the ongoing attacks, arrests and persecution of bauls, Sufis and members of other minorities.

CPB, in a statement signed by its President Kazi Sazzad Zahir Chandan and General Secretary Abdullah Kafi Ratan, accused the interim government of using police to support such attackers.

It said the government has neglected its commitment to creating a non-communal and equitable Bangladesh; it instead is backing far-right forces and pushing the country toward a crisis.

The party called upon the public to support the oppressed baul-fakir community.

In its statement, NCP said there might be differences in opinions and



PHOTO: STAR
A baul supporter rescued by police after being attacked yesterday.

ideologies, but such violence is in no way acceptable. "In the cultural and spiritual tradition of Bangladesh, the bauls, fakirs and Sufis have significant contribution, and it is our responsibility to preserve and protect this tradition."

It demanded a probe into the attacks and that those responsible be brought to book.

Earlier, Udichi Shilpigoshthi, in a statement issued last night, strongly protested the arrest of renowned baul Abul Sarkar and the attack on his supporters.

In the statement, Udichi's acting president Mahmud Selim and its general secretary Amit Ranjan Dey said that such persecution of bauls, who are bearers of Bengal's long-standing non-communal spirit, is completely unacceptable.

Admin must be under our control

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when Shahjahan made the remarks.

The video of the speech went viral on social media yesterday.

Shahjahan said, "If the ameer of Jamaat were here, I would say that elections can't be won only with people, the administration must be brought under our control ... I'm talking about each constituency ... Those in the administration must all be under us. They must stand up and sit down at our command. They will make arrests at our command and file cases at our command ..."

"In each of your constituencies, primary school teachers must speak for the daripalla [scale] symbol [Jamaat's election symbol]. All teachers of higher secondary schools must speak for the daripalla ..."

Addressing a local leader of Fatikchhari, he said, "Police must follow you. The OC [officer in charge] must know your schedule in the morning and provide you with protocol."

Meanwhile, Jamaat-e-Islami in a statement issued yesterday said the party is taking organisational measures regarding the "controversial" comments made by Shahjahan Chowdhury.

In the statement, sent by the central publicity wing, Jamaat's Assistant Secretary General and Chattogram region director Mawlawi Muhammed Shahjahan said, "We have seen [the video of] the remarks. These are entirely his [Shahjahan Chowdhury's] own comments. He can best explain them. Jamaat does not endorse his remarks. We have immediately drawn his attention to the matter. We are also taking our own internal measures regarding this incident."

"We believe the administration will carry out its duties with full professionalism. There is no scope for our intervention here. In the past, those in the administration who failed to act professionally have caused harm to the country."

'You too can be made an accused'

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involved in the killings of "around 1,000 people" and dumped many bodies in the Buriganga river after cutting open their abdomens.

"He is a daring man," Tajul told the court.

Nazneen raised a series of accusations against the investigators.

She alleged that the questioning of her client was unlawfully video-recorded and that she was given access only during lunch breaks, after which she was once again denied access during the interrogation.

She also alleged that Nabila Idris, a member of the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances (CIED), interrogated Ziaul in violation of the ICT.

Tajul rejected the claims as "blatant lies and fallacious," prompting the tribunal chairman to advise the prosecutor to remain calm.

Tajul insisted that Nabila was legally permitted to be present as a member of CIED's fact-finding committee and that video recording was necessary "so that no one can falsely claim maltreatment."

When Nazneen moved a petition seeking a directive to ensure that she is informed and allowed during any future interrogation, Tajul argued it should be dismissed outright, saying the application lacked any citation of relevant legal provisions.

He also claimed that Nazneen is a family member of Ziaul and she was creating a lot of problems. Tajul added that the prosecution would appeal to bar her from representing him.

Earlier, Nazneen requested the tribunal's directive to ask the jail authorities to allow her to obtain Ziaul's signature to appoint a foreign lawyer in the ongoing cases. Tajul objected, arguing that any such move required Bar Council approval.

As Nazneen said that the jail authorities had refused to give her access to get the signature, Tajul said, "You always shout. You behave badly."

Nazneen shot back, "You are talking inappropriately".

Justice Mortuza again stepped in and said, "Do not get angry".

About Nazneen's petition to bring in a foreign lawyer to fight the case, the tribunal said she is allowed to do so as long as she follows the required legal process.

Nazneen also sought a court order requiring authorities to provide call records and SMS logs from two phone numbers used by Ziaul.