

NEWS  
bytes

## Dickinson

## 'Singing Better Than Ever'

Iron Maiden fans can expect the group's new album "The Book of Souls" to feature killer vocals from Bruce Dickinson. In a new interview with UK magazine "Kerrang!" about the band's new disc and Dickinson's cancer diagnosis, bassist Steve Harris revealed that Dickinson sounds "better than ever."

Iron Maiden recorded their new album in late 2014 and in February of this year the group announced Dickinson had a cancerous tumor on the back of his tongue. Even though the timings of these events were close together, Harris stated that no one



ZAHANGIR ALOM

The wait is over for Mehreen fans. The popular singer's latest audio album titled "SE7EN" is set to release on July 7, marking the upcoming Eid-ul-fitr. She recently signed up an exclusive agreement with leading mobile operator Grameenphone to bring out her latest record in the market digitally. Under this agreement, Mehreen's new album will be exclusively available in Grameenphone's new digital music platform.

The album, produced by Mehreen, features 10 tracks including "Adho Alo Adharey", composed by Habib Wahid. She has also written songs for the album, and recorded her Nazrul Sangeet "Ajo Modhuro Bashori Bajey" for the album. Algerian-born French musician Djamel Ben Yelles composed the song. "I am very happy that I have a song of our National Poet in SE7EN. I learnt Nazrul Sangeet from Sudhin Das Ustadji, and prior to recording the song I further took lesson on Raga Bheem Palashree," mentioned Mehreen.

The album has elements of world music. Her fans will find rap by Patrick Anthony Vincent in the track "Take Me Higher". The album also contains a cover of Sting's "Every Breath You Take", mixed by Dubai-based DJ AKS.

"Several tracks have already gained popularity being played many a times in television, radio and live performances. I hope the album will be a great treat for the music lovers. I am grateful to Grameenphone and all the international musicians who put their efforts for the album," concluded Mehreen.

## RAMADAN CHRONICLES

## "Ramadan is about self-control"

--- Rosy Siddique

NAHIN TAHER

Talented and versatile actress Rosy Siddique is a popular face both on the small screen and stage. There's little doubt that hard work and talent have brought her where she is today. In a chat with The Daily Star, she talked about the month of Ramadan.

"Ramadan is the month of self-control. Traditionally, people used to share food or distribute it among the poor. Sadly, now Ramadan no longer follows old customs; it has become more of a business. People flaunt their wealth by splurging on clothes, jewelry and iftar at expensive restaurants."

"There are also people who go on vacations at this time. I never felt the need for a vacation during the month of Ramadan. Now, I don't

even have the time to go out because I have to take care of my daughter, who will now appear for her A-Levels. It's just not vacations that I don't take during Ramadan, I hate going anywhere --- there is a huge rush of traffic, especially around the evening time.

It's a hassle to get out of home. I have to cook for iftar, I have to take my daughter to the coaching centre. The worst is the traffic on the road that causes annoying delays."

"Since I do most of the cooking I don't like wasting my time in traffic. Usually, for iftar, I make kichuri, Chhola-biryani, pulao or plain rice. I don't go for the conventional iftar, as we make this our dinner time because we have to eat again at Sehri. One has to be conscious about their health, too as there are only short gaps between iftar, dinner and sehri."



## Razzak is recovering

A CORRESPONDENT

'Nayak Raj' Razzak is recovering from his serious breathing problem. After being hospitalised last Friday and being put on life support for a few days, there were serious concerns -- but the actor recovered yesterday, beginning to breathe normally.

The actor's son Samrat informed that Razzak's artificial ventilation was disconnected yesterday afternoon, and he is eating and talking normally. He will be shifted to a cabin shortly, Samrat added.

## Tabla maestro Pandit Pabitra Mohan Dey recognised

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Veteran tabla maestro Pandit Pabitra Mohan Dey has trained many tabla talents who have made a name for themselves both within and outside the country. A tabla teacher at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Sangeet Bidhaya, he was honoured recently by Mymensingh Shilpkala Academy authority with a crest and citation for his lifelong outstanding contribution to the field of rhythmic music.

Pabitra was also honoured by Udichi Mymensingh and BAU unit; and Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilon Parishad, Dhaka.



"I was born in a music-loving family and my father was an eminent flute player while uncle Modan Mohan was a corned player", said Pabitra.

"I had the opportunity to attend classical programmes by famous classical Ustads like Nazabat Ali Khan, Bipin Chandra Das, Samir Kumar Das, Bijoy Bhattacharya, Amanat Ali Khan, Fateh Ali Khan, Alauddin Khan, Rashid Khan, Pandit Gyan Prakash Ghosh and Chinmoy Lahiri," said Pabitra, adding that he is honoured to gain recognition.

"There was a time when it was difficult to conceive of a classical music programme without Pabitra's tabla. Pabitra and his tabla brought much joy to both classical vocal masters and music lovers," said tabla Ustad Shamsul Islam of Benaras Gharana.

"Pabitra is a specialist in classical music (khyal, thumri, dhrupad, dhamar) and has contributed greatly to popularise the tabla in Mymensingh region and the country at large," said the 70-year old Ustad.

## Shraddha getting ready to rock



She has crooned soft numbers in the past, but now actress Shraddha Kapoor is ready to take her singing passion to another level as she is training in rock music for her next film "Rock On 2".

The 26-year-old actress made her singing debut with the unplugged version of the song "Galliyan" in Ek Villain and later lent her voice for Vishal Bhardwaj's Haider.

After the release of her latest film "ABCD2", she recorded the unplugged version of "Bezubaan Phir Se...".

Shraddha will be training professionally for the first time for the sequel of rock musical drama "Rock On". "I like singing but I never trained before 'Rock On 2' happened. For this film I am training in rock genre," Shraddha told.

The young star is 'very excited' to work with actor-filmmaker Farhan Akhtar and considers him as one of the most talented people in the film industry. "I am very excited to work with

Farhan. I have been a fan of his movies, his direction, his acting and his voice. He is one of the most talented, fearless and most inspiring people we have in the industry today," she said.

Shraddha visited North East of India for a recce with the "Rock On 2" team and has already started working on the film's music with Farhan, who became a singing sensation after "Rock On".

"Rock On 2", the much awaited sequel to 2008 hit, will also see Arjun Rampal, Prachi Desai, Shahan Goswami reprising their roles. Director Abhishek Kapoor will not return for the sequel. The cast will begin shooting in Shillong this September and the film is slated to release next year.

Source: TOI

## "Molina'r Ek Ratri" this Eid



A CORRESPONDENT

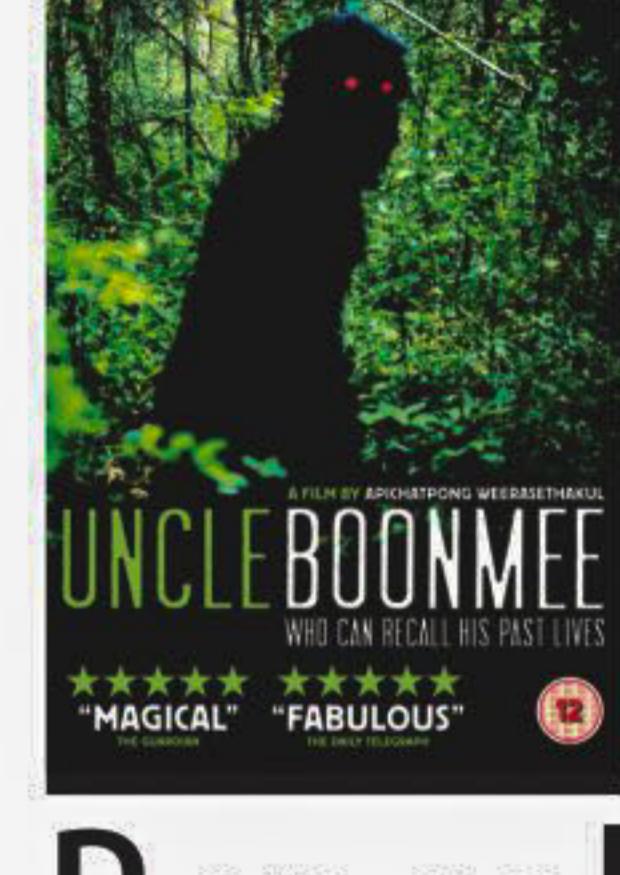
Single-episode TV play "Molina'r Ek Ratri" will air on the 4th day of Eid on ATN Bangla, at 8:50pm. Written by wordsmith Dr. Syed Manzoorul Islam and adapted and directed by Abul Hayat, it casts Richi Solaiman, Intekhab Dinar, Wahida Mallik Jolly and Abul Hayat himself.

The story of the play revolves around Molina, who is the second wife of Rois, who married her because his first wife could not conceive a son. But her married life is in tatters after she fails to fulfill that wish. Molina is raped after she goes to a person for a 'tabij' that would solve her problems, but it turns out the culprit was none other than her own husband.

## Batman and Wonder Woman seen together!



US Magazine Entertainment Weekly published a still from upcoming superhero movie "Batman Vs Superman: Dawn of Justice", giving the first glimpse of Ben Affleck (as Bruce Wayne/Batman) and Gal Gadot (as Diana Prince /Wonder Woman) without their superhero costumes. Fans of DC Comics were quick to find a comic-book resemblance to the shot, from a 2003 episode called "Maid of Honor" from the animated series "Justice League" (which features a number of DC Comics superheroes). Another photo, released by Entertainment Weekly, also showed Jessie Eisenberg -- as DC villain Lex Luthor, but without Luthor's signature bald head. Instead, a young Luthor sports long hair in the photo.



## Bengal Cinematheque returns

Films by Weerasethakul and Rossellini to be screened

A CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Cinematheque, the quarterly series of private film screenings, presented by Bengal Foundation, is returning for its second cycle, with films by noted makers Apichatpong Weerasethakul (Thailand) and Roberto Rossellini (Italy). For the first week, the films to be screened are: "Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past" by Weerasethakul (today at 7pm) and "Journey to Italy" by Rossellini (tomorrow).

The screenings take place at Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct, at The Daily Star Centre (64-65 Kazi Nurul Islam Avenue, Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215).

Bengal Cinematheque aims to present the films and ideas of cinema's greatest auteurs, at the highest quality, to build a community of emerging filmmakers, writers and programmers in Bangladesh. Arranged in quarterly cycles, each set of screenings will present selected works by two rare and unusual film-makers.