

NEWS bytes

BBC honours two pioneering British-Bangladeshi musicians



Foo Fighters debut new song

Foo Fighters came back with "Run" a couple of weeks ago, and debuted another new song during their performance at the Secret Solstice Festival in Reykjavik, Iceland on Friday.

"We only have 22 minutes left, but I want to play you all the new f---ing songs," Dave Grohl said toward the end of their set. After asking his bandmates which one they should play, they launched into another bursting new single, called "Lah Di Da". They also performed "Run" live for the first time, and debuted the non-acoustic version of "The Sky Is a Neighborhood", which Grohl and drummer Taylor Hawkins played at a benefit concert last month.

Source: **Billboard**

ANSAR AHMED ULLAH, London

BBC honoured two pioneering British-Bangladeshi DJs – Haroon Shamsher of pioneering collective Joi and Saifullah 'Sam' Zaman of State of Bengal on June 15, unveiling Blue Plaques at their places of residence.

As part of BBC Music Day on June 15, all 40 BBC Local Radio stations in England teamed up with the British Plaque Trust to unveil 40 historic Blue Plaques celebrating iconic musicians and venues. The Blue Plaque commemorates innovative, influential and successful people who are no longer with us. It's the first time that musicians of South Asian descent were honoured with an official Blue Plaque for their contribution to music and shaping the cultural landscape. Haroon's Blue Plaque was placed in Brick Lane, where he lived with his family and Sam's Blue Plaque was placed at his home and studio, East London, where all his albums were created and his eclectic music collection was housed.

Haroon and Sam began their musical journey together, as part of the League of Joi Bangla Youth community collective. Sam and Joi's remixes of 'Nusrat' were featured on the hugely successful Real World Record's tribute album, and Sam's remixes of 'Nusrat'



Sam Zaman (L) and Haroon Shamsher.

were a big part of his DJ set. The duo Joi was founded by brothers Farook and Haroon Shamsher (November 14, 1965 – July 8, 1999) who grew up in the East End of London. Their passion for music developed at a young age as their father was a professional flautist who had a shop in Brick Lane selling saris and musical instruments. He also had

Hindi, Indian classical and traditional Bangla music records, and ran a traditional music shop. Their father would organise sessions and record with Baul artists, and sell the tapes.

Joi was formed originally under the banner of the 'League of Joi Bangla Youth', a collective set up in 1983 to promote Bangalee culture to children in East London. They started out in the



context of community work and events and subsequently became active members of a growing Asian dance scene in England. Out of this, the Joi Bangla sound system was formed by Farook and Haroon Shamsher, fusing Asian influences with Western beats and fusing the sounds of traditional Bangla music with hip-hop and contemporary dance styles. They spun

records in local youth clubs around the Brick Lane area of London. In 1983, they mixed these elements together and began DJing at clubs as the Joi Bangla Sound System, before becoming the more dance-oriented Joi six years later.

Saifullah 'Sam' Zaman (April 16, 1965 – May 19, 2015) of State of Bengal was one of the Key DJ/producers to have emerged from the British Asian Music scene that emerged in the late 1990's that gave birth to the 'Asian Underground' movement. State of Bengal was set up in 1987 after Sam returned to London from a visit to the village of Noakhali in Bangladesh where he met and interacted with traditional musicians and dancers. Inspired and drawing from his experiences, Sam set up a sound system, which included rappers, DJs, dancers and musicians. The team mixed Bangla and Western street style dance to create a style that reflected the diverse cultures of Britain at that time.

Sam's reputation for pushing the boundaries and 'stepping out' to produce eclectic 'out of the box' albums as well as his archives of dance tracks gained him respect as one of the innovators and pioneer's of the British Asian music scene.

Udichi organises theatre workshop in M'singh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Udichi Mymensingh District Sangsad organised a three-day theatre workshop at its Horikishore Roy Road office in the town that concluded on June 16.

Some 32 young artistes of Udichi and Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKNIU) in Trishal participated at the workshop.

The trainers at the workshop were-- Hasan Tareq,

Aslam Aranya, Nazrul Islam, Amit Ranjan Dey and Maruf Rahman.

Earlier, a discussion was held marking the inaugural session, chaired by Sarwar Kamal Robin, Udichi Mymensingh Sangsad vice-president.

Among others, Udichi district unit secretary Jishutosh Talukder; its central vice-president Abdus Salam Ripon and assistant general secretary Amit Ranjan Dey addressed the inaugural session.

Udichi's theatre secretary Mottalib Darbari delivered the welcome speech.

The speakers said to excel in the ancient art form of theatre, it is necessary to master techniques through theatre workshops.

At the concluding session, the guests distributed certificates among the participants.

The event rounded up with participants staging a short play on repression of women.



A group of young theatre enthusiasts in apt attention at the workshop.

PHOTO: STAR



A quiet Eid for Apurbo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Last week, Apurbo left for Pabna for a rigorous filming session for a new play directed by Amitabh Reza. With Eid just around the corner, the busy small screen actor has spent almost every day shooting for a series of plays to go on air during the holidays.

Prior to his stardom, the actor's first venture was a TVC directed by Reza, but has never been cast in a play helmed by the director, until now. Apurbo will appear as a Freedom Fighter in the narrative, which is set during the Liberation War. He will be joined on screen by Nabila, as the female lead.

The actor will also appear as a pilot in another play. "I am taking part in some excellent projects for this Eid. The holidays give us an opportunity to appear as a myriad of characters," stated an enthused Apurbo, "I know viewers are in for a great experience."

After so many busy days of shooting, the actor intends to spend a quiet Eid with family in the tranquility of his home in Dhaka. "I look forward to starting my morning by greeting my parents, before eating payesh and heading off to prayers," he said, "I wear a white Panjabi every Eid, and this year will be no different."

The day is celebrated with a large gathering with family, friends and relatives, and endless supply of food lovingly cooked by his mother, wife and sister-in-law. "There will be kormas and pulao without fail on this day," he described, "and for evening snacks we all look forward to homemade chotpoti."

He also added that Eid had a happier significance after the birth of his son, despite having so many happy memories of the festival from childhood. "I also spend the day watching my work on screen, and it's something I enjoy very much," he concluded.

Deepika to return in "Return of Xander Cage" sequel



Deepika Padukone's Hollywood debut may not have been as big a hit as her fans back in India may have wanted, but one of Bollywood's top leading ladies looks all set to reprise her role of Serena Unger. DJ Caruso, director of "xXx: The Return of Xander Cage" tweeted recently that the cast is returning for the sequel.

A particularly astute social media user chanced upon a nostalgic Instagram post from the official handle of actress Ruby Rose, who featured in the film alongside Deepika Padukone, Vin Diesel and Nina Dobrev. "And while I'm here I can't forget my training for Adele in 'xXx'... but... more new exciting news on that soon ;)," Ruby wrote. The fan took a screenshot and reached out to Caruso on Twitter asking if the new film is in the works.

The director replied in a series of tweets confirm-

ing the news. "Yes meetings next week. Honing in on story and start dates," he wrote back, and later confirmed with an emphatic "Oh yes!" when a fan asked particularly if Deepika was going to feature in it.

Deepika's character in her first Hollywood film was much loved by her fans, particularly the fact that she got to do a lot of stunts, even though action star Vin Diesel was headlining the movie. While trolls criticised her for her Indian accent, the fact remains that Deepika's character was integral to the plot.

"xXx: The Return of Xander Cage" was the third installment in the "xXx" franchise and a sequel to "xXx" (2002) and "xXx: State of the Union" (2005). Despite mixed reviews, the film grossed over \$346 million worldwide against a production budget of \$85 million.

Source: **Mumbai Mirror**

US BOX OFFICE

"CARS 3" CRUISING TO \$50M-PLUS DEBUT

Disney and Pixar's "Cars 3" is headed for a \$51 million-plus US debut, the lowest in the franchise but easily enough to chase the competition off the road and win the weekend. The other big headline is Tupac Shakur biopic "All Eyez on Me", which is doing far better than expected for a likely \$30 million-plus launch in the US.

"Cars 3" grossed \$19.5 million Friday after nabbing an A CinemaScore — the eighth consecutive Pixar release to do so. The film, directed by Brian Fee, will wrest the weekend crown from holdover "Wonder Woman", which is projected to earn \$39 million in its third week for a domestic total of nearly \$275 million. On Friday, Wonder Woman soared past the \$500 million mark globally.

The "Cars" sequel follows the legendary Lightning McQueen (Owen Wilson) as he's

pushed out of the sport he loves by a new generation of blazing-fast racers. He enlists the help of a young race technician (voice of Cristela Alonzo) to help him get back in the game.

Lionsgate's Codeblack Films is releasing director Benny Boom's "All Eyez on Me", which is hitting theatres on what would have been the late hip-hop icon's 46th birthday. Named after Shakur's fourth studio album, the movie includes over a dozen songs from his music catalogue.

The biopic, starring Demetrius Shipp Jr., earned \$12.8 million Friday, as audiences bestowed the film with an A- CinemaScore. The cast also includes Kat Graham, who plays Jada Pinkett-Smith, who was close to Shukar. Pinkett-Smith slammed the movie as "deeply hurtful."

Tom Cruise's "The Mummy" will follow at the fourth spot for the weekend with an estimated \$14 million for a domestic total of \$56 million-plus through Sunday.

The news is rough for Sony's raunchy female comedy, "Rough Night". The movie grossed a muted \$3.3 million Friday for a projected \$8 million-plus weekend. The \$20 million movie stars Scarlett Johansson, Ilana Glazer, Kate McKinnon, Jillian Bell and Zoe Kravitz as a group of friends who gather for a weekend-long bachelorette bash. Lucia Aniello directed the film.

"Rough Night" looks to be beat by independent shark thriller "47 Meters Down", starring Mandy Moore and Claire Holt. The film is swimming toward an \$11 million-plus domestic launch after grossing \$4.5 million on Friday.

Source: **THR**

