

NEWS bytes

Marisa Tomei cast in Spider-Man reboot?

Now that Tom Holland has been cast as the MCU's Peter Parker, it was only a matter of time until Marvel and Sony turned their attention to the supporting cast for the rebooted Spider-Man series. Variety reports that Marisa Tomei is the choice to play Aunt May for the new Spider-Man franchise, though Marvel and Sony did not comment on the casting. Although it's unclear how far along the deal is, Tomei evidently received the offer last week shortly after Holland's casting was announced.

Tomei's acting career spans more than three decades, and her most notable works include "What Women Want", "Anger Management", "The Wrestler", and "Love Is Strange". She can be seen next in Amy Schumer's "Trainwreck", and will appear next year alongside Brad Pitt and Christian Bale in Adam McKay's "The Big Short".

The next couple of weeks may see more major casting announcements for the film, such as Uncle Ben, Peter's love interest (will it be Gwen Stacy or Mary Jane Watson?), the lead antagonist, and similarly important roles.

Holland will be first seen as the webslinger in next year's "Captain America: Civil War" and his standalone film will come out July 28, 2017.

Source: Internet



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

GP MUSIC BEGINS ITS JOURNEY

Digital platform eyes to revive the music scene

SAURAV DEY

With the aim of bringing a revolution in the country's music scene and stop piracy, telecom operator Grameenphone launched digital music store, GP Music, on July 7 at the Westin Dhaka.

GP Music, inspired by iTunes, started its journey with one lakh Bangla songs, and by the end of this year the digital platform will host a whopping one million Bangla songs.

About the music store, Grameenphone CMO Yasir Azman said, "GP Music is a new beginning. We hope that all the artistes and our valued listeners will stand beside us in this initiative. We believe that, the affordable prices of GP Music tracks will drastically bring down piracy."

At the ceremony, GP also launched the 15 Eid exclusive albums by popular artistes, which will be exclusively available only on GP Music. The releases are

- Azam Khan Golden Collections, Ayub Bachchu's solo album "Jiboner Golpo", Miles's "Protichchobi", Mila's "Uncensored", Topu's "Dekha Hobe Boley", Mehreen's "Seven", Asif Iqbal's mixed albums "Cholo Ontoheen" and "Ami Chuye Dilei", Feedback's "Ekhon", Kanak Chapa's "Padma Pukur", Tausif's "Ayojon", Enamul Karim Nirjhor's mixed album compilation "Ek Nirjhorer Gaaan", Shuvro Deb's "Golden Collections" and Alauddin Ali's "Golden Collections".

Each track will be available for download for 5 taka while an entire album will cost only 40 taka. GP subscribers can visit music.grameenphone.com to download their favorite tracks. An android app will be available on Google Play store very soon.

A large number of leading artistes and band groups including Shafin Ahmed, Hamin Ahmed, Ayub Bacchu, Andrew Kishore, Kanak Chapa, Fahmida Nabi,

Bappa Mazumder, Mehreen, Feedback, Miles, Topu and Asif Iqbal attended the unveiling ceremony, among others.

Shafin Ahmed said, "Starting from 1982 till date, I have seen many ups and downs in the music industry. It is the artistes who have always been deprived. Now that the situation is changing, we are releasing our album from GP Music."

Ayub Bacchu on the other hand said, "Many musicians stopped producing new songs since they don't get what they deserve. This platform will encourage them to make new music. It is a step towards protecting Bangla songs."

National Film Award winning singer Andrew Kishore said, "I believe this platform will reunite all the musicians who walked away from music."

Organisers and the present musicians both hoped that this platform will encourage music lovers to pay for original music as it will be very user-friendly and extremely light on their pockets.

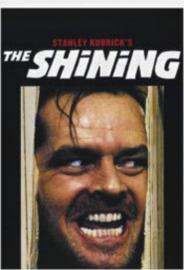
The initiative comes at a time when it has become almost impossible for artistes to get royalties for their hard work due to death of the cassette/CD culture, and widespread piracy.

The store, hosting all kinds of Bangla music -- be it timeless classic, contemporary or exclusive releases -- looks to the musicians and music lovers alike to bring back the glory of Bangla songs that the industry enjoyed in the pre-piracy era.

With this platform, Grameenphone eyes to pull the industry out of the downward spiral it has been experiencing for quite a while, and ensure that the artistes get what they deserve.

Among others, Grameenphone's Director Marketing Nehal Ahmed, Director Product Hasibul Haque, Head of External Communications Sayed Talat Kamal, Deputy Director Marketing Sajid Rizwan Matin, and Deputy Director of PR Mohammad Hasan were present at the event.

IT'S TRUE!



"The Shining" is a board game based on the Stephen King novel and cult hit film (directed by Stanley Kubrick) of the same name. In the game, one player controls the evil and sentient Overlook hotel, the other the Torrence family, winter caretakers of the haunted estate. This game was designed with the knowledge and assistance of Stephen King, who was one of the first play-testers. It is available for free download on the Internet.



MOTU PATLU to air on Maasranga Television

A CORRESPONDENT

Popular cartoon series "Motu Patlu" will go on air on Maasranga Television from everyday at 10:02am as part of its Eid special programmes.

The story revolves around Motu and Patlu, two friends living in Furfuri Nagar. It focuses on how they land in hilarious situations and later rescue themselves merely by luck.

Motu and Patlu are intimate friends of each other. Samosa is the favourite food of Motu. Motu even dreams of samosas. Motu mainly creates problem and Patlu always solve it, sometimes Ghasita Ram or Dr. Jhatka help them.

The Bangla-dubbed version of the show will continue on Maasranga Television from Mondays to Thursdays after Eid.

EID TRENDS

Tootli Rahman: Promoting Bangladeshi fashion

NAHIN TAHER

"Fashion designing is something that I love to do, always," said Tootli Rahman who has been in this profession for the last 35 years. In the last 10 years, she has been designing saris and kameez with local materials and incorporating a 'deshi' style. In a chat with The Daily Star, the designer and TV show host talked about the trend in Eid fashion.

"Eid is near and it is the busiest time of the year. The sale rates are high; people go berserk regarding the type of clothes to buy and wear. In our country, we mainly follow the Pakistani style of kameez, or Indian trends. Females are now mostly into palazzo pants with very long kameez or semi-short kameez with straight pants. Young girls wear long kameez with leggings, which is very appealing."

"Of course, there is still the conventional party dress, with studded stones and pearls. There are some people who love to wear them during the Eid, because it is a special occasion."

"For my fashion line, I am mainly



promoting deshi style: nokshi katha, khadi and many more. I feel that people should know the fashion of Bangladesh. Our style is very unique and beautiful. We should let the world explore our traditional fashion as well."



SOURCE: CINEMABLEND

The new Batman armor that Ben Affleck will be seen donning in the super-hyped "Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice" was previewed on Sunday at the San Diego Comic-Con. However, this bat-armour -- modeled after Frank Miller's legendary graphic novels, will not be the only suit Batman will wear in the movie. Another sleeker-looking batsuit was also on display, as was Superman's (Henry Cavill) and Wonder Woman's (Gal Gadot) costumes from the film. Anticipation will continue to build up for "Dawn of Justice" throughout the convention, the grandest pop culture event in the world, including a new promo trailer, expected to release on Sunday.

"Nothing changes if critics don't like a film"

... Emraan Hashmi

His last film "Hamari Adhuri Kahani" was panned by most film critics, but Bollywood actor Emraan Hashmi says that he never had a doubt that the right target audience would like the film. "The audience cannot be dictated by what critics write. A consumer pays money to enjoy a film. He doesn't go to watch the film with the same mindset as someone who watches it as his profession. A critic deconstructs a film and just picks up things that are wrong with it. Nothing changes if critics don't like a film," says the 36-year-old, adding, "A lot of critics also got a bit harsh and personal, with our film. Critics have their biases. The audience can also see through these personal biases,"



he says. Hashmi says the fact that there is usually a gap between critic ratings and box office numbers proves this. "When you make a film, it is relevant to a certain section of the audience and may not be relevant to another section. But that doesn't mean that the film was not good," he says. The actor feels that despite all promotional strategies, what works best for a film is word-of-mouth. "There is nothing like people talking about the film. No matter how the reviews are, if your friends and family have liked a film, you will definitely go and watch it," he says.

Source: Hindustan Times



Mahfuz-Momo in "Chhayashongi"

A CORRESPONDENT

Popular actors Mahfuz and Momo will share screen space in special telefilm "Chhayashongi" to air on ATN Bangla during Eid.

Written by Rumman Rashid Khan and directed by Chayanika Choudhury, the telefilm focuses on a husband-wife duo Nila and Sharif. One day Nila encounters Dipa, a helpless woman caught in a crowd and brings her to their home despite Sharif's reluctance. However to Nila's dismay, Sharif gradually becomes close to Dipa.