



IT'S TRUE!

An avid fan of Tom Waits, US actress Scarlett Johansson recorded an album comprised entirely of Tom Waits covers, titled "Anywhere I Lay My Head". The album was released on May 16, 2008, but was not widely recognized. She also recorded the single "Before My Time" to the documentary "Chasing Ice" (2012) and the song was eventually nominated for Best Original Song at The Oscars in 2013. Subsequently, she was approached to perform the song at the show, but was prevented to do so, due to her commitments with "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" on Broadway.

WHAT'S ON
Prangonem Theatre
 Fest
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
 Date: March 6-12
 Time: 7pm

Concert
 Concert for the Burned
 Bands: Arbovirus, Powesurge, Owned + more
 Venue: National Library Auditorium
 Date: Mar 14
 Time: 11am-9pm

Book Launch
 Sundor Ei Prithibi Amar
 Publisher: Adorn Books
 Venue: AS Mahmud Seminar Hall, The Daily Star Centre
 Date: Mar 11; Time: 4:30pm

Gaudiya Nritya Workshop 2015
 By: Rachel Priyanka Perris
 Venue: National Music & Dance Centre, BSA
 Date: March 12-14; Time: 10am

In loving memory of BULBUL CHOWDHURY

Memoir launch tomorrow at The Daily Star Centre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The publication ceremony of "Sundor Ei Prithibi Amar", a memoir on pioneering dancer Bulbul Chowdhury, written by his wife Afroza Bulbul – will be held tomorrow at the AS Mahmud Seminar Hall of The Daily Star Centre. Organised jointly by The Daily Star and Adorn Books – the publishers of the book – the event will feature a discussion and dance performances.

Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman will chair the programme, where eminent cultural personalities Kamal Lohani, Amanul Haq, Mustafa Monwar, Laila Hasan, Mofidul Haq, Bishwajit Ghosh, Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya and Soma Mumtaz will discuss Bulbul Chowdhury's life and works.

BAFA (Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts – established by Bulbul Chowdhury, will have a presentation at the programme, while another production – "Pothikrit" ("Pioneer") – will also be staged in his memory.

Bulbul Chowdhury (January 1, 1919 - May 17, 1954) is considered the pioneer of modern dance in Bangladesh. He was the first Muslim dancer of the British-era Indian subcontinent, and at the age of 30 was named the National Dancer of Pakistan. Despite his death at the early age of 35, his legacy was upheld by his wife Afroza Bulbul Chowdhury

– who was a renowned dancer and actress of her time. After Bulbul Chowdhury's demise, she founded the Bulbul Institute of Culture in Karachi (Pakistan) and the Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts in Dhaka. She passed away in 1990.



"Family Pack" on ntv tonight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Family Pack" airs on ntv tonight at 9:45pm. Written and directed by Ali Fida Ekram Tejo, it boasts a heavyweight cast featuring Dilara Zaman, Kayes Chowdhury, Shahiduzzaman selim, Shahed Ali, Mishu Sabbir, Moutushi Biswas, Agnila Iqbal, Urmila Srabanti Kar, Sporschia and Tawshif. "Family Pack" is the story of a family of nine members – Golam Kibria, his wife and seven children, who are all interesting characters of their own.

NEWS bytes

Smith and Legend release song for Comic Relief



Sam Smith has recorded a special version of his single "Lay Me Down" with John Legend for this year's Comic Relief.

The Brit Award winner recorded the single in Los Angeles with Legend earlier this year. The singers will perform the ballad during "Comic Relief: Face the Funny" on Friday March 13 on BBC One. The one-off performance will be broadcast live from the London Palladium.

Comic Relief is non-profit whose mission is mission is "to drive positive change through the power of entertainment." It raises funds through its two major annual campaigns and uses it to tackle causes of poverty and social injustice, in the UK and beyond.

A digital download of the special track has been released ahead of their performance.

All the profits from the sale of the single will go to Comic Relief.

Source: BBC

Lalon memorial festival ends

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

The five-day long Lalon Smaran Utsab (memorial festival) popularly known as Dol Utsab, ended at Chheuria Lalon Akhra in Kushtia on Sunday night with a call to protect the authenticity of the bard's songs in the light of much deviation from the original tune of Lalon songs.

"With scant regard for our glorious folk musical legacy, some musicians are remixing Lalon songs parrot-fashion, and spreading them throughout the young generation via satellite," said Dr. Rashid Askari, writer and columnist and professor English Islamic university.

Terming Lalon's song as a rich musical heritage, Dr. Askari said it had to be nurtured and protected against any kind of distortion.

Kushtia Deputy Commissioner (DC) Syed Bealal Hossain also president of Lalon Academy, said that the academy was always on the alert so that singers preserved the genuine tune of Lalon songs.

Training and workshops were also held towards this end, said Hossain.

The programme struck a common-chord of harmony among the numerous Lalon devotees and admirers from all over Bangladesh and overseas who had come for the event.

A series of events was orchestrated

over the five-day programme that included a Lalon Mela, discussion and rendition of songs by artistes of Lalon Academy and Bauls from across the country.

Lawmaker Mahbulul Alam Hanif inaugurated the programme on March 4, while Khulna Divisional Commissioner Abdus Samad wrapped up the programme.

Kushtia Deputy Commissioner (DC) Syed Bealal Hossain presided over the event.

Lalon Academy, an organisation consisting of elected representatives to oversee Lalon's shrine, organised the programme in association with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.



PHOTO: STAR

Taray Taray Deepshika Channel i to air Brac's talent hunt show



Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury and Faridur Reza Sagor at the press meet.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Taray Taray Deepshika", a talent hunt initiative by Brac aimed at giving a boost to marginalised children of the country, received a very good response in its first installment. Nearly 12 lakh children from different Brac-run institutions for underprivileged children participated in the programme that began in July 2014.

The talent hunt show brings together two programmes – "Deepshikha" and "Meghey Dhaka Tara" – which Brac has been running at the grassroots to help develop the latent talent of underprivileged children and youngsters. The programmes engaged children, between the ages of 5-18, in different co-curricular activities under five groups in four categories.

Following the primary stages held in upazila, district and divisional level, 40 participants made their way to the grand finale that was held on March 7 at Channel i premises.

To announce the show, Brac and Channel i held a press conference at the Channel i office on March 9. Faridur Reza Sagor, managing director of Impress Telefilm and Channel i; Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury, vice chairman of Brac, jury members Shaheen Samad and Samina Nafeez were present at the press meet.

Both Faridur Reza Sagor and Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury assured their support for the children so that they can move forward. Sagor assured that the children will be able to use Channel i as a platform for their development, while Mostak Raza Chowdhury said Brac will support the children so that they can stand tall in society.

The competition was held in four categories: music, dance, recitation and painting. An eight-member jury panel -- two judges for each category comprising of Shaheen Samad, Bappa Mazumdar, Minu Haq, Hasan Imam, Dalia Ahmed, Shimul Mustafa, Abul Barq Alvi and Samina Nafeez judged the performances of the participants starting from quarter finals to the grand finale.

Twelve episodes of the recorded show will air on Channel i every Wednesday on 7:50 pm, starting tomorrow (March 11).

Salman to shoot for the first time in Kashmir

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, who was shooting for Kabir Khan's "Bajrangi Bhaijaan" in Mandawa, is now going to shoot in the Kashmir valley. Salman Khan, along with his co-stars Kareena Kapoor and Nawazuddin Siddiqui, will be in Kashmir throughout the months of April and May. It will be actor's first visit to the valley.

The other Khans, Shah Rukh and Aamir have shot in Kashmir for 'Sarfaroosh' and 'Jab Tak Hai Jaan', respectively.

On wrapping the Rajasthan schedule of 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan', director Kabir Khan tweeted that the film's 70 per cent shoot is done.

Source: Indian Express

"American Sniper" becomes top-grossing 2014 release

"American Sniper" is the highest-grossing 2014 domestic release. The R-rated drama has made \$337.2 million since debuting in a handful of theaters last December. That puts it ahead of "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1" as the top film to debut last year.

With a budget of \$58.8 million, the biopic of Navy SEAL Chris Kyle represents a substantial return on Warner Bros. and Village Roadshow's investment. "The heroic story of Chris Kyle just hit the zeitgeist," said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros. distribution executive vice president. "It doesn't matter your politics — it's a story that just touched everybody personally."

Globally, "American Sniper" won't be able to match the \$1.1 billion that "Transformers: Age of Extinction" pulled in, but it has been a robust performer, particularly given that films with patriotic subject matter don't tend to travel well abroad. It has made more than \$140 million in foreign markets.

The film easily outstripped director Clint Eastwood's previous releases, giving the 84-year-old the biggest hit of his career. It's also star Bradley Cooper's highest-grossing domestic release.

"American Sniper" is an unlikely blockbuster — there are no fantastical elements, and the film deals with the unpopular Iraq War, something that has been box office



poison for pictures like "Rendition" and "In the Valley of Elah." It also marks the first time since 1998's "Saving Private Ryan" that a realistic drama and an R-rated film has been the top domestic release.

The film had its detractors, with some critics decrying the picture for whitewashing the life story of Kyle and for 'lionising' sharpshooters. However, the film played well in

both red and blue states, with audience members responding to the film's depiction of Kyle as a dedicated serviceman and hero.

"American Sniper" hadn't even been scheduled for release last year. It was originally slated to debut in Christmas of 2015, but Eastwood finished editing the picture early.

Source: Variety