

# Watch ‘Hawa’ before coming to absurd conclusions

## MEJBAUR RAHMAN SUMON

**Mejbaur Rahman Sumon’s debut film “Hawa” was released on July 29, which was hyped even before it hit the theatres. The film features Chanchal Chowdhury, Nazifa Tushi, Sariful Islam Razz and Nasir Uddin Khan among many others.**



▲  
**Mejbaur Rahman Sumon**  
PHOTOS: COURTESY

**ZAHID AKBAR**

Despite the film’s roaring success, a certain group of audience on social media claimed that the film contains a similar plot to the Korean film “Sea Fog”, where others argued it to have similarity with the 1985 film “Obhijan”.

In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, the director opened up about the allegations which were raised about “Hawa”.

**Why do you think people are trying to connect “Hawa” with “Sea Fog” and “Obhijan”?**

When a film creates hype, there are certain conspiracies that brews among some people. This is nothing new, we have witnessed this in the past. In fact, people are trying to mock me by giving me the tag of a tele-fiction director. They are forgetting the fact that television themes can easily fit into the molds of cinema.

Such allegations were raised earlier against films like “Aynabaji” and “Debi”. People argued that “Debi’s” story was not as it was in the book. I request everyone to watch “Hawa” before coming to a conclusion.

**What, according to your judgement, could be the reason behind this?**

This is a common practice, many filmmakers who have come from small screens were targeted and slandered.

Most of the formula films in this region are copies and philosophically imitated. These films contain similar plots, revolving around love, a set of fightscenes, songs and a climax. However, no one claims anything against these movies for being copied. Since we are considered outsiders, we are judged for this.

Those who are raising their complaints, have not seen any of the films, because “Sea Fog’s” plot is based on human trafficking. Just shooting in the middle of the sea doesn’t make it a copy!

“Hawa” is the story of our region, and it is an original film.

**Would it make you happier, if “Hawa” was released in more than 24 halls?**

The condition of single screen theatres is not very good in our country. Yet, people are showing interest in my film, which might end up increasing the number of halls. As a filmmaker, I am elated. However, the way that people have started spreading false allegations, it might hamper the growth of the shows.

Interestingly, some of the crew members of “Hawa” told me that they have overheard people gossiping over the matter in a restaurant, where one of their fellow mates even protested.

*Translated by Sharmin Joya*



# Beyonce to remove offensive lyric after fan outcry

Beyoncé is removing an offensive term for person’s with disabilities from a new song on her record “Renaissance.” This is just weeks after rapper Lizzo also had to change lyrics in one of her songs to remove the same word.

“The word, not used intentionally in a harmful way, will be replaced,” a spokeswoman for Beyoncé wrote in a statement to The Associated Press on Monday.

The song “Heated,” which was co-written with Canadian rapper Drake among several others, uses the word “spaz,” which is considered a derogatory reference to the medical term spastic diplegia, a form of cerebral palsy.



# Mahi returns with two films

Ever since her Dhallywood debut, actress Mahiya Mahi has gained a lot of popularity with her remarkable performances on the silver screen. However, after getting married in September of last year, Mahi did not release any movie.

Now, Mahi is making her return to the silver screen with two new films, “Ashirbad” and “Jao Pakhi Bolo Tare”, both of which are directed by National Award-winning director Mostafizur Rahman Manik. These two films will hit the screens in the next three months.

“Ashirbad” is slated for release on August 19, while “Jao Pakhi Bolo Tare”, will release on October 7.



# COUNTRYWIDE



Even before completion of renovation work of this regional road in Dinajpur’s Chirirbandar upazila, it develops numerous potholes.

PHOTO: STAR

# Road damaged even before renovation work finished

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur**

Numerous cracks and potholes have developed on a regional road in Chirirbandar upazila before completion of the renovation work of the paved road due to the alleged use of substandard materials and less quantity of bitumen.

Locals alleged that many small and large cracks and potholes have developed on the A 15-kilometre-long road that connects Chirirbandar upazila to the National Highway-5 at Ranirbandar due to use of low quality materials in the road repair work.

The renovation work of the road under the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) started in July last year and it is supposed to be completed in December this year, officials said.

Following a tender last year, LGED gave the Tk 4 crore work order to three different contractors for the reconstruction of the road.

Rickshaw van puller Motiar Rahman of Chirirbandar upazila said about three to four kilometer of the 15-kilometre road has developed numerous cracks and potholes at different places due to use of less quantity of bitumen in the carpeting work.

During a recent visit to the area this correspondent saw many large potholes on the road while its carpeting wore away at different places, causing immense sufferings to the commuters.

Mokhesur Rahman of Andarmuha village said the carpeting of the road wore away even before the completion of the renovation work due to use of

substandard and less quantity of bitumen.

The contractor concern even used low quality bricks and brick chips in the road construction work, he said.

Locals said prior to start of the carpeting work the road need to be fully cleaned, but the contractor concern did not follow that to labour cost.

Despite repeated attempts this correspondent could not reach any of the officials of the contractor firms for their comment in this regard.

However, Chirirbandar Upazila Engineer Faruk Hasan said a portion of the road got damaged due to sudden rainfall soon after completion of the carpeting work.

Plying of overloaded sand-laden trucks is another reason for the damage, he added.

# Be cautious about taking up projects

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“When the prime minister suspended Teletalk’s 5G project to ease the pressure on forex reserves, some meeting participants enquired whether new projects can be taken up with foreign loans.

“The prime minister said even if there is a foreign loan, we have to scrutinise what type of loan it is, from where it is coming, what are the conditions and then we will consider the loan,” the minister told reporters.

The meeting approved seven projects worth Tk 2,757 crore. Among them is one on the establishment of divisional headquarters in Mymensingh at a cost of Tk 1,224 crore.

Some meeting participants asked

if such a project was necessary now as the government was cutting expenditures, said Mannan.

“The prime minister said no foreign currency was needed for this project. Also, money will go to working class people, day labourers, and landowners [through implementation of this project]. The market will be affected if such projects are not implemented.

If we have to keep the economy moving, implementation of projects with local funds should continue,” he added.

Md Mamun-Al-Rashid, secretary to the Planning Division, said Teletalk’s project was suspended because most of the items for the project would have to be imported

using foreign currencies.

“Not only Bangladesh, but all other countries of the world are now very cautious about using foreign currency,” he added.

The planning minister said the PM opined that there was no need for setting up Teletalk’s 5G network at the moment and it would be considered later.

“The 5G network is good and very advanced. But the prime minister thinks that 4G should be implemented well before that. She said that 4G network is still not available in many areas, including haors and chars. The 4G network will have to be upgraded, strengthened and the service will have to continue uninterrupted,” he added.

# Burl blitz seals series for Zim

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his side’s favour, removing Mahmudullah after a run-a-ball 27 and skipper Mosaddek Hossain for a duck in back-to-back deliveries. Afif and Mahedi Hasan carried Tigers’ hope with a 34-run stand, but once Mahedi fell in the 19th over after a 17-ball 22, the equation started getting out of hand. Needing 19 off the last over, Afif, who remained unbeaten on a 27-ball 39, could not produce the necessary big hits as the Tigers ended with 146 for eight.

Earlier, Zimbabwe had started positively with the bat after winning the toss. Regis Chakabva struck Nasum Ahmed for a few boundaries before the batter fell to the left-arm

spinner in the fourth over, unable to get the connection he wanted as Afif latched on to the catch at cover.

Mahedi Hasan then got wickets of back-to-back deliveries, first removing Wesley Madhevere for five before the dependable Sikandar Raza holed out to the man at short-fine leg to depart for naught. With Zimbabwe’s run-rate being curbed after the Powerplay, they lost three more wickets with skipper Mosaddek Hossain removing Sean Williams and Mahmudullah getting Craig Ervine out stumped with his first delivery of the game.

Mustafizur Rahman got the edge of Milton Shumba’s bat with Anamul

Haque, in charge of wicket-keeping responsibilities, taking a diving catch behind the stumps to restrict Zimbabwe to 67 for six in 13 overs.

From that point on, it was a Ryan Burl show as he picked the moment to hit five sixes and a four off a single over from Nasum, who bowled the most expensive T20I over for a Bangladeshi bowler. That 34-run over changed the momentum of the game for the hosts as Burl and Luke Jongwe strung together a 79-run seventh-wicket stand. Jongwe holed out after a 20-ball 35 and Burl powered to a 28-ball 54 before he skied one off Hasan Mahmud to depart in the 19th over as Zimbabwe reached 156 for eight.

# Giant panda species found

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northwestern Bulgaria in the 1970s and added to the museum’s trove of fossilised treasures.

“They had only one label written vaguely by hand. It took me many years to figure out what the locality was and what its age was. Then it also took me a long time to realise that this was an unknown fossil giant panda,” Dr Spassov said.

The teeth were found in coal deposits, imbuing them with a blackened hue – indicating the panda inhabited forested, swampy

regions.

During this time period in the late Miocene era, about 10 million years to 4.5 million years ago, researchers say fossils of the staple grass that sustains the modern panda are rare in Europe.

The fossil records and the cusps of the teeth uncovered from this period suggest pandas of the time did not have strong enough teeth to crush woody stems.

Instead, scientists say, ancient pandas likely fed on softer plant materials.

# US kills

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turning to violent radicalism, had been on the run since the 9/11 attacks.

He took over Al-Qaeda after bin Laden was killed, and had a \$25 million US bounty on his head.

# Dhaka calls back

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Sabbir, a domestic worker employed at her residence there, had been missing for six months. The matter was informed to the US State Department and it prompted the foreign ministry to transfer her to Jakarta.