



NEWS bytes

Mick Jagger releases two new songs

Mick Jagger has released two songs which he says are urgent response to the "confusion and frustration with the times we live in."

The Rolling Stones leader released the songs, titled "England Lost" and "Get a Grip", on Thursday.

Jagger said he started writing the songs in April and that he wanted to release them immediately.



British rapper Skepta is featured on "England Lost". Jagger said when he was writing it, he knew he wanted a rap act on the track.

The Rolling Stones' most recent album was the blues effort, "Blue & Lonesome", released in December. The band is also working on an album of new material.

Jagger also commented on the most recent artists he's been listening to, which includes Skepta, Mozart, Howlin' Wolf, Tamia Impact, "obscure Prince tracks and classic soulstuff from The Valentine Brothers."

"I really like Kendrick Lamar — he's also talking about disconcert and he really nailed it," Jagger added.

Source: **Pitchfork**



PHOTO: STAR

"This is the highest form of honour ..."

Bannya receives Firoza Begum Award

NAZIBA BASHER

Legendary Nazrul singer Firoza Begum was born on July 27, 1926 and passed away on September 9, 2014. After her passing, Dhaka University (DU) had taken the initiative of annually presenting a nationally noted artiste with the "Firoza Begum Smriti Swapna Padak (Firoza Begum Commemorative Gold Medal)" every 27 — what would have been

Firoza Begum's 91st birthday. The medal was awarded to celebrated Rabindra Sangeet singer and Chairperson of the Dance Department in DU, Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, at the Senate Bhaban in the university's premises.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique was present as the chief guest at the programme, while Dean, Faculty of Arts, Prof. Dr. Abu Mohd Delwar Hossain was present as the special guest. The event was attended by many artistes and personalities, including Firoza

Begum's family members and sons, Shafin and Hamin Ahmed.

The event began with a presentation of songs and dances by students of Music and Dance Departments. A welcome speech was then given by the chairman of ACI Foundation, M Anis Udd Dowla, where he spoke about the legacy of Firoza Begum. Dr. Arefin Siddique then presented the medal to Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya. Jannatul Ferdous, the student with the highest CGPA from the Music Department, was also called upon stage to receive her medal.

"For an artiste, any kind of award, recognition, or respect, from anywhere or anyone, I believe the highest form of achievement. Today I have been paid one of the highest forms of honour, and that is because of the woman this medal is named after. Since I was a child, I was always a listener and admirer of her songs. Rabindranath had said the true mark of an artiste is in their self-control

and simplicity, to be able to give as much as is required. And Firoza Begum understood that very well. She understood the character of an artiste before giving them."

To be able to receive the award named after such a legendary Nazrul singer is an immense privilege for me," said the eminent Tagore exponent.

AAMS Arefin Siddique expressed his gratitude towards Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya in being a torch-bearer of the nation forward through art, and spoke about the necessity of promoting arts and culture as a responsibility towards the youth. After a vote of thanks by the chairperson of the Music Department Dr. Mohsina Akter Khanam, the programme concluded with another musical performance by the awardees — first Jannatul Ferdous after which the blissful voice of Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya filled the air at the Senate Bhaban, leaving everyone who attended in a spell of melodies.



Artistes of Chhayanaut perform a chorus song at a memorial programme, commemorating two recently-deceased musical luminaries of Bangladesh — Sudhin Das and Dr. Karunamaya Goswami. The event was held on Thursday at the Chhayanaut auditorium, where Tania Mannan, Mohluzzaman Chowdhury Moyna, Nasima Shaheen and Khairul Anam Shakil presented solo songs.

Reese Witherspoon, Jennifer Aniston teaming up for new TV series



Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon are teaming up for a new TV series that will focus on a New York morning show, reports Variety.

"House of Cards" producer Jay Carson is attached to write the script, with Steve Koves executive producing. Witherspoon and Aniston will also executive produce, with Witherspoon producing through her Hello Sunshine production banner along with her film and television head Lauren Levy Neustadter.

The series is expected to be shopped to traditional and streaming services in the coming weeks, industry sources say.

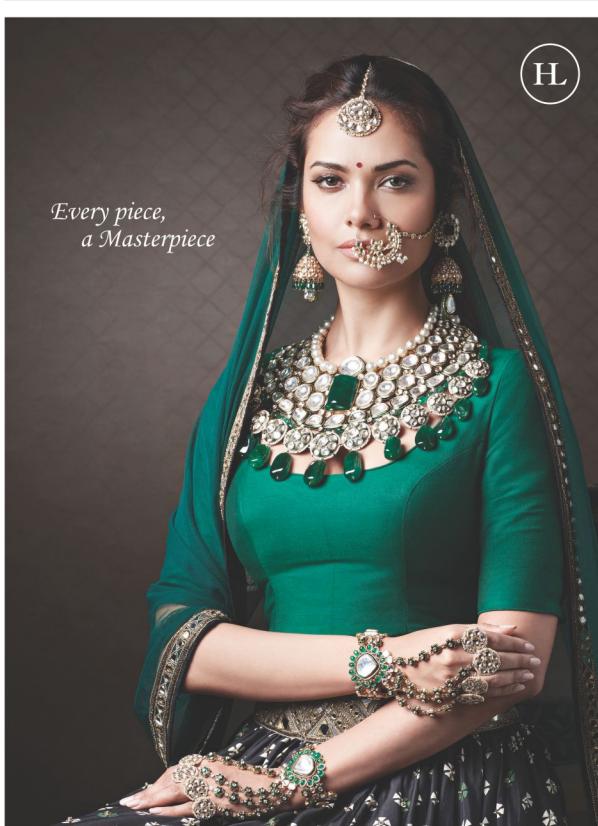
Aniston and Witherspoon previously worked together, with Witherspoon's sister, actress "Friends" as Aniston's sister. Witherspoon recently made the jump to TV with the HBO drama "Big Little Lies", which earned her an Emmy nomination. For Aniston, it would mark her first regular TV role since the end of "Friends" in 2004.

Speaking to Variety in January, Aniston expressed a desire to return to TV. "I've thought about it a lot," she said. "That's where the work is. That's where the quality is. At this point in my career, I want to be part of wonderful stories, exciting characters, and also just having a good time."

On the film front, Witherspoon is in post-production on Ava DuVernay's "A Wrinkle in Time" for Disney, and has romantic comedy "Home Again" bowing this September. Aniston will star in independent teen comedy "Dumplin'", and was most recently seen in Sundance drama "The Yellow Birds" and comedy "Office Christmas Party".

Source: **Variety**

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BY SANDEEP NARANG

SPARKLING SINCE 1952

DUPS' photography festival opens today

A CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Photographic Society (DUPS) and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) are jointly organising the 4th National Photography Festival 2017. The exhibition will open today and will continue till July 31 at the Gallery 6 of the National Art Gallery at BSA. A total of 111 single photographs of young photographers from different schools, colleges, universities and professional and freelance photographers will be exhibited, as well as three photo stories.

This festival opens with a grand rally from TSC, Dhaka University at 10am. Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University AAMS Arefin Siddique will be present at the venue. The inauguration and prize giving ceremony will be held at BSA, where Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor will be present as chief guest.

At the closing ceremony (on July 31), DUPS will felicitate revered portrait photographer Nasir Ali Mamun with the Lifetime Achievement Award. His biography and eight of his photographs will be exhibited at the festival. The festival will also host two artist talks -- by acclaimed Bangladeshi photographers Rahul Talukder on July 30, and Saiful Huq Omi on July 31. Both artist talks will begin at 3pm on the respective days. This exhibition, running from 11am-8pm every day, is open to all.

