



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

An afternoon with Fuad and Friends

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Line-up:
Fuad Almuqtadir - Keyboard
DRockstar Shuvo - Vocals
Johan Alamgir - Guitar
Amjad Hossain - Drums
Kazi Faisal Ahmed - Guitar
Bass King Pavel - Bass
Richard Modhu -Drums (USA)
Papa D Nayeem - Guitar (USA)

It was a cosy afternoon at a hotel in the capital, as we were waiting for Fuad and Friends. Last October, ‘Fuad Live in Dhaka’ surpassed all expectations, as Fuad Almuqtadir, with his all-star crew, became the talk-of-the-town once again. As the band arrived, all worn out after multiple shows, we sat down for a casual chat. “Even though it is a bit hectic, we

are having a blast,” said Fuad, who goes back and forth between Bangladesh and the USA for regular shows. The line-ups constantly feature renowned and promising artistes. In response to how these artistes are selected, the music director replied, “You can’t just decide who you’re going to be friends with, and our band works in a similar way.” Thanks to the band, artistes like Tashfee, Fairouz, Xefer and Anika were able to find new heights in their careers. Appearances from established names like Elita, Rafa, Kona and Bappa Mazumder brought a sense of grandeur to their live performances. When Fuad and Friends is performing in the USA, Richard Modhu and Papa D Nayeem join as the drummer and guitarist respectively. As we continued chatting in the hotel’s swimming pool area, the band’s vocalist,

DRockstar Shuvo arrived. “It has been almost fourteen years that we have been sharing the stage together,” said Shuvo. “From the very first moment, it felt like a family, and has become a part of my identity. Pavel, who is also the bass player for AvoidRafa, had an interesting story to share. “Fuad *bhai* initially knew me as a photographer,” he reminisced, “it was only when they were looking for a bassist when I was called upon. The talented musician has been with the band ever since. Johan, also known as the frontman for popular band Subconscious, is an ever-present figure in their shows. “For me, performing all over the world with this line-up is a dream come true,” he said, “what more can a musician ask for?” “I have learned a lot from Fuad and Friends,” said Amjad, who is an

established music director in his own right, “I am a musician first and music director second, and the band helps me keep this identity intact.” Going forward, Fuad and Friends plan to bring back old friends from the music industry -- “We plan to bring back Poonam, Simin and Anila going forward,” said Fuad, “I feel like that is the only direction we can go. Even though the musical landscape today is not in favour of physical albums, the band did not put the idea off the table. “We are constantly working on new music, and we will definitely think about an album. However, we basically live in different corners of the world now, so it would be very challenging.” As Fuad said these words, we knew that this ‘challenge’ was not too steep for the ace music director.

‘THE RHYTHM SECTION’ hits Star Cineplex today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The thriller film, *The Rhythm Section*, starring Blake Lively, Jude Law, Sterling K Brown and Daniel Mays, hits Star Cineplex today. It is directed by Reed Morano, with a screenplay from Mark Burnell, based on Burnell’s novel of the same name.

In the film, Stephanie Patrick (Lively) veers down a path of self-destruction after a tragic plane crash kills her family. When Stephanie discovers it wasn’t an accident, she soon embarks on a bloody quest for revenge to punish those responsible.



PHOTO: COURTESY

11th Classical Music Conference of Lakshyapar concludes

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The 11th Classical Music Conference of Lakshyapar was organised on the eastern bank of the Shitalakshya River, recently. It marked a huge turnout reaching over 1500 students, who enjoyed every bit of this exceptional arrangement, featuring live presentations of tabla lahara, chhoto kheyal, and Kathak performances by various artistes.

The Lakshyapar caravan moved back to the western bank of the river port for the second session at the premises of Morgan Girls’ School and College. Over 1000 art lovers enjoyed Nrityachhanda’s Odissi dance, Bengal Parampara Sangeetalay Artiste Ilham Fuljhuri Khan sarod recital, and a *kheyal* presentation by students of Nalanda High School, respectively. Clay

modelling of musical instruments like sitar, sarod and many others added an interesting dimension to the conference. A friendly get together of the music teachers was also held. The conference concluded today morning after the nightlong live musical performances, especially on Indian classical, by various artistes.

HOICHOI’S ‘PANCH PHORON’ to spice up VALENTINE’S DAY



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Unique stories, by renowned directors from India and Bangladesh, is set to release on Hoichoi on February 14. The project, titled *Panch Phoron*, will feature *Donor* by Nurul Alam Atique, *Pray Kafka* by Chandril Bhattacharya, *Afternoon Audition* by Sudipto Roy, *The End* by Arko Ganguli, and *Three Kisses* by Giasuddin Selim. This is the second time that the streaming platform has undertaken this project.

