

NEWS bytes

DJ Khaled edges Imagine Dragons for #1

DJ Khaled edged out Imagine Dragons to take Number One on the Billboard 200 as the producer's "Grateful" sold 149,000 total copies in its debut week.

Khaled's latest all-star affair gave him his second straight chart topper – following 2016's "Major Key" – even though "Grateful" was largely powered by streaming equivalent albums; only 50,000 units of the 149,000 haul came from traditional album sales, Billboard reports.

At Number Two, Imagine Dragons' "Evolve" sold 147,000 total copies – just 2,000 shy of Khaled – but manufactured sales of 109,000 traditional copies, over double "Grateful's" total. "Evolve" also enjoyed the best debut for any rock album in 2017.

Prince's "Purple Rain" returned to the Top 10 at Number Four thanks to the album's remastered and rarities-filled reissue, which sold 52,000 total copies.



Kendrick Lamar's "Damn." held steady at Number Three, followed by 2 Chainz' "Pretty Girls Like Trap Music" (Number Five), Ed Sheeran's "Divide" (Seven), Drake's "More Life" (Eight), Bruno Mars' "24K Magic" (Nine) and the "Moana" soundtrack at Number 10.

Depending on how the Billboard 200 tabulates the Tidal streams of Jay Z's "4:44", the rapper could find himself in a race for Number One against Calvin Harris' "Funk Wav Bounces Vol. 1", Stone Sour's "Hydrograd" and the "Baby Driver" soundtrack.

Source: Rolling Stone



Eventful festival

36 years of Loko Natyadal

A CORRESPONDENT

To mark 36 years of Loko Natyadal, the theatre troupe will arrange a four-day festival where eight plays directed by Liaquat Ali Lucky will be staged. The event will also include an opening ceremony, discussions and a seminar featuring eminent theatre critic Ashish Goswami.

To outline this initiative, a press meet was held on Monday at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy's seminar hall. Loko Natyadal founder Liaquat Ali Lucky presided over the event. Other members present included Krishti Hefaz, Yasmin Alik, Swadesh Dasgupta, Ziauddin Shipon,

Rubel Shankar, Dr. Mahfuza Hilali, Masud Sumon, Azizur Rahman Shujon and other members of the troupe.

Curtains on the festival's opening ceremony will be raised today at 6.30pm at Shilpakala Academy's National Theatre Hall. Additional Secretary of Ministry of Public Administration Mohammad Ibrahim Hossain Khan will grace the occasion as chief guest, while Director General of BSA and the troupe founder Liaquat Ali Lucky will preside over the event.

Two plays will be staged on the opening day; Shukumar Rai's "Obaak Jolpaan" and Tariq Anam Khan's

adaptation "Konjus". On the next day, Loko Natyadal will perform an adaptation of Gao Xingjian's play, titled "Maajhrater Manushera". On July 7, three productions will be staged from 4pm, titled "Mujib Maney Mukti", "Daakghar" and "Rathjatra". At 7pm "Shonai Madhob" will be staged at the Experimental Theatre Hall. On July 8, the event will conclude with a seminar titled "Loko Natyadal Kormomukhor Teenjuug" and a staging of Nasrin Mustafa's "Leelaboti Akhyar".

Loko Natyadal was founded on July 6 1981, with a special aim to engage the youth in their activities.

Shajal dominates the small screen this Eid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The weeklong Eid festivities have drawn to a close, leaving behind pleased television viewers with a magnificent array of special Eid programmes. Among the many faces seen on screen, none have made appearances as frequent as Shajal and Mosharraf Karim. During yesterday's airing by various TV channels alone, Shajal played the lead in four plays.

The actor paired up with popular stars such as Mehazabien in "The Last Time" and Sumaiya Shimu in "Avrolika". He was also cast opposite Tisha, Sohana Saba, Keya and many more.

The modest actor refused to give away the exact number of plays he was involved in, but it is believed that he appeared in over 30 ventures. "I have been able to watch most of them at home during the break," he said, "It would be hard to highlight a particular play, but 'Rose and Roses' holds a very special place in my heart. This year I have been able to express a different side of myself as an actor, by acting in mostly serious plays and dramas, instead of the usual comedy."

With the Eid break coming to an end, the actor is already back to work on the set. Starting today, shooting has begun in Uttara for a new single episode play titled "Progga Niharika".



Drama serial "Shongshar" today on ntv

A CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Shongshar" will air tonight at 9:45 PM on ntv. Written and directed by Golam Sohrab Dodul, the serial stars Abul Hayat, Dilara Zaman, Afran Nisho, Aporna Ghosh, Shatabdi Wadud, Mousumi Hamid, Shilpi Sarker Apu, Sajal, and more.

The story revolves around an extraordinary family, where each family member has a tale of

their own. These tales create the diversity in each family member's perspective, thought process, mental and social standing, life experience, dreams, wants and needs, joys, sorrows and every other element in a human being's life. The story keeps unraveling, as the key ultimately lies in the matriarch of the household.

"Shongshar" airs every Wednesday and Thursday at 9:45 PM.

Nandita Das wraps up "Manto" shoot

Actress-filmmaker Nandita Das has finished filming her much-anticipated movie, "Manto".

The director took to Twitter to announce the news and also thanked the cast and crew of the movie, in which actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui will portray the titular role of the legendary writer.

"#Mantofilm wrapped despite challenges fab cast and crew. All smiles after 41 long days. @Nawazuddin_S @RasikaDugal @Javedakhtarjadu @chintskap," Nandita wrote, alongside a photograph with the film's team.

The movie also features actress Rasika Dugal as Safiya, Manto's wife and an ensemble star cast of veteran actor Rishi Kapoor, Swara Bhasker, Ranvir Shorey, Paresh Rawal and Swanand Kirkire.

Nandita's film primarily focuses on Manto's years in Mumbai, a city he loved and mourned being separated from.

The film is expected to release next year.

Source: The Times of India



A SA RE GA MA PA STORY

Tete-e-tete with Tanjina Karim Sharalipi

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

Promising vocalist Tanjina Karim Sharalipi was a textile student in 2012 before she found her calling in music. As the daughter of renowned singer Karim Shahabuddin, she was born into music and received training at an early age. However, her induction to music as a profession happened by chance, when she was selected as one of the contestants for Zee Bangla's popular musical talent hunt show "Sa Re Ga Ma Pa". In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, the singer shares her experiences on the show, and the challenges surrounding it. Excerpts:

"Initially Zee TV came to Bangladesh and arranged a competition to select the contestants. I applied through their media partner, Lambert, and went to FDC for an interview. The place was teeming with participants, and there were over 50,000 hopeful people at the venue. After being selected for the second round, Lambert got in touch with me a month later to let me know there would be an audition the very next day. Once there, I saw that the audition was not for the Hindi channel, but for Zee Bangla. I already had an Indian visa, so after winning those rounds of auditions, I took off straight for Kolkata, where I spent the next year of my life between 2012 and 2013."

"The show that year went through a change in leadership, and the entire format had been changed. We started with 125 participants, but the show did not go on air until they had whittled it down to 53 members. I made it to the top 15, and was recognised as Best Performer thrice during the course of my time on the show. It was truly a great experience, one that I have been able to draw many lessons from. To perform in front of such renowned guests such as Kumar Sanu, Alka Yagnik, Joy Shaha, Shaan, Asha Bhosle,

Shreya Ghosal, and many more, was an eye opening experience."

"Despite the glamour the show presented, it was truly nerve-racking. Off stage, we were confined to a rigorous schedule. All 53 contestants divided into groups were to train under a groomer, but there would be some reshuffling as eliminations had participants leave the show. We stayed at Lakeland Country Club in Howra, and our day began at 6am with yoga, followed by breakfast. Then it was off to the classrooms where our groomers went over basic classical exercises of

in Bangladesh I did not have frequent guests. It was quite lonely for me. My parents were unable to attend any of my shows, but my father came once. When the hosts realised my father was Karim Shahabuddin, they invited him out on stage and asked him to perform."

"We were given a 10-day break during Ramadan and Eid. Unfortunately I was not able to return to Bangladesh during this time; the time frame allowed would have made travelling very cumbersome. As upsetting as that may sound, it really wasn't quite bad! The people I was surrounded by



the vocals. From 12pm-6pm we had band rehearsals. After that we had a short refreshment break, before going back to the classrooms. Our lessons went on till dinner time, after which we went to bed. My trainer was Parthasarathi Desikan, and the creators of the show or our sponsors at Vivel would select the songs and reveal them to us before the show. Episodes were filmed at DRR Studio in Rajarhat, which was quite far away. Visiting hours were only on Sundays, within a very short window of time, but since my family was

did their best to make sure I wasn't too miserable. We ate out, went to the cinema, and had a lot of fun."

"Even though it is a competitive programme, one must understand that the biggest adversary they have to overcome is their own self. The most challenging aspect of the show was to keep trying to outdo your previous performances and show significant improvement. I went there to represent Bangladesh, and I did my best to show them the talent and musical prowess of our land," concluded Sharalipi.

"Fantastic Beasts" sequel starts shooting, plot details emerge

The next installment in J.K. Rowling's "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" series has started shooting in the U.K. Principal photography on the as-yet-untitled movie started Monday at Warner Bros. Studios Leavesden outside London, where the Harry Potter movies were shot.

The studio offered new details of the upcoming film, which will see Eddie Redmayne return as Newt Scamander to take on Gellert Grindelwald, the dark wizard played by Johnny Depp, who was unmasked at the end of the first movie.

Jude Law will star as future Hogwarts headmaster Albus Dumbledore in the film, a younger version of the character. The sequel moves the main action to 1920s Paris, shortly after Scamander's capture of Grindelwald at the end of the first installment.

Warner Bros. revealed that "Grindelwald has made a dramatic escape and has been gathering more followers to his cause – elevating wizards above all non-magical beings. The only one who might be able to stop him is the

wizard he once called his dearest friend, Albus Dumbledore. But Dumbledore will need help from the wizard who had thwarted Grindelwald once before, his former student Newt Scamander."

Returning for the sequel are the characters Tina (Katherine Waterston), Queenie (Alison Sudol), and Jacob (Dan Fogler). Callum Turner also comes back as Newt's brother Theseus Scamander, and Credence, whose fate was unknown at the end of the first move, makes a return, played again



by Ezra Miller.

Zoe Kravitz will play new character Leta Lestrange, a fleeting glimpse of

whom appeared in the first film, and Claudia Kim will also star as a young woman introduced in the film as an

attraction at a wizarding circus.

The screenplay was written by Rowling, as with the first installment. David Yates returns to direct. Rowling, David Heyman, Steve Kloves, and Lionel Wigram will produce the new film with Neil Blair, Rick Senat, and Danny Cohen as the executive producers.

The new movie is expected to launch in November 2018 and will be the second in a planned five-film franchise.

Source: Variety