

<p>WHAT'S ON</p> <p>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)</p> 	<p>Classical Music & Dance Fest Organiser: BSA Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA Date: February 10-12 Time: 6pm</p> 	<p>Cultural event Boshonto Utshob Venue: Under the Banyan tree, Kala Bhaban, Dhaka University Date: February 14 Time: 10:30am-1pm</p> 	<p>Subtext Organiser: Bengal Foundation Arts Programme Venue: Gyantapas Abur Razzak Bidyapeeth Date: Feb 4-24 Time: 11am-7pm</p> 	<p>Solo Art Exhibition Title: Fragmented Unity by artist Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed Venue: La Galerie, AFD Date: Feb 1-13 Time: 3-9pm</p> 
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NEWS bytes

"Stranger Things 3" episode count revealed

The first season of "Stranger Things" had eight episodes, and the second season increased the order to nine episodes. TV Line now reports that the Netflix hit sci-fi series will now return back down to eight episodes for the upcoming season.

While it was known that the "Stranger Things 3" number of episodes wouldn't be anything ridiculous or even approaching the limited standards of 13 episodes, there was an outside chance Netflix might ask for a tenth episode, according to Collider.



Details on the upcoming season are still scarce: a time-jump is on the cards, and series executive producer/director Shawn Levy also confirmed that Eleven isn't the only special kid out there, and that it's pretty like Season 3 will be about the search for those children.

No new cast members have been announced yet, but the new season will see the return of Winona Ryder, David Harbour, Finn Wolfhard, Noah Schnapp, Millie Bobby Brown, Caleb McLaughlin, Gaten Matarazzo, Cara Buono, Natalie Dyer, Charlie Heaton, Joe Keery, Dacre Montgomery, and Sadie Sink.

Source: Collider



Shakib-Mim ooze romance in new "Ami Neta Hobo" song "I am in Love" clocks up hits on YouTube

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After the dance number "Laal Lipstick" and the peppy "Chumma", a new song from upcoming Uttam Akash film "Ami Neta Hobo" was released Saturday, aptly timed for the Valentine's Day just around the corner.

With the self-explanatory title "I am in Love", the song brings out the romance of the lead pair of the film - Shakib Khan and Bidya Sinha Mim. In a picturesque foreign location (possibly somewhere in Thailand where the duo were shooting last month), the two top stars of Dhallywood engage in romantic

glances and croon a melodious tune that is quickly becoming a hit on YouTube, reaching quarter of a million views well inside the first 24 hours.

It also helps that the playback for the song is done by two formidable singers of Bangla romantic songs from across the border - Shaan and Monali Thakur. Add to that the tried-and-tested visualization formula borrowed from Bollywood and the song is easy on the eyes as well.

Produced by Salim Khan under the banner of Shapla Films, the film also stars Omar Sani and Moushumi, and is about a common man becoming a political leader. No full trailer

of the film has come out yet, but is the two other songs of the film are any indication "Ami Neta Hobo" appears to be a full-blown Dhallywood entertainer with ample action, drama and romance. The film is expected to release in theatres February 16.

Shakib Khan was last seen on the big screen in "Rajneeti" and "Nawab", while Mim's "Dulabhai Zindabad" and "Yeti Obhijan" (an Indian production directed by Srijit Mukherji) were also among last year's releases. Mim and Shakib last worked together in a film in 2009, when they paired up for "Amar Praner Priya".

Nagorik TV announces new series

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A new drama series, titled "Ami Tumi Shey", is set to premiere on Nagorik TV soon. The series was officially announced at a press conference at Bishwa Shahitto Kendra on Saturday. The TV channel's Chief Director Abdun Noor Tushar was present, along with other representatives of Nagorik TV, as well as the cast members of the drama series.

"Ami Tumi Shey" is directed by Mainul Hasan Khokon and scripted by Dhruvo Neel. The main cast includes Peya, Badhon, Niloy and more. At the press conference, Abdun Noor Tushar promised something new for the viewers. "The play is different to what viewers are accustomed to receiving, and I have high hopes that it will achieve positive responses," he said.

Actor Niloy added, "I know Nagorik TV seeks to launch something new, and different, and I believe they have met their goals."



Niloy, Peya, Badhon and Tushar at the event.



A group of artistes present Bharatnatyam dance on the opening day of the Classical Music and Dance Festival organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The three-day event featuring vocal and instrumental classical music and classical dance forms, ends today.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Apu Biswas, Bappi roped in for "Shoshurbari Zindabad 2"

A CORRESPONDENT

Popular film actors Apu Biswas and Bappi Chowdhury are pairing up for the first time in a film, directed by Debasish Biswas. The film, titled "Shoshurbari Zindabad 2", is slated to go on floors next month.



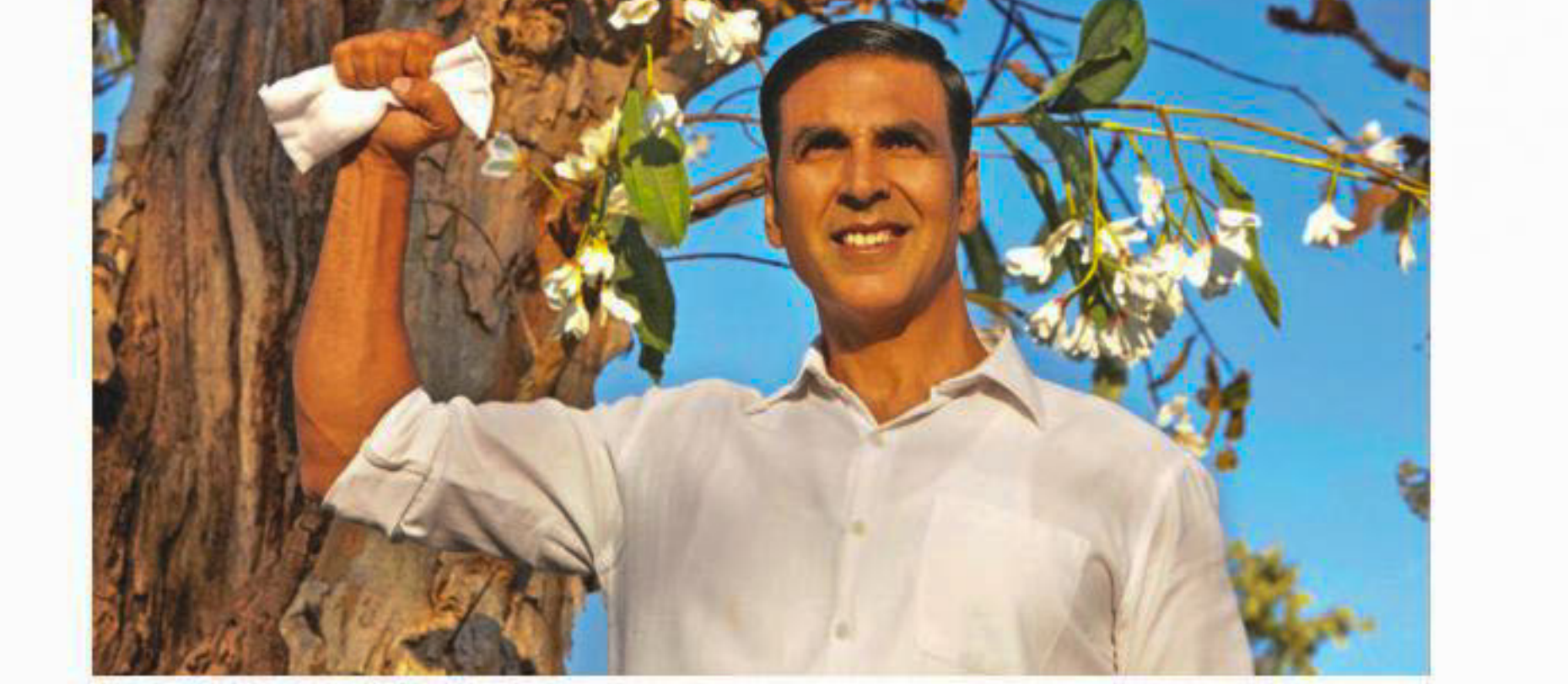
Five songs for the film have already been recorded, composed and directed by popular music directors Emon Shaha, Akash Sen and Pritam.

The film comes 17 years after the original, titled "Shoshurbari Zindabad", starring Shabnoor and Riaz. When inquired whether this venture will be released as a sequel, the director stated: "No, this is not a sequel, as the events in the film have nothing to do with the original."

In another inquiry regarding the film's lead cast, he added, "I felt that Apu Biswas and Bappi would be the right fit for the characters in the script. Both of them are extremely talented, and popular with viewers."

"Shoshurbari Zindabad 2" is being produced by Rtv's banner Bengal Multimedia Productions.

"PadMan" opens strong on the Bollywood Box Office



The decision of delaying the releasing of Bollywood film "PadMan" is turning out to be right, as the film has opened to packed halls. The film, starring Akshay Kumar and Sonam Kapoor in the lead roles, has garnered more than Rs 23 crore in first two days.

Trade analyst Taran Adarsh tweeted the film's business figures: "#PadMan makes RAPID STRIDES on Sat... Picks up SPEED... Biz should be STRONG on Sun too... HEALTHY weekend is on the cards... Fri 10.26 cr, Sat 13.68 cr. Total: ₹ 23.94 cr. India biz."

Directed by R Balki, "PadMan" is based on the real life story of Tamil Nadu's Arunachalam Murugnantham who devised a way to produce cheaper sanitary pads. He

was conferred upon Padma Shri in 2016 for his service to the millions of women.

The film was earlier supposed to release with Sanjay Leela Bhansali's "Padmaavat" on January 25, but later it was shifted to February 9.

The makers have taken care of the entertainment quotient in the film and thus it's likely to appeal the family audience. The presence of a superstar at the helm of affairs will only get it more validation among the audiences, according to Hindustan Times. Akshay has been having a good run in the box office. Before "PadMan", Akshay Kumar's "Jolly LLB 2" and "Toilet: Ek Prem Katha" were also hits.

Source: Hindustan Times

Elizabeth Olsen headed to TV for Facebook original series

Elizabeth Olsen may have gotten in the acting game much later than her older sisters, but now she's finally managed to appear on a medium they haven't. She is headed to television after a straight-to-series order of a tentatively titled project called "Widow" that will serve as the beginning of Facebook entering the arena of television programming. Olsen will star in the series, which has been reported to be a half-hour dramedy, according to CinemaBlend.

"Widow" will run for 10 episodes and will tell the tale of a young grieving widow who reconnects with lovers she's had in the past. Not much is known about the project or Olsen's character beyond that, as even the series' name is not rock-solid at this point. What is known is the series was created and written by Kit Steinkellner, who Deadline reported was originally developing the series with Elizabeth Olsen at Showtime before Facebook acquired it.

Elizabeth Olsen will executive produce the tentatively-titled series along with James Ponsoldt, who will also direct multiple episodes of the show. The series will be among the first of high-end content Facebook will bring to its platform, as the social media site is making a real effort towards making premium original content available on its Facebook Watch platform.

Whether or not audiences will respond to half-hour television on Facebook remains to be seen, but there's no denying casting Elizabeth Olsen in "Widow" is a great way to get them interested.

However, it is not the only project floating around the web with the name "Widow". YouTube Red has a pilot with the same title and similar premise to this series, so it wouldn't be all that surprising if "Widow" gets renamed as it gets closer to airing on the platform.

There is no tentative date for the release of the series.

Source: CinemaBlend

