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## “I make my films with honesty”

- RUBAIYAT HOSSAIN

SHARMIN JOYA

Internationally acclaimed filmmaker Rubaiyat Hossain captivated the audience with her works, which reflects social realism. Her previous films, *Meherjan* and *Under Construction*, two absolutely different stories, portrayed different times and social states of women. In her forthcoming feature film, *Made in Bangladesh*, the maker has brought a new chapter that showcases the realities of working-class women in Bangladesh. “*Made in Bangladesh* is a tribute to the female RMG workers,” said Rubaiyat. “These women are responsible for the rapid growth of the economy of Bangladesh. Interestingly, these young women carry the backbone of our economy. They are remarkably empowered!”

The film has raised many international grants for the script of the film. Along with many acclaimed awards and screenings in renowned festivals, the film was recognised in the list of top ten ‘Hidden gems’ of the last decade in *The Current*, a film magazine owned by Criterion Collection, one of the world’s most prestigious home video distribution platforms. “It is a film that captures this decade of women empowerment,” mentions American film director, screenwriter and producer Leslie Harris, writing for the magazine.

The Bangladesh-France-Denmark-Portugal joint venture had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival in September, 2019. The movie is successfully running in 80 theatres in France for the 6th week. On releasing the film in Bangladesh, Rubaiyat shared, “I plan to release the film around March-April, 2020. I will try to put the movie in every available platform, so that the textile workers can easily watch it.”

The film is inspired from the events of the life of Dalia Akhter -- Leader,

Workers’ Union, who, despite facing many struggles, managed to turn her life around. “I make my films with honesty. To me, a film is a tool of feminist politics, more than anything else,” asserted Rubaiyat. “Dalia helped me write the script and train my actors. She also accompanied me to Europe for the release of the film. We are already working on the sequel of *Made in Bangladesh*.”

Rubaiyat spent months researching on female factory workers before filming. “We often get to see the portrayal of these women as victims. Interestingly, while researching, I found out that they are empowered, dignified and beautiful!” she expressed.

Rubaiyat stresses more on showing real stories and women experiences in the films, which is rare in the mainstream movies, according to her. “I don’t think about reactions, and censor myself and my work because if you start caring about what others will say, you can never make your ‘own’ cinema,” she said. “I make a film and I try my best to put it in the theatre, and then I will see the results. Whatever will come, I will deal with that later on.” *Made in Bangladesh* will be facing the censor board in the coming week.

Rubaiyat and her team have already geared up for the sequel of the film. “This time, we are planning to showcase the stories of the migrant female workers,” she shared. “Dalia shared the stories of her days in Jordan; this is how the idea popped up. She will be working with me in this project as well. For further research, I will visit Jordan, KSA, to find out the real conditions and stories of the female workers living abroad. I am also producing a film called *Sand City*, featuring debut director Mahde Hasan.”

The cast of *Made in Bangladesh* includes Rikita Nandini Shimu portraying Dalia, along with Novera Rahman, Mostafa Monwar, Samina Lutfi, Mita Rahman and Shahana Goswami, among others.



## ‘Underwater’ and ‘The Informer’ hit Star Cineplex today



Two films, ‘Underwater’ and ‘The Informer’, premiere at Star Cineplex today. ‘Underwater’, a science fiction thriller, is directed by William Eubank, and written by Brian Duffield and Adam Coaz. The film, starring Kristen Stewart, Vincent Cassel, Jessica Henwick, John Gallagher Jr, Mamoudou Athie, and T J Miller, revolves around an underwater research crew that must swim to safety after an earthquake destroys their subterranean laboratory.

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On the other hand, *The Informer*, which originally came out in the UK last year, is a crime thriller directed by Andrea Di Stefano and written by Matt Cook, based on the novel *Three Seconds* by Roslund/

Hellström. The film stars Joel Kinnaman, Rosamund Pike, Clive Owen, Common and Ana de Armas among others. In the film, an ex-convict working undercover intentionally gets himself incarcerated again in order to infiltrate the mob at a maximum security prison.

## Grand finale of ‘Mastermind Family Bangladesh’ to air tonight



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The grand finale of the quiz show, *Mastermind Family Bangladesh*, will air at 8 pm tonight on Duronto Television. On the day of the finale, the Safwan and Afia families will battle each other. The winning team will become the first Bangladeshi Mastermind Family. The top three winners in the competition will receive a brand new car, BDT 2 lakh, and BDT 1 lakh, respectively.

The repeat telecast of the final episode will be aired tomorrow on Duronto Television at 2 pm, 8 pm and midnight. Popular anchor and media personality Nobonita Chowdhury will host the finale, as she did the previous episodes of the show.

*Mastermind Family Bangladesh* follows the format of the famous British television game show, *Mastermind Family*. Contestants from all over the country competed against each other in a battle

of knowledge. Primarily, 64 families were selected from all over Bangladesh, who competed in the main segment in Dhaka. Each family team had to consist of five members: the father, the mother, two of their children ranging from 8 to 12 years, and a close relative like a grandfather, grandmother, uncle or aunt.

Different local versions of the original BBC show has been aired in more than ten countries.

## Bob Dylan biopic ‘Going Electric’ in the works



Timothee Chalamet

PHOTO: COLLECTED



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Timothee Chalamet is in talks to play Bob Dylan in The Fox Searchlight film, titled *Going Electric*. It will be helmed by *Ford v Ferrari* director James Mangold. The film is set during the years of the folk icon’s rise to fame.

Chalamet has had a busy year, starring in Greta Gerwig’s adaptation of *Little Women* and Netflix’s historical drama, *The King*. The actor is also set to star in Denis Villeneuve’s *Dune* with Rebecca Ferguson, Oscar Isaac, Josh Brolin, Stellan Skarsgård, Dave Bautista, Zendaya, Jason Momoa and Javier

Bardem.

Mangold scored rave reviews for his 2019 film *Ford v Ferrari*, which stars Matt Damon and Christian Bale. He previously directed and co-wrote the critically acclaimed *Logan*, which went on to become the first live-action superhero movie to be nominated for screenwriting at the Academy Awards.

The last high-profile project based on Dylan was *I’m Not There* (2007), an unconventional biopic with Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett, Marcus Carl Franklin, Richard Gere, Heath Ledger, and Ben Whishaw playing different personas of Dylan.



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

## Rafi Hossain returns to acting

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Award-winning journalist Rafi Hossain plays the role of a paranormal investigator in eminent screenwriter and director Animesh Aich’s new television serial, *Boka Bhoot*, for Duronto Television.

The serial, which started on January 7, will air for 30 days. The cast of *Boka*

*Bhoot* also includes Amirul Haque Chowdhury, Rokeya Prachi, Azizul Hakim and Ashna Habib Bhabna.

“I worked in Nurul Alam Atique’s *Jadur Shohor* last, nearly six years ago. Right now, I am enjoying my role in *Boka Bhoot*,” shares Rafi Hossain.

He was awarded the Fazlul Haque Smriti Puroshkar, for his contribution to film journalism in 2019.