



Star Melodies presents UNPLUGGED MUSICAL NIGHT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star's Star Melodies will host a special unplugged musical evening of popular Bangla songs of yesteryears.

Prominent and talented singers Romana Islam, Tanveer Alam Shawjeeb, Anupoma Mukti, Prithwi Raj and Ritu Raj will present songs of the golden era.

The event will be held at 6 pm at the AS Mahmud Hall of The Daily Star Centre on January 28.

Sadya Afreen Mallick will compère the programme. The event has been organised with assistance from Eastern Bank Limited and Simantic Creative Concern. Invitation passes can be collected from The Daily Star Centre. Seats are limited and available on a first-come first-serve basis.

স্টার মেলোডিজ, The Daily Star আয়োজিত
বাংলা গানের নিরামিত আসর
এবারে নিবেদন :

শিল্পীর প্রিয় গান-আনন্দগৃহ



ZAHANGIR ALOM

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) organised an evening of Gaudiya Nritya at National Theatre Hall auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy (BSA) on January 23. A 13-member Gaudiya Nritya troupe from Kolkata performed five dance pieces. Professor Mahua Mukherjee, presently a Tagore Chair at the Department of Dance, University of Dhaka, led the troupe "Gaudiya Nritya Bharati", Kolkata. Professor Mukherjee has been a researcher for over 30 years on Gaudiya Nritya, a classical dance of Bengal, and has brought this almost-extinct dance form to the fore. The Gaudiya Nritya Bharati troupe regularly performs at prestigious events in major cities in India.



Artistes on an ending note.

Gaudiya Nritya, a classical dance form of Bengal, is a composite art-form enriched with drama, poetry, colours and rhythm based on sculptures, literatures, scriptures, Guru-shishya parampara dance traditions and historical evidences. With its roots in Natyashastra, the evolution of Gaudiya Nritya can be traced to the tradition of dance forms existing in Gauda Banga. Gaudiya Nritya, a temple art at the outset, is a form of

spiritual expression. In the Indian dance form, Rasa or flavour is the quality that bonds the artiste and the spectator.

The event set off with the presentation of Chandi Vandana. The worship of Devi Chandi, the goddess of Power and grace was the central point of the performance. The lyric of the item has been extracted from the writings of Kabikankar Mukundaram Chakraborty's Chandimangal Kavya.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHEDE

The underlying mystery behind creation is the union of man with nature that was depicted in the second item called "Ardhanarishwar". The idea is expressed with inimitable metaphors of Lord Shiva and Parvati. Based on Raga Desh, the next piece was a pure classical dance called "Alapchari". Several artists danced to it.

Mahua Mukherjee later enacted an abhinaya piece titled "Krishna Rama Katha" set on the

style of Leela Kirtan.

The concluding piece was "Dasavatara", a 20-minute-long dance piece, depicting the 10 incarnations (avatars) of the Hindu God Vishnu. Prior to the performance, Mahua Mukherjee made one of his disciples demonstrate the different gestures and poses that identify the various avatars of Vishnu. The avatars included Matsya (the Fish), Kurma (the Tortoise), Varaha (the Boar), Narasimha (the Man-Lion), Vamana (the Dwarf), Parasurama, Rama, Krishna, Buddha and Kalki. Ten dancers beautifully danced to the item.

Dr. Mahua Mukherjee designed the concept and choreographed all the items. Amitabha Mukherjee did music research and gave vocal support. The troupe also performed at Rajshahi Shilpkala Academy on January 21.

The overall performance, however, fell short of the audience's expectations. The inclusion of devotional themes and music seemed repetitive.

Legendary dancer Dr. Mahua Mukherjee is a Fulbright Fellow of USA and a Dance Trainer and Choreographer of the Gaudiya Nritya Bharati. She is presently a Professor at the Department of Dance of Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata.

Bangladesh Embassy in Myanmar organises cultural evening

Dance troupe displays rich Bangladesh culture

Bangladesh Embassy in Yangon, Myanmar organised a cultural evening titled "Rhythms of Bangladesh"—a presentation of classical, contemporary and folk dances. A dance troupe, led by Samina Husain Prema, from Bangladesh performed at the Chancery on January 23 as part of the Embassy's endeavour to highlight the richness of

Bangladesh culture, says a press release.

Samina Husain Prema, one of the reputed dancers of the younger generation of Bangladesh and artistes from the dance school Bhava performed before distinguished guests, among them Resident Ambassadors, diplomats, local political leaders and elites, media representatives and Bangladeshi expatriates.

Faculty members and students of the Dramatic Arts Department of the National University of Culture and Arts, Yangon also attended the programme to get insights into the styles, forms and traditions of Bangladesh's performing arts. Singers from the Bangladeshi community in Yangon gave a performance to add colour and diversity to the event.



Bhabna artistes perform at the event.



Meryl Streep gets landmark 20th, diversity addressed successfully. "La La Land," a musical tribute to Los Angeles, dominated the Oscar nominations on Tuesday night, picking up 14 nods to tie the record set by "Titanic" and "All About Eve". It was nominated for best picture and best director for 32-year old Damien Chazelle, while both of its actors, Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone, were recognised for their work as big city dreamers in love.

"La La Land's" main competition in the major categories came from "Arrival" -- an alien invasion thriller, and "Moonlight" -- a low-boil drama looking at a gay man in the inner city. Both films landed a total of eight Oscar nominations.

Three films were tied for third with six nods apiece: "Hacksaw Ridge", a bloody World War II drama, "Lion", a true story about a man who uses Google to find his long-lost family in India, and "Manchester by the Sea", a shattering tragedy that marks a return to the A-list for Kenneth Lonergan after a few years in the wilderness. He was nominated for best original screenplay and for his direction.

In recent years, the Academy was rocked by protests over the lack of diversity of its nominees and of its membership. However, after two straight years of shutting out performers of colour, this year's nominees were notably

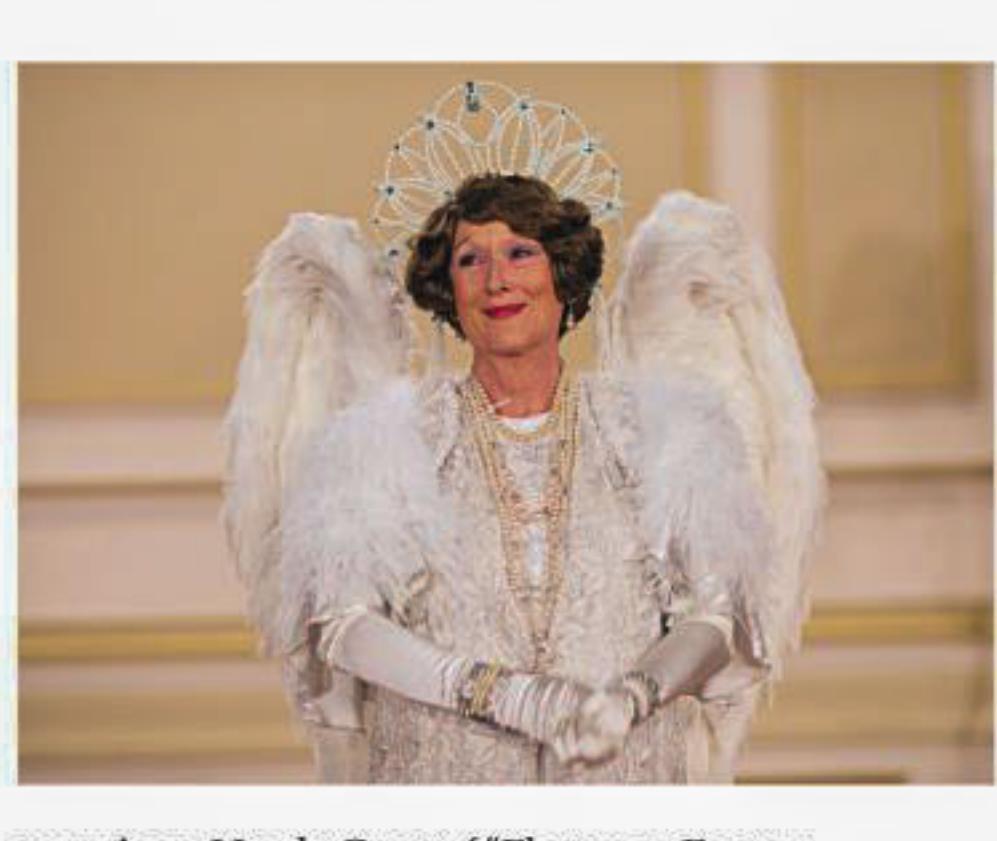
more reflective of a multi-cultural America. Seven out of the 20 performance nominations went to actors of colour, and a number of best picture and documentary contenders, such as "Hidden Figures", "Fences", "13th" and "O.J.: Made in America" grappled with the issue of racial inequality.

Casey Affleck, who stars in "Manchester by the Sea" as a grieving janitor, has dominated the early awards, picking up a Golden Globe and most of the critics honours. His competition comes from Denzel Washington as bitter garbage man ("Fences"), Andrew Garfield as a conscientious objector ("Hacksaw Ridge"), Viggo Mortensen as a hippie father ("Captain Fantastic"), and Gosling.

"La La Land" wasn't the only record-breaker. The Academy continued its love affair with Meryl Streep, handing her a precedent-fracturing twentieth Oscar nomination, the most ever for a performer. Streep was recognized for her work as a tone-deaf opera singer in "Florence Foster Jenkins". She will face off against Isabelle Huppert as a rape victim ("Elle"), Natalie Portman as a resilient first lady ("Jackie"), Ruth Negga as a civil rights warrior ("Loving"), and Stone.

After a decade in the professional wilderness, Hollywood signaled that it had at least partially forgiven Mel Gibson. He was nominated for his directing work on "Hacksaw Ridge".

There were a number of notable snubs and



surprises. Hugh Grant ("Florence Foster Jenkins"), Tom Hanks ("Sully"), Amy Adams ("Arrival") had been expected to pick up nods, but failed to get the call, while Michael Shannon, recognised for his work as an ailing lawman in "Animal Kingdom", and Negga, managed to shoulder into the final five after missing out on other important critics group honours.

Jimmy Kimmel hosts this year's ceremony. It marks his first time as emcee.

This year's Oscar nominations were announced in a novel way. Instead of having Academy bosses and the odd celebrity read out the lists of honorees, ABC offered up short interstitial videos with previous nominees and winners sharing their memories of their big mornings.

"Unfair to compare me with Priyanka" ... Deepika

Although Deepika Padukone's first Hollywood film, "xXx - Return Of Xander Cage" has only just released, comparisons between her and Priyanka Chopra started as soon as the actresses signed their Hollywood projects, but Deepika star says it is "unfair" as they both are following different paths.

Priyanka made her international debut with TV series "Quantico" in 2015, while the Deepika's "xXx: Return of Xander Cage" released this month.

During an interview with USA Today, Deepika finally broke silence over being compared with her "Bajirao Mastani" co-star. "It's not fair to make comparisons. Let me just say everyone has a different path and journey," she said.

Even Priyanka, who was recently on filmmaker Karan Johar's chat show, said, "It's so nice for me to see that Deepika is doing 'xXx'...and whatever else she does in the future or Sonam (Kapoor) or so many other actors, who want to come to America I hope they are starting out."

Sonam Kapoor, another busy Bollywood star, has also signed up with United Talent Agency (UTA), one of the Hollywood's premier talent agencies.

Source: Hindustan Times



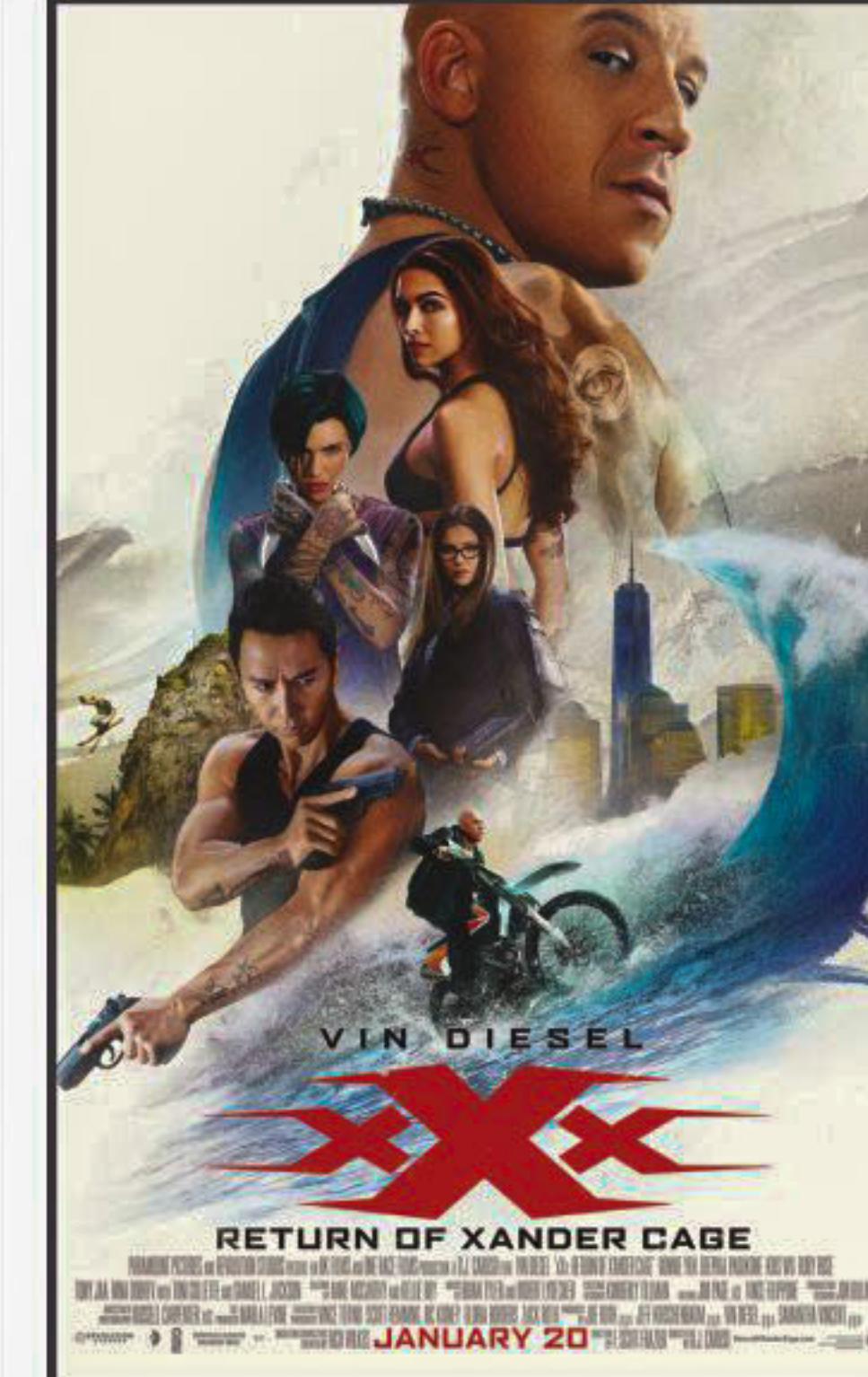
LA LA LAND gets record-tying 14 Oscar nods

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The Daily Star STAR Cineplex QUIZ CONTEST 10 WINNERS EVERYDAY! 2 PREMIUM TICKETS FOR EACH WINNER RETURN OF XANDER CAGE Email your answer to starquiz@outlook.com by 4.00 pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winner of the quiz will be announced tomorrow through email QUIZ - 05 Which Bollywood actress made a debut in XXX? WINNERS OF QUIZ NO-4 1. Md. Mazharul Hossain, Farmgate 2. Ibtisam Namir, Cantonment 3. Raisul Saikat, University of Dhaka 4. Sartaz Fattah, Mohammadpur 5. Zelinda Murphy, New Eskaton 6. Talukdar Milton, Mirpur 7. Zisa, Dhamondi-15 8. Taseen Nasir Khan, Dhamondi 9. Rajibul Ronie, Banani 10. Azizul Hasan, North Sajahanpur