

WHAT'S ON

Art Exhibit
 Title: Poradrishti
 Featured Artist: SM Sultan
 Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct
 Date: May 23-July 13
 Time: 12pm-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Of Man and Earth II by Syed Jahangir
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan Avenue, Rd-131, Circle-1
 Date: May 31-June 21
 Time: 12pm-8pm daily



Group Art Exhibition
 Organiser: Bangladesh National Museum (BNM)
 Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattacharya Hall, BNM
 Date: May 18-June 17
 Time: 10:30am-5:30pm



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Unconsciously Conscious
 Artist: Abdul Guffar Babu
 Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
 Date: June 4-18
 Time: 3-9pm; 9am-12pm & 5-8pm



Photography Exhibition
 150 Years in Humanitarian Action
 Organiser: ICRC
 Venue: Drik Gallery
 Date: June 3-7
 Time: 3pm-8pm



NEWS bytes

Lennon scribbles exceed sale estimates



Handwritten letters, notes, poems and sketches by John Lennon have exceeded pre-sale estimates at an auction at Sotheby's in New York. "The Fat Budgie", a nonsensical poem, was sold for \$143,000, having been valued at up to \$35,000. A handwritten manuscript called "I Sat Belonely" went for \$137,000, four times its estimate.

The pieces, part of an 89 lot sale, come from Lennon's books "In His Own Write" and "A Spaniard in the Works". A corrected typescript titled "Neville Club" has been sold for \$100,000, several times above its high estimate of \$12,000. Sotheby's has said the sale represents the largest private collection of the former Beatle's work to come to market. It was previously owned by the books' British publisher, Tom Maschler.

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!



English actor Hugh Laurie, best known for portraying the title role in much-acclaimed US TV series "House", took piano lessons from the age of six. He sings and plays piano, guitar, drums, harmonica and saxophone. He has displayed his musical talents throughout his acting career. He is a vocalist and keyboard player for the Los Angeles charity rock group Band From TV.



Images of the humane side

ICRC celebrates 150th birthday through photo exhibit

SAURAV DEY

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has touched the milestone of 150 years the last year. Marking the occasion, the largest global network of humanitarian actions has organised a photo exhibition to visually describe its journey throughout the 150 years of its service. The exhibition, titled "150 Years of Humanitarian Action in 71 Photos" is a part of its global celebrations. It remains open from June 3 to 7 at Drik Gallery in the capital.

The title of the exhibition correlates to Bangladesh's war of independence in 1971, and majority of the photos are related to ICRC's humanitarian operations in the conflict-ridden country during the years of 1971 to 1975. In addition to those photographs, the exhibition features 10 photos on the body's history; five photos on its first operation in post-partition Bangladesh in 1950 when ICRC sheltered refugees in Dhaka and Chittagong, while the rest of the photographs reflect its recent works and operation in Bangladesh and across the world.

The photographs are powerful historic documents of a time when thousands of innocents were being killed and millions forced to leave the country to seek shelter elsewhere. The photos of war-torn Bangladesh tell the miserable tales of suffering that people went through and how the ICRC stood beside the humanity in distress.

The photos of Geneva Camp, repatriation of Pakistanis, protection of Biharis clearly show that the organisation works impartially. Recent photos of its operation in Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Philippines and other conflict-ridden countries gives spectators a journey through ICRC's humanitarian work world-wide.



(Top) Portrait of women in a refugee camp: Bangladesh, 1972; ICRC doctors and nurses go by boat on the Espi River: Colombia, 2010.

Founded in 1863 by Swiss businessman Henry Dunant, the body works directly in 90 countries to protect the lives and dignity of millions of people affected by armed conflict, violence, internationally displaced people and citizens caught up in wars. Since its foundation, the ICRC has been playing humanitarian roles in most of the major conflicts that have taken place around the world.

In 1971, the ICRC carried out extensive humanitarian operation in Bangladesh to alleviate the suffering of the victims. It helped repatriating 120,000 Bangalis who were stranded in Pakistan. Following the war, over one lac Pakistanis safely returned to their country under the auspices of the ICRC. The exhibition boasts a rare collection and it is a must-visit for those who are interested in humanitarian work, as an instance of the change it can bring about.

Catching up with Raima Sen

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

A direct descendant of the legendary Suchitra Sen, Raima Sen is one of the leading actresses of Indian Bangla film. The younger daughter of accomplished actress-director turned politician Moon Moon Sen, Raima visited Dhaka on a brief one-day trip. The Daily Star caught up the sparkling young actress.

What are your memories of your grandmother, the great Suchitra Sen?

Raima: My mother used to call her 'amma', and we also picked up on that and called her 'amma'. She used to call me Dhulu. Although she never discussed it with us, she knew how much people of this country adore her.

What brings you to Dhaka?

Raima: I'm working for a TV commercial for Ligion Herbal Mehndi (henna). It's my first time working in an ad in Bangladesh, and I loved it here. I'd love to come back if I get more offers.

What do you think about working in films here?

Raima: I'd be very interested if it's an India-Bangladesh joint venture; that way, people of both countries can enjoy it.

Your mother has recently been elected in the Indian Lok Sabha. How does that make you feel?

Raima: We're very happy and proud of her, and hope she can work for the people of West Bengal. Both I and Riya took part in the campaign.

Would you like to join politics?

Raima: Not now. I don't know, really. If mom wants, maybe.

How would you like to visit your grandmother's house in Pabna?

Raima: I would love to. But not this time, as I'm on a tight schedule. Maybe next time.

You've recently played a major role in a film "Children of War" based on Bangladesh's Liberation War. How was that experience?

Raima: I didn't know a lot about Bangladesh's Liberation War, but when I got the script, I studied on it. I also insisted to my director that the film be released in Bangladesh as well. I worked hard of portray the character of a 'Birangana' convincingly, and the whole story really touched me.



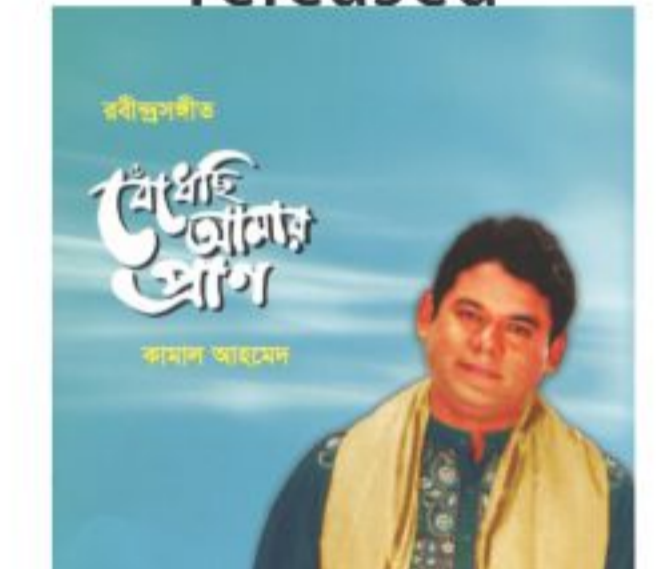
FIFA World Cup live on Maasranga



A CORRESPONDENT

Maasranga Television will live telecast all matches of FIFA World Cup-2014 scheduled to kick-off from June 12. In addition to telecast matches, the channel will regularly air special bulletins and programmes on the event. Regular show "Football Fever" will feature match analysis, statistics and related news every evening at 7.35 pm while "Brazoooca Brazil" will air every night at 9.35 pm.

Kamal Ahmed's "Bendhechi Amar Pran" released



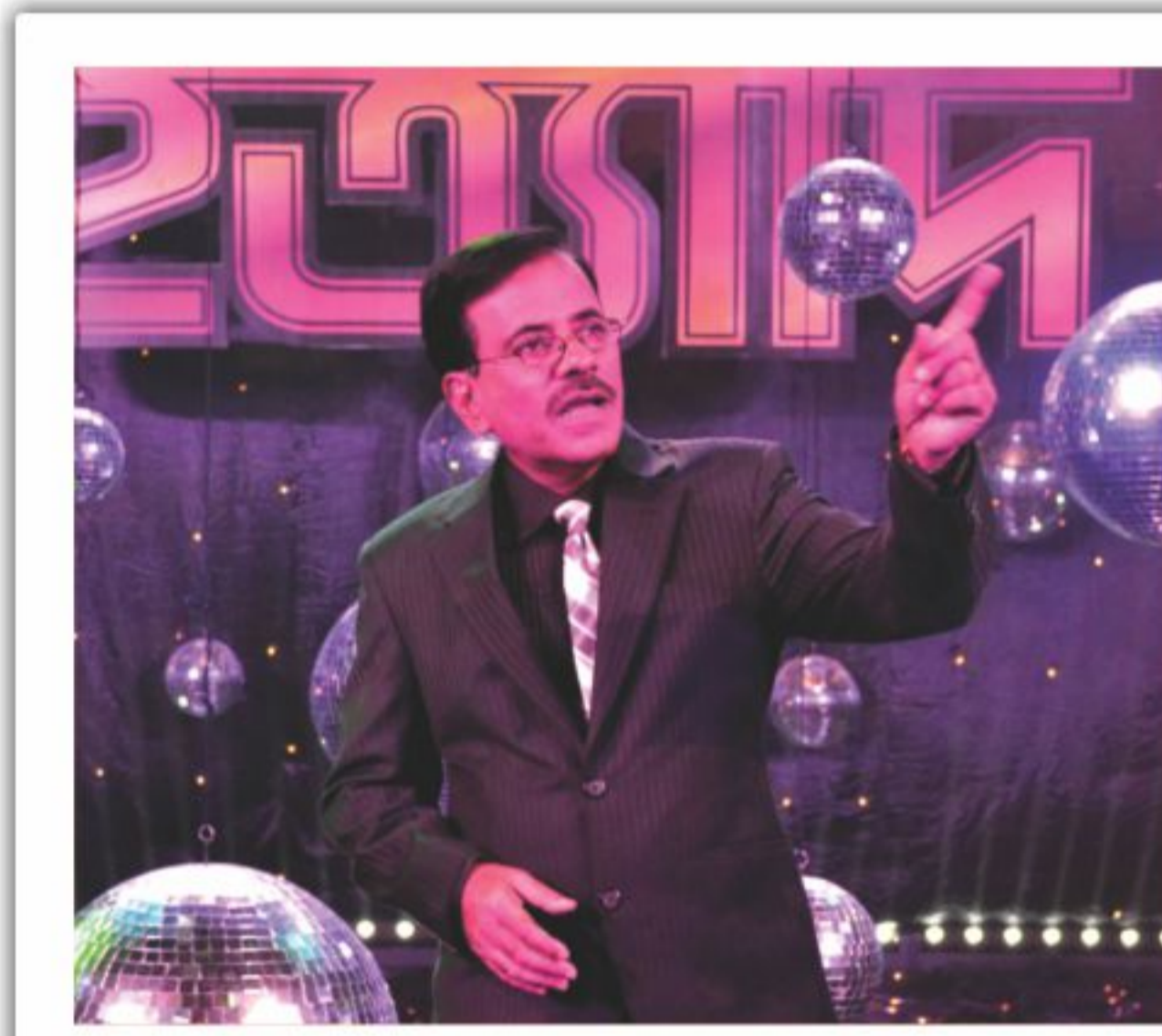
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Laser Vision has recently produced noted Tagore singer Kamal Ahmed's seventh solo album "Bendhechi Amar Pran". The album that is now in the market features 10 Tagore songs, including "Ami Tomar Songey Bendhechi Amar Pran", "Asha Jawa Poth-er Dharey", "Ami Poth Bhola Ek Pothik Eshchhi" and "E Shudhu Olosh Maya".

The songs featured in the album are popular, romantic and melodious. All his albums feature records of Tagore songs except "Godhuli", which is a compilation of classics originally recorded by Kishore Kumar.

Though he dons the hat of director (External Service) in Bangladesh Betar, Kamal Ahmed is an avid musicenthusiast.

"We will never explore the wholeness of Rabindranath just through diffusing his songs; we must also study Tagore's life, works, thoughts and ideals," Ahmed believes. The artist's motto is to help musicians who cannot record Tagore's songs due to financial restraints.



TV WATCH

Ityadi re-telecast on BTV

A CORRESPONDENT

Popular entertainment show "Ityadi" will be re-telecast tonight at 8:30pm. The special episode of the TV show went on air on May 30 marking the programme's completion of 25 years. The episode titled "25 Periyey Ityadi", stretches for one and a half hours and featured the journey of 25 years of the show.

Written, planned, directed and hosted by Hanif Sangket, "Ityadi" is produced by Fagun Audio Vision. Keya Cosmetics Limited is the sponsor of the show.



Priyanka's new avatar for "Dil Dhadakne Do"

After putting on enviable muscles for her role as a boxer in the biopic on Mary Kom, Priyanka Chopra was required to shed the muscle weight in a mere 20 days for Zoya Akhtar's "Dil Dhadakne Do".

Priyanka Chopra had been training with boxer Jharna Sanghvi over the last year to develop a muscular physique for Snajay Leela Bhansali's "Mary Kom".

Apparently, Priyanka had to lose over 7 kilos to switch to the role of a businesswoman who belongs to a Punjabi family in Zoya's next. Priyanka went under a strenuous regime that consisted of a combination of weight training and cardio along with a strict controlled diet.

Talking about Priyanka's transformation, Jharna Sanghvi, said, "It is not advisable to cut 6-7 kilos in a mere 15-20 days. But it can be achieved for boxers with the right weight training and activities like skipping and running. This was coupled by a strict protein rich diet minus carbs. Regular exercises and running for at least 30 minutes helped in a huge way."

Priyanka is currently abroad shooting on a cruise liner for two and a half month schedule for "Dil Dhadakne Do".

SOURCE: INDIAN EXPRESS

OUR PICK

AB III: Rock Unadulterated

FAHMIM FERDOUS

American rock act Alter Bridge's third studio production "AB III" hit the markets in late 2010, and became an instant hit with fans of the genre. It broke away somewhat from their two previous albums, in terms of music and theme.

The album opens with "Slip to the Void" where fiery guitar-work and rip-through vocals wake you up after a grim intro. "Isolation", the next in queue, kicks into full throttle without any fuss, and continues building up with signature styles of guitarists Tremonti and Kennedy. "Ghost of the Days Gone By", the track to follow, lays back slightly after the boom. The lyrical tonality also eases out, and a sweet little solo adds the cherry on top. "All Hope is Gone" comes next, with no signs of receding. Nested right between the first two grizzly tracks and the flowing track 3, "All Hope is Gone" begins to bring in the depth factor of the album.

The album almost enters another phase with the next piece, "Still Remains", with a bass-packed intro and familiar bursts and breaks. The standout for the song remains the catchy riff patterns, along with Kennedy's display of vocal prowess. "Make it Right" is the track to follow, with usual flare in a not-too-smashing fashion, with a brilliantly crafted lyric. Drummer Scott Phillips steps into top

gear, and the chorus is as good as you can picture yourself screaming at a concert to; one of the standouts of the album. "Wonderful Life", the next song, catches you off-guard in a blissful surprise, with immense feel and a gripping melodious ballad-like progression. Acoustic guitar interludes, yearning vocals and the sheer smoothness of the tracks makes you fall in love with the



whole album. "I Know It Hurts" plays next, with a rather misleading intro that takes your mind to the opening tracks, but then glides in to the maturity of the album as a whole. The energy picks up again, only in proper proportions, to set you up for what comes next -- which is "Show Me A Sign", that beautifully brings back the flavour of darkness and struggle, switching between chaotic

riffing-drumming and a grave, inner-voice-style singing backed by a spooky guitar pieces. "Fallout" follows suit, with a refreshingly plucked intro, and builds up as the vocals depths are showcased. "Breathe Again" returns the sweetness, added to the voice-range skills of Kennedy, and marks for reasonably good listening. "Coeur D'Alene", the French-named song after a city in Idaho of USA, comes in typical Alter Bridge exuberance, generating horse-power without kicking the tempo up too high. A slash-and-move solo stamps this otherwise not-so-extraordinary song. "Life Must Go On" begins with a beautiful plucking, almost as if to remind you that the album is nearing a close. The lyrics releases positivity at the end of a thrilling ride, with a composition that has pretty much of all the makings of a track to go on repeat on your music player. "Words Darker Than Their Wings" brings the album to a fitting end, nicely summing up the striking elements that the album possesses.

One of the most fulfilling things about the album is that it is unput-downable on the first go, and there are just so many tracks to return to later, you wouldn't mind giving all 14 tracks another listen: A definite must-have for the collection of every rock lover.