

NEWS bytes

Seether reveals new album details



After taking a well-deserved break and tiding fans over with a hits collection last year, Seether is set to return with a new studio album. The band just announced that their sixth studio release will be titled "Isolate and Medicate", and it's currently on schedule for a July 1 street date. The band has laid out the 10 tracks on the album in just over two weeks.

"Words as Weapons" has been chosen as the band's lead single and it's currently available as a free download at the band's website. In addition, Seether has just started the touring promotion for the album as well.

Source: Loudwire

IT'S TRUE!

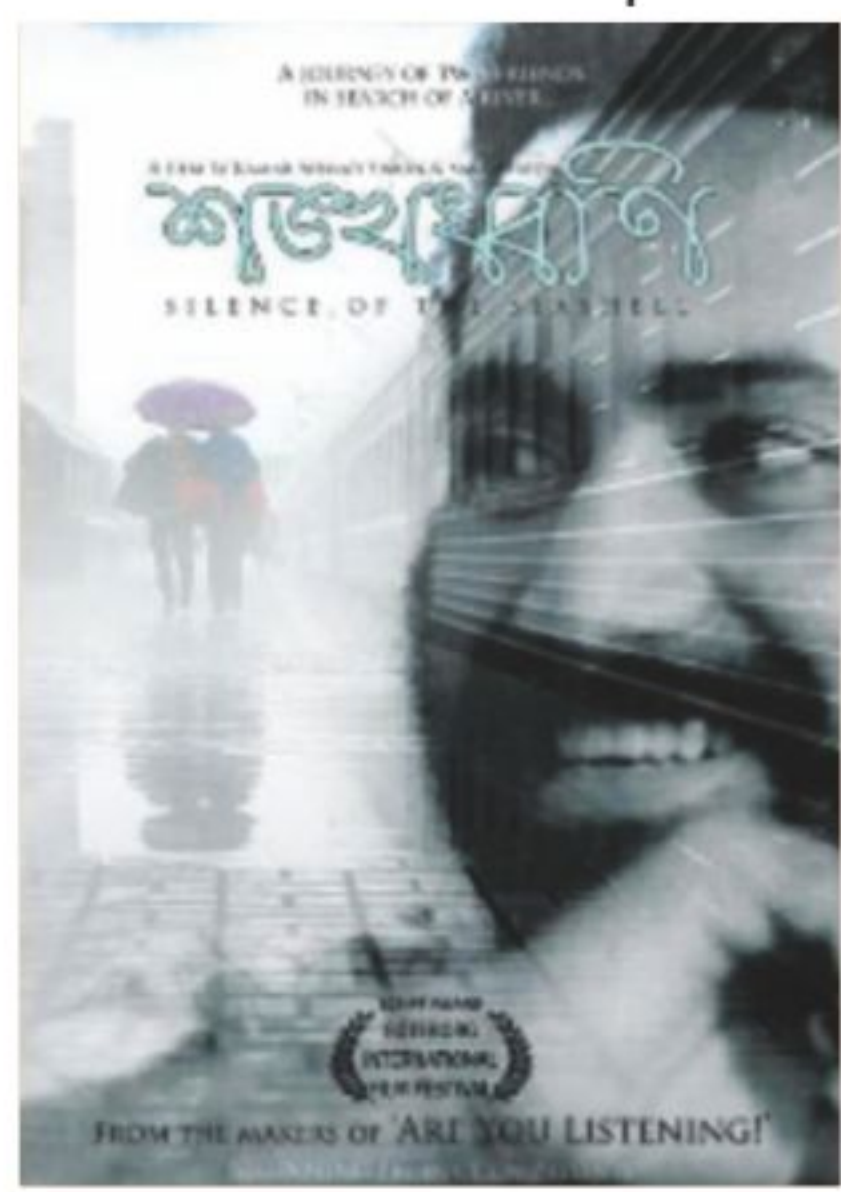
US singer-songwriter Kelly Clarkson wanted to become a marine biologist as a child, but changed her mind after viewing the film "Jaws". After initial struggles to find a record deal, she went on to win the first edition of reality show American Idol. Her debut single, "A Moment Like This", topped the US Billboard Hot 100 and broke the record for the biggest



jump to number one in the chart's history; it became the best-selling single of the year in the country. Later, the single "My Life Would Suck Without You" from her fourth album, surpassed "A Moment Like This" for the biggest leap to number one on a single week in the history of the Billboard Hot 100 Chart from number 97, a record it still holds today.

"Shonkhodhwoni" script at Cannes

Director Kamar Ahmed Simon is due to present his first feature script "Shonkhodhwoni" ("Silence of the Seashell") along with its producer Sara Afton, at the 67th Cannes Film Festival this month, at the La Fabrique Les Cinemas du Monde. Organised by Institut Francais in partnership with Marché du Film (World Cinema Market) at Festival de Cannes, it is a programme for young directors working on their first or second feature to promote emerging new talents. This year, 10 directors, along with their producers have been invited out of qualified 125 entries, says a press release.



Meanwhile, Simon's much-acclaimed docu-

mentary "Shunte Ki Pao!" ("Are You Listening!") is set for screening at the prestigious Louxor theatre in Paris. Built in 1921 and reopened last year after 25 years of closure, Louxor is now considered one of the most popular centres for practicing independent thinking, counter-culture and progressive politics amongst youngsters. The theatre currently screens either world classics or critically acclaimed world cinemas only. Simon has been invited to take part in the Q&A followed by the screening on May 13, which is organised by a group of Parisian activists and filmmakers, led by Cambodian filmmaker Rithy Panh under his project "A country, a film, a director, a meeting".

TV WATCH

Thousandth episode of "Ranga Shokal" on Maasranga

A CORRESPONDENT

One of the flagship programmes of Maasranga TV, "Ranga Shokal", will reach its milestone 1000th episode today. The special three-hour episode will air live from 7am, from studios in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Pabna; the programme will also mark the inauguration of the Pabna studio. Music, recitation and dance performances will feature on the show, hosted by Aditi and Kebria and produced by Rakibul Alam and Zobayer Iqbal.

"Ranga Shokal", The autobiographical show featuring noted personalities, has been airing everyday since the inception of Maasranga TV. Two guests participate in each episode, speaking about their childhood, upbringing, personal and professional life.

Quiz Contest

The Amazing Spider-Man 2

Test your knowledge to win FREE Premium Tickets to The Amazing Spider-Man 2 with

The Daily Star STAR Cineplex

Spider-Man QUIZ.

10 winners everyday! 2 Premium tickets for each winner


To participate for your chance to win TWO FREE PREMIUM TICKETS, email your answers to marvels.spiderman@gmail.com by 4.00pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winners of the quiz will be announced tomorrow in the newspaper and through email.

Quiz No-01

1. What is the Real name of Spiderman?

2. Gwen's father was a

3. Name of Spiderman's Uncle is ...



The voice that lingers

Star Melodies pay tribute to Bashir Ahmed



(Top) Nasima Shaheen and Aloke Kumar Sen sing a duet; (Middle) Sheikh Sadi Khan, Syed Abdul Hadi and Khurshid Alam speak, Bizon Chandra Mistry performs; (Below) Sadya Afton Mallick lauds a performance; Munir Chowdhury assists Ziaul Haq Zia on the harmonium.

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Many of today's generation aren't familiar with Bashir Ahmed. But it would be a rare youth in the country who has not heard "Amake Porate Jodi Eto Laage Bhalo", "Ja Re Jabi Jodi Ja" or "Phooler Mala Poriye Dilam" sometime in their childhood, on the radio or from an old cassette player.

A week after one of the greats of modern Bangla music breathed his last, Star Melodies arranged a memorial and musical soiree at The Daily Star Centre with the most memorable of his melodies. Sheikh Sadi Khan, Syed Abdul Hadi and Khurshid Alam strolled down memory lane with Bashir Ahmed, while Ziaul Haq Zia, Munir Chowdhury, Bizon Chandra Mistry, Nasima Shaheen, Aloke Kumar Sen and Syed Badrul Ahsan brought to life the tunes that have immortalised Bashir Ahmed. The event, conceptualised by Star Arts & Entertainment Editor Sadya Afton Mallick, was held at the AS Mahmud Seminar Hall of The Daily Star Centre on April 26, in presence of a capacity crowd.

"Bhuul Jodi Hoy Modhu'r Emon" in Bashir Ahmed's own voice spread through the auditorium as the guests and artistes took their seats, and Sadya Afton Mallick gave a touching intro to Bashir Ahmed's legacy. Ziaul Haq Zia, an expatriate and a big fan of Bashir Ahmed, set off the musical presentations with "Ja Re Jabi Jodi Ja". Munir Chowdhury then took the harmonium and performed the evergreen numbers "Dekona Amare Tumi"

and "Sojoni Go, Bhalobeshe Eto Jala", followed by Bizon Chandra Mistry singing "Onok Sadher Moyna Amar" and "Amake Porate Jodi".

Noted music director Sheikh Sadi Khan then recalled his first encounter with Bashir Ahmed at the age of 14 -- at a performance in Comilla, and how the two later became close friends through working in the same film industry. Terming his voice a "golden voice", he also recalled how Bashir Ahmed was a determined, strong-willed person.

Sheikh Sadi Khan grieved that the artistes who have enriched our music have not been given their due honour and recognition in their lifetime when they deserved it.

Syed Badrul Ahsan, somewhat of a knowledge bank of films and music of yesteryears, took the microphone next, and in his usual witty demeanour spoke about films and music of those times, and the impact Bashir Ahmed had on him. Much to the delight of the audience, he also sang two songs "Tum Bhi Haseen Dil Bhi Jawan" from the film "Talash" (1963) and "Chal Diye Tum Jo Dil Tod Kar" from "Darshan" (1967).

Syed Abdul Hadi then paid tribute to his close friend. "He used to dream music, he used to eat music, he used to sleep music," he said. He recalled Bashir Ahmed's rare level of self-esteem, adding that he resents the idea of financially helping the artistes after they have retired, instead of giving them their due honours during their careers. He also regretted that a lot of our music is being lost in time due to the lack of archiving.

Nasima Shaheen Fancy then came on stage to perform two songs composed by Bashir Ahmed, "Phooler Mala Poriye Dilam" and "Ektu Kotha Surey Surey", followed by Aloke Kumar Sen singing "Tomar Kajol Kesh Chhoralo Bole" and "Din Raat Khayalon Mein".

Noted singer Khurshid Alam then shared his memories of Bashir Ahmed, who encouraged him to audition at the radio and gave him important tips on singing. Terming Bashir Ahmed a great artiste, not just as a singer but a lyricist and composer, he said Bashir Ahmed was a very loving family man.

The programme ended on a beautiful musical note, with Munir Chowdhury performing, "Othoi Jole Dubey Jodi", Nasima Shaheen and Aloke Kumar Sen singing a duet "Aha Ki Je Shundor", Nasima Shaheen singing Bashir Ahmed's composed "Kotha Bolona Ogo Bondhu", and Aloke Sen performing "Soye Nadiyan Jaage Pani".

To the delight of the audience, Sadya Afton Mallick announced that musical programmes will become a monthly schedule at The Daily Star Centre in coming months, turning Star Melodies into a full-fledged music club, in the organisation's attempt to preserve and nurture the music that defines our culture and pride. As the audience dispersed slowly after the end of the programme, Bashir Ahmed must have been looking down, smiling that his music and memories were not forgotten after all.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Living close to nature

Rafiq Azam's book launch and Colloquium at Bangla Academy

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Bengal Foundation and Milan-based international publication house Skira jointly published a book "Rafiq Azam: Architecture for Green Living". The book was launched at the Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad auditorium of Bangla Academy on May 1, along with a daylong International Seminar titled "Green Architecture in Bangladesh: A Global Perspective". Vice Chancellor of BRAC University Dr. Ainun Nishat unveiled the book as chief guest while US Ambassador to Dhaka, Dan Mozena; President, Institute of Architects Bangladesh, Abu Sayeed M. Ahmed and International Commissions Editor of Skira, Rosa Maria Falvo spoke as special guests at the event.

Rafiq Azam is an internationally acclaimed Bangladeshi Architect. His architecture is a fusion of tradition, nature and mysticism. The use of plants and gardens, concrete and brick with simple expressions are the distinctive features of his designs. Rafiq's skillful use of light and shadow, water and air is influenced by the mysticism cited by Lalou and Tagore.

Chairman of Bengal Foundation Abul Khair delivered welcome address at the event that was emceed by Luva Nahid Chowdhury.

"It would not be possible to speak of architecture in the context of Bangladesh without mentioning Muzharul Islam. He had realised very early on the scope and value of a Bangladeshi vision of architecture and invited architects likes Louis I Kahn, Stanley Tigerman, Paul Rudolph, Robert Boughey and Constantinos Doxiadis to work on projects in Bangladesh. Many young Bangladeshi architects, including Azam, have all been influenced by Islam. Rafiq Azam's body of work is considerable and his innovative creations have earned him international acclaim," said Abul Khair.

"Rafiq Azam's architecture is Bengali. He's not just some architect borrowing things from the West or somewhere else. He has brought Bengali culture into his architecture, and that is what makes Rafiq's works so special," said Dan Mozena.

At the seminar, Rafiq Azam presented his journey as an architect. Dr. Ainun Nishat presented the keynote paper at the seminar while Aroop Chatterjee, Country Head of Asian Paints Limited also spoke at the programme.

Architect, architectural historian and critic Kazi Khaleed Ashraf (USA) moderated the discussion taken part by architects Peter Stutchbury (Australia), Christopher Benninger (India), Philip J. Goad (Australia) and Shamsul Wares (Bangladesh), Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam (Bangladesh) and Rosa Maria Falvo (Italy).

Christopher Benninger and Peter Stutchbury also presented speeches at the seminar. Screening of a documentary featuring Azam's architecture and interview, followed. Bengal foundation and Shatotto jointly organised the event, sponsored by Asian Paints Bangladesh Limited.

An exhibition titled "Water in Light", featuring an exposition of Azam's works, also opened yesterday at Bengal Art Lounge.



Guests at the book launch. PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Manna Dey's birth anniversary celebrated in Faridpur

REZAUL KARIM, Faridpur

Fans of Manna Dey in Faridpur celebrated the birth anniversary of the artiste on Thursday, at Gopalpur area of the town.

The program included cake-cutting, rendition of songs and flute playing. Singers Rashid Ahmad Titu, Shib Shankar Biswahajit Chakrabarty and Dr. Shunil Kumar Chakrabarty rendered a number of songs on the occasion. Dr. Rajib Hasan Sonnet performed flute at the program.

Manna Dey was born to Mahamaya and Purna Chandra Dey on May 1, 1919. Besides his parents, his youngest paternal uncle, Sangetacharya Krishna Chandra Dey highly inspired and influenced him. He debuted in the film "Tamanna" in 1942, and went on to record more than 4000 songs until 2013. The Indian government honoured him with the Padma Shri, the Padma Bhushan and the Dadasaheb Phalke Awards. He sang in many regional Indian languages, but it was his Hindi and Bengali songs that immortalised him.