



## NEWS bytes

### DESPACITO creates streaming history

The international viral sensation "Despacito", by Luis Fonsi & Daddy Yankee and featuring Justin Bieber, has become the most streamed track ever. Universal Music Latin Entertainment has announced yesterday, with combined global streams of more than 4.6 billion plays across leading streaming platforms in the six months since its release.

The record had previously been set by Bieber for the 2015 hit "Sorry", which, along with remixes, has logged 4.38 billion plays.



"Despacito" is credited to UMLE, Raymond Braun Music Group, Def Jam, and Republic Records, and has spent 10 weeks atop the Billboard Hot 100 chart. "Streaming has opened up the possibility of a song with a different beat, from a different culture and in a different language to become a juggernaut of success around the world," said Sir Lucian Grainge, chairman & CEO of Universal Music Group.

Source: Variety



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHEE

#### THEATRE REVIEW

### Dhaka Theatre's "Our Country's Good"

NAZIBA BASHER

Reputed theatre troupe Dhaka Theatre held the fifth staging of their 46th production "Our Country's Good" at the National Theatre Hall in Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on Tuesday. The play is written by British playwright Timberlake Wertenbaker, based on the novel "The Playmaker" by Thomas Keneally. The play was translated by Abdus Selim, and directed by Humayun Kabir Himu.

The story of "Our Country's Good" takes us back to 18th century Sydney, Australia, when convicts and Royal Marines, from Britain, were sent to there as part of the first penal colony there. The play shows the class system in the convict camp and discusses themes such as sexuality, punishment, the Georgian judicial sys-

tem. The message delivered to the audience, though, is a deep one - that it is possible for 'theatre to be a humanising force'.

After arriving in Sydney with a ship full of prisoners, Governor Arthur Phillip, Captain David Collins, Captain Watkin Tench, and Midshipman Harry Brewer deliberate the 'intention' of prisoners -- should they exist to punish or rehabilitate? and the nature of criminal characteristics -- are they innate or acquired? When Tench mentions that the convicts are rather 'amused' by the hangings, Phillip wonders if they could be offered something else instead. He suggests the convicts stage a play. Through this 'play within a play', the audience learns about each of the convicts, who share their stories of crime, misunderstandings, abandonment, and despair. At the end of the play, the messages that makes its way to the

audience are some that were in the very dialogues, like "art requires decency" or that "art itself grooms intellect", while the convicts accept their fate with the dialogue "We left our country for our country's good."

Some of the individual performances were commendable. The role of Liz Morden was captivating in the hands of Samiun Jahan Dola, who substituted for Rosy Siddique, who controlled the audience's emotions through her rough and coarse dialogues, her ruthless stature, but humbling background. The characters of Mary Brenham and John Wisehammer were uplifted by both Setu Falguni and Anik who unravelled a truly touching love story. Captain Arthur Phillip's calmness and authority were both perfectly portrayed by Fakhrul Basher Masum as he showed

patience and understanding towards the convicts, especially Liz Morden. Second Lt. Ralph Clark's dedication towards his work to get a promotion was evident in Mahmudur Rahman Shubho's acting, while the hilarity in Robert Sideway's character was portrayed with much zeal by Sayed Rinku.

The rest of the cast included Liton, Sajjad, Milu, Yousuf Khasru, Badal, Tarek Ahmed, Ratan, Shamrat, Saud, Tahmid, Mili Basher, Rajib, Hillol, Modok and Rafi, playing various roles in the play. The lights were done by Wasim, costume by Dola, and music by Shumon.

All in all the play gave the audience a plethora of emotions to experience throughout the entire play, from fits of laughter to the shedding of tears, while also gripping everyone's attention through a captivating storyline.

### DEADPOOL and LOGAN finally facing off

Marvel comic book series to make epic crossover



It's the crossover of two of the most critically acclaimed superhero movies of recent years — taking place on the printed page. This fall, Deadpool takes on the aged Logan, and it's going to get messy.

The meeting of the hyper-violent antiheroes will take place in the five-issue "Deadpool vs. Old Man Logan", written by Declan Shalvey, with art by Nailbiter's Mike Henderson, with both heroes competing to find a newly identified powerful mutant first — no matter what.

"We get to see both characters be the best at what they do, while also getting to see them be the classic odd couple," Shalvey said in a statement from the publisher. "Both characters naturally bump heads against each other, which is a lot of fun to write."

Henderson added that the series "is a not-so-buddy-buddy buddy comedy with all the bickering, explosions and stabbing you'd expect from a comic starring Deadpool and Logan as they both race to do their version of the right thing by a young mutant," comparing the end result to "this flaming runaway train of an action script that feels like ... a Jason Statham movie."

The series launches in October, one of two new miniseries from the publisher that month centering on multimedia properties; also debuting is Garth Ennis and Goran Parlor's Punisher prequel, "Punisher: The Platoon", set during the Vietnam War.

Source: Hollywood Reporter

#### TV WATCH

### "Post Graduate" on ntv

A CORRESPONDENT

TV series "Post Graduate", featuring a star-studded cast including Chanchal Chowdhury, Shahnaz Khushi, Farhana Mili, Siddiqur Rahman Siddiq and Mishu Sabir, airs tonight on ntv at 8:15pm. The series is written and directed by Mostafa Kamal Raj.

The story is about a graduated bachelor, who marries and then ends up in a troublesome marriage with his wife. His wife leaves and goes to her parent's house instead, and that's when he becomes a 'married bachelor'. Being a bachelor, weddings, being married, being unmarried - these are the only things that his life seems to revolve around. The drama series, which focuses mainly on being married or unmarried, goes on to show that whether arranged by the family, or through love and elopement, the whole ordeal with marriage is very critical.

"Post Graduate" airs Thursdays and Fridays.



### Shraddha Kapoor put on nine kilos to play Haseena Parkar



Bollywood actor Shraddha Kapoor, who looked fierce in the trailer of "Haseena Parkar" released Tuesday, shared her experience of portraying such multi-layered character.

Starting with the physical transformation she had undergone, the actress told during the trailer launch event: "I had put on near to nine kilos for the role and now I am in the process of losing that weight," adding, "As an actor it has been an interesting and emotionally challenging experience."

In the two-minute trailer, Shraddha looks gritty and scary and too convincing as the sister of underworld don Dawood Ibrahim. With voice modulation and look transformation, the 30-year-old actress seems to have done complete justice to the character.

The movie features Haseena Parkar's journey from age 17 to 40 and her transformation from a young girl to 'Aapa', the dreaded Mafioso matriarch of southern Mumbai.

Shraddha's brother Siddhanth Kapoor plays the role of underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, accused of the 1993 Mumbai blasts, in which hundreds of people lost their lives.

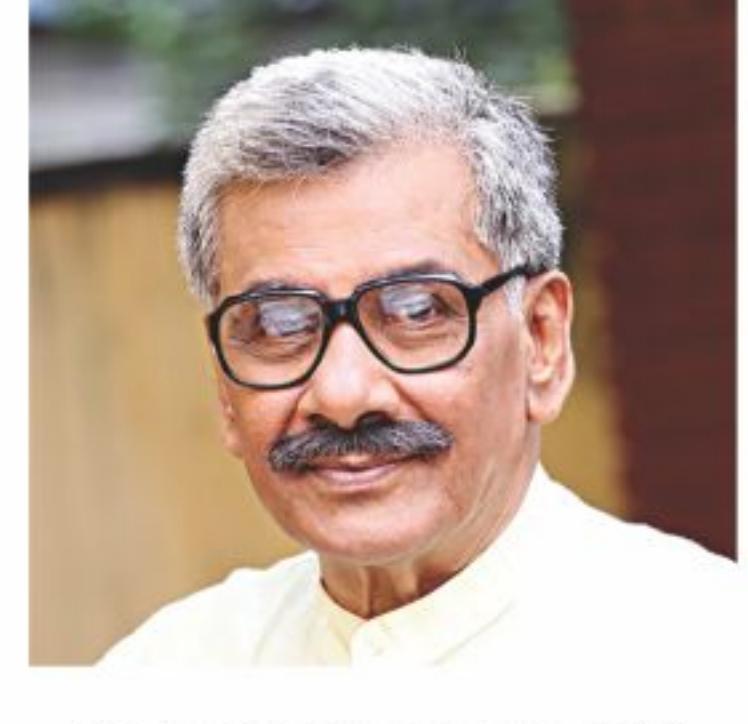
The trailer shows the struggle Haseena underwent after Dawood Ibrahim was accused in the Mumbai blasts.

The Apoorva Lakhia directed film, which also stars Rajesh Tailang, Ankur Bhatia and Sunil Upadhyay, is all set to hit the theatres on August 18.

### Veteran actor ABDUR RATIN passes away

A CORRESPONDENT

Veteran film, TV and theatre actor Abdur Ratin, who acted in films like "Harano Sur" and "Debdas", passed away in the early hours of yesterday at the capital's LabAid hospital, at the age of 64. He had suffered from Chikungunya fever earlier this month and developed kidney and liver complications, and was admitted to the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital, and later to LabAid after a brain stroke on July 6.



Beginning his career in 1970 with "Notun Prohhat", Ratin played character roles in many notable films including "Debdas", "Harano Sur", "Shuktara", "Jobab Chai", "Chorer Bou" and others. He also worked in over a hundred theatre productions, and was active in TV plays. Two of his TV series, "Mohaguru" and "Rupali Prantor" is currently on air.

He was laid to rest at his family graveyard in Swamibag, after a first namaz-e-janaza at Narinda, and a second janaza at BFDC yesterday.

Source: Hindustan Times