



Arifin Shuvoo as Bangabandhu in ‘Mujib: The Making of a Nation’.

PHOTO: STAR

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SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Dhallywood star Arifin Shuvoo is one of the busiest actors of the industry. He plays the role of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in eminent Indian filmmaker Shyam Benegal's "Mujib: The Making of a Nation".

The biopic, jointly produced by Bangladesh and India, is awaiting release. The poster of the film was unveiled recently. Shuvoo is also looking forward to the release of his films, "Noor" and "Mission Extreme 2".

On Independence Day, the actor opened up about his experience of portraying Bangabandhu and more in a chat with The Daily Star.

You have been working on 'Mujib: The Making of a Nation' for quite a while. Now, the film is slated for release. What are your expectations from it?

I would like to make one request to

the audience – Please watch this film irrespective of your religion or class, with an open mind. We have made it with a lot of love.

We became an independent nation because of Bangabandhu's vision. I hope people get to have a deeper understanding of who he was, through it.

What kind of challenges did you face while portraying Bangabandhu?

Honestly speaking, I was not 'acting' on the sets. I completely immersed myself into the role and lived with it. The director, Shyam Bengal, guided me in this regard. I needed to understand Bangabandhu as a person, and recognise every emotion that he went through himself.

Although it was difficult and challenging at times, this experience is very close to my heart. I hope that shines through in the film.

Now that the shoot is over, have you been able to let go of this role?

No, if I am being honest. It will take time for me to get out of this character, as it was such a special experience. Playing Bangabandhu is a privilege for me as an actor. He was an incredible leader.

As one of the most prolific actors of the industry, what are your aspirations regarding films?

I want to leave behind a legacy of beloved and memorable films. I love the world of cinema – all my hopes and dreams are devoted to it.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

‘The Kashmir Files’ becomes highest-grossing Hindi film in pandemic era

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

“The Kashmir Files”, a Hindi film based on the exodus of the Pandit community from the Kashmir valley in 1990, has crossed the Rs 200-crore mark in terms of box office collection. Mithun Chakraborty, Anupam Kher and Pallavi Joshi lead the cast of the emotional drama.

As per reports, the film has broken the record created by Akshay Kumar's "Sooryavanshi" to become the highest-grossing Hindi film during the pandemic.

The film has no songs or comic relief and still has catapulted into an unstoppable phenomenon.

“The Kashmir Files” has also caused deepened divides between political parties in India.

PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti alleged that the BJP is promoting the film to incite people on religious lines and called for the setting up of a panel to probe the circumstances that led to the exodus of Pandits from the valley.

Theatre celebrates golden jubilee with Independence Day specials



A snippet from Theatre's 'Payer Awaj Pawa Jaye' at the Ganga Jamuna Cultural Festival 2021.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Celebrating the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence and their journey of 50 years, noted drama troupe Theatre has launched a year-long initiative. Marking Independence Day, they will be staging well-known plays.

The 204th show of the anti-communal drama, “Meraj Fakirer Ma” (1995), written and directed by Abdullah al-Mamun, was staged yesterday at Bangladesh Mahila Samity.

Today, Theatre is set to stage “Payer Awaj Pawa Jaye”, written by Syed Shamsul Haque and directed by Abdullah Al-Mamun, in the same venue at 7 pm.

A book fair of plays has also been organised as a part of the celebrations.

Streaming the road to Independence

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR & RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Nine months of struggle, 30 million lives, and a leader that guided a nation through the darkest of times – this is what paved the way for our liberation. OTT platforms have managed to deliver a range of Liberation War-based content that connects easily with the audience. Here are some amazing productions that you can stream on the occasion of our great independence.

‘Jaago Bahey’ on Chorki

The anthology period drama series crafted by Siddiq Ahmed and Sukorno Shahed Dhimam premiered on December 9 last year on Chorki. The production, with three episodes, showcases notable events from the pre-independence era.

Featuring popular actors like Chanchal Chowdhury, Mostafa Monwar, Gazi Rakayet, Aparna Ghose, and Mostafizur Noor Imran, among many others, the show garnered much appreciation for its amazing cinematic presentation of three major events – the Language Movement of 1952, the political tension between East Pakistan (later Bangladesh) and West Pakistan (later Pakistan), and the fight between the Mukti Bahini and Pakistani Army during Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971.



‘Ekattor’ on Hoichoi

Tanim Noor's critically acclaimed web-series “Ekattor” was released on Hoichoi on March 26 in 2020.

The series revolves around a secret military operation called “Operation Blitz”, which the Pakistani Army wanted to carry out in 1971.

With an ensemble cast – Mostafa Monwar, Nusrat Imrose Tisha, Mostafizur Noor Imran, Rafiath Rashid Mithila, Iresh Zaker, and Tariq Anam Khan.

“Ekattor” revolves around a gangster named Selim (Mostafa Monwar), who falls in love with Joyita (Nusrat Imrose Tisha). He is faced with a difficult situation when Joyita's brother Captain Shiraj (Mostafizur Noor Imran) steals a top-secret file from the Pakistani Army and comes to Selim for help.

Shiraj needs to deliver the file to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at any cost before time runs out.

‘Noybeddya’ on Bongo

“Noybeddya” was released on Bongo on the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence, last year.

“Noybeddya” revolves around the perils of a woman who was trapped by the Pakistani army during the Liberation War and how she had to struggle to raise her child in the post-war society.

Here, Nusrat Imrose Tisha plays the role of Birangana while Tariq Anam Khan, Hasan Imam, Deepak Karmakar, Saika Ahmed, Shahajan Samrat, and Raunak Hasan, appear in pivotal roles.



Based on a story written by Shyamal Chandra, the web film has been jointly directed by Shabdik Shahin and Shehanur Rahman Asif.

‘Amader Pataka’ on Binge

Directed by Masum Shahreear, the short film “Amader Pataka”, narrates the history of the formation of our national flag. The film showcases the story of some students who made the first national flag in 1970 and sent it as a gift to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. It also sheds light on the mass uprising of 1969 which eventually led to the Liberation War of 1971.

The production, running a little over

thirty minutes, features Animesh Aich, Uzzal Mahmud, Shubarna Mazumder, Tanvir Hosain Proval, Shaik Mahbubur Rahman, and Mukul Siraz, among others.

For the ones who are keen on exploring the incidents surrounding the war, this short yet informative film features glimpses of the mass uprising in 1969, which eventually led to the Liberation War.



‘Mujib Amar Pita’ on Bongo

The 2D animated film, “Mujib Amar Pita”, is an absolute delight for children.

Based on “Sheikh Mujib Amar Pita” authored by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the film portrays the childhood and political inception of Bangabandhu.

The movie is directed by Sohel Mohammad Rana, produced by BMIT Solutions Limited, Prolancer Studio, Skill Development for Mobile Game and Application, and the ICT Division of Bangladesh.

“Mujib Amar Pita” was initially released theatrically and is now streaming on Bongo.

