

Guillermo Del Toro's Cabinet of Curiosities

Bite-sized horror by an iconic director

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Ever the magician and curator of all things odd, Oscar winner Guillermo Del Toro aims for the streaming platform this time around with his eight-part anthology, bringing together some of the best directors of horror under one series.

Resplendent with sepia-lined horror, Del Toro keeps the magical spirit of his movies in the essence of the short story adaptations. Each episode begins with the curator Del Toro himself setting the narrative and inviting a director to present their palate of horrors, out from Guillermo's cabinet of curiosities.

The cabinet, a physical manifestation of oak-cut eeriness, stands still as he examines the pieces in each chamber and hand picks one out for the viewers; just like the stories he has picked to be told in the series. The anthology features some of the niche voices of horror, including Ana Lily Amirpour of "A girl walks alone home at night", Jennifer Kent of "The Babadook" and David Prior of "The empty man". The stories are told via some of the legendary voices of cinema, like Academy award winning F. Murray Abraham, Rupert

Abraham, Rupert Grint, Ben Barnes, among others.

The anthology begins with the episode 'Lot 36' directed by Guillermo Navarro, a longtime friend of Del Toro. Navarro also won an Oscar for his work as a cinematographer in Del Toro's film, "Pan's Labyrinth". The story follows Tim Blake Nelson, who portrays a bigoted veteran slowly going deaf in one ear, and is ready to make it everyone's problem. He ends up buying an abandoned



storage unit belonging to a kooky old man, filled with antiques, old scarves and a mysterious seance table inlaid with blood. The main story starts when he tries to sell the contents of the seance table, and comes across a man willing to buy them all for a hefty price. Karma meets justice in this tale of twists, turns and limbs.

The series then takes a turn for the lighter in the episode called "Graveyard Rats", where glutton meets, well, a graveyard. Old and goofy Masson (David Hewlett) gets himself into a pickle, as he tries to pay for his gambling debt using jewelries that he robbed from the dead. The dead, who were laid to rest under his supervision, where he works as a groundskeeper. The story takes a breath-hitching turn when we get to see the lengths or the depths Masson would go to rob a recently buried rich man, ending the episode in a turn of suffocating and slightly gross note.

The third episode in the series truly would make any weak-willed individual's stomach turn -- the grisly horror of "The Autopsy" is definitely not for the weak. F Murray Abraham delivers a chilling, yet grounded, performance

as a medical officer, invited over by his sheriff friend for an off the record autopsy. A no-holds-barred body horror, the autopsy had me glued to my seat, covering my face at times at the eerie scene unfolding before me with only one question, are we truly alone when we think we are?

Throughout the series, the old school color and fairy tale tone of Del Toro's work can be seen omnipresent, a testament to his storytelling and outstanding character design. A perfect example for that would be the whimsical episode of the 'The Outside', where awkward Stacey (Kate Micucci) tries so hard to fit in with her glamorous colleagues but fails. Much to her husband's dismay, she cannot resist the flamboyant Alo glo, portrayed by the mesmerising Dan Stevens.

Albeit the fact that it is hard to shake off the horror hangover of the first four episodes, the rest of the episodes are set to drop on Netflix Bangladesh from tomorrow. By then, Del Toro's carefully curated stories serve as the perfect art and whimsy laden entree to get into the spirit of the spooky season.

Mahiya Mahi joins Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote



Dhallywood actress Mahiya Mahi celebrated her birthday yesterday with a wonderful news. The actress posted two pictures on her Facebook account, where it was seen that she is being assigned two posts in the Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote.

She has been assigned the post of Joint General Secretary of the organization's central committee, and as the convener of the Rajshahi division of the organization for the next two years. Expressing her gratitude, she wrote, "Alhamdulillah".

Mahi's husband, Rakib Sarker also threw her a grand birthday party, where he gave a sculpture of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to his beloved wife.

Genelia D'Souza making a comeback with Riteish Deshmukh project

Bollywood actress Genelia D'Souza and Ritesh Deshmukh are coming together for Marathi film "Ved". This film will mark Genelia's official debut in Marathi films, as well as Riteish' first venture into filmmaking.

Ritesh shared the first look of the film, and also announced the release date of the movie on Facebook yesterday.

"On the auspicious day of Diwali, I am extremely thrilled and happy to share the first look of my Directorial Marathi Film 'Ved'. The film will hit the theatres on December 30th and I ask all our fans to come and watch the film at the cinema hall," the post read.



NEWS

1 in 5 children

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draft of the National Adaptation Plan, children and the youth in general are considered one of the most important vulnerable groups.

"Save the Children builds future climate leaders by working with students and youth climate organisations, so that they can be better equipped to address children's vulnerability to future climate shocks."

The report was developed by the Save the Children with climate modelling from researchers at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, who found that 77.4 crore children from across the world fall into this high-risk group.

The country with the highest percentage of children impacted is South Sudan (87 percent), followed by the Central African Republic (85 percent) and Mozambique (80 percent). The analysis revealed that India has the highest number of children both living in poverty and bearing the brunt of the climate crisis -- up to 223 million in total.

It is followed by Nigeria and Ethiopia, with 58 million and 36 million children, respectively, living with this double burden.

Save the Children warned if the climate and inequality crises are not addressed with urgency, the frequency and severity of humanitarian and cost

of living crises are set to soar.

To estimate the number of children affected by the dual crisis, Save the Children estimated the proportion of climate-affected children and poverty-affected children in 1925 sub-national regions across 159 countries, covering 98 percent of the world's child population.

A significant number of children -- 121 million -- experiencing the double threat of high climate risk and poverty are from higher income countries, with 28 million of them living in the world's most affluent countries.

More than two out of five of these children (12.3 million) live in the US or the UK.

In addition, 183 million children across the globe face a triple threat -- high climate risk, poverty and conflict.

Out of the total child population experiencing this, those in Burundi (63 percent), Afghanistan (55 percent), and the Central African Republic (41 percent) are the worst affected.

Inger Ashing, CEO of Save the Children International, said, "Across the world, inequalities are deepening the climate emergency and its impacts, most notably for children and low-income households."

"As leaders prepare to travel to the COP27 and G20 summits, they should have the rights and voices of

children at the front of their minds. It is imperative that they secure ambitious outcomes, ensuring children have safe and meaningful ways to give their input in the decision-making process."

She added that the world's richest countries, whose historic emissions have driven the climate and inequality crisis, must lead the way in unlocking financing for the countries that are struggling to protect children from its impacts. This includes fixing the global debt relief system and climate financing, particularly for adaptation and loss and damage.

Reshuffle in top

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Division (LGD) Mohammed Mezbah Uddin Chowdhury and Additional Secretary as well as Chairman of Rajuk Anisur Rahman Miah were promoted to senior secretary and secretary respectively.

On Sunday, Additional Inspector General of Police Khandker Golam Faruq was made the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Last week, the government sent three superintendents of police into retirement, citing "public interests", two days after it showed the information secretary the door on the same grounds.

Killings on the rise

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On October 26, another community leader, Mohammad Jasim, 25, was shot dead at the same camp.

KILLED, ABDUCTED FOR RAISING VOICE

Family members of the Rohingyas killed by criminals are also passing days in fear as the gangs kill people even in reprisal for seeking justice.

Take the case of Syed Hossain, 23. He was killed on October 18 at Camp No 19 for helping police to find out the killers of his father Jamil Hossain who was stabbed to death a few months back, said locals and law enforcers.

Some clandestine torture cells were also built inside the camps where they held people hostage.

The Daily Star managed to talk to least three youths, who raised voice against the gangs and eventually fled the camp in the wake of targeted killings.

Nur Sadek, a 20-year-old resident of Camp No 26 in Cox's Bazar, is one of them.

Sadek, the author of the book "Scars: Poet of a Genocide Survivor", said, "I had to flee the camp and went to Malaysia illegally in June

this year after being tortured by Arsa."

In October last year, after the killing of Mohib Ullah, the chairman of Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights (ARSPH), Sadek received a phone call from a "commander of Arsa".

"The commander asked for positive publicity and Tk two lakh to buy weapons," he claimed. "But I refused to do it."

This denial resulted in the abduction of Sadek on October 4 last year. "Some people blindfolded me and took me to a room," Sadek added.

"I saw blood there when the blindfold was removed," he said.

Sadek was then forced to express allegiance to Arsa on camera.

"They made me wear their uniform and hold a gun and then they made a video of me saying, 'I have joined Arsa; Arsa is doing good. Join Arsa!'"

Two days later, they have asked for Tk 20 lakh when he was still in captivity.

"But I said I don't have that much amount. But they let me go only after my family paid them Tk two lakh in cash and promised to pay the rest in

instalments."

He added, "Released after three days, I have decided to flee away."

Amin Whing, a leader of ARSPH, said they are passing days in insecurity as the actual killer of Mohib Ullah was never arrested.

Major General (retired) ANM Moniruzzaman, security analyst and president of Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies, told The Daily Star that recently the Arsa has stepped up its activities, which is not only a threat to camps but also a challenge for Bangladesh security.

"If the group can gain a foothold at the camps, many other groups will be encouraged. We have to increase intelligence gathering as well as surveillance activities and find out their cross-boundary connections to make sure the camps are stable," he added.

Md Faruk Ahmmmed, assistant superintendent of APBn-8, said they will continue to take steps to ensure security for the families of the deceased.

He suggested the families inform the police of any threats so that they can take action.

They must face justice

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taken against those, including five Bangladesh Bank deputy governors, reportedly involved in looting Tk 3,700 crore.

Yesterday, the ACC submitted a report to the HC bench through its lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan, saying that the commission was inquiring into alleged involvement of officials of the central bank, joint stock company, securities exchange commission and different banks and audit firms in embezzling crores of taka in the name of loans from International Leasing and Financial Services Limited (ILFSL).

If they are found involved, they will be implicated in cases and charge sheets, the graft watchdog said in the report.

The commission said a case was filed against Maj (ret'd) Mannan, then chairman of Bangladesh Industrial Finance Company Limited (BIFCL), and six others on August 8, 2019, on

charges of embezzling about Tk 14.30 crore by approving loans.

Another case was filed against Mannan and eight others on charges of embezzling about Tk 28.84 crore in a similar way. Charge sheets in the cases have been submitted to the courts concerned, the ACC said.

In another report submitted to the HC, the graft watchdog said it has filed 34 cases over misappropriating hundreds of crores of taka from BIFCL, and an inquiry against former BB deputy governor Sitangshu Kuamr Sur Chowdhury (SK Sur) is pending.

The HC yesterday fixed February 5, 2023, for further hearing on the issues.

Bees 'court'

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the two hemispheres of their brains, he added. This trait they seem to share with humans, and is thought to be a potential reason for "the existence of the mental number line," Giurfa said.

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47, was expelled from a cadet college for his involvement with Islami Chhatrashibir.

A former teacher of Bangladesh Open University, Shamin graduated from Dhaka University. He was on the merit lists of SSC and HSC results. He is known in the outfit as "Sir", the CTTC chief said.

Asaduzzaman said detectives arrested Shamin in 2014 for his involvement with JMB as he was recruiting operatives across the country and giving them training on arms in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

In 2015, Rab arrested Ansar Al Islam operative Mainul Hasan Roxy with explosives from the capital's Darus Salam area.

During their stay in jail, Shamin and Roxy came in contact with Harkat-ul Jihad Al Islami (Huji) leader Maulana Abu Sayeed alias Dr Abu Zafar, who was sentenced to death

in a case over the August 21 grenade attack.

"These three men planned to form the new outfit in jail. They planned that Roxy and Shamin would come out of the jail and form a strong outfit," said the CTTC chief.

Accordingly, Roxy and Shamin, after being freed on bail, started looking for training camps in the country's hilly areas, keeping in mind security of the outfit, he added.

Roxy, also known as journalist Mithu, was arrested in 2021 for carrying out militant activities in the hills.

Huji leader Moulana Sayeed asked them to start activities in the CHT area under a new banner after a major crackdown on militants was launched there following the Holey Artisan café attack in 2016, said CTTC officials.

Agriculturist Mohsin, who was recently arrested by CTTC for his

links with the outfit, has confessed to a magistrate that he was recruited by Roxy and was taken to Bandarban in 2018 for meeting with Shamin.

Later, several outfit leaders, led by Shamin, had a meeting with "separatist" organisation Kuki-Chin National Front (KNF) chief Nathan Bom, also a university friend of Shamin, at a Cox's Bazar Hotel. They struck a "deal" there. Jama'atul Ansar leaders Roxy, Bikash, Ronobir and Tamal were also present at the meeting.

As per the deal, KNF would train members of Jama'atul Ansar in exchange for money.

At the briefing yesterday, the CTTC chief said at least 70 people went "missing" in the last couple of years.

Asked whether the new militant outfit had any plans centering the next national elections, Asaduzzaman said they might have such plans.