

ENTERTAINMENT'S RISING STARS

Tragedy made Hridoy a tea-seller,
PASSION MADE HIM A
SUCCESSFUL RAPPER

NAVEEN ISLAM TOREE

For many aspiring musicians, the journey begins in a studio. For Jahidul Islam Hridoy, better known as JD47, it began at a tea stall.

Today, the rapper, songwriter and composer from Dhaka has built a growing following through songs such as *Marathon*, *Two Percent*, *Ashona*, *Krishnochura*, *Maati* and *Bullet*, among others. Yet, behind the music lies a story moulded by hardship and resilience.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Hridoy was candid about his musical journey. Unlike many artistes who enter music through mentorship, institutions or family influence, he says his connection to music came purely from passion.



at the airport. Eventually, he opened Samia Coffee and Tea Stall, naming it after his late sister. While these experiences helped him survive one of the most difficult phases of his life, he gradually realised that this was not where he wanted his journey to end.

"I understood that this wasn't what I wanted to do for the rest of my life," he recalled.

Encouragement came from the people around him. Senior friends motivated him to continue pursuing his dreams, while one friend lent him Tk 10,000 when he needed support the most. Inspired by watching his peers complete their university education, Hridoy decided to return to the classroom and rebuild his future.

Now in his eighth semester of a BBA programme at European University of Bangladesh, he balances academic life with running a tea stall and a grocery store. The challenge is demanding, but one he has learned to embrace.

His connection to music, however, began much earlier. Before entering the commercial music scene, Hridoy would

perform casually in his neighbourhood for fun. It was through these local performances that he was introduced to musician Tanjib Sarowar, an encounter that opened up new possibilities for him as an artiste. He also credits E K Majumder Esty for giving him commercial exposure.

The stage name JD47 also has a personal story behind it. "JD" comes from Jahid, while "47" was inspired by the nickname his friends gave him, referencing the iconic AK-47.

Alongside his solo work, Hridoy is also associated with Local Bangla Poetry, or LBP, a group with whom he performs from time to time. The group includes HRT, Toxic, Forazi, MJ Flame and Luci5, with music producer Hamid Tajowar Alif also associated with their work.

As his musical career gained momentum, support from his university community became an important source of motivation. He credits faculty members for encouraging him throughout his journey. His recent work includes a short rap portion in the background music of the film *Malik*, featured during Arifin Shuvoo's entry scene.

Despite his growing profile as an artiste, Hridoy remains grounded about his ambitions. While music is his passion, he is cautious about allowing it to become his sole source of income.

"When passion turns into a profession, it doesn't always sit well with me," he said.

Instead, his goal is simple: to become established and create a stable future for himself and his family. He loves his work and dreams of expanding his business someday.

From long shifts as a delivery worker to lecture halls, tea stalls and recording sessions, JD47's story is one of a kind. For the young artiste, success was never about overnight fame. He is more interested in moving forward one step, one song and one dream at a time.



Bangladeshi film 'Nishi' selected for Montenegro film festival

Bangladeshi feature film *Nishi* has been selected for the main competition section of the 12th Green Montenegro International Film Festival, a leading global platform dedicated to environmental cinema. The festival will be held from August 1 to 3 at Durmitor National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Montenegro. The film is directed by Golam Rabbani and Mohammad Zahirul Islam.

Set in Sylhet's tea gardens, *Nishi* follows a tea worker's daughter whose education is disrupted by a severe water crisis, highlighting the intersection of environmental challenges and social vulnerability. The film's post-production was completed at the Łódź Film School in Poland.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?
'Fête de la
Musique 2026'

Alliance Française de Dhaka hosts its annual celebration of live music, bringing together performers and listeners in an open-air setting at Café la Veranda. Curated by Tapes Chakraborty, the evening features informal performances, shaping a shared cultural gathering in the heart of the city.

DATE: FRIDAY | JUNE 12, 2026
TIME: 6:30 PM ONWARDS
VENUE: ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE
DHAKA, DHANMONDI



NEWS

Road crashes claim 281 lives in Eid rush

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locations, 112 incidents took place on regional highways, 97 on national highways, 42 on rural roads, and 37 on city streets.

Loss of vehicle control was identified as the leading cause of crashes, accounting for 127 incidents. Head-on collisions caused 73 accidents, rear-end collisions 42, and pedestrians being run over 38.

Dhaka division recorded the highest number of casualties, with

101 deaths in 95 crashes. Sylhet division saw the fewest deaths, with seven in nine crashes. Among the districts, Faridpur logged the highest death toll, with 28 fatalities in 19 crashes.

RSF said over one crore people left Dhaka to celebrate Eid with their families, while around four crore people travelled between districts.

Its Chairman Saidur Rahaman said traffic congestion and overall commuter suffering on highways

and waterways were comparatively lower this year, except for bottlenecks on routes in the northern region. However, he alleged that passengers across all modes of transport were systematically overcharged due to weak regulatory oversight.

The organisation highlighted several major incidents, including a crash in Tangail's Kalihati, in which 15 workers were killed after a rod-laden truck overturned. It added that 13 major crashes involved unfit vehicles.

Union Parishad elections likely in October

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administrators or government officials since the 2024 mass uprising.

Although the polls will officially be non-partisan after the suspension of voting with party symbols, major political parties have already begun selecting candidates they intend to support, formulating strategies and testing possible alliances.

After the interim government took office, except for union councils, elected representatives of 12 city corporations, all 330 municipalities, 61 zila parishad chairmen, 493 out of 495 upazila parishad chairmen and 988 upazila parishad vice-chairmen and women vice-chairmen were removed, while many went into hiding. A large number of union parishad representatives also disappeared from public view after the political transition.

The BNP-led government, following the policy adopted by the interim administration, appointed administrators to 11 city corporations and 56 district councils.

The prolonged absence of elected representatives has caused serious disruptions in local governance and public services, increasing pressure for elections.

According to EC data, of the 4,581 union councils, 3,632 will be eligible for elections by the end of August, while another 343 will become eligible by December.

EC officials said each of the five local government bodies has separate codes of conduct, and as part of its preparations, the EC is drafting a uniform code of conduct for elections to five types of local government bodies.

The EC's Law and Rules Reform Committee held meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday to discuss code of

conduct amendments. The process is expected to be completed within June.

Masud, who heads the committee, said key changes include raising the deposit requirement for candidates, ending online nomination submissions, scrapping the one percent support rule for independents, and barring the use of posters, EVMs and postal ballots.

He added that affidavits for local government candidates will not include separate undertakings; instead, a declaration will be attached to the form stating that candidates will abide by the code of conduct.

When asked whether EC would sit with the stakeholder before the local polls, Masud said, "There will be no dialogue with stakeholders before the elections. Any changes to laws and rules will be uploaded on the website. It will be open to all, and everyone will be able to give their opinions."

Low-use home users spared power tariff

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applications submitted yesterday by power distribution utilities seeking a review of the newly announced rates. In addition, the Power Division asked for a revision for low-income or marginal consumers.

As a result, the weighted average retail electricity tariff will fall by Tk 0.23 per unit from the rate announced on Wednesday, bringing it down from Tk 10.63 per kWh to Tk 10.40 per kWh, the new order said.

BERC noted that keeping the lower tariffs unchanged would reduce the revenues of power distribution companies, and the shortfall would

have to be compensated through additional government subsidies.

The decision comes a day after BERC raised electricity tariffs at wholesale, transmission and retail levels, increasing the weighted average retail tariff by 16.68 percent, from Tk 9.11 per kWh to Tk 10.63 per kWh.

In Wednesday's order, even lifeline consumers were brought under the tariff hike, drawing criticism from consumer groups and energy experts. The increase would have affected around 1.62 crore lifeline customers, according to information presented during the tariff proceedings.

The tariff adjustments followed applications submitted in early May by the Bangladesh Power Development Board and power distribution companies, with public hearings held on May 20-21. Consumer representatives opposed the proposed increases during the hearings and urged the authorities to address inefficiencies and reduce system costs before imposing additional burdens on consumers.

Despite yesterday's revision for low-consuming residential users, the tariff hikes for other consumer categories remain in force from the June billing month.

Tk 20,000cr BB fund to revive closed

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This fund is intended to fill that gap.

To access the fund, a bank must first sign a Participation Agreement with Bangladesh Bank. The scheme will be managed by the Banking Regulation and Policy Department.

Each loan drawn from the fund, as well as its repayment, must be processed through the participating bank's head office or principal office.

The scheme will operate on a revolving basis for three years, meaning money repaid by one borrower can be lent out again within the scheme's lifespan. Each individual loan will have a maximum term of one year. If a borrower's business performs satisfactorily, the bank may apply to Bangladesh Bank for a renewal.

Regarding interest rates, banks must pay Bangladesh Bank 4 percent per annum on the funds they borrow, with interest charged quarterly.

However, no interest will be due

during the first six months after disbursement. On the borrower's side, banks cannot charge more than 7 percent per annum. No additional fees or charges will be permitted beyond those listed in Bangladesh Bank's official schedule of charges.

No single company or business group may receive more than Tk 200 crore under the scheme at any given time.

Before granting a loan, a bank must conduct a thorough assessment of why the business closed or why it is not operating at full capacity. Management failure, weak marketing, outdated technology, and inadequate utility connections are among the factors that banks must examine and determine to be addressable.

Borrowers already classified as defaulters by the Credit Information Bureau (CIB) are not eligible.

For worker salary payments under the scheme, banks must transfer wages directly to individual workers' bank accounts or mobile financial

service accounts. Cash payments are not allowed. Banks are required to verify each worker's NID number before making salary transfers.

Export-oriented and indirect-exporter firms will receive priority under the scheme. Companies with the technical skills, infrastructure, and commercial capacity to take over or lease a closed unit and restart operations will also receive priority consideration.

Banks must collect weekly sales and revenue reports from borrowers and conduct quarterly factory inspections. BB retains the right to conduct on-site inspections of any borrower at any time.

If misuse of funds is detected, the bank must immediately recover the full amount at the original interest rate, along with an additional 2 percent penalty.

The circular, which was issued under section 45 of the Bank Companies Act, 1991, and takes immediate effect.

Khalilur hints at keeping UN

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pre-internet time, but today you can simultaneously carry out both tasks. Now it is very normal."

In the secret-ballot election held at the UN headquarters in New York, Khalilur secured 99 votes against 91 for his rival, Andreas Kakouris of Cyprus. A total of 190 ballots were cast, with no invalid votes or abstentions.

Khalilur returned to Dhaka early yesterday and was accorded a reception at the foreign ministry in the afternoon.

On May 13, during an informal dialogue at the UN in New York as part of his UNGA presidential campaign, Khalilur said he might take leave from his government duties if elected UNGA president.

"Will I resign? No. My prime minister [Tarique Rahman] has told me very clearly that he is going to let me off for one year to do a full-time job. Resignation is not the only option. I can take leave," he said in response to a question.

His remarks have fuelled public debate over whether he will serve exclusively as UNGA president or attempt to discharge both responsibilities simultaneously.

The General Assembly is the UN's most representative body, with all 193 member states each holding one vote,

and its annual September session in New York is the only UN forum where leaders of all member states address the world.

It oversees the UN budget, adopts treaties, debates global issues such as poverty and corruption, and passes resolutions that are not legally binding but generally reflect global opinion. It also makes key UN decisions, including appointing the secretary-general on the recommendation of the Security Council and electing non-permanent UNSC members.

The next UNGA session will open on September 8.

Asked how practical it would be for Khalilur to juggle both roles amid intensifying geopolitical competition and Bangladesh's foreign policy priorities, former ambassador to the US M Humayun Kabir said the UNGA presidency is far more demanding now than during Humayun Rashid Chowdhury's tenure.

He said the UN had therefore decided to make the presidency a full-time role. However, the post is an honorary position and carries no salary.

"The world has become much more complicated, and the UN General Assembly now deals with major global issues throughout the

year," he told this correspondent.

"The president has to spend a significant part of the year in New York," he said.

However, Humayun Kabir said the matter would ultimately depend on the government. "It will also depend partly on the efficiency of Khalilur Rahman," he added.

Khalilur's presidency will coincide with one of the most consequential processes on the UN calendar: the selection of a successor to UN Secretary-General António Guterres, whose term ends on December 31, 2026.

FM TO VISIT RUSSIA
Meanwhile, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the Bangladeshi foreign minister would visit Russia on June 7-9.

"Moscow welcomes the intention of the president-elect [of UNGA] to give priority to defending the interests of the Global South and East, to promote the rapid achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, to enhance the effectiveness of the General Assembly, and, more broadly, to help restore the UN's central coordinating role in world affairs," said the ministry in a statement.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka, however, has not made any official announcement regarding the visit.