

'THE GRAY MAN'

All hype and no substance

Carmichael immediately hires a freelance assassin—who has no connections to the CIA—to retrieve the thumb drive.

SHANIZ CHOWDHURY

The Russo Brothers have once again taken the big screen by storm with "The Gray Man", an espionage thriller with a star-studded cast. The film is based on a novel of the same name by Mark Greaney, and so far, this movie has been one of the biggest that Netflix has churned out in its history.

In the film, Ryan Gosling plays the role of the eponymous character, otherwise known as Sierra Six. The movie starts with the head of the CIA, Fitzroy, paying a visit to Six in prison, with the offer to train him as a CIA assassin in exchange for



commuting his sentence.

18 years later, Fitzroy has retired and Six is seen to carry out a covert mission under the lead of Denny Carmichael, who is played by Bridgerton's heartthrob Regé-Jean Page. During the mission, Six encounters Sierra Four who hands him a thumb drive containing evidence on the CIA's dirtiest secrets.

Carmichael immediately hires a freelance assassin—who has no connections to the CIA—to retrieve the thumb drive. Lloyd Hansen, the agent in question, is played by Chris Evans. Six and Fitzroy reunite to get to the bottom of the conspiracy but they're compromised as Lloyd kidnaps Fitzroy's niece in order to make Fitzroy betray Six.

The movie centres around the story of egotistical men, who are bound by either their saviour complex or by their greed. A character that stands out, however, is the one played by Ana de Armas. The actress plays the role of a CIA agent who is forced to go rogue, in order to clear her name, and ends up becoming Six's dame in shining armour. Unfortunately, she herself is not given the chance to shine on screen. Rather, her character finds itself lingering in the background almost like a shadow.

Riffling off franchises such as James Bond and Mission Impossible, "The Gray Man" is rife with elaborate action scenes, occasional quips, fascinating backdrops and dizzying camera shots.

However, it falls short to create an appealing narrative using all of these

elements. The action sequences and even the final showdown between Evans and Gosling seem foolishly unauthentic. The one scene where Indian actor Dhanush and Gosling face off is probably the only highlight of the movie in my opinion.

Any true action fan can predict the plotline of "The Gray Man", and even the ensemble's full-bodied commitment could not compensate for the liminal storytelling. At times, it feels as though the jokes in the film were written by a team of teenagers.

The good guys always seem to have a sixth sense that predicts any danger, and on multiple occasions they have impeccable timing when trying to escape life-threatening situations. As the characters are continuously saved every time, whether due to sheer luck or absurd coincidences, you start to lose any investment you might have made in them.

Throughout the movie, we only see the characters inciting violence on international levels which end up hurting thousands of innocent bystanders. By the end of the movie, there are no do we see a cycle of revenge coming to an end.

"The Gray Man" is a reference to the transitional morality of Six, but the moral dimensions of the film are glossed over in a way that makes it entirely moot. It is incredibly disappointing that Russo Brothers, who are responsible for four highly successful Marvel movies, created a movie that is neither entertaining nor charismatic.



Ranbir and Shraddha Kapoor's film set catches fire

Ranbir Kapoor and Shraddha Kapoor's film set was destroyed after a fire erupted all over the Mumbai sets. Rajshri Production film studio was also engulfed in fire during the massive fire incident. The cause of the fire is yet to be determined.

It took five hours to douse the fire and one casualty was reported. Manish Devashi, a crew member was declared dead at the hospital. Meanwhile, there are also reports of another person being injured on the sets. The Luv Ranjan directorial project is yet to be titled.

Statues of Walt and Jesse unveiled in 'Breaking Bad' city

Earlier yesterday, Sony Pictures and the City of Albuquerque, New Mexico, unveiled the official bronze statues of "Breaking Bad" characters Walter White and Jesse Pinkman. The statues were gifted to city by the creator of the show, Vince Gilligan. Gilligan had commissioned the statues back in 2019, and they were made by artist Trevor Grove. The "Breaking Bad" creator decided to gift the statues to Albuquerque as a way of saying thanks for being the home of both "Breaking Bad" and "Better Call Saul" for over a decade.



COUNTRYWIDE



A local ruling party leader built this illegal establishment on Water Development Board (WDB) land just beside the flood bypass road at Doani in Lalmonirhat's Hatibandha upazila. PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

AL leader builds structure illegally on WDB land

He also filled 30 decimal with dirt; authorities yet to evict

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A local Awami League (AL) leader built a huge illegal structure, filling up about 30 decimals of land belonging to Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), at KPI (Key Point Infrastructure) beside the Teesta Barrage bypass road in Hatibandha upazila.

Despite serving notices twice, the owner of the illegal building is reluctant to shift the structure and continuing his business as the authorities concerned turn a blind eye due to unknown reason.

Sources said Gaddimari Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Abu Bakkar Siddique Shyamol, also organising secretary of Hatibandha upazila unit AL, built the illegal structure on the WDB land and continuing his restaurant business there.

Meanwhile, freedom fighter Motahar Hossain, MP of

Lalmonirhat-1 constituency and district AL president, formally inaugurated illegal establishment that has been named 'Bairali Fast Food Chinese Restaurant and Community Centre' on July 7.

According to WDB officials at Dalia, Shyamol forcibly occupied 30 decimals of land of WDB at Teesta Barrage's KPI area and constructed the illegal establishment just beside the flood bypass road.

Although he was served separate notices on August 11 and August 25, 2021, to stop the illegal construction work, he didn't pay heed. Later, WDB authorities lodged a written complaint with Hatibandha Police Station on September 1 the same year.

Asfa Uddoula, WDB executive engineer at Dalia, said despite submitting two written applications to the district administration on September 23, 2021 and June 6 this year in this regard, the authorities

concerned yet to take any measures to evict the illegal structure.

"We have informed our higher authorities about the matter and action will be taken according to their instructions," he added.

Contacted, UP Chairman Shyamol said his forefathers owned the land.

WDB acquired the land years ago, but did not pay the compensation, Shyamol said, adding that a case has been pending with High Court (HC) in this regard.

When asked about the matter, Lalmonirhat Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abu Jafor said an eviction drive is under process and they were working on it.

MP Motahar Hossain said WDB authorities never told him anything in this regard.

He wanted to build a public toilet next to the Teesta Barrage, but WDB authorities did not permitted him to do so, he said.

New-look Tigers

FROM PAGE 12

While batters were able to at least spark life into the game with some crucial boundaries, it was a rather disappointing showing from the bowlers. On a sporting wicket in Harare, the bowlers struggled to maintain decent line and length as Zimbabwe scored some quick runs in the middle and death overs to get past the 200-run mark for only the third time in T20Is.

Sikandar Raza (65 off 26) and Wessly Madhevere (46 off 67) smashed unbeaten fifties while Sean Williams scored a quick fire 33 off 19 to help Zimbabwe set an imposing target.

Playing his 67th T20I, Mustafizur Rahman, the most experienced player on the field, was taken for the most runs. The left-arm pacer conceded 50 off his four overs, scalping two wickets.

First deaths outside

FROM PAGE 12

and that studies were under way to gather more "epidemiologic information" on both cases.

Brazil said a man with monkeypox died on Thursday in Belo Horizonte, the capital of the southeastern Minas Gerais state. The man was undergoing treatment for cancer.

Brazil's health ministry has recorded close to 1,000 monkeypox cases, mostly in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro states, which are also in the country's southeast.

The WHO's European office yesterday said that more monkeypox-related deaths can be expected.

"With the continued spread of monkeypox in Europe, we will expect to see more deaths," Catherine Smallwood, Senior Emergency Officer at WHO Europe, said in a statement. The goal needs to be "interrupting transmission quickly in Europe and stopping this outbreak", she said.

Early signs of the disease include a high fever, swollen lymph glands and a chickenpox-like rash.

But Smallwood stressed that in most cases the disease heals itself without the need for treatment.

The WHO last Saturday declared the monkeypox outbreak a global health emergency.

The disease has been detected in 78 countries, with 70 percent of cases found in Europe and 25 percent in the Americas, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Wednesday.

Bangladesh wants more

FROM PAGE 12

to between 1,082 and 25,271, shows data of the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET).

In 2021, the number was 29,000 and this year so far the figure has crossed last year's.

The foreign ministry official said jobs in the UAE are on the rise, but most of the Bangladeshis go there on visit visas. As many of them fail to change their visit visas into employment visas, Bangladesh favours issuance of more work visas to its citizens.

According to an estimate of the Bangladesh mission in Abu Dhabi, about 8 lakh Bangladeshis now stay in the UAE.

SM Shaon, an expatriate Bangladeshi investor in Dubai, said it was good that there was an arrangement for Bangladeshis' travel to the UAE on visit visas and changing those into employment or investor visas.

"However, majority of the Bangladeshis coming here on visit

visas fail to arrange jobs. Only the skilled professionals are able to do it. This leaves many Bangladeshis incurring financial losses," he told this correspondent over the phone.

It would be great if the UAE authorities issue employment visas for low-skilled Bangladeshi workers, Shaon said.

During Thursday's Foreign Office Consultation in Cox's Bazar, officials of the two countries took stock and reviewed all aspects of bilateral, regional, and multilateral cooperation, including enhanced commerce and trade, UAE investment in Bangladesh's exclusive economic zones, and human resource development, according to a foreign ministry statement.

The two sides discussed collaboration on food security, energy and power, civil aviation, blue economy, and climate change. They also touched on roadmap for future cooperation, including high-level visits to mark the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh-UAE Diplomatic Relations in 2024.

Kids aged 5-11 may get jobs

FROM PAGE 1

secretary of the Covid-19 vaccine management taskforce, told journalists.

"We have already had a series of meetings with the education ministry officials. The vaccine campaign may begin next month. The dates and times will be announced soon."

Initially, 2.2 crore children in this age group will be vaccinated, he said.

Health officials said different schools across the country will host vaccination centres during the campaign.

A Directorate General of Health Services release said 1.61 crore children have received both doses of the vaccine during the previous campaign for those aged 12-17.

The launch of the latest campaign

became urgent after a surge in Covid-19 infections, mainly due to the Omicron variant, over the past couple of months.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque, on April 30, had announced the plan to inoculate children between five and 11 years.

Over two dozen countries, including Brazil, USA, UK, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia, started inoculating children of this age group last year, according to global media reports.

With the rising number of Covid-19 cases since early June, marking the fourth wave of the pandemic, the government has also stressed the need for the booster dose vaccine campaign.

Wikipedia articles

FROM PAGE 12

The group then looked at two measures: whether the cases were more likely to be cited as precedents by subsequent judicial decisions, and whether the argumentation in court judgments echoed the linguistic content of the new Wikipedia pages.

They found that having a public

Wikipedia article online increased a case's citations by more than 20 percent. The increase was bigger for citations by lower courts such as the High Court, but absent for citations by the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal.

This could indicate that Wikipedia is used more by judges or clerks who have a heavier workload.