

NEWS bytes

Vin Diesel's Kojak movie is happening

It's been in the works for a while, but the Fast & Furious franchise star's feature film remake of Telly Savalas' most famous project, "Kojak", is still moving forward, and the big screen adaptation has hired a new screenwriter. According to Deadline, Philip Gawthorne has been hired to construct a new draft of the "Kojak" script for Diesel and Universal.

Originally running on CBS from 1973 through 1978, "Kojak" followed the bald-headed, lollipop-sucking cop Theo Kojak, memorably portrayed by Savalas, as



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Busy TV actor Apurbo has a tight schedule ahead of Eid. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, he spoke about iftar, sehri, his Eid projects and other subjects.

Excerpts:

What are your favourite items on the Iftar table?

Apurbo: Dates, halim, different kinds of fruits, bananas, gram and fried delicacies. I usually reach for the beguni first.

Where do you usually break the fast?

Apurbo: I would ideally like to have iftar with my family, but due to my busy shooting schedule that doesn't happen often.

However, I usually have iftar with them on the first Ramadan. Having said that, iftar at the shooting spot is a great experience in itself. We have a lot of fun during iftar.

Do you ever go out to eat sehri?



RAMADAN CHRONICLES
"IFTAR AT A SHOOTING SPOT IS FUN"
...Apurbo

Apurbo: No. Although I often return home from shooting spot late night, I usually take sehri with my family.

How busy are you with Eid plays?

Apurbo: I will be busy shooting Eid plays right up to Eid. I hope that audiences will see me in 25 - 30 TV plays this Eid.

Where do you usually celebrate Eid?

Apurbo: Usually in Dhaka. I love spending the day with my family. It's the second Eid to be celebrated with my son. I hope I to offer prayers with my son this time.

TV WATCH

Zahid Hasan and Nipun in 'Lottery'



A CORRESPONDENT

National Film Award winning actress Nipun has paired up with popular television actor Zahid Hasan for a single-episode television play titled "Lottery". Scripted by Mahbub Bappi and directed by Zahid Hasan himself, shooting for the play wrapped up recently at a shooting house in the capital's Uttara.

About the play Zahid Hasan said, "Nipun is a very talented actress who can easily understand a character and portray it accordingly. She will be seen as my wife in the play."

Nipun said, "It is always a pleasure to work with a natural actor like Zahid Hasan. He portrays every character as realistically as possible. His acting is my inspiration."

"Lottery" will air on Rtv during Eid.

he navigated the mean streets of 1970s New York City with style and attitude. He had a sharp wit and isn't averse to bending the rules on occasion when it's in the pursuit of justice.

For now, it remains to be seen how this fits into Vin Diesel's increasingly busy schedule. Later this year he will be seen in "The Last Witch Hunter", he has commitments to Marvel with "Guardians of the Galaxy", he'll work with Ang Lee shortly with Billy Lynn's "Long Haultime Walk", and then there's the "Fast & Furious" franchise that he stands right in the centre of.

Source: CinemaBlend



"Noashal" set to air 200th episode



A CORRESPONDENT

The 200th episode of Rtv's popular drama serial "Noashal" will air tonight at 9:05pm.

Written by Kamrul Hasan, the

play has been directed by Mir Sabbir who also plays a lead role in the serial.

The comedy drama serial encircles the stories of two families from Noakhali and Barisal.

ATM Shamsuzzaman, Khairul Alam Sabuj, Chitralakha Guha, Dolly Zohur, Aliraj, Mir Sabbir, Rownak Hasan, Faruk Ahmed, Naznin Hasan Chumki, Ahona and others are in the cast.

IT'S TRUE!



"Rocky", the sports drama film written by and starring Sylvester Stallone that was shot for a mere \$960 thousand in 1976, has since grossed \$225 million worldwide - and launched an ongoing franchise featuring five more films. In addition to its commercial success, the film won the 1977 Oscars for best picture, best director, and best film editing.

THE CONTAINER sees internet release

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Ending a long wait, young Bangladeshi director Abu Shahed Emon's short film "The Container", a poignant story of an immigrant worker in South Korea, today had its Internet premiere.

The film, which features only one actor Imam Lee, had its premiere in the web site Vidsee recently. Vidsee is a Singapore-based online video service specialising in curation and dissemination of the best short films from Asia.

The story of "The Container" revolves around an immigrant worker who decorates his home - a container - with the trash of other people's lives. The man prides himself on the upkeep of his modest home. After he's evicted from his illegal abode, he secretly returns but it's no longer his shelter.

"Inspired by a true story, I made this film in South Korea starring by Imam Lee," said Emon in a Facebook post adding "The Container" is a "resonant look at the life of an immigrant worker in South Korea through the eyes of a Bangladesh director."

After its premiere in the Asian Short Film Competition Section of the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) in 2012, it was screened at some important film festivals and got an Asian Film Academy Fellowship fund 2012. It was also nominated by Bangladesh government to the 2015 SAARC Film Festival held recently in Colombo.

"I believe it is an inspiring moment for all of my fellow Bangladeshi young and aspiring filmmakers," Emon said, adding the Internet premiere was a dry run to the release of his debut feature film "Jalaler Golpo".

Mithila-Nisho in "Abaro Devdas"



A CORRESPONDENT

Popular actress Mithila will be seen alongside Arfan Nisho in telefilm "Abaro Devdas". Director Imraul Rafat is making the telefilm as a modern interpretation of Sharatchandra's classic novel "Devdas".

The actors will be seen as Dip and Parul in the telefilm which also casts Jannatul Ferdous Piya, Tariq Anam Khan, Evana and Niloy among others. The shooting is currently on in a house near the capital.

About the telefilm the director said, "I have tried give "Devdas" a modern interpretation which will add a new dimension. I call upon the audience not to find parallels with the original novel."

Arfan Nisho said, "Working with Mithila is fun since we are childhood friends. I never thought that I'd pair up with her for such a telefilm."

Mithila said, "I have been a big fan of 'Devdas' since my childhood. It is an important milestone for me, and I hope the audience will receive it well." The telefilm will air on SATV during Eid.



Sridevi returns to the screen

Sridevi made her successful Bollywood comeback in 2012 with Gauri Shinde's "English Vinglish", then disappeared for three years. Now, she'll return with a Tamil action-adventure, "Puli" ("Tiger"), co-starring Vijay.

"Everyone in the South wants her back, she's really popular here. She heard the script and thought it was the right subject for her return. She's looking beautiful and younger than the other two actresses, Shruti Haasan and Hansika Motwane as you'll see in the teaser," raved filmmaker Shibu Thameens. The 51-year-old-actress is supposedly playing a queen in the film.

"It's not a period drama or a contemporary film. It's an action-adventure on the lines of Russell Crowe's 'The Gladiator'," says Shibu. "She is the head of a group, someone with unbelievable strength and powers and has a lot of action scenes."

Source: Mumbai Mirror

Apple will pay labels during free trial
Taylor Swift's open letter prompts change of course

Gadget and music service giants Apple has decided to change course and pay labels for the rights to stream their music during a 90-day free trial. The move comes after Taylor Swift penned an open letter to the hardware giant, writing that she found the company's insistence "disappointing" and shocking.

In a tweet, senior vice president of internet services and software Eddy Cue wrote that Apple would pay artists during the 90-day period.

In an interview with Billboard, Cue elaborated that it was Swift's letter that turned him around on the issue. "When I woke up this morning and saw what Taylor had written, it really solidified that we needed a change. And so that's why we decide we will now pay artists during the trial period."

"I am elated and relieved," Swift tweeted an hour after Cue's announcement. "Thank you for your words of support today. They listened to us."

Cue added that Apple had heard the same "concern from a lot of artists," noting that it was "never our intent" to not compensate artists, rather they were planning to originally negotiate a higher royalty rate, which they will stick with.

Asked if Apple is eating the cost of the 90-day trial period, Cue said, "We're certainly paying for it, yes. We're all in."

Once the decision was made by Cue and Apple CEO Tim Cook, Cue called Swift on the phone from her tour in Amsterdam. "I let her know that we heard her concerns and are making the changes. We have a long relationship with Taylor so I wanted her to hear directly from us."

Dissent within that community over the free three-month trial had been mounting for weeks. On Sunday, artists from Elvis Costello to Bleachers' Jack Antonoff to Christina Perri tweeted their support for Swift's post. The British indie community has also been particularly vocal. Earlier on June 10, US indie-label trade organization A2IM urged its members to "not feel rushed to sign Apple's current offer."

Source: Billboard

