

# New generation should know the real history of our Liberation War

## In conversation with Morshedul Islam

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Director Morshedul Islam, one of the torch-bearers of story-driven cinema in Bangladesh, is happy but not "totally satisfied" by the fact that his feature film "Anil Bagchir Ekdin", whose story is set in the Liberation War of Bangladesh, won National Film Awards 2015 in six different categories. In an interview with The Daily Star a day after the National Film Awards for 2015 were announced, he also spoke about his next feature film, "Ankhi o Taar Bondhura" based on a novel by Md Zafar Iqbal.

**Winning national awards is nothing new for you as a director. But was this award different from previous ones?**

**Morshedul Islam:** Although I have received national awards before in the best film category, this is the first time I got the award as the best director. Of course I am happy, but not totally satisfied. I believe, in terms of merit, the film should have gotten a few more awards in some other categories. Especially Aref Syed, who acted the role of Anil Bagchi, really deserved the best actor award. Anyway, I am happy that at least my film won awards in six categories.

**Why did you choose Humayun Ahmed's story for the film? What is special about it?**



A working still from "Ankhi O Tar Bondhura".

**Morshedul Islam:** The story truly depicts the inner spirit of our great Liberation War – secularism. The story was very touchy too. In today's Bangladesh, it is necessary to recall again and again for what we fought to bring about an independent country in 1971. Since "Anil Bagchir Ekdin" is based on the Liberation War, what according to you is the central message of your film for the young generation in Bangladesh today, especially when there is a rise in radicalis-

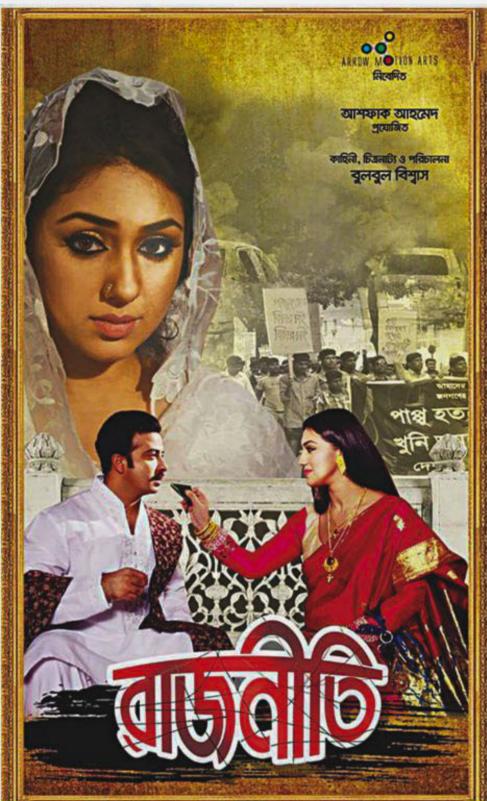
ation of youth?

**Morshedul Islam:** Our new generation should know the real history of our Liberation War. They should know that three million people gave their lives in 1971 for establishing a country with equal rights for every human being, notwithstanding religion, class or colour. We are still very far from that goal, but we must surely achieve it. **Could you share with us about your next feature film project?**

**Morshedul Islam:** Right now, I am making a feature film for children and young adults, titled "Ankhi O Taar Bondhura". Based on a novel by Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, the story is about a visually-impaired girl. The shooting of the film is almost completed. I hope that the film will be released next December.

**As a filmmaker, how do you see yourself having evolved, since making "Chaka" in 1994?**

**Morshedul Islam:** "Chaka" was a very serious film. The message was universal. The approach was very humanistic. Its inner philosophy was very strong. Relationship of human beings and nature, relationship between dead and living were the subjects of the film. Simplicity was its main character. But I like to make films on different subjects, with different tastes. After "Chaka", I made 'Dipu Number Two', a film for children. The film was very popular with children as well as the adult audience. I made some films on our Liberation War. Some of those films were popular too, like "Amar Bondhu Rashed". I enjoy making films with different tastes. "Chaka" may be the film which was appreciated by critics and won some important international awards, but I think my other films are equally important.



## Shakib-Apu's RAJNITI coming this Eid

Trailer and audio album of upcoming film launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shakib Khan and Apu Biswas, the once-reigning on-screen pair of Dhallywood, are coming together again – first time since the news of their marriage broke – this Eid with political drama "Rajniti". The film, Bulbul Biswas' debut venture, had its trailer and audio album launch on Wednesday at the Dhaka Club.

The other cast of the film includes Anisur Rahman Milon, Shahidul Alam Sachhu, Sadek Bachhu, Amit Hasan, Pijush Bandopadhyay, Aliraj, Jayashri Kar Jaya and others. Apu Biswas was present at the launch. Director Bulbul Biswas informed that Shakib is out of town for filming.

Ashfaq Ahmed is producing the film, under the banner of Arrow Motion Arts. Uttam Guha is the art director, while the music for the film has been done by Fuad, Habib, Pritam and others. Parvez, Munni, Pritam, Konal, Tahsin, Kheya and Shaan have sung the songs.

"I am coming back to films after a long time, so I really look forward to you all coming to watch my film," Apu said at the event. "I hope you will come to the cinemas and inspire me to do even better work."

The soundtracks of the film will be marketed internationally by Sony DADC, under its partnership with Bangladeshi company Creinse in their ArtistSpread initiative.

The film revolves around political conflicts and family ties, incorporating elements of the "Dhakaiya" culture.



A CORRESPONDENT

Tawsif and Mehazabien have recently wrapped up shooting for a new on-screen romance titled "Ontonogor Prem". Jointly scripted by Imraul Rafat and Imel Haque and directed by Bipob Yusuf, the single-episode TV play is based on a story written by Mahmud Rahat. Aside from the leading duo, cast members also include Mili Basher, Rocky Khan and Ronta. "Ontonogor Prem" will air tonight at 8:10pm on Rtv.

"'Ontonogor Prem' was produced for Eid, but it will go on air today. The story is heart-wrenching, and describes an aspect of romantic relationships that is very hard to articulate. I know the play will make a lasting impact on viewers," said Tawsif.

Co-star Mehazabien also shared her thoughts on the narrative saying, "I play a character named Faria and my co-star plays the role of Nipun. The plot surrounds family and romance, and the affects each have on the other. I hope viewers will be touched by the story."

## "Top Gun 2" is happening, Tom Cruise to return to return Joseph Kosinski frontrunner to direct



Tom Cruise is getting ready to head back to the Danger Zone — and he's bringing an old friend along for the ride.

Variety reports that Joseph Kosinski — who directed Cruise in "Oblivion" — is the front-runner to direct "Top Gun 2" for Paramount and Skydance Pictures. While no official offer has been made, several insiders believe one is imminent.

Cruise met with potential helmers prior to and while filming "Mission Impossible: 6" in London to ensure the "Top Gun" sequel was ready to go after production wrapped. Even with Cruise and Kosinski having previously worked together on the 2013 sci-fi action film, sources say it was Kosinski's vision the sequel's direction that officially won him the job.

"Oblivion" was a huge hit for Cruise and Kosinski bringing in \$286 million worldwide and only seemed like a matter of time before the two worked again.

Cruise recently confirmed to a British talk show that the sequel was moving forward and would hopefully shoot at the start of next year.

"It's happening," the 54-year-old actor added. "You're the first people I've told. It's going to happen."

The thought of making a follow-up to the 1986 fo, that made him a bonafide star has been on Cruise's agenda for some time. The project has gained momentum in recent years, especially after "Jungle Book" scribe Justin Marks was tapped to pen latest draft.

Skydance CEO David Ellison and Jerry Bruckheimer, who produced the original, will produce with Cruise.

This latest project will be set in a world of drone technology and fifth generation fighters and explore the end of an era of dogfighting which made the original film so exhilarating. Other plot details are vague but Val Kilmer has gone on record that he was asked to come back to reprise the role of Iceman opposite Cruise's Maverick.

While Cruise has worked with a wide range of directors over the years, he's never afraid of reteaming with past helmers if previous relationships work out. After a successful shoot on Universal's sci-fi "Oblivion", Cruise was close to joining Kosinski on his racing pic "Go Like Hell" at Fox as iconic car designer Carroll Shelby.

The film ultimately fell apart but Cruise made it clear of fond he was of working with Kosinski and was open to future ventures.

Kosinski's recently wrapped the firefighter action film "Granite Mountain" starring Miles Teller and Josh Brolin with Sony releasing this fall. Cruise can be seen next in "The Mummy" which bows on June 9.

Source: Variety

# Aishwarya to star in Mani Ratnam's next

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, who returned from Cannes Film Festival recently, will be seen in filmmaker Mani Ratnam's next film, according to a report by DNA India. The 43-year-old actress will collaborate with Ratnam for the fourth time – after "Iruvar", "Guru" and "Raavan".

"Yes, Aishwarya and Mani Ratnam are doing a film together. It's a romantic drama, which will be a bilingual and will be made in Hindi and Tamil. The two were in talks for a film for years and it's finally happening," DNA quoted a source as saying. In "Guru" and "Raavan", Aishwarya starred opposite her husband Abhishek Bachchan.

"I took a break for the past five months because of personal reasons. I'm glad I did. It meant a lot for me personally so I didn't have any professional meetings. I started last week and I liked two subjects already. So, as and when we feel the need and the time is right, we will share the news with you. But I have just started listening to scripts. Until then, I had taken time off for work for my family, especially for my mother," Aishwarya told DNA.

Aishwarya was last seen in Karan Johar's 2016 film "Ae Dil Hai Mushkil", co-starring Ranbir Kapoor and Anushka Sharma.

Earlier, Aishwarya revealed that she and Abhishek were approached by filmmaker Anurag Kashyap for his next film, "Gulab Jamun". "We have been approached for 'Gulab Jamun' and they have narrated us the script," she said.

Source: NDTV Movies

