

# "My audience treats me like family"

... Babu

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

From a low-profile theatre artiste to popular TV actor, it has been an eventful career for Fazlur Rahman Babu. He has been recognised with many awards, the most prestigious being the National Film Award for his outstanding performance in the movie "Shonkhonad". The veteran actor talked to The Daily Star about his love for his medium.

Are you satisfied when you look back at your long career?

**Babu:** As we live in a small country, almost everyone knows and loves me. There is a certain level of satisfaction on this front. But I'm not altogether satisfied in the broader sense. Nevertheless let me say that I'm happy with my acting abilities - although artistes can never be fully satisfied.

Do you miss life as a theatre actor?

**Babu:** A lot. Basically I picked up the ropes of acting from the stage. I act in TV plays by profession where there is scope of dodging hard-work, but I don't do this usually.

What is it about theatre that attracts you?

**Babu:** It is a performing art where you can breathe freely and get to the core of acting.

Any message for your audience?

**Babu:** Viewers are important for every artiste. I am so happy that the audience treats me as though I am part of their family. Naturally, I want to stay in their minds forever.

Any plans to venture into direction and production?

**Babu:** I want to be an actor as long as I live.

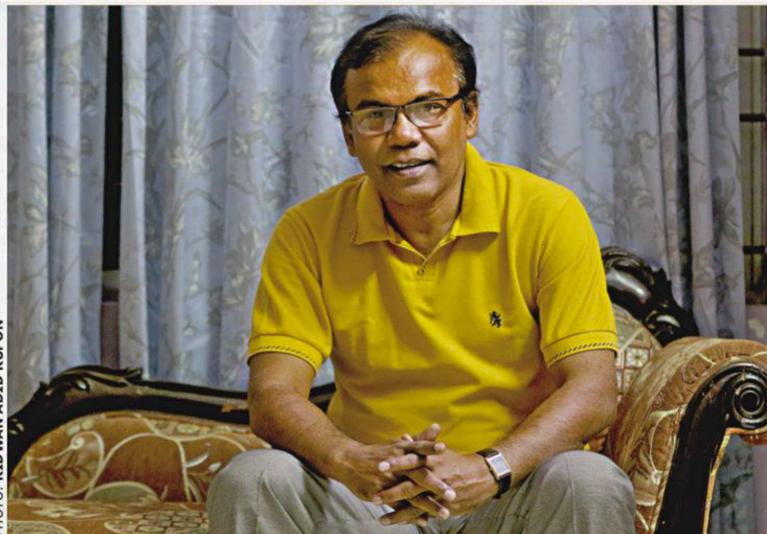


PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

## Focus on Liberation War films

JOHN W HOOD BOOK RELEASED

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

The Bangladesh Film Institute auditorium at Kalabagan in Dhaka was packed to capacity on November 16, exactly a month before Victory Day, as the occasion was as much a celebration of the country's Liberation War, as told through cinema, as an analysis of the heavy cost at which freedom was achieved.

To share it all was none other than the veteran Australian film critic-writer John W Hood, whose latest book, "The Bleeding Lotus: Notions of Nation in Bangladeshi Cinema" was launched at the function.

Presided over by Tanvir Mokammel, Director of the Institute, Hood read out excerpts from his book. Dr. Mohammad Jahangir Hossain, Director of

Genocide", Mokammel's "1971" and Tareque Masud's "Mukti'r Gaan".

The speakers felt the book would be useful for researchers and students of Bangladesh cinema to understand how the Liberation War as portrayed on the big screen by different directors like Zahir Raihan, Morshedul Islam, Mokammel, Tareque Masud, Humayun Ahmed, Shameem Akhtar, Sajjad Bakul and some others bringing their own perspectives on the events leading up to the war, during the war and even post-war.

The discussion programme was followed by a riveting question-answer session with Hood who answered some questions from the audience on his book.

There were quite a few questions during the Q/A session. One of them was why John Hood wanted



A scene from 'Mukti'r Gaan'.

Bangladesh Film Archive, film-makers Shameem Akhtar, Mahmudul Hossain and Ilias Kamal Risat were guest speakers and spoke on different aspects of the book brought out by Palimpsest, a New Delhi-based publishing house.

The speakers mostly expressed their gratitude to Hood for his endeavour, particularly mentioning the meticulous research the author has done to write the book. The in-depth analysis of some of the major films based on the Liberation War, like "Jibondhuli", "Matir Moyna" and "Rabeya" came in for appreciation.

The discussants also pointed out that Hood has not only dealt with fiction films but also some prominent documentaries on the 1971 war, like Zahir Raihan's "Stop

to write a book on the liberation war films of Bangladesh. Prompt came the answer from him: "The sincerity of these film-makers to tell the stories of agony suffered by their people in 1971 touched me."

"Besides, I believe that some of these films, despite limited budgets and technology, have become worthy pieces of cinematic art. Hence, I felt inspired to write the book," said the Australian writer who has penned several essays on the works of iconic directors like Satyajit Ray, Mrinal Sen and Buddhadeb Dasgupta over the years.

Fittingly, the book launch programme wrapped with the rendition of some patriotic songs related to the Liberation War, sung by actress Chitralekha Guha and Syed Shabab Ali Arzoo.

## Sweety in new drama serial



A CORRESPONDENT

Tanvin Sweety, once a regular face on the small screen, prefers to be selective now.

Audience will see the actress in upcoming drama serial "Taka". Written by Sumon, shooting for the serial will begin from November 25.

About the serial, Sweety said, "When I read the script I instantaneously liked it. Nowadays I don't act in single-episode plays as I don't get good scripts. But if I like a script, I will be back in one-hour plays."

Two drama serials-- "Lake Drive Lane" and "Dhaka Housewife"-- starring Sweety, are now going on air on two satellite channels. In addition Sweety regularly acts in stage play "Mukti", directed by Tropa Mazumdar.

## NEWS bytes

### Radcliffe stars in first NYSM2 teaser



A bearded Daniel Radcliffe is unusually non-magical in the trailer for caper "Now You See Me 2", released by Lionsgate on Wednesday.

"So happy to be working with you - ta-da!" he says as he meets the Four Horsemen and flubs a magic trick.

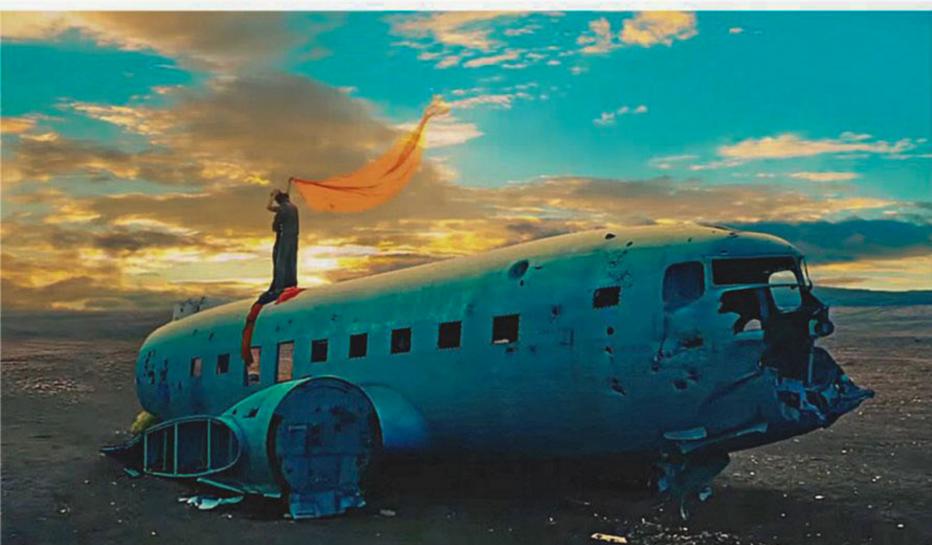
Mark Ruffalo, Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg, Dave Franco, Morgan Freeman and Michael Caine are reprising their roles while Lizzy Caplan has replaced Isla Fisher in the sequel. Radcliffe is portraying the son of Caine's insurance magnate character, who is the Four Horsemen's sponsor.

"Now You See Me 2" opens June 10, 2016. CEO Jon Feltheimer said in May that Lionsgate believes that the movie will top the \$350 million grossed by the original movie in 2013 and revealed that plans were already in the works for "Now You See Me 3".

Jon M Chu is directing the sequel from a script by Ed Solomon and Pete Chiarelli. Producers are Alex Kurtzman and Bobby Cohen.

Source: Variety

## SRK recollects shooting on WRECKED PLANE



Shah Rukh and Kajol in embrace atop the plane, in a still from the video of "Gerua"

Out of the many beautiful images of the newly released song "Gerua" from "Dilwale", one of them sees Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol posing atop a wrecked plane on an isolated beach. The image is an eye-catching one, for this plane wreckage has never before been used in Bollywood. The airplane is a C-47

SkyTrain and belonged to the US military. It was forced to land on November 24, 1973 on Sólheimasandur's black sandy beach in the south of Iceland.

Recollecting the history behind the plane, SRK said: "The plane in Iceland is called Black Beach. The plane there has a little history

behind it. It was landed by a pilot there who ended up saving the lives of all passengers on board. No one was killed in the crash. Ever since then it has remained there. The plane is black as well. Justin Bieber recently skateboarded on the plane."

While the images from Iceland are stunning, Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol revealed that it was extremely cold and they had to brave chilly conditions while shooting. The actors revealed that they had to wear three jackets to protect themselves from the inclement weather.

SRK and Kajol's "Dilwale" also features Varun Dhawan and Kriti Sanon and is directed by Rohit Shetty.

Source: Indian Express



## "Swayambara" on Maasranga

A CORRESPONDENT

Single-episode television play "Swayambara" will air tonight at 7:40pm on Maasranga Television. Written by Saif Ahmed and directed by Nur Mohammad Mridha, the play is about Rupa and Shihab. Rupa is reluctant to tell her family about her fiancé Shihab as she fears they will not accept him. Eventually Rupa's family puts in a matrimonial advertisement in a newspaper. In a sudden twist, Shihab comes to Rupa's home as a prospective groom.

The play casts Rowan Hasan, Farhana Mili, Faruk Ahmed and others.

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