



'Charlie's Angels' premieres at Cineplex today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The much talked about reboot of the Charlie's Angels franchise will premiere today at Star Cineplex. Starring Kristen Stewart, Naomi Scott and Ella Ballinska, the film is directed by Elizabeth Banks. Charlie's Angels will release in Cineplex alongside the international release, and is expected to be a commercial success worldwide.

Face to face with Daler Mehndi

SHABARA IQBAL

Regarded as the undisputed king of Bhangra and the biggest pop sensation in the 90s in India, Daler Mehndi singlehandedly helped escalate Punjabi music on the global map. His debut song, *Bolo Tara Ra Ra* (1995), redefined Bhangra, a genre previously considered to be strictly folk. Wearing his colourful turbans and long, flowing robes, he went on to deliver successful songs such as, *Na Na Na Re* (1997) and *Tunak Tunak Tun* (1998), among others. Singing for the Indian film industry was probably a natural progression for Mehndi, who, with his uniquely resonant voice, had hits like *Rang De Basanti* (*Rang De Basanti*, 2006) and *Zor Ka Jhatka* (*Action Replay*, 2010). More recently, he sang for *Dangal* (2016), *Bahubali 2: The Conclusion* (2017) and *Uri: The Surgical Strike* (2019). Mehndi rocked the stage at the Dhaka International Folk Fest yesterday. Ahead of his performance, he sat down with *The Daily Star* for a candid chat.

Before we jump into music, tell us a little about your fashion style. You have created a very distinctive style for yourself which is instantly recognised worldwide. How did you come up with your iconic wardrobe?

I wanted a unique look for myself which would stand out from the crowd. It was also important for me to keep evolving my sense of fashion. So, I have tried different colour combinations for my turbans and different styles for my clothes throughout the years. Thus, my wardrobe became a part of my personality.

How does it feel to be in Bangladesh for the Dhaka International Folk Fest? I have performed at weddings in Bangladesh before, but this is my



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

first public concert here. I think it is a really nice place. I love the food here, especially *chingri maach*, *bhaat*, *alu bhaaji*, and of course, the biryani. I actually only came to know about the Dhaka International Folk Fest a few months ago. I hope that the audience enjoys our performance.

You were one of the forces behind the success of independent music when it was just taking off in India. How do you think your music helped the industry in the early years?

I am happy that my music helped the industry in a big way and carved a path for independent music. Before *Bolo Ta Ra Ra*, what worked most at discotheques and parties was English music. After that song came out, hotels, night clubs and other places started

playing it. I was producing honest and authentic Punjabi music that resonated with audiences across the globe.

Your song 'Kudiya Seher Diyan' was remade for the film, 'Poster Boys'. How do you see the trend of remakes in India?

Many popular songs of the yesteryears are reaching the younger generations because of the trend of remakes. It is good that we are remaking our own songs, and not going after or copying music of other nations.

Would you like to collaborate with any artistes from Bangladesh?

Absolutely! I have sang *Jiyo Re Bahubali* in Tamil, Telegu and Hindi, and I would love to sing with any artiste from Bangladesh. I don't know the language of the country, but I would love to try singing in it.

Farhana Afrin Ayshe wins Mrs Tourism Globe

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Farhana Afrin Ayshe, a 22-year-old Bangladeshi, won the crown for 'Mrs Tourism Globe' during the 2019 world finals of the Mrs Tourism Pageant hosted in Manila, Phillipnes. Incidentally, this is the first time when a Bangladeshi participated in this international annual event.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

A total of twenty-six contestants from across the globe participated in the international beauty pageant this year. Instead of the traditional runners-up format that such competitions adhere to, this particular one follows a collective judging panel where five crowns – Earth, Globe, International, World, and Universe – are presented to the five winners during each year's event. Aside from winning the pageant, Ayshe won five other appellations during the contest proceedings, including 'Best in Forum', 'Darling of the Press', 'Mrs Nix Institute of Beauty', 'Mrs Berry GLUTA', and 'Mrs Fairy White', also acquiring Brand Ambassadorship for the latter trademarks.

"On a personal level, each time I won a title during the entire proceeding of the pageant, it felt surreal, right until the moment in which they placed the final crown upon my head," shared Ayshe. "I did not win it only for myself, but for my country."



Loko Natya Dal will perform their new play, 'Amra Teen Jon' at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy's National Theatre Hall at 7 pm today. This is their 6th showing of the play.



PHOTO: COURTESY

'Iti, Tomari Dhaka' hits theatres today

SHARMIN JOYA

The first Anthology film of Bangladesh, *Iti, Tomari Dhaka*, is set for release today. The Impress Telefilm production is an assortment of eleven short feature films by eleven exceptionally promising young filmmakers, with the city of Dhaka as its central theme.

The film has already made successful rounds at 25 different international film festivals across the globe, including the 23rd Busan International Film Festival (a window of Asian Cinema Section, World premiere), 13th Jogja-NETPAC Asian Film Festival, Jogja, Indonesia (Asian perspective section) and 9th Asian Film Festival, Pune (Official Selection), among others. It won two awards under the category of Best Original Screenplay at 11th Jaipur Film Festival, and the prize of the Guild of Film Critics of Russia at Kazan International Muslim Film Festival.

Noted actors, including the likes of Fazlur Rahman Babu, Lutfur Rahman George, Nusrat Imrose Tisha and Shatabdi Wadud, alongside many other talented artistes of the industry, are featured in the film.

Nuhash Humayun's segment titled *The Background Artist* is the first film of *Iti*



PHOTO: COURTESY

The filmmakers with Faridur Reza Sagar, Managing Director, Impress Telefilm Ltd and Channel i, and Adu Shahed Emon, Creative producer of the film.

Tomari Dhaka. It features Fazlur Rahman Babu, Mostafizur Noor Imran and Irfan Sajjad, among others. "The beauty of being associated with this project was, I really got to sit and think about what story of Dhaka I want to tell," shared Nuhash. "The film is a comedy drama, that features a background artiste. It is a love letter to classic Bangla cinema."

Jinnah is Dead is the segment directed by Krishnendu Chattopadhyay. "My story depicts the Geneva camp, who supported Pakistan during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971," shared Krishnendu. "It is basically a film on the identity crisis of the Bihari community."

Syed Ahmed Shawki directed *Cheers*. "My story portrays two friends, Jui played by Orchita Sporshia and Saba played by Tanin Tanha, who plans to have liquor. They went off searching for it and face a great adventure around," said Shawki. "It is worth mentioning that consuming alcohol is illegal in Bangladesh."

Jiboner Gun/Jibon's Gun is directed by Rahat Rahman. "Allen Shubhro is the lead artiste in

this film," said Rahat. "The eleven stories are not directly connected to each other but each story is individually connected to Dhaka city."

Tanvir Ahsan's *Where, Nowhere* features Tropa Majumdar and Shahnaz Shumi. "I am excited because this is my first work for the big screen," shared Tanvir.

The other stories are *Magfirat/Wounded Lies* by Md Robiul Alam, *Sounds Good* by Golam Kibria Farooki, *Obishshash e Dhaka* by Mir Mukarram Hossain, *Dhaka Metro* by Mahmud Hasan, *M for Money/Murder* by Abdullah Al Noor and *Juthi* by Syed Saleh Ahmed Sobhan.

The creative producer of *Iti Tomari Dhaka*, Abu Shahed Emon shared his experience of making this project effective. "I don't believe that a filmmaker can bring change in the industry single-handedly." Emon believes that this was a great opportunity for him to bring the eleven promising young talents together, and make the first Anthology film of Bangladesh.

The film will be released in 16 cinema halls including STAR Cineplex, Blockbuster (Jamuna Future Park), and Balaka, among others.

Farooque Bhai Project's 'Golapi' dreams

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Farooque Bhai Project, helmed by talented funk-pop artist Issa Nibras Farooque, has captured the adoration of the ever-growing indie fan base in Bangladesh. *Golapi*, an upbeat pop song with a hilariously funny music video, was released by the project yesterday, and was instantly viral on social media. "First off, I would like to thank Nuhash Humayun for directing the wonderful video," says the artiste, "*Golapi* was more of a flex than an actual song. It is a fun and relatable experience."

Issa Nibras Farooque, who claims his music to be a 'reflection' of his musical preference, resides in Toronto, Canada. However, he wants his music to resonate with the audience in Bangladesh. "Contrary to the trend of musicians aiming for an international audience, I want to go local. I want my people to like my music first."

Nuhash Humayun, a director who needs no introduction to the youth, faced quite a challenge while directing the video. "After the success of *Khoka*, I received a lot of request for music videos," said Nuhash. "Directors are often spoiled



with high budgets, and this time, I had very little. However, there was something compelling about *Golapi* that instantly made me want to direct it." The director feels that Farooque Bhai Project is severely underrated, and more people should listen to the artiste.

"If you like the song, please go back and listen to the previous songs from my catalogue. I guarantee that you will enjoy it," says the artiste known as Farooque Bhai, a rising star in the Bangladeshi music scene.



PHOTO: COURTESY



Renowned singer Kaderi Kibria will perform on Boishakhi TV's 'Boishakhi Shokaler Gaan' at 8:20 am today.