

NEWS bytes

Ed Sheeran plays surprise sets at Latitude

Ed Sheeran has delighted fans at the Latitude Festival in Suffolk, England by playing two surprise sets. The singer-songwriter appeared on two of the festival's smaller stages - the iArena on Friday night and the Other Voices stage on Saturday.

His low-key appearances came a week after he played three sold-out solo shows at Wembley Stadium in front of 80,000 people. Sheeran played at the festival at the start of his career and grew up in nearby Framlingham. He is now one of the Britain's biggest pop stars, having sold more than two million



copies of his second album "X" in the UK. He announced his Friday night set on Twitter about an hour in advance. By the time word had spread, estimates put the crowd numbers at the woodland arena between 1,000-3,000.

The following night's set was shorter but even more intimate. "So it came to be that a little before midnight at the Other Voices stage, Ed walks on to perhaps no more than 80 people, guitar in hand, and breaks into 'Thinking Out Loud'," the festival blog said.

Sheeran went on to play Nina Simone's "Feelin' Good" and was joined by Snow Patrol's Jonny Quinn and Nathan Connolly for the band's hit, "Chasing Cars".

Source: BBC



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Traffic-free Dhaka is a delight during Eid ...KONA

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

In her career span, Kona has won the hearts of millions with her lovely singing. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, the acclaimed singer spoke about Eid vacations, celebrations and more.

Excerpts:

How did you celebrate this Eid?
Kona: I spent the day with my family in Dhaka. Honestly, I enjoy Eid vacations as the city is free from traffic jams during the period.

Do you visit your hometown Gazipur during Eid holidays?
Kona: Sometimes I do. I still miss my childhood Eid celebrations at Doibari village in Gazipur.

What do the Eid holidays mean to you?
Kona: To me, it's a huge relief. As there is a tight schedule round-the-year, I really enjoy the leisure.

What attire did you wear on Eid?
Kona: A gorgeous black saree.

Tell us about your TV programmes during Eid?
Kona: I'm performing in a number of programmes on different TV channels. Alongside musical programmes, I will participate in a talk show on Maasranga TV. Besides, I performed in a live musical programme with Elita and Konal on Desh TV on Eid day.

HAR-JEET on Banglavisision

A CORRESPONDENT

Single-episode television play "Har-Jeet" will air on Banglavisision today (fourth day of Eid) at 8pm. Written by Masum Shahriar and directed by Koushik Shankar Das, the play explores the six-year marriage of Rupa and Andalib. Andalib cannot spend enough time with Rupa as he is immersed in his business. Meanwhile, Rupa meets a young man Jojo and they become very good friends. Gradually Rupa experiences a connection with Jojo.

The play casts Tisha, Niloy and Irfan Sazzad in the lead roles.



Cellist Razef Khan: Basks in the greatness of Bach



Razef Khan (left) performs at the EMK Center.

SHAKIB LOHANI

To music connoisseurs around the world, if music has a holy trinity the three names would probably be Bach, Mozart and Beethoven. Razef Khan, the only trained cellist of the country is passionately introducing Johann Sebastian Bach to the Dhaka audience with his captivating performances. He is a multifaceted cellist who shuns categorisation. Trained in Western Classical, he has a deep interest in broad genres of music, such as folk, jazz and contemporary classical. He expressed his feelings and understanding of Johann Bach in a simple note "Being immersed in Bach's music has a sense of transcendence. It's another world we enter, as performers or listeners."

Razef Khan is from a prominent cultural family of the country; he is the grandson of educationist and Nazrul sangeet exponent late Husna Banu Khanam. Husna Banu Khanam was the only sister of late Fateh Lohani and Fazle Lohani.

Over the years, Razef has per-

formed with leading orchestras. He also performed with "Cellish" a cello ensemble consisting of professional cellists from around the world. He has had the opportunity to co-compose and perform with Swiss Double Bassist, Raffael Bietenhader (Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra) for the "Danubia", and performed with his teacher Robert Choi and Raffael Bietenhader for "Improvisation for lower strings" concert at the Dewan Filharmonik Petronas, while also appearing in various events around Kuala Lumpur.

Locally, he has performed at Bengal Gallery with flutist Lena Olausson from Sweden and the Bangladesh National Orchestra and Team at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. He has done a solo cello recital at EMK Center, Dhaka. Recently he participated in a jazz workshop in Kathmandu Jazz Conservatory representing Bangladesh.

He studied cello with Simon Cobcroft (Associate principal cellist at Queensland Symphony Orchestra) and then with Robert

Choi (Vienna chamber players). His cello master classes include playing under Miranda Harding (Storstroms Kammerensemble), Reinhard Armleader (Karlsruher Konzert-Duo) and chamber music master classes with Anna Kandinskia (Salzburg Mozarteum) and Lisa Smirnova (Recording artist with ECM).

A true believer in creating awareness of the importance of arts education, he has held the position of head cello teacher at the Musica Academy. He has conducted orchestration and cello technique demonstration at the American International School for the International Baccalaureate programme and other schools.

Razef Khan is currently freelancing with projects locally and internationally, while also teaching music theory, solfège and music history at schools along with giving private lessons in cello, composition and piano.

The writer is vice-president PEN International, Bangladesh Centre

IT'S TRUE!

Sandra Bullock is the first female star to lead a film into the \$200 million mark. Also, her 2009 film "The Blind Side" brought her the first Oscar for Best Actress. Ironically, that same year in 2009, she also won two 'Razzies' for her performance in "All About Steve". She is the only performer ever to have been named both 'Best' and 'Worst' for the same year. She was asked to return her 2009 'Worst Actress of the Year' Razzie award but not because they changed their mind after she won an Oscar, but because Bullock personally accepted her Razzie and accidentally took the original one-of-a-kind prototype Razzie, instead of the cheap trinket normally handed out to celebrities.



"Keno Megh Ashe" on ntv

A CORRESPONDENT

Special tele-film "Keno Megh Ashe" will air on ntv today at 2:35pm. Written and directed by Goutam Koiri, the plot surrounds Noboni and a violin player. Noboni's father, an entrepreneur wants her to take over his business but Noboni has her heart set on pursuing research and education. One day she goes to a school of visually impaired children with her school friend Bijoy. When she is leaving the school, she hears a violin playing and goes back to the school to meet the violin player.

Apurbo, Prosun Azad, Al Mamun, Momo Morshed, Shamim Tushti and others are in the cast.

Tabu wants to be a 'Singham' or 'Dabangg'

Director Nishikant Kamat didn't find it very difficult convincing Tabu for the role of the tough cop Meera Deshmukh in "Drishyam". The actress had eyed it ever since its original (Malayalam) was released, where she loved the role of the tough-as-nails lady cop.

Says Tabu, "When I saw the Malayalam version, there was no talk of making it into a Hindi film. The role of this cop has too much power. I had told them to remake it in Hindi and if they ever made it, I would want to do the cop's role. I knew this is the kind of role I wanted to do. Now it is necessary that I do play a powerful character."

"All the 'rona-dhona' (being typically feminine) is fine, but sometimes even I want to be the 'Singham' and 'Dabangg'," the vastly talented actress added.

"Drishyam", also starring Ajay Devgan, Shriya Saran, releases July 31.

Source: TOI



"Hrid Majhare Rakhbo" on SATV

A CORRESPONDENT

Special tele-film "Hrid Majhare Rakhbo" will air on SATV today 3pm. Written and directed by Matia Banu Shuku, the romantic tele-film is about Russel and Tumpa. Before their wedding, Russel dies in a drowning incident which throws Tumpa into turmoil, particularly when she begins receiving Facebook messages from Russel.

The tele-film casts Shompa Reza, Anisul Haq Milon, Shyamol Maola, DJ Sonika and others.



"Mad Men", "Boardwalk Empire" score big Emmy nods for final seasons

The narrative of the 2015 Emmy Awards will likely be the infusion of new blood into the awards, with shows like "Transparent", "American Crime" and "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" and actors ranging from Anthony Anderson to Tatiana Maslany scoring their first nods. But the 2014-15 TV season also featured an unusual number of shows airing their final seasons. Some of them, like "Mad Men" and "The Late Show with David Letterman", scored multiple nominations, but more than a few were shut out completely. Here's a rundown of how they fared.

The final "Mad Men" episodes scored a nod for best drama series and acting nominations for Jon Hamm, Christina Hendricks and Elisabeth Moss. It also snagged two nominations for writing, including for the series finale, "Person to Person".

HBO's period "Boardwalk Empire" show has racked up most of its 18 lifetime wins in



"Mad Men" promises to go out on a high this awards season.

The Creative Arts categories, and nine of its 10 nods for the final season fall there as well. Tim Van Patten is also up for best director for "Eldorado", the series finale. Venerated late-night host David Letterman's swansong scored a nomination

for best variety talk series and five Creative Arts nods, but wasn't nominated for writing, as it often is.

Stephen Colbert is taking over "The Late Show" on CBS this fall, but his last run on Comedy Central scored a best variety talk series nomination and three other nods.

Along with best comedy series and a nomination for lead actress Amy Poehler, NBC comedy "Parks and Recreation" picked up a nomination for sound mixing - while NBC.com's "Parks and Recreation: Behind the Final Season" also earned a nomination for best short-format nonfiction program, but it's considered a separate program.

The perpetually snubbed FX drama "Sons of Anarchy" did earn three Creative Arts nominations for its last season, including one for the original song "Come Join the Murder".

One-time TV phenomenon "Glee" bowed

out quietly on FOX and in the Emmys, where its lone nomination was to cast member Darren Criss' original song "This Time". Jeff Daniels' third consecutive nomination for lead actor in a drama is also the only nod for Aaron Sorkin's HBO series "The Newsroom", while Edie Falco of "Nurse Jackie" made it a six-for-six in a comedy lead actress nomination, while "True Blood" received a nomination for the extremely specific category of Outstanding Production Design for a Narrative Contemporary or Fantasy Program (One Hour or More).

Shows that were left on the outside in their final Emmy go-round include "Cougar Town", "Justified", "Kroll Show", "The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson", "The Mentalist", "Parenthood", "Two and a Half Men" and "White Collar".

Source: Hollywood Reporter