

Sanjoy’s iconic World Cup feat was anything but accidental

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The Sanjoy we saw on June 12, performing *SIIR SIIR* alongside Nora Fatehi and French artiste Vegedream while donning a maroon jacket with Bangladesh’s iconic Bengal Tiger, Shapla, and the red circle representing our flag, was anything but accidental.

Over the years, Sanjoy Deb built up his reputation, collaborating with international artistes and even cracking the US Top 40 at a point where international fame was a fleeting idea for an artiste as young as him.

In 2023, *Dameer & Fuad Present Sanjoy* took place at Aloki – urging the notion among local fans that if the icon, Fuad Almuqtadir, is taking the effort to acquaint Sanjoy to the local scene, he must really be someone special. Sanjoy has publicly credited Fuad as the primary reason he began engaging with the Bangladeshi music scene, stating that Fuad was the one who personally convinced him to come back and perform in Bangladesh for the first time.

However, his story starts before that. Sanjoy Deb began internalising music subconsciously through



PHOTOS: COLLECTED

lullabies sung by his grandmother. His primary musical influence was his mother, a trained singer who actively pushed him into music at a very young age. By age four, Sanjoy was learning Indian classical music and training on the tabla. He later picked up the keys, guitar, and bass, building an organic foundation long before he ever touched electronic software.

After his move to the USA in 2004, Sanjoy kept proving that he was, indeed, special. Having been trained under a rigid, strict classical gurukul system in South Asia, Sanjoy rebelled against the Western classical and marching styles taught by his American instructors. He constantly hijacked the school band’s pieces, infusing them with complex Eastern rhythmic structures.

After six months of clash after clash, his instructor asked him to give up his drumsticks and leave the school band. Cut off from formal music education at school, Sanjoy retreated to a second-hand laptop.

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Yet, for all his international exploits and US Top 40 recognition, Sanjoy’s creative compass has reliably pointed back home. He has steered major projects in the Bangladeshi music circuit, including the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) theme—or collaborating with local stars like Habib Wahid, Tahsan, and Xefar, he has consistently channelled his success back into the ecosystem that raised him.

As Toronto’s BMO Field stadium echoed with heavy drum beats and electronic synths, Sanjoy’s triumph became a monumental win for South Asian representation in global sports culture. Taking to social media shortly after stepping off the turf, he wrote, “My People. This is just the start of something beautiful.” If that moment was any indication, the world is finally listening to the beat of our drum.

Jaya Ahsan starrer ‘Ardhangini’ sequel to release in West Bengal this July



Nearly a year after filming began, director Kaushik Ganguly has announced the release date of *Ajo Ardhangini*, the sequel to the critically acclaimed Bengali film *Ardhangini*. The film is scheduled to hit theatres across West Bengal on July 10.

Released in 2023, *Ardhangini* starred Jaya Ahsan, Kaushik Sen and Churni Ganguly in the lead roles. The film was widely praised by both audiences and critics, paving the way for the sequel.

According to Kaushik Ganguly, *Ajo Ardhangini* picks up the story roughly two years after the events of the first film. Alongside the returning trio, actor Indrasish Roy joins the cast in a significant role.

Ukil Munshi’s birth anniversary celebrated with special cultural programme

A special cultural programme was held on June 12 to commemorate the birth anniversary of legendary composer, lyricist and Baul saint Ukil Munshi. The programme, titled *Bichheder Bazar*, was organised by KUN Creative Studio. The event explored themes of longing and separation in relation to contemporary urban isolation and mental health struggles.



A key highlight was the unveiling of historically grounded portrait of Ukil Munshi, which was created through a research-based reconstruction process. The portrait was officially unveiled by Ukil Munshi’s grandson, Kulkul Ahmed.

The programme also featured the screening of the documentary *Ektarar Imam*, directed by Anarjo Murshid, alongside musical performances and a seminar. In the seminar, researchers, filmmakers and cultural thinkers discussed the current relevance of Ukil Munshi’s philosophy.

NEWS

Wider reforms

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MIRD, a non-profit organisation working to strengthen journalism and promote access to information, organised the event with support from International Media Support under the project “Supporting Media During Transition Period in Bangladesh”.

Its Executive Director Hasibur Rahman moderated the discussion, attended by editors, newsroom leaders, media professionals and academics.

Presenting a legal review comparing the draft of the National Media Commission and Broadcasting Commission Ordinances with the now-defunct media reform commission’s recommendations, Supreme Court lawyer Sara Hossain, also honorary executive director of BLAST, a leading legal aid organisation, said the regulatory framework was weak and fragmented.

Mentioning that different institutions had overlapping powers in some areas while gaps remained elsewhere, she said the Press Council was “almost non-functional”, and the draft ordinance should avoid overlapping powers between it and the proposed media commission.

“The driving point of the entire recommendation and the draft ordinances is that the state has to move neutrally,” she said, adding that the central aim should be freedom from state control.

Sara said the commission should have financial autonomy, its own secretariat and diverse representation.

She cautioned against turning qualification requirements for journalists into a licensing system. Noting that international practices do not support commissions deciding who can or cannot work as a journalist, she said, “The focus should instead be on training, accreditation and professional development.”

Gitara Nasreen, professor at Dhaka University’s Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, said the

sector was facing a question of survival.

“The commission should not be treated as a cure for every problem,” she said, adding that it should remain connected with stakeholders and work on policy, training, codes of conduct, misinformation, disinformation and media literacy.

The Daily Star’s Consulting Editor Kamal Ahmed, who headed the media reform commission, welcomed the government’s move to establish an independent commission, but said “the government should not start from zero”.

“There is already a prepared proposal before them. Let them enrich that proposal and start discussions on that basis.”

He said many people wanted to launch media outlets without the capacity to pay salaries or run proper newsrooms. “If this chaotic situation continues, no commission will be able to work.”

Kamal added that the reform commission had recommended disclosure of investment sources, annual audited accounts, stronger circulation verification and TRP reforms.

“If we cannot move forward with transparency and accountability, the media has no future.”

Dhaka Tribune Editor Reaz Ahmed said a unified body covering print, broadcast and online media would be preferable. He added that existing institutions had not been held accountable.

Samakal Editor Shahed Muhammad Ali said self-regulation was essential, as the media must first address its own weaknesses. “Self-regulation is very important. We must first fix ourselves Copyright violations had become a serious concern, as reports were copied almost instantly.”

He also called for credible circulation figures, saying the issue was directly linked to business, including government and private advertisements.

Shafiqul Alam, editor of Waadaa, said the proposed law was timely and

necessary, but questioned whether self-regulation alone would be sufficient. “I don’t think self-regulation works in Bangladesh at all.”

He said people harmed by false and targeted reports also needed protection.

Lazzat Enab Mahsi, deputy editor of Prothom Alo, said, “Merely adding the word ‘independent’ would not make the commission independent.”

Shakhawat Liton, executive editor of The Business Standard, said institutional independence remained the biggest challenge. “We have freedom of expression; what we need is freedom after expression.”

Zahid Newaz Khan, chief executive editor of Channel i, said journalism loses meaning when it serves only owners, groups or political forces.

Jimi Amir, project manager and coordinator at DW Akademie, said journalists needed an effective avenue to seek remedy when they faced problems in newsrooms. “There must be a gateway.”

Mostafa Mamun, editor of Agamir Shomoy, said the biggest crisis was the lack of a professional and objective mindset, while Mostafa Kamal, editor of Khobor Kagoj, said partisanship had damaged journalism and media institutions.

Mobinul Islam Mobin, editor of Grameen Kagoj, said financial sustainability was essential for quality journalism outside Dhaka.

Abdus Salam, secretary general of the Association of Television Channel Owners, said private television channels were struggling with falling advertisement rates, rising costs and a lack of revenue sharing.

Shamsul Jahid, editor of The Financial Express; Shahriar Karim, executive editor of Dainik Sangbad; Pantho Rahman, former president of the Diplomatic Correspondents Association of Bangladesh; and Anwarul Kabir Nantu, acting editor of Dainik Loksomaj, Jashore, also spoke, among others.

‘Ad-din followed me around with crores of taka’

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“Let them say whatever they want, but I have revoked the licence, and that decision stands. This single punishment will be enough to bring private hospitals across the country in line.”

On the morning of May 27, six newborns, aged between one and four days, died within a few hours from 5:00am at the hospital, triggering widespread public outrage. The hospital’s licence was consequently cancelled last week. A DGHS investigation committee found clear negligence by the hospital authorities, nurses and staff, as well as the absence of an on-duty physician, to be responsible.

However, Tariqul Islam Mukul, director of human resources and company affairs at Ad-din Foundation, which runs the hospital, rejected the minister’s claim.

Contacted, he said, “We don’t know where he [the minister] is speaking from right now. There is no question of such an incident occurring on our side. We are not aware of any such incident.”

MORE PATIENTS LEAVE

Meanwhile, nine patients left Ad-din Medical College Hospital yesterday, on the second day after its licence was cancelled, as hundreds of patients remained under treatment there, hospital authorities said.

Contacted, Iqbal Hussain Rudra, public relations officer of the hospital, said, “Nine patients left yesterday, and 234 are still undergoing treatment. Of those under treatment at the hospital, 48 are in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit [NICU], 12 in the Intensive Care Unit [ICU] and six in the Coronary Care Unit [CCU].”

At the time of the licence cancellation, 416 patients were admitted to the hospital. On Friday, the number stood at 243.

On Thursday, the Directorate General of Health Services revoked the licence of the 700-bed private hospital. It also instructed the hospital not to admit new patients and advised its authorities to either transfer existing patients to other facilities or

discharge them upon completion of treatment.

Sirsha Chandra Mondol, 75, was admitted to the hospital on June 8 with a chest infection.

The hospital authorities on Thursday spoke to his family about shifting him to another hospital following the revocation of the licence, said Sikta Majumder, the patient’s daughter-in-law. “We chose to continue treatment there and left yesterday after the doctor discharged him.”

Mohosina Begum was also admitted the same day with fever. Her daughter, Farzana Akther Sweetie, said they were receiving proper treatment, but the number of patients was decreasing. “Doctors told us that my mother would be discharged within a day or two.”

Locals said some people had come to the hospital earlier in the day and demanded the resumption of services. However, this correspondent did not find them there around 5:00pm.

(Our correspondent from Narsingdi contributed to this report)

Jamaat seeks clarification

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by the phrase ‘India and Bangladesh becoming one,’ he wrote.

Emphasising the sovereignty of both countries, the Jamaat chief said, “Just as India is an independent country, Bangladesh is also an independent country.”

He said the remark, if left unexplained, would create confusion among the public.

“We request our government to address this matter sincerely,” he wrote.

Shafiqur further said that if the envoy had intended the statement in its literal sense, “then it is certainly

condemnable”.

“The issue needs to be clarified,” he added.

Trivedi entered Bangladesh by road through the Benapole-Petrapole border at around 11:00am on Friday. He was received at the Benapole No Man’s Land by officials from Bangladesh’s home ministry, the Indian High Commission and the Benapole Land Port. His wife Mrinal Trivedi accompanied him.

He later left for Dhaka by road at around 12:30pm and briefly spoke to Bangladeshi journalists before departing.

In April, the Indian government appointed Trivedi, a former Indian railway minister and former MLA from Barrackpore representing the BJP, as India’s 18th high commissioner to Bangladesh. He succeeded Pranay Verma.

The appointment marked a departure from India’s longstanding diplomatic practice of appointing career Indian Foreign Service officers as high commissioners. In the 55-year history of bilateral relations, Trivedi is the first politician to be appointed as India’s high commissioner to Bangladesh.

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