

WHAT'S ON
Amar Ekushey Book Fair
 Organiser: Bangla Academy
 Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan & Bangla Academy Premises
 Date: Feb 1-28
 Time: 3-9pm (Sun-Thurs), 11am-9pm (Fri-Sat)

Classical Music & Dance Fest
 Organiser: BSA
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
 Date: February 10-12
 Time: 6pm

Cultural event
 Boshonto Utshob
 Venue: Under the Banyan tree, Kala Bhaban, Dhaka University
 Date: February 14
 Time: 10:30am-1pm

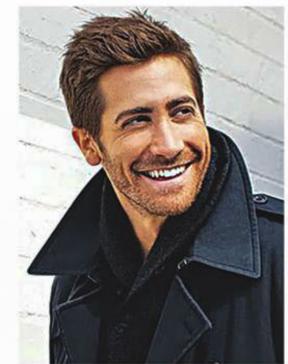
Film Screening
 The Saints of Sin
 Venue: Jatra Biroti
 Date: February 11
 Time: 7pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Fragmented Unity by artist Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed
 Venue: La Galerie, AFD
 Date: Feb 1-13
 Time: 3-9pm

NEWS bytes

Gyllenhaal, Ansel Elgort, Zendaya board "Finest Kind"

Jake Gyllenhaal, Ansel Elgort and Zendaya have joined the new crime thriller "Finest Kind", written and directed by Brian Helgeland. The film is about two brothers (Gyllenhaal and Elgort) who strike a dangerous deal with a crime syndicate that draws them into the Boston underworld. As pressures mount, sacrifices must be made and bonds — between brother and brother and between father and sons



put to the test. "Finest Kind" will be produced by Gary Foster and Russ Krasnoff under Krasnoff/Foster Entertainment, Imperative Entertainment's Dan Friedkin and Bradley Thomas, and Gyllenhaal and Riva Marker under their Nine Stories banner. Helgeland won the screenwriting Oscar for "LA Confidential" and was nominated for "Mystic River". His most recent films as director were "Legend" and "42". Elgort was nominated for a Golden Globe for "Baby Driver", and will star in "The Goldfinch". Gyllenhaal recently starred in "Stronger" while Zendaya appeared in "Spider-Man: Homecoming" and "The Greatest Showman".

Source: Variety



Azad Rahman, Afzal Hossain, Kabori, Samina Chowdhury and Selina Azad at the programme. PHOTO COURTESY: HSBC

Colouring minds with melodies

HSBC hosts grand musical soiree

ZAHANGIR ALOM

"What is the colour of the mind?" Celebrated actor Sarah Begum Kabori questioned all the music lovers attending the grand musical soiree held at the Oasis Garden of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka on February 9. HSBC Bangladesh hosted the programme titled "Monero Rong-e Rangabo: Smritir Pot-e Jege Thaka Sur-er Bhuban" to go down memory lane of Bangla songs, originally penned, composed and recorded by renowned Bangladeshi lyricists, composers and singers. Kabori answered the question saying that the colour of the mind is green as it never gets faded despite a person's aging. "Man cannot live without mind. Today, we are here to colour minds with melodies," said Kabori creating a blissful moment on stage. Eminent music composer and director Azad Rahman, who composed the title song of the programme, together with Selina Azad, who lent her voice to the timeless golden oldies, were present on the occasion. The evergreen emcee Afzal Hossain, also an actor, painter and writer, along with his partner for the evening Mithila Farzana, caused to linger the euphoria of the moment with eulogizing words to revisit the melodic lane. Noted singer Samina Chowdhury was all set to perform the titular number, but prior to that none could resist the temptation to listen to the song "Monero Rong-e Rangabo" from the original singer. Selina Azad, who took the stage for live performance after 20 years, performed the first verse of the song in a mellifluous way. It

was a magical moment on stage, as Kabori seemed to be nostalgic on stage as well. Moments like this came by turns on the gracious stage where singer-actor Partha Barua mesmerised the music aficionados with performing the great Lucky Akhand compositions "Ei Neel Monihar" and "Tomar Oi Mon Takey". The ecstasy of the musical moments augmented when renowned singer-musician Naquib Khan joined the popular band Souls in rendering the romantic number "Mon Shudhu Mon ChhuNyechehe". The audience spontaneously hummed to the chorus. Coincidentally, it was the 40th anniversary of the song on the day as Naquib Khan mentioned. "We are treading towards the melodic lane today where history of timeless songs is simultaneously following us. I am truly grateful to all concerned who support us all the way to return to the roots of Bangla songs," said music connoisseur Mahbub-ur Rahman, the Deputy CEO and Country Head of Commercial Banking, HSBC Bangladesh, in his welcome address. Paying his rich tribute to the martyrs of Language Movement, Francois de Maricourt, CEO of HSBC Bangladesh, recited the famous lines "Amar Bhai-er Roktey Rangan Ekushey February, Ami Ki Bhulitey Pari" in Bangla. "Tonight we have met together with the people, who matter most to us," he said conveying his candid thanks to all. The featured performances of songs were themed on *Mon* (Mind). The literal or allegorical connotations of the word *Mon* were recurrent at the songs performed at the event though it was started off with the

rendition of the patriotic number "Salam Salam Hajar Salam" as to pay homage to the martyrs of Language Movement and Liberation War. Renowned singer Subir Nandi beautifully performed his own record "Hajar Moner Kachhe Proshno Rekhe" and a popular song "Mono Dilon BoNdu", originally recorded by Sachin Dev Burman. Renowned Tagore singer Aditi Mohsin rendered two romantic songs: "Amar Mon Manena" and "Amar Moner Koner Bairey". Accomplished singer Aloke Kumar Sen melodically performed a Kazi Nazrul Islam song "Uchaton Mon Ghar-e Royna". Samina Chowdhury's treat to her original record "Amar Buk-er Modhyekhane Mon Jekhaney Hridoy Jekhaney" was awesome. Noted singer Dilruba Khan sang "Pagol Mon, Mon Rey" while Badsha Bulbul presented "Orey Neel Doriya". Anupama Mukti beautifully rendered several songs including "Mon-e Boro Asha Chhilo" while Aniruddha Sengupta sang Hemanta Mukherjee records like "Ami Dur Hotey Tomarey Dekhechhi" and Syed Ashikur Rahman presented two songs, including a popular Lalou number "Milon Hobey Koto Din-e". Eminent singer Mitali Mukherjee was the last performer of the night. She rendered several of her popular songs like "Ei Dunia Ekhon Tho Aar", "Jetuku Somoy Tumi" and "Sukh Pakhairy" at the event. In presence of an august gathering, HSBC has regularly been holding soirees of Bangla music on various themes over the years, to celebrate Bangla music and culture.

Shimky delights audience in Dhaka

A CORRESPONDENT
 Nazrul singer Shamshey Faruque Shimky enthralled the audience at her first solo musical after a two decade hiatus. The event was held at Dipanpur Book cafe in Dhaka.



Mashfiqus Salehin welcomed the audience. Present among others were eminent Nazrul exponents Sadya Aftun Mallick, Sujit Mustafa and Yasmin Mushtari. "I performed in Bangladesh after 20 long years, and that is something I've always missed. It was a treat to be able to perform for Nazrul Sangeet lovers. I performed 12 songs, among them, were "Shureo bani'r mala diye", "Pashane bhangle ghuum", and "Shunno e buke pakhi mor". One of the top-graded Nazrul singers in the '80s, Shimky left the country to start a new life in the United Kingdom. She now lives in Manchester and is a human resource consultant for the National Health Service of the UK. She performs in UK too, though she says music lovers there tend to prefer other genres. "I am trained in Nazrul and classical songs and it is wonderful to know that I can help people learn more about Nazrul songs," says Shimky. Shimky received her initial training at Nazrul Academy in Dhaka. Later she trained under maestros Shudhin Das and Akhter Sadmani.



"It's not over yet"

Deepika Padukone on "Padmaavat" success

Deepika Padukone, whose latest release "Padmaavat" has turned out to be the actress' highest grosser by crossing India collections of Rs 230 crore, said she is yet to celebrate the success and feels the success story is not over as yet. Deepika plays the titular role in the Sanjay Leela Bhansali-directorial that had been marred in controversy since production began up to its release. Speaking on the sidelines of Volare Awards 2018, she expressed her gratitude for the love and appreciation that has come to her, Bhansali as well as co-actors Ranveer Singh and Shahid Kapoor. "I think for me, Ranveer's contribution in the film as well as Shahid's contribution, is something that I will always cherish." "I think it was very gracious of them to give so much to this film and I am so happy that together we get to celebrate the success but like I said, it's not over as in the weekend more people will go to watch our film," Indian news agency IANS quoted Deepika as saying. The event was organised by Consulate General of Italy on Friday in Mumbai, and Deepika received an award. Asked about how she is celebrating the success of "Padmaavat", she said, "To be really honest, I think there hasn't been any time to celebrate the success because there is so much happening right now. Of course, it is the time for celebration." "As far as my film is concerned, I had said this earlier as well, there is no stopping it. I think it deserves all the kind of love and blessings that we are receiving. I think box-office numbers are again testament of that and it's not over yet," the Bollywood leading lady said. Deepika will next be seen on screen with her "Piku" co-star Irrfan Khan in Vishal Bhardwaj's yet-untitled movie.

Source: Times of India

TV WATCH "Fool HD" on Maasranga

A CORRESPONDENT
 Maasranga TV is airing comedy series "Fool HD" at 8:15pm every Sunday through Tuesday, starring Mosharraf Karim, Sanjida Preeti, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Moushumi Nag, arfan Ahmed, Tazin Ahmed, Jui Karim, Dwipannita Halder, Ilora Gohar, Sushama Sarkar and others. Written and directed by Aranya Anwar, it is about struggling film producer Iftekhar and his encounter with a Samsuddin Nur, a strange man who has come to Dhaka with a story that he claims will create a storm in the country when it gets made into a film. While Iftekhar is not convinced by Nur, his wife is a little more lenient and the story finally gets written. But then the producer says he will not make this film.



Sanjida Preeti and Fazlur Rahman Babu in a scene from the series.

Demi Lovato's upcoming tour brings more than just music for fans



As Demi Lovato gets ready to embark on her sixth headlining tour, she is planning more than the fun and excitement of arena concerts for her fans. The 25-year old diva spoke to Yahoo ahead of her Friday concert at the House of Blues in Dallas, where she has partnered with American Airlines and MasterCard to do an intimate performance before hitting the road for her "Tell Me You Love Me" Tour. On each stop of Lovato's upcoming tour, fans will be offered free sessions with mental health professionals. "I think it's just a great opportunity and it went so well last year," she stated. "It changed some lives and saved some lives too from what people have told me, so I think it was a great opportunity to bring it back and said yes." Lovato is a mental health advocate who practices what she preaches. While on tour, she makes sure to carve out time for herself. "That's one thing I love to do for myself, and that's working out," she said. "It's an hour or two hours a day that I get to focus on myself and nothing else. I get to do what I really enjoy, which is mixed martial arts — and that's kind of

my time every day." About her Dallas concert, Demi said: "This show actually gives me the opportunity to have intimate performances with my fans and create some memories with them. What's really cool about intimate shows is you get to talk to the audience more. You get to be up close and personal with them." The "Tell Me You Love Me" Tour will have a different feel, however. "I want to put on a show for them," Lovato said. "I want the entire show to express who I am personally as an artiste." One challenge is performing old songs — which happen to be some of her biggest hits — that she feels she has grown out of. When asked if there are any tunes she sometimes doesn't look forward to singing on stage, two came to mind. "Yeah, sometimes there are songs like 'Heart Attack' or 'Give Your Heart a Break', which don't really represent the type of artiste I am today, but they did so much for my career that I'm grateful for them," she said. Special guests DJ Khaled and Kehlani will join Lovato on tour, which kicks off later this month.

Source: Yahoo Music