



## NEWS bytes

### Luke Bryan joins 'American Idol' as judge

With a week left until "American Idol" auditions are due to start, the show has confirmed Luke Bryan as a second judge. The country star will join Katy Perry for the series' reboot on ABC, reports Variety.

While the third spot has yet to be locked down, word from inside the production is that "Idol" will stick with a panel of three and not four judges.

Lionel Richie, who was reported to have been in advanced talks to join the show, appears to no longer be in the running.



Other artists considered for the panel included Charlie Puth and Keith Urban, though it looks unlikely that either will wind up on the judges' table.

ABC's revival of the long-running Fox series has been slowly taking shape since it was announced in May. Perry was revealed to be a judge shortly after the deal at ABC was made, for a salary of \$25 million.

Ryan Seacrest, who hosted every season of the original "American Idol," is also returning to the show.

"American Idol" is slated to premiere in early March, launching its debut episode shortly after the Oscars.

Source: Variety



(L-R) Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, L Subramaniam and Vidushi Bombay Jayashri perform on the final day of the event.

## Maestros pour musical blessings

### South Asian Music Festival concludes on a high note

ZAHANGIR ALOM, writes from Singapore

It was a four-day (September 21-24) musical extravaganza that offered an array of Indian classical music coupled with the performance of Bangla songs by four renowned Bangladeshi artists: Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, Latifa Ahmed Lisa, Shama Rahman and Luva Nahid Choudhury. They predominantly performed Panchokabi's Gaan (songs of the five preeminent Bengali poets).

The maiden South Asian Music Festival concluded on September 24 on a high note at MasterCard Theatres, Marina Bay Sands in Singapore. The festival had living legends like Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma (Santoor), Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia (Bansuri), Pt. Birju Maharaj (Kathak) and Dr. L. Subramaniam (Carnatic Violin) to pour their musical blessings.

Renowned Carnatic vocalist Vidushi Bombay Jayashri with noted and promising maestros like Ustad Shujaat Khan (Sitar and

Vocal), Kanchiki Chakraborty (Vocal), Sawani Shende (Vocal), Niladri Kumar (Sitar) and Afghan boyar and USA based instrumentalist Homayun Sakhi (Rabab) also performed at the festival.

Singaporean audience especially music connoisseurs from Bangladeshi and Indian communities had never experienced such a grand scale classical musical festival along with the performances of Bangla songs. They will fondly remember several breathtaking performances by the stalwarts. Ojas Adhija, Pt. Vijay Ghate and Pt. Tanmoy Bose on tabla fantastically accompanied most of the performances while Bangladeshi instrumentalists Asit Biswas on esraj, Itakbar Alam Prodhan on tabla, Monowar Hossain Tutul on guitar, Kamal Khalid on harmonium and Bindon on keyboard accompanied performances by the Bangladeshi artists.

On the concluding day, Ustad Shujaat Khan, son of legendary sitar player Ustad Vilayat Khan, set off the musical flight. The

starist presented a sweet evening Raga Shyam Kalyan on teentaa. Gripping the precise ragas, he masterfully showcased various parts like alap, jod, jhal, alap and teentaa of the recital. He played rather an extremely speedy jhalas followed by an incredible teha.

Internationally acclaimed Bangladeshi Tagore exponent Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya was mellifluous in her rendition of Rabindra Sangeet. The artist made her entire performance evocative, sharing different anecdotes of Tagore compositions she performed at the event. She started off with a devotional Bhairavi genre "O Okuler Kul".

Another Bhairavi genre "Amar Raat Pohalo", illustrating the connotations of Agomony of autumn, followed. Her repertoire included a kirtan-ang song "Mahje Majhe Toho Dekha Pai", a dhrupad inspired Pooya Parjaya song "Kaar Milono Chao Birohi", a devotional tarana "Shukhhohe Nishidhi", a love song "Ei Udashni Havar Poth-e Poith-e" and a baulitik song "Emoni Din-e Eka" and a

Vidushi Bombay Jayashri beautifully performed Shambhukharpriya, a raga of Carnatic music. She later presented a romantic bhillana set on rabani Behag. One of the finest Carnatic vocalists, Jayashri has had such a musical prowess that can move music lovers. She showcased on the evening is a rarity.

Legendary Indian violinist Dr. L. Subramaniam started off his recital with a Varnam based on Raga Kanada and Adi Tala. He played a mind-blowing game of meend and quickly changing melodies on his violin. The living legend wrapped up the festival with an improvisational presentation of a set on folk themed Raga Piloo.

Bangladeshi event management company "Blues Communication" in association with Perfect Harmony Global organised the festival, presented by IIFC Bank. Channel i was the broadcast partner.



## Protest against persecution of Rohingyas

### Dhaka Theatre to stage "Nimojjon" at Shaheed Minar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Cream Theatre, Dhaka Theatre and affiliated organisations are organising a protest against the inhumane crimes inflicted upon the Rohingyas in Myanmar, at 4pm today

(September 26). The programme will be held simultaneously across many districts, with the central event taking place at the Central Shaheed Minar.

The protest demonstration will also include staging of a part of Selim Al-Ddeen's play "Nimojjon", which is based

on crimes against humanity. The play will be performed by actors from Dhaka Theatre.

The event aims to bring awareness about the ongoing Rohingya crisis, and give people the courage and inspiration to help those in need.

## Shelu Barua's latest venture "Bondhu" album launch on Puja

A CORRESPONDENT

Noted singer Shelu Barua will launch his latest solo album at the National Press Club Conference Lounge today. Titled "Bondhu", the album contains renditions of eight Hemanta Mukherjee songs. Noted Indian composer Durbdal Chatterjee has directed music for it.

Eminent poet Helal Hafiz will attend as chief guest, while Chairman of Mercantile Bank Ltd AKM Shahid Reza will attend as special guest. Recorded in Kolkata, the album has been dedicated to Dhaka University's Finance Alumni Association, whose members will attend the ceremony along with other close associates and friends of the singer. "I was a Finance major in Dhaka University," elaborated

Barua, "and my friends there had chosen the songs for the album, which they also sponsored. At an intimate dinner with them, I had sung 15-20 songs, and they selected the songs they loved hearing me sing most."

The songs in the album include "O Nodir", "Amar Prisno Kore Neel Dhrubotara", "Ei Meghla Din-e Eka", "Ami Dur Hote Tomare", "Olir' Kotha Shune", and more.

The singer added that he has already sold 1200 albums. "I have chosen to release it in the form of a CD, in the hope it will be collected and made part of people's homes. The internet negates this physical evidence, and the artiste also faces a loss of ownership over his work as his song is lost in various sites and online channels."



## Seminar and play on Neruda at NDUB

A CORRESPONDENT

A seminar in memory of Chilean litterateur Nobel Laureate Pablo Neruda on his death anniversary, titled "An Ode to Neruda", was organised by the English Club of Notre Dame University Bangladesh (NDUB) on September 23.

The seminar included a talk on Pablo Neruda by the chief guest—celebrated columnist and journalist Syed Badruddin Ahsan—followed by short plays on Neruda's poetry by Notre Dame University Bangladesh English Club (NDUBEC).

The Vice-Chancellor of NDUB, Fr. Patrick Gaffney, CSC, and Registrar Fr. Adam S. Pereira, CSC, were present as special guests.

Through this event, the NDUBEC welcomed and congratulated Father Patrick, the new Vice-Chancellor of NDUB, for his successful ascension.

Syed Badruddin Ahsan spoke elaborately on Neruda's political and poetic life, and recited some of the verse from Neruda's poems.



Plays based on Neruda's poems were performed by NDUBEC, directed by NDUB lecturer and the club's co-moderator Ahmed Tahsin Shams.

The plays were followed by a poetry perfor-

mance by students Jarin Tasnim and Issack Halder. The next performance titled "Tonight I Can Write the Saddest Lines", was performed by Shahera Amin Rafi, Arnab Pial and Md Saifuddin Al Quaderi.



### Kingsman: The Golden Circle

#### QUIZ CONTEST

10 WINNERS EVERYDAY! 2 PREMIUM TICKETS FOR EACH WINNER

The Daily Star | STAR Cineplex

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 in this newspaper and through email

#### QUIZ - 04

What is the genre of Kingsman: The Golden Circle movie?

#### Winners list of "Kingsman: The Golden Circle" movie?

1. Mukundakumar Panthapati

2. Md. N. Tamanna, Dhaka-1

3. Lipee Alam, Eskaton

4. Binara Pervin, Jahangiragar University

5. Md. Dulal Haque, Mirpur-14

6. Md. S. Sami, Shahbag

7. Rafi, Nikunjo-02

8. Mohammad Shahriar Rahman, Lalbagh

10. Md. Asif Ibrahim Nor, Edota BD Co. Ltd.