

NEWS bytes

RDJ top earning actor for second year



Robert Downey Jr has been named as Hollywood's highest-paid actor for the second year in a row. The Forbes annual list put the Iron Man star on top with earnings totalling around \$75 million. The majority of the 49-year-old actor's pay -- between June 2013 and June 2014 -- came from his role in the latest film in the franchise, "Iron Man 3". The movie, which was released in May last year, made \$1.2 billion at the box office.

Former pro-wrestler Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson has jumped from fifth to second place. The 42-year-old is estimated to have made \$52 million after starring in "GI Joe: Retaliation" and the "Fast and Furious" films. "Hang-over" star Bradley Cooper placed third. Leonardo DiCaprio was ranked fourth after starring in two major films, "The Wolf of Wall Street" and "The Great Gatsby". Thor actor Chris Hemsworth completed the top five.

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!



On October 1, 2013, American violinist-dancer-performing artiste Lindsey Stirling teamed with the non-profit Atlanta Music Project to help spread appreciation of music to children who might not otherwise have the chance. The Atlanta Music Project's mission was 'to inspire social change by providing Atlanta's underserved youth the opportunity to learn and perform music in orchestras and choirs.' For this, Stirling made available two limited edition Lindsey Stirling/The Power of Music shirts. The money collected from the selling of those shirts went directly to the Atlanta Music Project with the goal of raising enough together to provide music training for 50 children.

Eid drama U-Turn on Ekushey TV



A CORRESPONDENT

Two-episode TV play "U-Turn" will air on Ekushey TV on the first and second day of Eid at 11:30pm. The play, sponsored by beverage brand Mojo, has been directed by Redoan Rony, based on a story by Sonia Hasan.

The story revolves around a group of restless youths, busy with bike stunts and other adventurous activities. Suddenly an incident occurs leading them to a predicament. They try to overcome the situation, but taking a 'U-turn' from this becomes a challenge to them.

The drama casts Mehzabien, Tawsif Mahbub, Saberi Alam, Sabila Nur, Tanjin Tisha, Allen Shubhro, Afnan Chowdhury, Imran Ahmed Saudagar and Sumon Patwary in central roles. Popular bands Chirkut and Studio 58 composed two new tracks for this play.



ZAHANGIR ALOM

Promising Chittagong-based band Chhuti began its journey in 2004. The band was founded by front-man and rhythm guitarist Sukanta Chanda who began his music career in 2000. In his teens, Sukanta attended a number of major concerts by noted bands of Bangladesh, held at the Chittagong and CHT regions. From then, he dreamt of forming a band of his own.

Born in Chittagong in 1984 to Doli Chanda and Swapan Chanda, Sukanta's childhood was spent in the heart of nature. His creative vision flourished through writing rhymes, poems and lyrics. He started learning

music when he was a student of class six.

"Music is the reflection of my pain and pathos. My father died in 1998; I was a class eight student back then. I would feel very lonely at that time. To avert that loneliness, inspired by my mother, I got involved with music seriously," said Sukanta

Sukanta was baptized in sargam lessons by Milon Majumdar. Later, he learnt classical music under the tutelage of Nirmalendu Chowdhury. He also took basic guitar lessons from Dipankar and further embellished his expertise in guitar by taking lessons from Pappu and late Sachchu.

Chhuti's forte focuses on

several genres -- mellow rock, patriotic and rock-classical fusion. An audio album featuring nine original tracks is in the pipeline. The unreleased tracks of the album include -- "Chhuti", "Nei Kichhu", "Mridu Chhondey Poth Chola", "Bhumi", "Bohudur" and "Achin Groher Achin Manush".

"I have written, composed and recorded the most songs while our band member late Sayeed lent his voice to a song besides playing the lead guitar for all the tracks. My friend Prabir also wrote a song 'Bohudur' for our album."

"The album will be released in the audio bazaar soon under the label of G-Series. Alongside performing songs on stage, we are

now busy with making music videos as well," said Sukanta.

The present line-up of the band is: Jiko Acharya (drums), Joytu Sharma (lead guitar), Bashudeb Rakshmit (bass guitar); Shiblu (keyboard), Rony (vocal) and Sukanta Chanda (vocal and rhythm guitar).

Apart from performing their songs, the band regularly performs English tracks by world famous bands and artistes including Queen, Eagles, Scorpions, Dream Theatre, Bryan Adams, Bon Jovi and Michael Jackson. Members of Chhuti also love to perform both English and Bangla tracks of noted Bangladeshi bands Miles, Warfaze and Shironamhin.



"Jege Achho Ki' was my big breakthrough"... Nowshin

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Nowshin, the girl with the toothy smile, launched headlong into her media career as a host at Radio Today. Her debut TV play became an even huger hit. Since then, she has been swamped with assignments.

The artiste spoke to The Daily star about her professional life.

How do you see your career going?

Nowshin: I've managed to establish myself in a very short time with Allah's blessings and people's love. My ambition is not to be at the top or bottom of my profession, but retain a firm niche in the showbiz with some good work.

Why aren't you anchoring shows anymore?

Nowshin: Anchoring is on the back seat right now, although I had great success in the popular live talk show "Jege Achho Ki" on Rtv. But like every year, I plan to anchor a programme this Eid.

Tell us a little more about "Jege Achho ki"?

Nowshin: I'm very fortunate that the audience received the show, which was my first on TV, as warmly they did on the radio. I think all this was possible because of my fans and family.

As an actor, which kind of characters attracts you the most?

Nowshin: A role where there is room for expression and challenge. I think I'm perfect for the character of a jealous woman.

Would you like to work behind the camera?

Nowshin: I would love to! But I can't write scripts. When I become a really successful artiste, I will hopefully go into direction.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of having your husband working in the same field?

Nowshin: To start with, we understand each other's work well, which would be difficult if we were from different professions. The downside is that often we can't attend family events together, as we have very little free time.

Does your popularity ever get to you?

Nowshin: Not at all ... I really enjoy it, though. But I feel very embarrassed when I see false news about me.

Since when have you been involved with cultural activities?

Nowshin: As a child, learned singing and dancing. I also received a national award, the Khelaghar Jatiyo Puroskar.

Who are your favourite actors in the industry?

Nowshin: Shomi Kaiser, Moushumi and late Salman Shah.

Humayun Ahmed remembered

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A group of fans remembered Humayun Ahmed through a programme in Mymensingh town Sunday afternoon.

Marking the second death anniversary of the prominent literary personality, a discussion on his life and works was held at a restaurant of the town.

Presided over by Prof. Afzal Rahman of Bengali Department of Govt. Ananda Mohan College, poet Hasnat Lokman was the chief guest.

Shamim Siddiquee presented a key-note paper titled "The contribution and impact of Humayun Ahmed in creating young readers".

Poets Shamsul Fayeze, Mahmud Al Mamun, Asad Ullah, Ehsan Habib, Al Mahmud and Mustafa Tareq also addressed the discussion meeting among others.

The speakers said, Humayun, a custodian of the Bangladeshi literary culture, wrote over 200 fiction and non-fiction books, all of which were admired by readers.

Describing him as the most popular writer in modern Bangla literature, the speakers also said Humayun created many timeless characters like "Misir Ali", "Himu" and "Baker Bhai" that gave modern Bangla Literature fresh dimension.

TV WATCH

Bari Siddiqui on "Music Club" tonight



A CORRESPONDENT

Noted folk singer-composer and flautist Bari Siddiqui is the featured guest of tonight's phone and live studio concert "Music Club" set to be aired on Banglavisian at 11:25pm. The spectators may phone in and request for their favourite songs to the artiste.

Apart from performing songs, the artiste will share the important events and many unknown stories of his musical career at the programme. Nahid Ahmed Biplob produces Music Club.

Special drama on GTV

A CORRESPONDENT

Six-episode TV play "Alal, Dulal O Haji Chan" will air on GTV at 6:20pm from the first to sixth day of Eid. Mesbah Sumon has written the drama, based on Azam Khan's popular eponymous song, while Pallab Biswas has directed it.

The play revolves around the comic antics of Alal and Dulal. One day, their father opens an account on Facebook and sends Fatema a friend request. Shot in Old Dhaka, the hilarious drama is worth a watch.

The cast are Lutfar Rahman George, Mishu Sabbir, Nayeem, Urmila Shrabanti Kar, among others.



"Most Welcome-2" trailer released

Social media abuzz in anticipation of Ananta's latest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For better or for worse, the Dhaka film audience cannot get enough of MA Jalil Ananta's films. Crowds have thronged the cinemas every time his films have been released, and come out entertained. So it's no surprise that the theatrical trailer of his latest film slated for releases this Eid, would create quite the stir. This film also being his first sequel (to the 2012 Film "Most Welcome") had been long-anticipated, and the trailer, that has seen nearly 20,000 views on YouTube in the first day since release, promises to be everything that an Ananta film is expected to deliver.

The trailer opens with Ananta -- dressed in a police uniform -- bursting through a glass door, and proceeds to give a peek into the latest big-screen extravaganza of director-producer-protagonist Ananta. Almost inevitably, there are over-the-top action sequences with lots of CGI-generated explosions, admirable cinematography and exquisite foreign locations where he romances his heroine (and real-life wife) Barsha. Unmistakably, Ananta is an honest, courageous, patriotic police officer who fights off the bad



Ananta plays a righteous cop in the film.

guys after they target a Bangladeshi scientist who has invented the cure for cancer. The songs also spread across the spectrum from the most-commercial item numbers to typical love songs and a soulful, emotional message-laden song sung by no less than Kailash Kher. The other central roles in the film have been played by Shoel Rana, PrabirMitra, Diti, Chompa, Kabila, Misha Showdagar and Elias Cobra.

Produced by Ananta's production house Monsoon Films, "Most Welcome-2" -- powered by Grameenphone -- promises to be the typical AJ (a nickname Ananta goes by) film, and judging by the response on the social media (Facebook and YouTube), it will perhaps generate just as much interest, if not more, than his last few films, when it comes out.

"Trio Night" at EMK Center tomorrow

EMK Platform is an EMK (Edward M Kennedy) Center initiative to support individual and groups who possess potential in arts, culture and entrepreneurship. EMK Center strives to connect brilliant minds with positive ethos for public service and arts. As a part of this, the EMK Platform presents Trio Night tomorrow at the EMK Center, a musical evening featuring a number of talented young musicians. The performances are divided in two sets. The first set will be the 'Classical Trio' by Imran Ahmed on guitars, Nishit Dey on sitar and Dipankar Aich on tabla. The set will be a musical tribute to North Indian classical music, incorporating the guitar with the classical instruments.

The second set will comprise of Imran Ahmed, with Towfiq Arifin Turjo and Alistair Sarkar Raj, and will focus more on progressive jazz and such musical influences of the three performing artistes.

The event will take place at the EMK Center on the ninth floor of Midas Center in Dhanmondi 27, from 7:30pm. Tickets will be available at the venue, according to a press release.

