

Board the Hyena Express at TSC tomorrow



RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Shonar Bangla Circus is ready to perform in ‘Hyena Express Experience’, the band’s first solo concert at TSC auditorium tomorrow. The relatively new band took the entire nation by storm last year, with the online release of its conceptual album, which contains nine mesmerising, psychedelic tracks.

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, the band opens up about the release of ‘Hyena Express’, physical album and their upcoming concert tours. Physical albums have become niche in the age of Spotify and YouTube. However, the band will release a physical disk version of their album, for its fans.

“When you are listening to your favourite band in YouTube, the song belongs to that outlet, and it’s not yours. However, when you buy a CD, you feel a sense of belonging with the album and you want to listen to it. You feel an organic connection with a physical thing which is impossible with online,” says Probar Ripon, the vocalist of the band.

Many of the fans were intrigued by the fact that the band simply released the audio versions

of the song. “Music is something that plays with your auditory senses, not with your vision. When we were writing the song, we didn’t have enough budget to portray the music video and so we decided to opt out of it. Audio is sufficient enough to pull the audiences, music videos is optional,” asserts the band.

As the concert season reigns over, the popular rock band is excited about their solo concert.

“We are really grateful towards our fans for supporting us during the pandemic. We are arranging the concert by ourself without any sponsorship. People who love our band are basically sponsoring the concert by paying the ticket sum,” says the band.

The Bangladeshi rock band mentions that they have lots of surprises round up in their sleeves for their upcoming concert.

“As we are called the ‘Shonar Bangla Circus’, there will be lots of surprises for the audiences. I don’t want to spoil anything right now,” mentions the band. The band’s upcoming projects includes Bangladesh tour and are also planning on working on an album.



Swagata to make silver screen comeback after 12 years

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

Renowned actress Zinat Sanu Swagata’s last full-fledged film, “Oshanto Mon”, was released in theatres 12 years ago. The actress had shared the screen opposite popular film star Manna.

The star has been working on television and been busy with anchoring for a long time. The actress has worked in Nurul Alam Atique’s government granted forthcoming feature “Lal Moroger Jhuti” which will release on December 10. In a conversation with The Daily Star, Swagata talked about the project.

“For any artiste, it is a dream to be featured on the big screens,” she shares. “The film is being released commemorating the silver jubilee of Bangladesh’s independence.”

The actress has meanwhile featured in two films, titled “Dubshatar”, and “Phire Esho Behula”, which were released in television. Another film, “Shuchona Rekhar Dike” was not completed, as the director passed away. She will also be seen in Giasuddin Selim’s “Paap Punno”. “I have worked more in small screens these years,”

says Swagata. “Whatever the medium I have always wanted to keep acting.”

Swagata says that she really enjoys working with Nurul Alam Atique. “He is one of the finest filmmakers we have; we paired up for television projects. I really appreciate the way he takes care of a project”, she says. The plot of the film is based on the Liberation War of Bangladesh.



PHOTO: COLLECTED FROM SWAGATA’S FACEBOOK PAGE



PHOTO: COLLECTED

‘Our art tells a story, and our stories should be listened to as we intended’

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Adele has persuaded Spotify to remove the shuffle option from all album pages to ensure that tracks are played according to the artist’s order, reports BBC.

The singer tweeted: “We don’t create albums with so much care and thought into our track listing for no reason.

“Our art tells a story and our stories should be listened to as we intended. Thank you Spotify for listening.”

The streaming service replied: “anything for you” and immediately took away the option for listeners to mix up the order of music being played from album pages.

However, the shuffle symbol - two intersecting arrows - still appears on individual tracks in an album, meaning one can still choose to shuffle songs that way, reports BBC.

Also, the shuffle option has been kept open for playlists. The BBC has asked Spotify for a comment.

Adele’s latest album “30” - first in six years - was released on Friday and has been available on Spotify.

This was a change from her last album - 25 - which could only be bought physically or downloaded when it was released.

“25” was the fastest-selling album in British history, with more than 800,000 copies sold in the first week, added the BBC report.

‘Whenever I decide to retire, I will announce it myself’

SHARMIN JOYA

Soon after the Dipankar Dipon directorial “Dhaka Attack” was released, Taskeen Rahman, became a sensation amongst audiences, for his role as an antagonist. The actor is currently in Australia, due to his treatment. His upcoming film, the Sunny Sanwar and Faisal Ahmed directorial “Mission Extreme” will hit theatres on December 3. He will also appear in “Operation Sundarban”, “Casino”, “Shaan”, and “Girgiti”. We caught up with the actor to know more about his work.

How was your experience of working on “Mission Extreme”?

Working on “Mission Extreme” was great. We worked very hard to put this film together. I can only hope that viewers will enjoy it just as much as we enjoyed making it.

When we started filming in 2019, the production team spent an entire day in a workshop, where we got to learn about each character and the film itself.

As an actor, I thought that was really helpful as we had a better understanding of what is expected from us. Unlike “Dhaka Attack”, my character is not very loud in this film; it is much more subtle.

Will you be in “Mission Extreme 2”?
I guess I will leave it to the viewers to watch part 1, and figure out whether I am in part 2 or not!

Wikipedia says you are a ‘former’ Bangladeshi actor! What is your reaction to that?
I wasn’t aware of this! Whenever I decide to retire, I will announce it myself. For now, that information is inaccurate.

When are you planning to come back to Bangladesh?

I wish I could come back to Bangladesh tomorrow, unfortunately that’s not the case. I’ve got a few things lined up at the moment that, including my treatment. However, I hope to come back sooner rather than later.

You have played an antagonist in all of your films, except ‘Boyfriend’. Do you see yourself as the next big ‘villain’ of the industry?
I have been accepted as an antagonist partly because of my character in “Dhaka Attack”. However, I don’t think I will keep on playing villainous roles. Some of the characters I took up recently are not entirely ‘bad guy’ roles. My preference is to keep surprising myself, as I experiment with different characters. My worst nightmare is being typecast. As long as I am in the industry, I do not want to be in that position.

Many don’t know that you participated in ‘Notun Kuri’ during the 90s. Since you came back after a break and are now working in full swing, do people still treat you like a newcomer?
Well, interestingly, a renowned director once asked me how my Bangla is! I thought it was funny because I have only done Bangla films, and have been in the media since childhood. Nonetheless, I am elated with all the appreciation from people.

Do you think the craze for you is still the same, since it started from your debut film?
People’s interest in me after my debut film was definitely pleasant, but it is not something I am constantly bothered about. I am glad that people liked the character I portrayed, but at the end of the day, what matters most is that I enjoy my work.



AS WE KNOW IT’ UNDERWAY AT EMK CENTER

“TIME: As We Know It” is a group exhibition with 55 artworks of ten young artists as they explore their perceptions about time. The exhibition is currently underway at EMK Center, Dhanmondi. The participants — Anika Roy, Fuad Hasan, Procrity Sarker, S M Raahim, Sadia Afrose Piya, Sagufta Nowrin, Shifa Tasnim, Shimanto Ghosh, Tapos Sarker and Tasfia Habib are students of Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka. They planned this exhibition during the pandemic. Since most of the artists are from out of Dhaka, the exhibition promotes art from peripheral regions. “TIME: As We Know It” will be open to visitors till November 29.

PHOTO: COURTESY

