

# 10 Years of ENGLISH VINGLISH

Sridevi's comeback was an important message for women

LUBABA MAHJABIN PRIMA

In October 2012, Bollywood witnessed the cinematic comeback of one its greatest stars ever, Sridevi, in the film "English Vinglish".

The immense commercial and critical success of the movie was remarkable in more ways than one, and was pivotal in the way woman-centric cinemas were viewed in South Asia's film industry.

After her film "Judaai", released in 1997, Sridevi went to a hiatus for 15 long years. Ever since her majestic comeback no one thought possible, "English Vinglish" was monumental in shaping the industry's outlook regarding married actresses -- who were deemed 'unfit' for leading roles. In the male-dominated industry, actresses are

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mostly considered to have a short screen life, because movies didn't have good enough roles to fit them after a certain age. But when Sridevi was hailed as the "female Rajinikanth in India", notions regarding who can and



cannot be a superstar were built anew.

In the film, the lead character Shashi Godbole is a small entrepreneur who makes snacks. She is mocked by her husband and daughter for lacking English speaking skills, and ends up taking an English-speaking course where she gains new perspectives. In fact, the writer and director Gauri Shinde was inspired by her mother to write this character. Shinde went on to achieve several debut awards for the movie.

The most beautiful aspect of the character Shashi, is this very relatability. We see how she is looked down upon by her own family, something which is, unfortunately, very common in this part of the world. Shashi's family never pauses to question why she never had the learning opportunities to begin with. But when she gets the right opportunity and encouragement, Shashi evolves into a confident woman.

Thus, the movie makes its audiences take a pause and ponder about women close to them. It compels them to think if they have been treating their women with due respect, because as the movie clearly proves, love without respect can be even more

suffocating than estrangement.

"English Vinglish" takes a dig into issues of motherhood, that are least talked about in brown households. The dynamics of the difficult teenage years bringing a rift in the parent-child relationship is sensitively crafted in the movie. It is miles apart from the melodramatic portrayal common to Bollywood, and is a genuine depiction of what can and cannot be witnessed in the real world.

The movie questions the role of our surroundings in shaping our identities. Shashi's new atmosphere helps her shed inhibition and self-doubt, and convinces her to love and respect herself. It shows how often women are deliberately worn down, just to break their confidence. The notions and responsibilities centering marriage are scrutinized as well, leaving the audiences thoughtful about the agency and status of women in such traditional setups.

It has been 10 years since we knew the struggle Shashi had regarding her English, which indeed can be a metaphor for the pain she endured in her own home. But if the movie is still relatable, maybe it shows that sadly, we haven't progressed much as a society.

Priyanka Chopra expresses joy after NYC announces Diwali as public holiday

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bollywood's diva Priyanka Chopra recently went to the New York City, where she has been seen enjoying quality time with her and Nick Jonas' daughter Malti Marie. The actress is quite active on social media, and often seen expressing her thoughts through different posts.

She took to Instagram and shared a video on her Instagram stories of Mayor Eric Adams and New York Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar. The actress got emotional when Diwali was announced a public holiday in New York City from 2023. She also shared that upon hearing the news she was 'crying tears of joy'.

**Mosharraf Karim's 'Daag' dwells on social stigma**



Noted actor Mosharraf Karim will be making his Chorki debut with Sanjoy Somadher's web film "Daag". The movie revolves around the barriers of society, and how we need to overcome those obstacles to create a free atmosphere for everyone.

Recently, the shooting of the movie was completed across various locations in Dhaka.

When asked about the plot of the film, the actor replied, "We may have come a long way, erasing many kinds of stains. However, there are still some 'Daag' (blemishes) present in our society, that we are failing to remove it permanently from our life. The story of those indelible spots is what the project is all about."

The movie also stars Aisha Khan, Nishat Priom, Shomu Chowdhury, Shilpi Sharika, Shilpi Sharika Apu, Naresh Bhuiyan, Mili Basher and Masum Basher, among others.

# NEWS

## PM to visit Japan

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As Bangladesh will be graduating out of the LDC status by 2026, it is working on signing a free trade agreement (FTA) with Japan.

Bangladesh's export to Japan in the last fiscal year was worth \$1.35 billion, a 14.40 percent rise compared to the previous year.

## Astronomers

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a researcher at Carnegie Institution for Science's Earth and Planets Laboratory.

"So far this has only been looked at with small samples from Doppler surveys, which typically have found giant planets further away from these red dwarf stars. Until now we have not had a large enough sample of planets to find close-in gas planets in a robust manner."

Some mysteries still surround TOI-3757b that scientists will have to solve -- the biggest being how the planet could have even formed, especially with its low density. One answer could be that the planet has a lower number of heavy elements in its rocky core compared to other gas giants, which may have delayed how the gas accumulates and lowered its density.

The second factor could be that the planet's slightly elliptical orbit results in substantial excess heating when it gets close to its star -- causing the planet's atmosphere to bloat.

"Potential future observations of the atmosphere of this planet using Nasa's new James Webb Space Telescope could help shed light on its puffy nature," says Jessica Libby-Roberts, a postdoctoral researcher at Pennsylvania State University.

The research could help astronomers understand what the planets are made of and how they formed and, for potentially habitable rocky worlds, whether they might be able to support life.

## Dhaka

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He was earlier appointed as Principal of Bangladesh Police Academy, Rajshahi.

Meanwhile, DMP Additional Commissioner Syed Nurul Islam has been made the deputy inspector general of Dhaka Range Police.

## Sitrang causing concern

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will remain suspended from today for an indefinite period.

Maritime ports of Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Mongla and Payra were advised to hoist local cautionary signal 4.

The cyclone will hit 730 kilometre-long coastal areas in 19 districts of the country with three to five feet high tidal surges, said Enamur Rahman, state minister for disaster management and relief.

It may hit Bangladesh's coastal areas between midnight tonight and evening tomorrow at the speed of 90-100 kilometres per hour, he said while briefing the media at the secretariat yesterday.

"It will not be a 'super cyclone'. But we expect it to affect more areas than any storm in the last three

years," he added.

"We have already instructed district administrators to prepare the cyclone shelters," he said.

Due to deep depression, new moon phase and steep pressure gradient, the low-lying areas of coastal Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Barguna, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barishal, Laxmipur, Chandpur, Noakhali, Feni, Chattogram, Cox's Bazar districts and their offshore islands and char areas are likely to be inundated by the wind-driven surge height of 3-5 feet above the astronomical tide the Met bulletin said.

Advancing at a speed of 20kmph last evening, the cyclone was located about 700km south-southwest of the Bangladesh coast.

informed them of the recovery of a body. The family then identified Shahadat.

The family said Shahadat's village home is in Chandpur's Hajiganj upazila. Shahadat, younger among two brothers and two sisters, was a father of a son and two daughters.

He was the chief marine engineer of a foreign vessel and returned home from the United States around a month ago as a daughter of his was to sit for SSC exams.

The family said they did not know whether Shahadat had any enmity with anyone.

especially the pace bowling unit, also needs to fire. The team management will expect experienced Mustafizur Rahman to overcome his lean patch and come back strongly. The likes of Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud and Shoriful Islam are the other probables to lead the fast-bowling department in seamer friendly conditions.

However, weather can play foul in Hobart where the forecast suggests there will be rain, which has hampered preparations for both teams ahead of the game.

## Engineer stabbed to death

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Shoaib Majumder, a nephew of the deceased, said Shahadat used to live with his family at Kalabagan and went out around 7:00pm on Saturday for a walk in Dhanmondi Lake area.

He usually returns by 11:30pm.

He said they started looking for him when he did not come back until 12:00am. His wife called him around 1:45am, but his phone was switched off.

Shoaib added that not finding him anywhere, they contacted their relatives and Dhanmondi Police Station. Later, the Dhanmondi police

contacted Station Master Manik said, "I and some other railway officials witnessed the vandalism that lasted for around half an hour."

This correspondent talked to multiple witnesses who said police and a group of BNP men clashed near the railway station as the law enforcers tried to disperse BNP leaders and activists.

As part of the party's planned divisional programmes, Khulna city unit BNP organised a rally to denounce the price hike of daily essentials and fuel, the death of five party men in police action in Bhola, Narayanganj, Munshiganj and Jashore, and demanding Khaleda's unconditional release.

The rally was held at the city's Dak Bungalow intersection on Saturday afternoon where BNP's central and local leaders spoke.

Road transport leaders enforced a strike to wage a war against illegal three-wheelers", while waterway transport workers announced the strike to press home their 10-point demand including their wage hike.

Overcoming obstacles on the way to the venue, thousands of people gathered for the BNP rally.

Although the BNP rally was largely peaceful, tension was palpable in the city as ruling Awami League men also staged a large showdown there a day before the rally.

## Tigers' campaign

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the debacle in the last T20 World Cup.

Too many experiments in recent times in team combination, especially in the opening batting positions since the appointment of Sridharan Sriram as technical consultant, is yet to yield any fruitful result.

Apart from skipper Shakib, it will be important that the likes of Afif Hossain and Liton Das to put their hands up in the batting department at the biggest stage.

Bangladesh's bowling department,

## Gas crisis blamed for high price

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they would ensure gas supply in the zones where sugar refineries are located," said Shafiquzzaman. "We are conducting drives in markets and legal steps were taken against the dishonest traders."

Yesterday, the Prime Minister's Office also asked the authorities concerned to constantly monitor markets to contain prices of essential commodities, including sugar, their stocks and supplies in the market.

The directive was given at a virtual meeting with different ministries, departments and deputy commissioners, chaired by Principal Secretary Ahmad Kaikaus.

## Railway sues

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## Xi secures 3rd term

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alongside him as members of the Politburo Standing Committee -- the party's apex of power that rules the country.

Li Qiang -- a former chief of staff for Xi who oversaw a gruelling two-month Covid lockdown in Shanghai this year -- was named as number two in the Standing Committee.

This means he is likely to take over as premier from Li Keqiang, a former Xi rival who will retire next year.

Close aide Ding Xuexiang and Guangdong party chief Li Xi, a longtime confidante of the president, were among other allies named in the Standing Committee.

Xi was swiftly congratulated by some of China's allies, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The United States offered no immediate response.

"The new Politburo Standing Committee confirms decisively that Xi has consolidated power at the top of the Communist Party to an extent unseen since the Mao era," said Neil

Thomas, a senior China analyst at Eurasia Group.

Yesterday's announcements came after a week-long Congress of 2,300 hand-picked party delegates during which they endorsed Xi's "core position" in the leadership and approved a sweeping reshuffle that saw Li and other former Xi rivals relegated.

On Saturday the delegates elected the Central Committee of around 200 senior party officials, who yesterday chose the 24-person Politburo and the Standing Committee.

The Politburo will have no women members for the first time in 25 years.

Analysts had closely watched for whether the party charter would be amended during the Congress to enshrine "Xi Jinping Thought" as a guiding philosophy, a move that would put Xi on a par with Mao.

That did not take place, though a resolution did call the creed "the Marxism of contemporary China and of the 21st Century", adding that it "embodies the best Chinese culture and ethos of this era".

## Doctors tell Saudi crown prince to skip summit: Algeria

AFP, Algiers

Doctors have advised Saudi Arabia's powerful crown prince not to travel to Algiers for an upcoming summit, the Algerian presidency said yesterday, amid an absence of Saudi reports confirming health issues.

Mohammed bin Salman "apologised for not being able to participate in the Arab Summit to be held on November 1 in Algiers, in accordance with the recommendations of doctors who advise him not to travel", the official Algerian news agency APS said, citing a presidency statement.

Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune responded during a phone call that "he understood the situation and regretted the crown prince's inability to attend" the summit, expressing "wishes for his health and well-being".

The story did not provide any explanation for the doctors'

recommendations.

Saudi officials did not respond to a request for comment.

But Ali Shihabi, a Saudi analyst close to the government, said the concern could be related to an "ear condition".

Prince Mohammed "has an endemic ear condition which makes long distance air travel difficult because the pressure in an aircraft can lead to ear blockage for weeks", he said on Twitter.