

How a 3-minute song elevated AN ENTIRE FILM

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SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

An eccentric genius by the name of Hashim Mahmud has been in the limelight for the last few days, for all the right reasons.

“Hawa” – the film which has already blended a mysterious, alluring narrative with one of the most tasteful, engaging promotional campaigns in recent memory, has struck gold with “Shada Shada Kala Kala”, a masterclass in rustic songmaking.

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“After searching for four months, I came to know that Hashim bhai was ill, and did not frequent Charukala anymore. I got the



permission to use his song in ‘Hawa’, but he could not sing the version for the movie despite our best efforts,” said Sumon.

Arfan Mredha Shiblu, who was often around Hashim during his jamming sessions, was the one to give his voice to the film track. “Five generations of Charukala students have grown up listening to Hashim bhai, and it was an honour for me to voice his song”.

Sumon, who was a student of Charukala himself, perhaps wanted to reward this urban



COLLAGE: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

legend—which culminated in this banger of a song.

Shiblu, who had worked as a location manager with Sumon, regularly went on set to internalise the feel of the song. An experienced theatre actor, he put forth all his passion and character work into bringing a sense of addiction into his lines.

The concept of only using percussive instruments was Sumon’s vision brought to life by Shiblu, music director Emon Chowdhury, and percussionist Mithun Chakra.

“When Sumon bhai narrated the concept to me, I knew I had to make something special,” said Emon Chowdhury. “He wanted the subjects on-screen to portray the idea that they were playing whatever was at hand, but at the same time, wanted an ‘epic’ vibe to it.”

Custom boat parts, including the helm and sides, and water containers, among many other paraphernalia, were included in the song.

“The mixing and mastering of all these instruments were gargantuan tasks,” said Emon. Originally, he wanted to use 500 instruments, but that would have made the task even more difficult.

What is more astounding, was the fact that

the song was completed only 20 days before its release.

Mithun Chakra, whom many now know as the percussionist behind the magic of Coke Studio Bangla, arguably did the best work of his life here.

“I was perplexed when Emon bhai contacted and told me that I had to rehearse for the song”, he said. “I had worked in film music before, but no one really had me rehearsing for anything.”

In the end, the mastery that Mithun boasts over percussive instruments, came through. “Since we barely used any recognised instruments, we had to make sure that the tunings were particularly right. I remember entering a ‘kolshi’ (vase) shop with Emon bhai, and checking each one’s tuning before the shopkeeper got annoyed, and almost threw us out!”

Percussion-heavy songs like “Shada Shada Kala Kala” are rare in the South-Asian film industry, perhaps last seen in some of Satyajit Ray’s works. What the musical team of “Hawa” has done here is touched the nerve of exactly what was required for not only the film, but a music industry in dire need for something refreshing.

In my humble opinion, “Hawa” will be viewed for the plot, lauded for the performances, but remembered for its music.



Netflix announces ‘The Gray Man’ sequel and spinoff

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Netflix’s “The Gray Man” has been the talk of the town after its release on the streaming platform. Now, Netflix has announced that they will be turning the “The Gray Man” into a spy-thriller franchise. The announcement was made on Tuesday, with the company revealing that they will be doing both a sequel and a spin-off for the Ryan Gosling starrer movie.

“The Gray Man” has been touted as one of Netflix’s most expensive movies to date. After its release, it became the most watched movie on Netflix in around 92 countries.

When Shakib meets Shakib



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The ‘king’ of Dhallywood, Shakib Khan had recently remarked that he would be returning to Bangladesh in July. However, now it seems unlikely that the actor will be returning this July.

This is because Shakib Khan will be busy attending an event called “Meet and greet with the World Superstar Shakib Al Hasan and Dhallywood King Shakib Khan” on July 29. The event is scheduled to take place at Marina Road in Queens, New York this Friday.

The CEO of US Showtime Music, Alamgir Khan Alam, confirmed this news to The Daily Star.

NEWS

Govt may not remove interest rate caps

FROM PAGE 12

that Bangladesh has sought as a balance of payment and budget support as well as to mitigate the effects of climate change on Bangladesh.

Kamal said the request for opening talks for the loan comes as a precautionary move and not as a bailout to stave off an economic collapse.

Recently, Sri Lanka, which has become the first country to default on its foreign repayments in 23 years, and Pakistan, whose public finances and foreign reserves are in a parlous state, have turned to the Washington-based multilateral lender for help.

Bangladesh’s formal request to the IMF for negotiations has led many to draw a parallel.

“If we were going bankrupt, why would IMF, WB, JICA want to give us money? People are lobbying us to take loans as Bangladesh is a good marketplace for them to lend to. They

have full faith in us.”

Kamal though acknowledged that reinforcements are needed to shore up its foreign currency reserves in the face of bulging import bills, elevated commodity prices in the world market and a probable global recession.

“We don’t print dollars – we have to earn it. And we do so through our migrant workers and exporters. We are indebted to them. They are keeping us going.”

As of July 20, foreign currency reserves stood at \$39.7 billion, according to data from the central bank. This is sufficient to cover about five months’ import bill.

“We do need the loan. But we will shop around for the best terms and lowest interest rate – we are not in a desperate position. We will see IMF’s terms. If we get favourable terms, we will take it. We have not decided for certain.”

When prodded on why the government made an about-face on its stance of not seeking the loan from IMF for now, he said: “The cost burden would have become higher if I announced it beforehand. This is a bargaining point. We don’t want to exude desperation. What else could have been a better approach?”

Kamal also fired off a warning shot to those said to be exploiting the current strained stock of dollars.

“We will take action against them. The dollar market must be allowed to hit an equilibrium – no one should create an artificial crisis. We have the mechanisms in place to find out who is engaging in foul play and we can stop them.”

He also said mis-invoicing will be targeted.

“People are opening LCs [letters of credit] by showing higher dollar prices – we will take action against them.”

SUST student was stabbed

FROM PAGE 12

DC Azbazar said, “Three suspects, including Hossain, were initially detained and interrogated on Tuesday night. Hossain confessed and named his associates. Those two were also arrested and had confessed to the crime.”

The official added that the murder weapon, a knife, and Bulbul’s cellphone were recovered from Kamrul’s house.

In court, Hossain gave his confessional statement under section 164 of CrPC, which was recorded by Metropolitan Magistrate

Suman Bhuiyan.

“On Monday afternoon, Hossain and Hasan went to the campus with two others. In the evening, the two others left and Kamrul joined them.

“At that time, Bulbul and his friend went to the Gazi Kalur Tila on the campus for a stroll. The trio attempted to mug them. When Bulbul tried to fight them, they stabbed him in the chest and fled with his mobile phone.”

The police official added that the three accused have no previous criminal records. “However, the murder was clearly related to their

mugging attempt. No other motive was found in the investigation.”

Bulbul, a third-year student of public administration, was from Nandipara in Narsingdi Sadar Upazila.

Meanwhile, Tk 5 lakh will be given to Bulbul’s family as compensation from the university fund within a week, Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed, vice-chancellor of the university, said at a press briefing yesterday.

The VC praised the police’s prompt investigation into the murder and assured students that CCTV cameras will be installed to tighten security.

Sri Lanka extends emergency

FROM PAGE 12

vowed a tough line against “trouble-makers”.

Police said in separate statements that they had arrested activists Kusal Sandaruwan and Weranga Pushpika on unlawful assembly charges.

After Rajapaksa fled, Sandaruwan was seen in social media footage counting a large cache of banknotes found in the president’s home.

Police have also released photographs of 14 suspects wanted in connection with an arson attack on Wickremesinghe’s home on the same day the president’s office and residence were overrun.

The arrests of the two activists came a day after student leader Dhaniz Ali was nabbed when he boarded a Dubai-bound flight at the country’s main airport in the evening.

Police said there was a warrant for his arrest in connection with a magistrate’s court case, without giving further details.

Lawmakers also voted yesterday to formalise the state of emergency imposed by Wickremesinghe until mid-August.

The emergency ordinance, which empowers troops to arrest and detain suspects for long periods, would have

lapsed yesterday if it had not been ratified by parliament.

Police last week demolished the capital’s main anti-government protest camp in a pre-dawn assault that raised alarm among foreign diplomats and rights groups.

Public anger simmered for months in Sri Lanka before the huge demonstration on July 9 that brought an end to Rajapaksa’s rule.

He had been blamed for mismanaging the nation’s finances and steering the economy into a tailspin after the country ran out of foreign currency needed to import vital goods.

IMF loan out of precaution

FROM PAGE 12

economic turmoil in the coming days.

“We have given a proposal to the IMF on getting possible fundas part of taking precautionary measures.”

He said he has strong objection to use of the word “bail-out” used in some media reports.

“Why bail-out? Is the country in so deep a crisis that we have to take the bail-out?” he asked.

Kaikaus mentioned that using the terms like “bail-out” is damaging the country’s dignity as it is not in such a situation.

He requested the media to check with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission in Dhaka to see whether Bangladesh has fallen into a deep economic crisis like Pakistan or Sri Lanka.

“This was a regular discussion between the finance ministry and the IMF,” he said about the government’s recent move to get funds from the IMF.

The principal secretary cited various types of fund assistance from the IMF to different governments of Bangladesh in 1993, 2003, 2012 and 2020.

“We are taking funds from the IMF, Asian Development Bank and World

Bank on a regular basis,” he said.

But he mentioned that Bangladesh is getting budgetary financing now, not project financing, from them as they have trust in the country that it could utilise the fund more efficiently.

“This time we sought budget assistance; this is for meeting the deficit in balance of payment, not bail-out. It is basically the money that we need as foreign currency to spend for our development activities.”

Talking about the power situation, the top bureaucrat said the government, like others, is also concerned about the power so that it does not become a crisis in future.

“That’s why we are saving our power now for the coming days.”

Regarding the misleading news on Indian Adani Group and Meghnaghat power plant, he said it is just baseless.

“Why are you making horror stories? Tell the truth,” he told the media.

The principal secretary mentioned that these types of news would be harmful for the country and its possible investments from abroad.

He said the recent move by the government to save power through area-based load shedding has been

effective and there is no need to increase it.

“We are saving 2,000-3,000MW electricity...”

Responding to a question regarding import of fuel from Russia, he asked if other countries can import, why couldn’t Bangladesh.

He also mentioned that the government is exploring new sources for cheap fuel import.

Buzz Aldrin’s

FROM PAGE 12

selling to a bidder on the phone,” Sotheby’s said in a statement.

“After deep consideration, the time felt right to share these items with the world, which for many are symbols of a historical moment, but for me have always remained personal mementos of a life dedicated to science and exploration,” Aldrin, the last living member of Apollo 11’s three-member flight crew, said in a statement last week.

He explained the jacket was separate from the spacesuit he wore while walking on the moon with fellow astronaut Neil Armstrong, but that he wore it while flying to and from the Moon.

EC ‘subservient to government’

FROM PAGE 12

and it also poses a threat to the environment.

Kader Siddiqui said he heard from others about “strong backbone” of Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal. His party wants to keep faith in the current EC that it would be able to conduct a free and fair election.

In response, Awal said they would strive to be undeterred while conducting the next national polls. He said only God knew how much successful they would be.

The CEC added that during the elections, they would exercise powers as per the constitution, laws and regulations.

Earlier in the day, while meeting with Zaker Party, Awal said they were yet to make any decision on use of

EVM in the next general election.

He added that it is not “possible to hack” EVM as it is a standalone machine and not connected to the internet.

EVM is still not safe, said Zaker Party, proposing introduction of E-voting.

The commission held dialogues with two political parties at its office in the capital yesterday. The EC has been holding the talks to seek recommendations on how to conduct the next national polls in a free and fair manner.

As of yesterday, the EC has met delegates from 23 parties.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Jatiya Party skipped the EC dialogue yesterday.

The BNP, Jatiya Samajtantrik

Dal (JSD Rab), Bangladesh Kalyan Party, Bangladesh Muslim League, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Liberal Democratic Party and Islami Andolan Bangladesh had earlier shunned the talks that began on July 17.

Infant ‘hit by bullet’

FROM PAGE 1

violence,” he said. “But I don’t know how the child died. Details will be known after an autopsy.”

Contacted, Presiding Officer Khatibar Rahman said the election officers did not know the identity of the locals who attacked officials.

None of the officials could say supporters of which candidate instigated the violence.