

**NEWS**  
bytes

**Harry Styles signs solo deal**



Harry Styles has signed a recording contract with Columbia Records, the same label behind his group One Direction, Billboard reported. Deal terms are not yet known and there is no timeline for a solo album, say sources.

The first hints of a Styles solo career came last year, when four songs performed and written by the star were registered with the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). Styles is currently filming the Christopher Nolan World War II drama, "Dunkirk".

Since the group was formed on "The X Factor UK" in 2010, One Direction racked up four No. 1 albums and one No. 2 album with 2015's "Made in the A.M.", all released via Sony Music's Columbia label in partnership with Simon Cowell's Syco.

Source: **Billboard**

A Hindi reimagining of  
**GHARE BAIRE**  
Film based on Tagore novel to release next month

More than three decades after Satyajit Ray made a film on Rabindranath Tagore's "Ghare Baire", young filmmaker Reema Mukherjee is making a Hindi movie inspired by the famous novel.

While Tagore's famous work, written in 1916, dwelt on the Swadeshi movement, Reema's "Ardhangini Ek Ardhshatya" is set in the first decade of the present millennium.

"In my film, I tried to get answer to questions that arose in my mind while reading Tagore's novel," the Mumbai-based writer-director told PTI.

The three famous characters - Sandip, Nikhilesh and Bimala - are played by Subrat Dutta, Subodh Bhave and Srilekha Mitra respectively.

Asserting that she was not afraid of her work being compared with Ray's "Ghare Baire", where Soumitra Chatterjee (Sandip), Victor Banerjee (Nikhilesh) and Swatilekha Sengupta (Bimala)

played the principal characters, Reema said, "I feel the previous film adaptation of 'Ghare Baire' was more simplistic with all respect to the great film maker."

Asked why she did not use Rabindra Sangeet in the film, Reema said, "While music plays an important role in 'Ardhangini...', there is no scope for Tagore songs. In fact there was no Tagore song in the original novel."

She said she did not feel the need to introduce a Tagore song just because she was adapting a Tagore classic. Celebrated singer like Sukhwinder Singh, Hariharan, Vasundhara Das, Kavita Krishnamurthy, Raghav Chatterjee have lent their voice to film's album.

The film, primarily shot in Gujarat, near Sundarbans in West Bengal and in Mumbai, is scheduled to release on July 1.

Source: **PTI**



Soumitra and Swatilekha in Satyajit's original telling of the film (1984).



Photography legend  
**BILL CUNNINGHAM**  
passes away

Bill Cunningham, a New York Times fashion photographer who documented street style through several decades, died Saturday in New York, the newspaper announced. He was 87.

Cunningham had been hospitalized after a stroke earlier this week.

From bell bottoms to fanny packs and beyond, Cunningham immortalised not only the fashions of the moment, but the cultural shifts as they changed. As the Times puts it, the photographer became "an unlikely anthropologist" in his 40 years at the paper, as his street photos reflected a change from formality into more self-expressive trends.

Though he preferred not to photograph celebrities, but rather passing residents on the streets of Manhattan, Cunningham became something of a star himself in the fashion world. The French government honoured him with the Legion d'Honneur in Paris in 2008, and he was congratulated at Bergdorf Goodman in New York, where a life-

size mannequin of him was installed.

He was also the subject of the critically acclaimed 2010 documentary "Bill Cunningham New York," which premiered at the Museum of Modern Art.

Cunningham became a regular contributor to the Times in the late '70s, but refused to take a staff position until 1994, when he was hit by a truck while riding his bike. He later explained he took the staff position for health insurance, and stayed at the publication for years after.

"He was a hugely ethical journalist," said Dean Baquet, the Times' executive editor. "And he was incredibly open-minded about fashion. To see a Bill Cunningham street spread was to see all of New York. Young people. Brown people. People who spent fortunes on fashion and people who just had a strut and knew how to put an outfit together out of what they had and what they found."

Source: **Variety**

**Aminur Rahman honoured in Malaysia**

The 3rd Numera World Poetry Expression was held recently at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, says a press release. The Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka 'Numera World Award of Letters 2016' was awarded to Malaysian National Laureate Professor Emeritus Dato Dr Mohamad Hj Salleh and Bangladeshi poet Aminur Rahman.

Seventy poets from eight countries (Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei, Bangladesh, Belgium, Russia and Singapore) participated at the poetry expression. Six noted poets from Bangladesh -- Asad Chowdhury, Hayat Saif, Mohammad Nurul Huda, Habibullah Sirajee, Jahidul Huq and Aminur Rahman attended the event.

Nurul Huda and Hayat Saif presented papers on

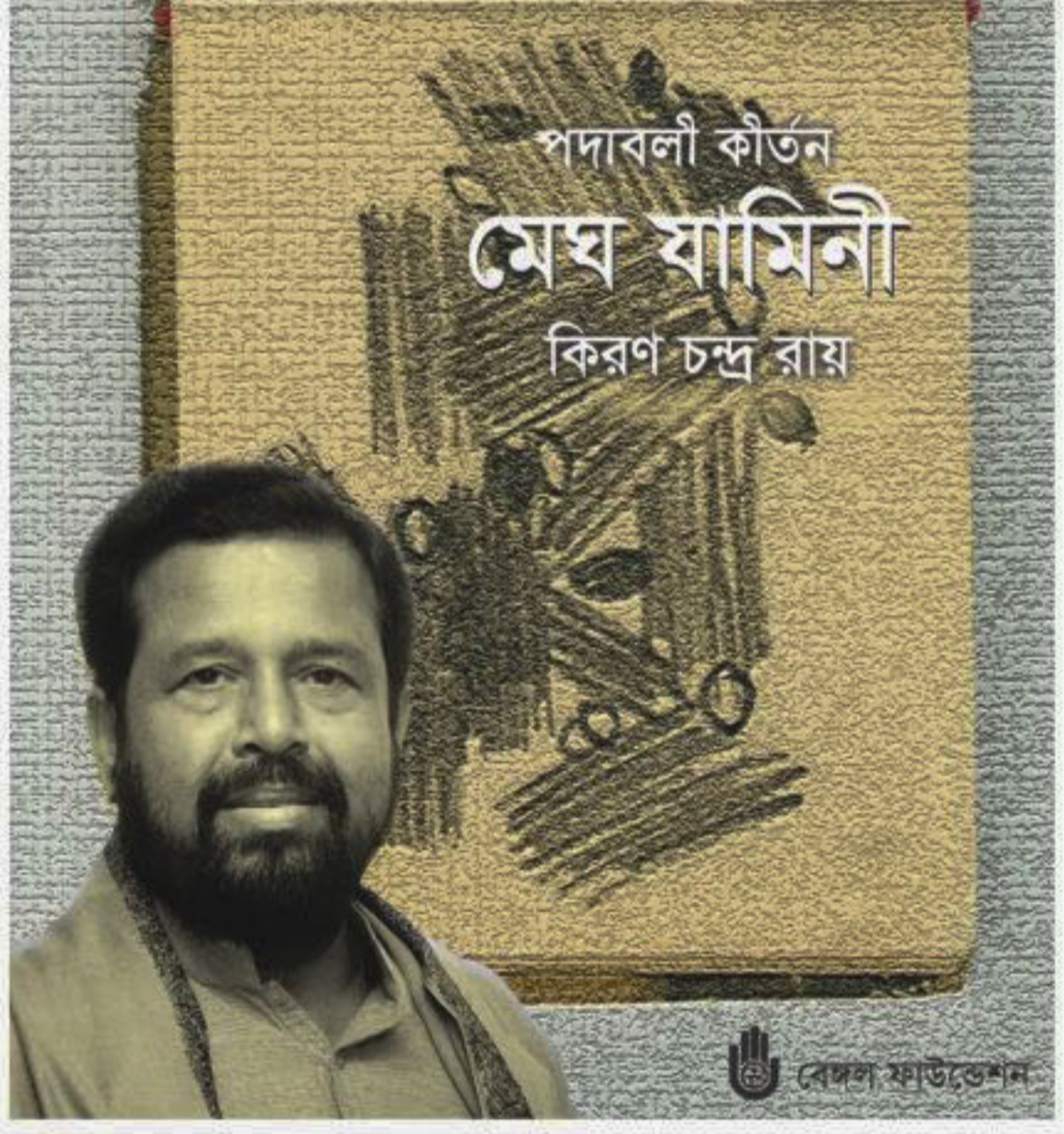


contemporary poetry at the event. Asad Chowdhury, Habibullah Sirajee and Jahidul Huq participated in the symposiums and read their poetry as well. A symposium titled "Poetry of Malaysia and Bangladesh: Strength and challenges" was moderated by Aminur Rahman.

Poet Sastri Bakri from Indonesia was awarded Numera Sirkand Award. PNB Chairman Tan Sri Hamad Kama Piah handed awards to the poets.

Numera Malaysia also published Aminur Rahman's bi-lingual (Malay-English) poetry book "Diari Abadi - Perpetual Diary" in conjunction with this event, translated by renowned Malaysian poet Dr Raja Rajeswari Seetha Raman.

Bengal Foundation releases three albums



A CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Foundation has been relentlessly working for preservation and flourish of the country's culture, and their audio label has played a valuable part in it. Some three new albums -- by both prominent and promising artistes, have been released by them.

Rabindra Sangeet album "Koto Madhusomire" by talented young singer Farheen Khan Joyita, contains eight songs arranged by Partho Pal. The songs include "Morey Barey Barey Pherale", "Prochondo Gorjone" and "Sukh-heen Nishidin Poradhin".

"Amar Bedona Loho Bujhi", a collection of Dinendranath Tagore songs, sung by Sukanta Chakrabarty and Avijit Mazumdar, has also been released. "Pothpashe Mo'r Rochinu Deul", "Palash Ranga Bashonaguli and "Tarey Kemone Dhoribo Haye" are some of the songs on the disc.

The most high-profile album of the lot features Kiran Chandra Roy singing 'padabali kirtan', an ancient cultural music style, in the album "Megh Jamini". Durbadal Chatterjee has arranged music for the album. Songs by Vidyapati, Govinda Das, Gyan Das and Dwijachandidas feature in the album.

**Apurba-Mithila: Winning combo returns this Eid**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

This upcoming Eid, popular TV actors Mithila and Apurba will be seen in a number of TV plays, by there is one particular TV play both are excited about.

The play is titled "Flipper," written by Mir Shariful Karim Srabon and directed by Tanim Rahman Angshu. The play will be telecast on Rtv this Eid.

Filming for the play concluded in Uttara on Saturday. On the play, Apurba commented "Flipper has an innovative plot. I can guarantee that the audience has not seen me or Mithila play this type of characters before. This has been challenging as well as fulfilling for us."

Mithila further added, "The plot in the play

moved me so much that I spent the first day of filming crying. My character is pregnant and is faced with the decision of keeping the baby or aborting it. Apurba and I both have children of our own, so this is a very painful, emotionally moving story for us. I hope that it will evoke similar feelings among viewers."

Mithila and Apurba will also appear in "Kothapokhon", a TV play directed by Mizanur Rahman Aryan, and the final episode of Shihab Shaheen's tele-film series by Shihab Shahin, "X Factor: Game Over". Mithila will also be appearing in Shihab Shaheen-directed TV play "Prem ek Rashayonik Bikriya", five-episode TV miniseries "Journey to Chittagong" and "After Marriage", both of which have been directed by Mabruur Rashid Bannah.



**Eid Ittyadi films foreign guests segment**

A CORRESPONDENT

Filming for a special foreign guest segment of the Eid episode, of popular TV variety show Ittyadi was held on June 5. Scripted and directed by renowned television host Hanif Sanket, 82 guests from various foreign embassies and foreign companies participated in a mini play.

Michael, Niels and Myriam were the main coordinators for the skit.

"We became like a family. Without their participation and cooperation it would not have been such a popular segment of Eid special Ittyadi. Though they are not professional actors, their dedication, punctuality and perseverance was exemplary.

The Eid special episode of Ittyadi will air on the second day of Eid at 10:10 pm on BTV and BTV World.



**Michael Bay revealed a new character for his upcoming "Transformers" movie -- "The Last Knight" on Instagram. Sqweeks is a bot with a practical build cobbled together from a baby blue Vespa. While further details about the character were not revealed, a set of other photos and a video showing Josh Duhammel in costume, and the announcement of Laura Haddock joining the cast have been made on the photo and video-sharing social network. We'll find out when the fifth Transformers installment opens June 23, 2017.**

