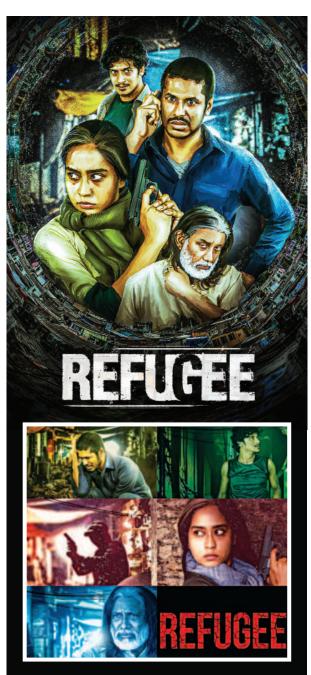


## **ARTS & ENTERTAINMEN**

# Does 'Refugee' do justice to the portrayal of the Bihari comunity?

The plight of a group of people who can neither integrate into mainstream Bangladeshi culture nor migrate back to Pakistan is a classic example of being caught between a rock and a hard place.



#### AR NODI

The new Hoichoi crime-thriller web series "Refugee," starring Afzal Hossain, Zakia Bari Mamo, and Sohel Mondol, attempts to portay the unexplored lives of the Bihari community in Bangladesh, who have been living a life of neglect and abuse as "stranded Pakistanis," who allegedly opposed the 1971 Liberation War.

This series has become somewhat of a hot topic among audiences in recent times, for its plot that revolves around life in the Geneva Camp, a setting which is rarely seen in Bangladeshi media.

Directed by Imtiaz Hossain, the series is set in 2007, when Bangladesh was discussing whether or not to grant the member of the Bihari community citizenship – it delves into their restlessness at the time.

The plight of a group of people who can neither integrate into mainstream Bangladeshi culture nor migrate back to Pakistan is a classic example of being caught between a rock and a hard place.

The plot revolves around Iqbal (Sohel Mondol), a drug dealer at the Geneva Camp, whose circumstances force him to become an informant for police officer Maria (Zakia Bari Mamo). While the series had the potential

to be a thrilling experience for its viewers, it falls short due to its predictable plot and lack of genuine emotions.

The story progression is convoluted and slow-paced, with only six episodes in the first season. The script is riddled with poor dialogue and characters who are difficult to relate to, and as a result, it fails to leave an impression. Furthermore, the plot lacks the necessary depth, making it highly predictable. Finally, the representation of a refugee camp, which is comparatively new territory

for directors, is underwhelming and unsatisfying.

However, the series does have some good things going for it, namely the impressive colour-grading and cinematography and brilliant performances by a talented cast.

Cinematographer Tuhin Tanzimul and colourist Chinmoy Das use a dark green overtone to emphasize the Biharis' loyalty to Pakistanis, as well as the cramped and claustrophobic life in the refugee camps.

Actress Zakia Bari Mamo takes a risk by playing the character of an investigative police officer in this series, as she played a similar character in the critically acclaimed "Mohanagar". It is difficult to portray two similar characters in different ways, but she did it brilliantly.

Sohel Mondol has already received applause for his acting in "Taqdeer" and "Boli". To his credit, he made the character believable.

Afzal Hossain's portrayal of a terrorist, in my opinion, needed a little more backstory and buildup. He was on the screen for very little time compared to the other characters, but he still showed charisma during that time. But it feels like the director could not use Afzal Hossain in the proper way in this series.

Apart from this, Sharif Siraj caught the viewers' attention with his natural acting and fluent dialogue delivery, amidst a cast of high-profile actors.

The portrayal of sexual abuse of men in prison is what grabbed my attention the most in this series. In a subtle manner, the director depicts a man's helplessness, mental trauma, and distress with just two dialogues.

Despite its many flaws, "Refugee" is worth seeing once for its portrayal of some social issues that requires actual courage to execute.

## Disney apologises to Johnny Depp

Disney have sent an apology letter to Depp, offering a handsome amount to return as Jack Sparrow. According to reports, draft for a film about Jack Sparrow has been penned already, and the producers are hopeful that Johnny will forgive them for axing him from their projects.

#### Nawshin and Hillol announce first child together



Renowned television artistes Nawsheen Nahreen Mou and Adnan Faruque Hillol are expecting their first child together. The couple are residing at the USA for a long time. Pictures of celebrating their baby shower has been posted on the social media.

### Unprecedented response for country's premier **OTT Awards**

We are overwhelmed by the tremendous responses & submissions for the Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards 2021. The awards are intended



producers, and individuals who are making a positive impact on both the OTT & Digital Content industry, as well as the entertainment industry. Awards have been set up in 36 categories, and there have been approximately 1200 submissions overall. The categories under accordingly

films/drama, TV series, and individual content, as well as the critics' choice section. After the nominations are thoroughly sorted by our esteemed jury panel, a date for the grand gala will be announced.

## **NEWS**

## Substance abuse in children

FROM PAGE 12

mainly on the treatment behind bars, Khan said. of the addicted children, Last year, a total of 20,592 narcotics cases were said Md Masud Hossain, director of DNC. filed against 21,992 people

smugglers or addicts.

shattered," Khan added.

during which dope tests

At present, recruits at

law enforcement agencies

have to pass dope tests in

flood situation and the Eid-

declining trend in edible oil

prices in the global market

that the prices will decrease

further in the coming days.

But the products that we

are selling in the market

now were purchased at a

higher price ..." he added.

"It appears from the

ul-Azha.

addicts.

abuse.

## Tarique, wife are fugitives

 
 1 PAGE 2
 Details
 of
 the
 HC
 cases, the lawyer said.

 order for holding its
 judgment
 could
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petitions were filed by claimed. Zakir Hossain, a lawyer the accused the HC that against him is pending and for Tarique and Zubaida, year issued rules asking therefore, he is a fugitive in said they would be able to the state and the ACC understand after going to explain why the filing through the full text and initiation of the case The ACC counsel said of HC verdict whether under the then Emergency the HC declared Zubaida lawyers can appear for his Power Rules should not be declared illegal. The clients during the trial proceedings. court also stayed the trial On September 26, proceedings of the case. 2007, the anti-graft body Attorney General AM filed the case with Kafrul Amin Uddin and Deputy Attorney General AKM Police Station against Amin Uddin Manik Tarique, his wife Zubaida represented the state, while and her mother Iqbal lawyers AJ Mohammad Ali. Mand Banu for amassing Zainul Abedin, AM Mahbub assets worth Tk 4.82 crore Uddin Khokon and Kayser through illegal means and concealing information in Kamal argued for Tarique and his wife during hearing After separate writ the petitions.

take Dandy as it makes me sleep easier and it is cheap and available," a 12-year-old street child at the capital's Kawran Bazar told the correspondent.

Another reason for the increase in substance addiction is the use of children as drug mules, according to Mahmood.

More than 21 percent of Against Drug children, according to a recent DNC research.

"Smugglers use children to carry narcotics from one place to another to douse law enforcers' eyes. On the way, the children try them and become addicted," Mahmood said, while urging the DNC to increase monitoring.

also veer Children towards substance use due to the disintegration of their families, said Atanu Barua, project director of BARACA.

"We have found a number of children in dropping centres who came to Dhaka after getting angry at their family members and then get drawn to drugs through friends or out of curiosity," he added.

"Taking into account the

the prices of [Soybean] oil

should have been cut by 15

percent [Tk 30] a litre in the

Reuters, Bangladesh Trade

said the price of crude

also fell by 27 percent to

domestic market."

Citing data

overall situation, I think Bangladesh

month ago. Palm oil price 180 a litre.

FROM PAGE 12

The DNC is now focusing of drug addicts are now drugs. Soybean oil prices cut

and Tariff Commission in Dhaka and Chattogram,

soybean oil fell 26 percent oil sold for Tk 196 yesterday

in Argentina in a month. and five-litre bottle for

It fell to \$1,464 a tonne Tk 980-990, while loose

on June 22 from \$1,970 a soybean oil sold for Tk 175-

"But we have a plan to and they are drug dealers, take special initiatives to address the scenario," he told the correspondent. EIGHTY PERCENT OF ADDICTS ARE YOUTH DNC vesterday observed

"International Day the Abuse, the narcotics carriers are Illicit Trafficking" at the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium with the theme "addressing drug responsibilities properly, challenges in health and humanitarian crisis".

Statistics show about 7.5 to 8 million people in law is being formulated to the country are addicted to conduct dope tests before drugs, said Home Minister enrolling students at the Asaduzzaman Khan while universities to prevent drug addressing the event as the chief guest.

But many say the figure at the time of admission, is much higher. "And the most alarming

will also be carried out, he part is that 80 percent of said at a programme at the them are youths. secretariat. Of the addicts, 57 percent He, however, did not give a time frame for this.

are involved in sex crimes. "We are not sparing anyone -- we have to address this menace at any cost." The law has been

\$1,230 from \$1,690.

from is met through imports.

line with Prime Minister amended, as a result of Sheikh Hasina's zerowhich a large number tolerance policy towards

Edible oil prices in

movements, as up to 90

percent of the annual

demand of 20 lakh tonnes

one-litre bottle of soybean

According to retailers

Shafiul Ather Taslim,

depend

trial.

FROM PAGE 2

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo delivered And 60 percent of the the verdict after hearing inmates in the 68 jails arguments on whether around the country are Tarique and Zubaida, who drug dealers, smugglers or have been living in London since 2008, are fugitives in "It's your responsibility the case.

to know what your The question was raised son does, what your before the bench on June neighbours' sons do. If 5 when it was dealing you don't carry out your with three separate writ petitions filed by the our dreams will be accused, challenging the filing and initiation of Earlier, Khan said a the case under the then **Emergency Power Rules.** 

not been released yet.

Anti-Corruption Commission's Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that Tarique has been convicted in three cases and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment in a money laundering case, 10 years' imprisonment in the Zia Orphanage Trust

corruption case and to life imprisonment in the August 21 grenade attack case. The HC declared him a fugitive as he did not

### Health dept concerned

Medical tests will be done FROM PAGE 2

recorded after testing 10,728 samples yesterday, the total number of cases rose to 19,65,173

With two deaths, the death toll stood at 29,140,

## Farmers face hunger after loss of crops

FROM PAGE 1 invading his house. Along ducks.

And just like that, a healthy homestead is now surviving on relief food.

At the first sight of sun last Saturday, farmers brought out their meager director of TK Group's stocks of rice and put finance and operations them out to dry on plastic wing, said oil prices have sheets the road leading on international price been reduced keeping in from Shalutikar Bazar to mind the decline in its Tawakkul union. prices in the global market,

was not under water was covered by ankle-deep mud, forcing the farmers to crowd the tarmac with barely enough space for even a CNG to pass through. But for every plastic sheet containing shining golden grains, there were 10 others containing damp, brown kernels that would

known as its full text has

the eye of law in the Tk 4.82 crore graft case, he said. lawver a fugitive in line with

an observation from the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court that in a judgement on April 13 termed her a fugitive in the eve of law.

> No lawyer can appear for Tarique and Zubaida during trial of the

corruption case against them until they surrender surrender before any court before the lower court their wealth statements. in connection with the concerned, Khurshid Alam

recovered from Covid-19 were taking measures cautious.

"We'll have to wear to curb infections. With officials of the health masks and maintain social now stands at 19,06,688, ministry and the health distance," he said, urging with the recovery rate directorate general testing everyone to complete positive for Covid recently, their vaccine courses The minister said they Maleque requested all to be immediately.

being 97.02 percent. At least 169 patients have

yield inedible rice. At one spot, goats

two

happily munched away at the damp grains without getting chased away as farmers let the animals eat

yesterday and the death rate

now stands at 1.48 percent.

deceased, one was male

and the other female, both

Among the

aged above 60.

At another, a pick-up truck mistakenly ran over the plastic sheet, and a thin man in worn-out clothes came charging with a stick, trying to protect his spoiled

rice with a fierceness that can only be driven by hunger. Asked how he would consume the damaged rice,

he said he would try and salvage any good grains. In the last flash floods

that hit the Sylhet division in the last week of April, 7,730 hectares of Boro were damaged in Sunamgani. Sylhet and Habiganj districts. Another flash flood hit

on May 11 and damaged of around 2,534 hectares of Boro, 1,674 hectares of Aush, 1,500 hectares of vegetables and 75 hectares of peanuts.

within this period. The

total number of recoveries

The floods that began on June 15 is the third blow

within two months. In Sylhet district alone, 28,945 hectares of crops were damaged till June 26, according to the district administration.

The loss of the crops and eight percent of Boro. in three other districts is being assessed as the Babul Kumar Sutrodhor, floodwaters had still not receded in the low-lying district's areas.

The Daily Star that 12,599 However, an estimate released on June 21 by the hectares of crop fields were agriculture ministry said submerged in floods this 56,000 hectares of Aush year. had been destroyed.

Musharraf Khan, additional director to get a full report this to the report.)

Sylhet Divisional month.' Agriculture Office, said, Md Nasir Bhuiya, a "This flood is a major blow resident of Kawakhola in to the agriculture in Sylhet Sirajganj Sadar upazila, as around 50 percent of the said he had cultivated 10 Aush is damaged. bighas of jute -- all of which

Sylhet division alone

Meanwhile in Sirajganj,

"We are calculating the

produces around 16 percent

of the nation's Aush yield

deputy director of the

"Moreover, we are facing has gone under water. a huge crisis of dry land to "If the floods last a week prepare Aman seedbeds as longer, none of my crops the floodwaters were still will survive." not receding."

Meanwhile, the flood claimed two more lives in Sherpur and Habigan districts in 24 hours till yesterday morning, raising the fatalities to 84, reported UNB.

Each of them died by drowning in floodwater, agriculture extension department, told according the to Directorate General of Health Services. The total deaths were recorded from May 17 to June 26.

Pabna (Our Hussain crop loss and expecting correspondent contributed

## with those went his 40

what they can't.

Any patch of land that