



Nusrat Imrose Tisha and Mostofa Sarwar Farooki with Indian actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Bangladeshi director Abu Shahed Emon and others at the festival.



Anne Hathaway poses for photographers at the photo call for the film 'Armageddon Time'.



'Squid Game' star Lee Jung-jae poses for photographers at the photo call for the film 'Hunt'.



Bangladeshi director and COO of Chorki Redoan Rony at the festival.

Films, flashing lights, and stars: Cannes Film Festival concludes today

Asia has a strong showing, despite the absence of China, with films by Park Chan-wook and Hirokazu Kore-eda in competition and "Squid Game" actor Lee Jung-jae premiering his new film "Hunt." Several celebrities from Bangladesh are promoting their films at the Cannes Market as well.



(L) Tom Cruise made a whirlwind appearance at the film festival, walking the red carpet, receiving a surprise Palme d'Or and watching a squadron of French fighter jets fly over the European premiere of 'Top Gun: Maverick.' (R) Producers Darya Bassel, left, and Yelizaveta Smith, right, wearing t-shirts that have an image of an explosion on the front and read "Sensitive Content: Russians Kill Ukrainians. Do you find it offensive and disturbing to talk about this genocide?" pose with director Maksym Nakonechnyi, who wears a t-shirt that reads "Free Tayra" in reference to Julia Paevska, aka Tayra, a Ukrainian medic who Russian forces have taken captive at the photo call for the film 'Butterfly Vision'.



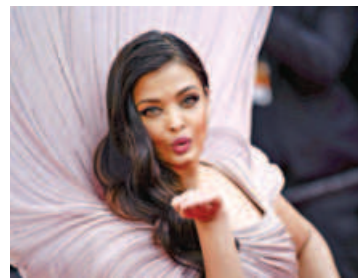
PHOTOS: AP, COLLECTED

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The Cannes Film Festival geared up for a bumper 75th anniversary edition with a selection of big Hollywood names, buzzy newcomers and previous Palme d'Or winners from May 17 - a splashy return even as the conflict in Ukraine looms over festivities.

As India is being celebrated at the beloved festival as the Country of Honour, a huge contingent of Indian celebrities led by jury member Deepika Padukone flooded the red carpet.

This year, the parties are back



Aishwarya Rai poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Armageddon Time'.

and Hollywood heavyweights include Tom Cruise's "Top Gun Maverick" - bringing the star

to Cannes for the first time in three decades - as well as Baz Luhrmann's Elvis biopic, starring Austin Butler and Tom Hanks.

Asia has a strong showing, despite the absence of China, with films by Park Chan-wook and Hirokazu Kore-eda in competition and "Squid Game" actor Lee Jung-jae premiering his new film "Hunt." Several celebrities from Bangladesh are promoting their films at the Cannes Market as well.

Most notably, the trailer of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's biopic, "Mujib:

The Making of a Nation", was unveiled in the Marché du Film Commercial Branch at the Indian pavilion of the festival. The highly-anticipated film, directed by eminent Indian filmmaker Shyam Benegal, is a joint production of Bangladesh and India. Arifin Shuvoo and Nusrat Imrose Tisha, who star in the film, attended the trailer launch, among others.

Actor Forest Whitaker will be on hand to receive the festival's Honorary Palme D'Or for lifetime achievement. The festival concludes today, with the jury announcing the winners at a gala ceremony.



1. (From left) R Madhavan, Ricky Kej, Vani Tripathi, Prasoan Joshi, Anurag Thakur, Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Shekhar Kapur attend the screening of "Final Cut (Coupez!)" and opening ceremony red carpet. 2. Arifin Shuvoo attended the Cannes Film Festival for the trailer launch of 'Mujib: The Making of a Nation'. 3. Director Baz Luhrmann, left, and Austin Butler pose for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Elvis'. 4. Jury member Deepika Padukone poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Armageddon Time' at the 75th international film festival, Cannes, southern France.



Satyajit Ray's 'Golpo Bolpo Tarini Khuro' to be adapted in Hindi



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A Hindi film adaptation of legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray's short story, "Golpo Bolpo Tarini Khuro", is in the works. Ananth Narayan will direct the film, titled "The Storyteller".

The movie will feature Paresh Rawal, Adil Hussain, Revathi and Tannishtha Chatterjee. In association with Purpose Entertainment and Quest Films, "The Storyteller explores the parallel mindsets of those who exploit and those who are exploited.

Ray's story is full of wit, drama, and suspense. Narayan expressed that it is an honour to bring the maestro's work to Bollywood, representing a young batch of artistes.

Last week, the restored version of Ray's "Pratidwandi" was screened at the classics section of the 75th Cannes Film Festival.

Mithila's 'Maya' to be screened at North American Bengali Conference



Rafiath Rashid Mithila has quite a few films awaiting release, including Raajorshree De's "Maya", Ringo Banerjee's "A River in Heaven" and Arunav Khasanbish's "Nitishastro".

"Maya" will have a special screening at the North American Bengali Conference (NABC) Bongo Sommelen from July 1 to 3 in the United States. Mithila will be present at the ceremony.

"Maya" is based on William Shakespeare's famous tragedy "Macbeth". The film will feature Mithila in the role of the alter ego of Lady Macbeth. The role, Maya, is said to be a combination of the play's Wayward sisters and Lady Macbeth.

Apart from Mithila, Tollywood's Gaurab Chakraborty, Tanushree Chakraborty, Sudipta Bandyopadhyay, Rahul, Kamleshwar and others also star in the movie.

On the other hand, Mithila is currently busy shooting for the movie "Kajol Rekha", directed by Gias Uddin Selim.

Border roads

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That's why the government is building roads in those areas, he added.

The minister said construction of the roads will be completed soon.

Seven BGB battalions in the Cox's Bazar region conducted raids last year and seized the narcotics which include about 90 lakh yaba pills, 23 kg of crystal meth, foreign liquor and beer.

Chile could

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"There is only a 20% chance that the tree is younger."

The estimated age would beat the current record-holder, a 4,853-year-old bristlecone pine tree in California, by more than half a millennium.

"If one compares it with the trees already dated where we count all the rings, it would make it one of the oldest living trees on the planet," Barichivich said.

While it survived numerous eras of human civilisation, Barichivich is concerned about the tree's prominence in the Alerce Costero National Park. Visitors often leave the observation platform, step on the tree's roots and even take pieces of its bark, he said.

He said that similar trees in the United States have their location hidden to prevent similar damage.

Barichivich said he hoped people could "think for a fraction of a second about what it means to live 5,000 years," and put their lives and the climate crisis in perspective.

Govt should take up

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"But it has to be a nationwide effort, reaching every school. Bangladesh has a population of over 170 million people and over a third of them are children. Unicef is working with the education authorities to plan and work for remedial action. We have to hurry - this is critical."

The Unicef official also emphasised that parents demand remedial action from schools, instead of just accepting that the student who is promoted is fine.

Even before the pandemic, about 4.3 million children of school-going age were out of school and the authorities needed to ensure additional programmes for them, he said, adding that there was a need for part-time schooling for those who will not be able to come back to school,

and vocational training for older children.

For education, the allocation is currently about two percent of the GDP. "Bangladesh has already committed to the global benchmarks of the SDGs and the Education 2030 Framework for Action calls for allocation of at least four to six percent of the GDP for education.

"Bangladesh has done truly remarkably well. But when you reach this level of development, if you don't invest more in human capital, you lose the opportunity to accelerate and transition to even higher levels."

About the quality of education, he said there was a need for better facilities, improved teaching methods and teachers' training. Global standards had changed and so there was need for improvement in all spheres.

Indian author wins

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United Kingdom or Ireland.

The International Booker Prize is separate from the Booker Prize, which is awarded to novels written in English. In 1997, Indian author Arundhati Roy became the first Indian to win the Booker Prize for her novel, "The God of Small Things."

Shree and American translator Rockwell will split the £50,000 (\$63,000) prize money.

"I never dreamed of the Booker, I never thought I could," Shree said during her acceptance speech in London on Thursday.

"What a huge recognition. I am amazed, delighted, honored and humbled."

The chair of judges, Frank Wynne, said the book has "an exuberance and a life, a power and a passion, which the world could do with right now."

"This is a luminous novel of India and partition, but one whose spellbinding brio and fierce compassion weaves youth and age, male and female, family and nation into a kaleidoscopic whole," Wynne said.

Writer, critic and broadcaster, Viv Groskop, called it "a real masterpiece in narrative, in exploring

"We have to invest more in teaching, making teaching more efficient, more enjoyable. Technology really helps and makes learning easier. Investment is required in teachers' support and supervision."

Bangladesh has the fastest growing economy in South Asia and is going to transition very soon to a developing country.

Asked how the country could meet the challenge of depleting foreign funds with its LDC graduation, he said, "Foreign funding is already going down. For us, we have to step up our fundraising to support our cause... Graduation does not mean that problems have disappeared overnight."

Even if the economy grows, it does not benefit all groups. It does not mean that the need for hospitals and routine immunisation is going away, he added.

identity and a brilliant look at family relationships."

Born in 1957 in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, Shree has written three novels and several short story collections. Her work has been translated into English, French, German, Serbian and Korean.

"Tomb of Sand" is the first of her books to be published in the UK.

Rockwell called it "one of the most difficult" works she has ever translated because of the "experimental nature of Geetanjali's writing" and "unique use of language."

Woman

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with his grandparents, he added.

Around 1:30am, Faruk and his parents woke up hearing screams of Eti.

Faruk said his parents saw Jalil running away when they came out of the house.

Before she died on the way to a hospital, Eti told the family members that Jalil poured petrol on her and set her alight.

Abdus Salam, officer-in-charge of Dumki Police Station, said police were looking for the suspect.

The body was sent to Patuakhali Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Bollywood star SRK's son cleared in drugs case

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian authorities have dropped a case against the son of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan who was arrested during a raid on a cruise ship last year on suspicion of having drugs on him.

India's main drug law enforcement agency, the Narcotics Control Board (NCB), yesterday said it was dropping the case against Aryan Khan, 24, and five others due to a lack of "sufficient evidence", while pressing charges against 14 others.

Khan's arrest had polarised broadcast and social media in the Bollywood-obsessed country, with some saying he was being targeted for being the son of a Muslim celebrity in mainly Hindu India.

Asian nations must join hands

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The premier once again requested all to contribute and help finding an amicable settlement of the Rohingya crisis.

"We are hosting 1.1 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Myanmar. They must be sent back to their homeland in the Rakhine State of Myanmar in safety, security, and dignity," she said.

Stressing the role of Asia

in the world, Hasina said it is imperative to ensure peace among conflicting countries by resolving differences through talks.

Referring to climate change, she mentioned that Bangladesh has been active and vocal on climate change action in all discourses, including at the recent COP26.

Highlighting Bangladesh's development in the last 13 years and its

graduation to a developing nation, the PM said her government was taking steps for smooth transition after 2026.

In this connection, she requested all, especially Japan and other OECD countries, to extend the preferential facilities to Bangladesh at least until 2029 to help it attain the overarching goals of sustainable development by 2030.

Bill passed to stop use

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(EVMs) and i-voting for overseas Pakistanis and clipping the vast powers of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

The bills were presented amid talks about the possibility of early elections in the country and a day after ousted prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan abruptly ended his long march by giving a six-day deadline to the government to announce the election date.

After their approval from both houses, only the president's assent is required for them to become law.

Speaking about the legislation, federal Minister of Law and Azam Nazeer Tarar said it was of immense significance.

He recalled the previous PTI government had made multiple amendments to the Election Act, 2017, including those that allowed the use of EVMs and granted overseas Pakistanis the right to vote

in general elections.

The PTI government had made the amendments through the Elections (Second Amendment) Bill, 2021, which it had bulldozed through the NA along with 32 other legislations on November 17, 2021.

Tarar said the bill presented on Thursday sought to revive the Elections Act, 2017 in the shape prior to those amendments, which would ensure free, fair, and transparent elections.

Under the new bill, he said, two amendments were being made to Sections 94 and 103 of the Act, both of which pertain to the Election Commission of Pakistan ECP conducting pilot projects for overseas voting and the use of EVMs.

He clarified that overseas Pakistanis had not been deprived of their right to vote.

The ECP had been asked to ensure voting rights while assuring secrecy, he told the upper house of parliament.

Under the amendment to Section 94 of the Election Act of 2017, the ECP may conduct pilot projects for voting by overseas Pakistanis in by-elections to ascertain the technical efficacy, secrecy, security and financial feasibility of such voting and shall share the results with the government, which shall, within 15 days from the commencement of a session of a house after the receipt of the report, lay the same before both houses of parliament.

Monkeypox cases could be 'peak of iceberg': WHO

AFP, Geneva

The World Health Organization yesterday cautioned that some 200 monkeypox cases found in recent weeks outside of countries where the virus usually circulates are just the beginning.