

WHAT'S ON

Unplugged Live Session
 Title: ARNOB Unplugged 2019
 Venue: Krishibid Institution of Bangladesh - KIB
 Date: Today
 Register: www.xirconium.com

International Art Exhibition
 Title: Celebrating Mother Language in the Light of Art
 Venue: National Art Gallery, BSA
 Date: Feb 23 - Mar 9
 Time: 11 am to 8 pm (Sunday-Thursday)

Festival of Photography
 Title: Chobi Mela X
 Venues: Drik - Pathshala under construction building, Goethe Institut, Britto Arts Trust, Alliance Française de Dhaka, Pathshala South Asian Media Institute, Drik Gallery, Chhayanaut Shangkriti-Bhavan
 Date: Feb 28 - March 9; Time: 11 am - 8

Puppet Show
 Title: Children Fair at Puppet World 2019
 Venue: Puppet Show: Dhaka Puppet Theatre, Mohammadpur
 Date: Mar 8 - 9
 Time: 9 am - 9 pm

Photography Exhibition
 Title: PARK - In place for public
 Venue: Counter Foto Mirpur Campus
 Date: February 10 - March 10
 Time: 10 am onwards

Musical Event
 Title: Rushan's Acoustic Night
 Venue: 3rd Space, Dhanmondi
 Date: Today
 Time: 4:30 pm
 Entry: BDT 300

Arafat Mohsin Nidhi on 'Thako'

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

The spearhead behind numerous hit songs as a part of the famed Studio 58, Arafat Mohsin Nidhi's pedigree as a musician extends far beyond his reputation as a composer and producer. The musical genius talks to The Daily Star about his first extended play, 'Thako' in a candid interview.

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Congratulations on the release of your first... Extended Play (EP). What made you want to go for an online-only release?

To be honest, the idea was to have little to no barrier between the songs and the audience. The songs I have made over the years were circulating among my peers for a long time, and I needed to finally release some of them, as they started to become somewhat of a burden on me. The audio is very raw and true to heart, and there is no sponsor or corporate machine behind *Thako*. It's just me playing my heart out.

Tell us about the stories behind the four songs in the EP.

The four songs - *Adhora*, *Shono Na Tumi*, *Bhalobasho*, and *Tumi*, are very close to my heart. *Adhora* was written by my friend, Fabiha Rahman. The song is an abstract portrayal of a woman, who looks like a different person in different lighting conditions. *Shono Na Tumi* is special, as it is dedicated to my mother. It is a very heartfelt song about the relationship between a mother and son. *Bhalobasho* is a song about the concept of triangular love, where the theme of 'being taken for granted' is explored. Finally, *Thako*, the title track of the EP, is about this one time I wanted to wear the night sky as my blanket (laughs).

Do you plan to promote the songs with live performances?



To be honest, I will only perform my music on stage, if I can make it sound exactly as on record. For that, I would prefer a choir of at least 18-20 people. I don't even want to sing my compositions on stage, I'd rather let someone else sing them, and have complete control over the sound on stage. You can say that I am a perfectionist in that regard.



What's next for you as a musician? Do you have plans for a full-length album?

I don't have plans for an album as of now. I want to feature fresh talent in my songs in the near future, and I am already making plans for that project. There are a lot of talented young artists in the industry, who do not get recognition due to a lack of suitable platforms. I want to alter that, and hopefully, gift the industry some new stars.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony programme to be held today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Due to the tragic incident at Chawk Bazar, the programme regarding the Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony at Chhayanaut had been postponed.

Today, it will take place at Chhayanaut at 6:30 pm. The aim of this event is to acknowledge the tremendous award received by the organisation, and to shed light on the implications of this achievement.

Beenkar Musical Society hosts music workshop

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Recently, a music workshop was held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy as a part of Beenkar Musical Society of Bangladesh. At the concluding day of the workshop, students of Vandekhal and Acharya Jayant Bose, Pandit Niladri Nath, Kheli Pankaj Basu and Shrimati Patanjali Chattaji performed classical music with students of Beenkar Musical Society. Pandit Niladri Nath and Indian filmmaker Sravolanath

Knotar were present at the workshop as instructors.

A non-literate classical and sub-classical music evening was also arranged at the programme. Pundit Niladri Nath (India) and Kheali Pankaj Basu, two disciples of Acharya Jayant Bose performed dual kheyal. The audience was mesmerised by their extraordinary singing. In addition, Ganaka Tan and Chhatat Tan and Saragama also performed.

At the end of the ceremony, Shrimati Dhranti Chatterjee (Mahantarashtra, Poona) performed

the sub-classical, thumri, ghazal, dadra, chaiti, hori and kashri.

Prominent cultural personality Kamal Lohani was present as the chief guest at the program. Sohrab Uddin, Director, Music and Dance Department, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, former joint secretary and adviser (RNPCBL) and cultural patron Rabindranath Roy and noted dramatist Shankar Sautal Chowdhury were also present as the special guests.



PHOTO: COURTESY

1 MINUTE PLEASE



PHOTO: COURTESY

Rakib Hasan Rahul

SHABABA IQBAL

Promising lyricist Rakib Hasan Rahul has been penning songs since his school days. With around 150 songs to his credit, the artiste has truly carved a space for himself in the world of music. He has collaborated with the likes of Pritom Hasan and Adit Rahman and will start a project with Balam soon. He has written a number of film songs as well. We caught up with him for a fun round of "One Minute Please!" this week.

Name the last song that you listened to.

Shallow by Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper from *A Star Is Born*.

Are you a morning person or a night owl?

I go to sleep in the mornings. I am an absolute night owl!

Describe yourself in three words.

I am lazy. That's three words, right?

What is your favourite junk food?

Jhalmuri.

If you were invisible for a day, what are some things that you would like to do?

If I was invisible, I would like to stay that way for as long as possible and I would take a long nap (laughs).

Owned's 'Bondi' released



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The music video for rock band Owned's *Bondi* has been released on their social media platforms, including their Facebook page and YouTube channel. The video has

received a lot of praise for its art style, which tells of a very grim and abstract tale of an individual being shackled by an unseen force. The video, previously scheduled to release on February 22, was postponed due to the tragic incident at Chawk

New 'Dark Phoenix' trailer released

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Starring Sophie Turner as Jean Grey/Dark Phoenix, we get a hint of the story in the latest trailer of *Dark Phoenix*.

The clip begins with Jean sobbing as she says, "Why did you make me do that?" Her body is being controlled by two personalities here - her true self, Jean, and her other side, the Dark Phoenix. Mystique, played by Jennifer Lawrence, tries to bring out the humane side of Jean but looks like the dark side has complete control of her. What follows up makes it look like Dark Phoenix has possibly killed Mystique and Jean is left regretting it. In the trailer, we also see how Jean realises her new found powers. Charles Xavier, played by James McAvoy, admits that she might kill them all and he doesn't know what to do. We also see flashes of Jean's childhood. The X-Men are debating if they should kill Jean or try to save her from her own self. Written and directed by Simon Kinberg, *Dark Phoenix* releases on June 7.

