



set for April 6 release

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It's official: "Swapnajaal", Giasuddin Selim's return to the big screen game nine years after the blockbuster "Monpura", is all set to bow in 30 theatres across the country on the first weekend of April. The makers made the announcement in a press conference at the capital's Dhaka Club on Wednesday evening. Baked confectionary brand All Time was also unveiled to be the sponsor of the film at the event, which was attended by the cast and crew of the film, including Selim, lead stars Pori Moni and Yash Rohan, executive producer Aung Rakhine, and representatives from the sponsors including Monirul Islam, head of marketing at All Time. Speaking at the press conference, Giasuddin Selim recounted the journey of

the film -- from its 18 months of script development to shooting, and thanked everyone who put in their hard work and commitment to make it a reality. He also said the audience will discover the actors newly in the film. The film's theatrical poster was also revealed at the ceremony. Yash Rohan, a fresh face who is making his debut in the film, said "Swapnajaal" is not a film for me. It's a feeling, one I have not been able to get out of. And I hope it will be the same for the audience as well." Pori Moni, an established actor of commercial Dhallywood who rather shocked everyone with her de-glam, sensitive role, said "Through 'Swapnajaal' I have discovered myself as an artiste, and I will always be grateful to Selim bhai for it." The joint production, by Bengal Creations of

Bangladesh and Bengal Sambhar from India, is written by Giasuddin Selim as well. Aside from Yash and Pori, boasts a formidable supporting cast from both Bangladesh and India, including Fazlur Rahman Babu, Misha Sawdagar, Iresh Zaker, Shahidul Alam Sacchu, Farhana Mithu, Rajat Ganguly, Reshmi Sen and Ashish Chakrabarty. Set in the '90s in suburbs of Bangladesh and India's West Bengal, "Swapnajaal" is billed as 'a love story between two young souls'. The film has so far only released one trailer, but it promises a touching drama set against the backdrop of communal conflicts. The film went into pre-production in November 2015, with principal photography commencing in February 2016 in Chandpur where the majority of the filming was done.

"A Different Romeo and Juliet" to be screened at districts

A CORRESPONDENT

British Council Dhaka, in partnership with Dhaka Theatre has filmed the play "A Different Romeo and Juliet" which was performed by a differently-abled cast. The play was the outcome of a three-year project by the British Council in partnership with GRAEAE Theatre UK and Dhaka Theatre in Bangladesh to mark the 400th death anniversary of William Shakespeare, says a press release. The British Council will take the filmed version of the "A Different Romeo and Juliet" play to six divisional districts in Bangladesh to highlight the importance of empowering diverse groups to participate in cross-cultural dialogue. National Public Library has partnered with the British Council by

offering their spaces to host these screenings. This ambitious project had to go through a screening of more than 170 people with disability to finalise the casting of 16 artistes representing different social backgrounds in Bangladesh. The theatre piece was directed by Jenny Sealey, who was the artistic director of London Paralympic 2012 opening ceremony and produced by prominent theatre and film Director Nasiruddin Yousuff from Dhaka Theatre. "A Different Romeo and Juliet" is a unique theatre production that showcases how arts can be used as both an enabler and driver of sustainable development by engaging underprivileged communities effectively in shaping their own outcomes and supporting open, transparent and stable societies.



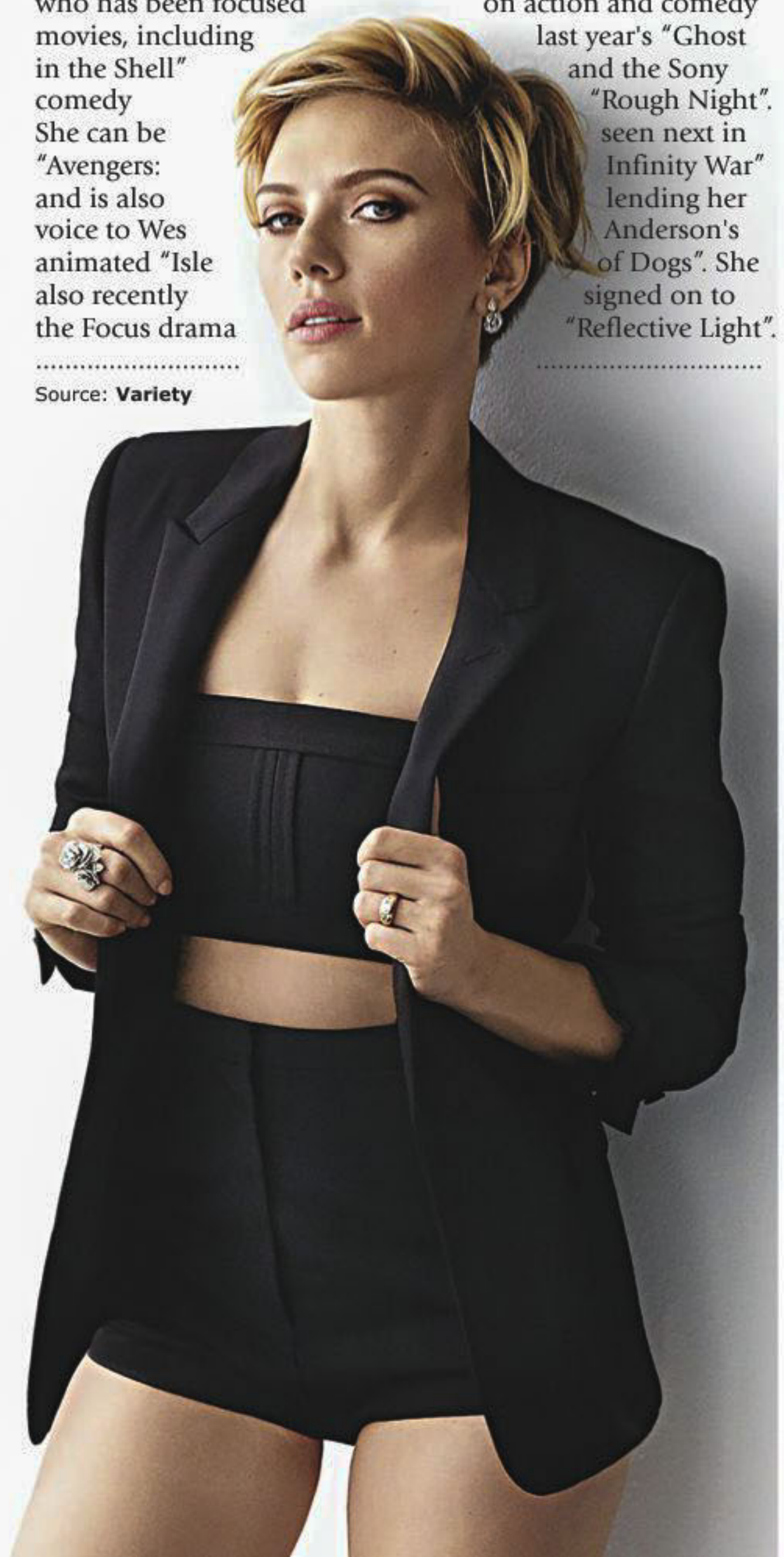
The play is enacted by a specially-abled cast.



As part of their 3-day Independence Day celebration, North South University (NSU) on March 27 honoured 65 Freedom Fighters from different parts of the country. Prof. Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, NSU presided over the programme. NSU's other events marking the occasion included a candlelit vigil, placing of wreaths at the National Memorial, discussions, a debate and a composition competition.

ScarJo to star in Taika Waititi's "Jojo Rabbit"

Scarlett Johansson is in final negotiations to star in Fox Searchlight's "Jojo Rabbit", reports Variety. The project is Taika Waititi's follow-up to "Thor: Ragnarok", and is set during World War II and centers on a young German boy who finds out that his mother, to be played by Johansson, is hiding a Jewish girl in their home. While Waititi has been offered several films following the success of "Thor: Ragnarok", the director made it clear that "Jojo Rabbit" would be his next film. While Waititi has been busy filming his "What We Do in the Shadows" pilot, he was able to meet with Johansson prior to that production to discuss the role. With Johansson now on board, Waititi will now look to cast the young boy role. Waititi penned the script and will produce alongside Carthew Neal and Chelsea Winstanley. Production is expected to start this spring. The film would mark a change of pace for Johansson, who has been focused on action and comedy movies, including last year's "Ghost in the Shell" and the Sony comedy "Rough Night". She can be seen next in "Avengers: Infinity War" and is also voice to Wes Anderson's animated "Isle of Dogs". She also recently signed on to the Focus drama "Reflective Light". Source: **Variety**



Netflix lines up four Indian directors for "Lust Stories"



Zoya Akhtar



Karan Johar



Dibakar Banerjee



Anurag Kashyap

Netflix on Thursday announced a new original film from India, "Lust Stories", to be directed by four veterans of the Indian film industry: Zoya Akhtar, Karan Johar, Anurag Kashyap, and Dibakar Banerjee, each directing a short story on love and lust. "Lust Stories" features a talented cast of actors, including Radhika Apte, Manisha Koirala, Vicky Kaushal, Bhumi Pednekar and Kiara Advani. Swati Shetty, Director of Content Acquisition, Netflix, said, "With universal themes, world-class talent and unique formats, Indian stories are loved among Netflix members around the world. It's very exciting to continue our collaboration with RSVP and bring 'Lust Stories' to the global entertainment-loving audience." Ronnie Screwvala said, "Lust Stories" - four short films that deal with real life relationships in modern India and brought together as one film brilliantly under a common theme by Anurag, Dibakar, Karan and Zoya is a perfect premiere for global audiences on Netflix. Diverse global audiences will discover, engage and enjoy this movie." "Lust Stories" is the second collaboration between Netflix and Ronnie Screwvala's RSVP, after "Love Per Square Foot". The film will be exclusively available to over 117 million Netflix members in 190 countries simultaneously in June 2018. Source: **Hindustan Times**