

Sixth season of SHERA KONTHO begins

A CORRESPONDENT

Channel i's popular singing reality show "Fizz Up- Channel i Shera Kontho - powered by Sharif Kitchen Star" went on air yesterday at Channel i.

The show recently wrapped up shooting the preliminary selection phase from Rajshahi, Chittagong and Rangpur. The selected participants will now come to Dhaka to take part in the "Move to grand audition" round.

This season, the age limit for the aspiring participants has been set to 18-plus. The main judges of this season are eminent singers Mitali Mukherjee, Rezwana Chowdhury Bonnya, Samina Chowdhury and Kumar Bishwajit. The reality show will be hosted by Maria Nur. Shera Kontho is directed by Ejaz Khan Swapan, and airs Mondays and Tuesdays at 8 pm.



Guests at the DVD launch programme.

Shilpakala releases massive 13,000-SONG ARCHIVE of folk music

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) released DVDs comprising a staggering 13,000 songs, collected from five regions of Bangladesh as the Academy's initiative to collect and preserve folk culture and music, on Saturday. Along with the launch of the DVDs, a seminar and a cultural programme was also held.

Five regions were selected for the project in 2016, whose culture and music have been put together in the DVD set. They include 5200 songs from the Rangpur region, titled "Uttorer Geeti Shudha"; 1500 songs from six districts of Myemensingh under title of "Haor Jongoler Gaan"; 3750 songs from Sunamganj titled "Jol Jyotsnar Gaan"; 1008 songs from Jhenidah, under the title "Lokonondite Lokogaan"; 1013 songs from five districts of the Faridpur region titled "Gao Geramer Sur", and 653 songs of Lalon Shah and 357 songs of other Bauls, all collected from the Baul Utshab.

A display of books and the DVD was set up at differ-

ent areas of the premises. Titled "Lokoshongskriti Shongroho, Shongrokkhon, Proshar Ebong Koroniyo", a seminar and open discussion was held at the National Seminar Hall of BSA. Chief guest at the seminar was Shamsuzzaman Khan, Director General at Bangla Academy. Writer and researcher Dr. Shaktinath Jha of West Bengal, India presented translated works to Director General of BSA, Liaquat Ali Lucky. Other guests included artistes Kiran Chandra Roy and Indra Mohon Rajbangshi, and researcher Saimon Zakaria, amongst others.

A discussion and cultural programme was held later in the day, with Cultural ministry secretary Md. Ibrahim Hossain Khan as chief guest. Dr. Shaktinath Jha; Md. Mojibur Rahman Al Mamun, Director of National Archives and Library; artiste Sukhnilash Burma of West Bengal and Dr Jasmine Buli were also present. The event was chaired by Director General of BSA, Liaquat Ali Lucky. Artistes of BSA along with others performed at the event.



Rtv and Dabur Vatika recently crowned the winners of "Campus Star", a pageant for students of 15 private and public universities in singing, dancing and acting. High-ups of Dabur and Rtv are seen with the winners of the show, at the capital's Bengal Multimedia Studio.

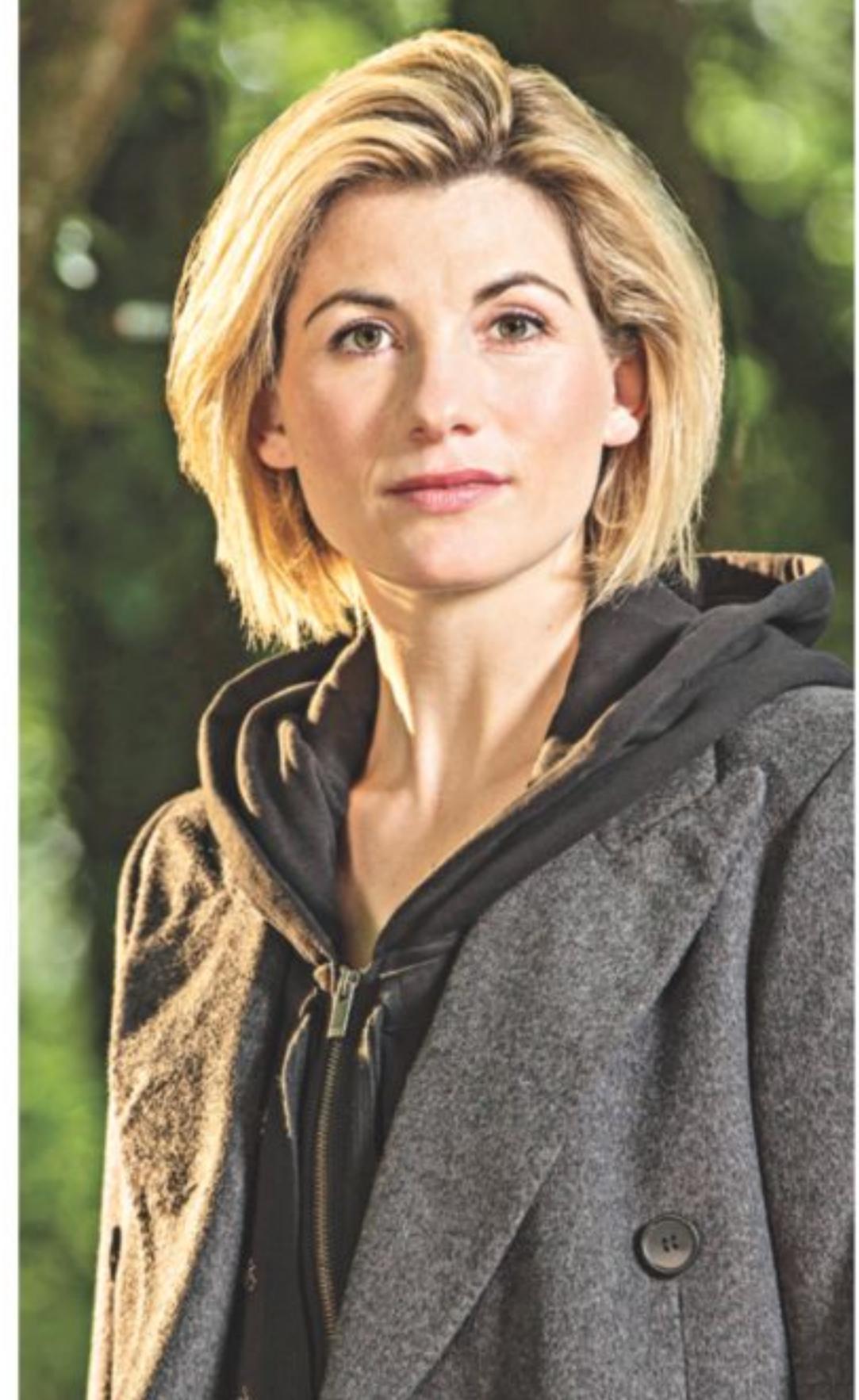
Jodie Whittaker named the first woman lead in Doctor Who

Jodie Whittaker will be the 13th Doctor in "Doctor Who" and the first woman in the role after the BBC named her Sunday as the new time lord, one of the world's most iconic sci-fi characters on television.

"Attack the Block" and "Broadchurch" star Whittaker will be seen on BBC One in the UK and on BBC America in the US, as well as globally, with the long-running sci-fi series still one of BBC Worldwide's biggest-selling shows internationally.

"I'm beyond excited to begin this epic journey, with Chris and with every Whovian on this planet," Whittaker said. "It's more than an honor to play the Doctor. It means remembering everyone I used to be, while stepping forward to embrace everything the Doctor stands for: hope. I can't wait."

The new Doctor was revealed in an interstitial after the climax of the Wimbledon men's tennis finals on BBC One and on the official "Doctor Who" Twitter feed. The Doctor has taken female form before, as 'Missy' (Michelle Gomez), and was very briefly played by Joanna Lumley as part of a series of regenerations in a single episode, but Whittaker will be the first Doctor to be played by a woman for a whole series.



She replaces Peter Capaldi who became the 12th doctor in 2013 and who told BBC radio in January that it was "time to move on." Capaldi replaced Matt Smith, who went on to star in "The Crown".

"Doctor Who" was first made in 1963, but its current incarnation dates back to a 2005 reboot with Christopher Eccleston in the title role. He was succeeded by David Tennant.

Writers and showrunners at the helm since the reboot have included Russell T Davies and Steven Moffat, who teamed with another "Doctor Who" writer, Mark Gatiss, on another fan favorite, "Sherlock".

The final episode of the Moffat and Capaldi era is a special scheduled for Christmas Day. Chris Chibnall of "Broadchurch" has already been named the new "Doctor Who" showrunner. His first season next year will be the 11th of the new generation of the show.

The producers had teased fans on Friday with a video on YouTube, which featured 10 Downing Street and the Statue of Liberty, before revealing a message: "Meet the 13th Doctor after the Wimbledon Men's Final."

Source: Variety

NEWS bytes

Queen biopic officially happening



The long-in-the-works Queen biopic is "finally happening," according to a new post on the iconic rock band's official website.

The project has been around in some form or another for over 10 years now and late last year, after first Sacha Baron Cohen and then Ben Whishaw departed the film due to creative differences, "Mr. Robot" star Rami Malek was cast as Freddie Mercury.

According to Queen's Roger Taylor and Brian May, who are serving as executive music producers, "Rami has great presence and he's utterly dedicated to the project. He's completely living and breathing Freddie already, which is wonderful."

Bryan Singer is directing, and the film is "as-close-as-that" to the start of shooting, with pre-production beginning next week to prepare for principal photography in London as soon as mid-September.

Source: Billboard

BSA celebrates composer Abdul Ahad

A CORRESPONDENT

A discussion and musical event commemorating legendary composer Abdul Ahad was held under the initiative of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), organised by the music and Dance centre with the assistance of Mahmuda Khatoon Siddika, Abdul Ahad and Hamida Khatoon Smriti Parishad. The venue was National Music and Dance Auditorium on July 16th.

Liaquat Ali Lucky, Director General of BSA, presided over the event; Mohammad Rafiquzzaman took part in the discussion, while a speech was delivered by Nishat Jahan Rana, editor of Smriti Parishad.

After the discussion, artistes Fahim Hossain, Rokaiya Hasina, Jhorna Rahman, Arifur Rahman, Nasima Shahin Fancy and Nashid Kamal performed Tagore songs and songs composed by Abdul Ahad respectively.



Liaquat Ali Lucky speaks at the event.

NIDHHI AGERWAL passed four rounds of audition for MUNNA MICHAEL



Though Nidhhi Agerwal has always wanted to be an actress, she never expected her dream to be fulfilled. Nidhhi, who makes her Bollywood debut opposite Tiger Shroff in "Munna Michael", told Times of India: "That goal seemed impossible, considering that I come from a non-film background. I didn't know how to pursue my dream. However, the people around me would always say, 'You have a Bollywood face'."

Eventually, she started modeling. It was only when she was offered a Kannada film did she realize that Bollywood could be possible as well. Her next stop was Mumbai where she started attending auditions.

"I went through four rounds of auditions before I landed 'Munna Michael,'" revealed Nidhhi, adding: "I used to hate it when people would say, 'Oh, you are going to Mumbai to try and make a mark in the Hindi film industry'. Isn't everyone trying to make a mark in their chosen field?"

Source: TOI