



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



100 DAYS IN THEATRES 'Hawa' cast celebrates century

The movie undoubtedly had a roller-coaster ride, racking in profits from ticket sales, and continuously reigning in weekends across the theatres. According to recent reports, it collected in BDT 14 crores in multiplexes only, and has also performed exceptionally well in North America and Australia.

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Mejbaur Rahman Sumon's *Hawa* has stormed into the hearts of people, with its exhilarating cinematography and believable cast. The movie recently created a standstill at Nandan, where Kolkata audiences pulled up in crowds to watch the movie at 4th Bangladesh Film Festival.

The film, which was released on July 29, has completed its stellar 100-day run in theatres. In order to commemorate the century innings of the film, the makers organised a special screening of the movie along with the cast and crew and local media at Mohakhali's Star Cineplex. Chanchal Chowdhury, Nazifa Tushi, Mejbaur Rahman Sumon, Rasheed Sharif Shoaib and Erfan Mridha Shiblu, among others, were present at the event.

Chanchal Chowdhury's powerful performance as the despicable antagonist Chan Majhi stole the show in the film. The actor became emotional on talking about 'Hawa's amazing milestone and journey in cinema halls.

"We are really happy that the movie is triumphing all over Bangladesh and across the world, and is still being screened across various countries and festival. This is a huge achievement and a matter of pride for our country. I am really thankful to you all for staying with 'Hawa', though I am nothing but an artiste here," said Chanchal Chowdhury at the event.

Mejbaur Rahman Sumon also reflected upon the cast and crew's pivotal role in the movie.

"Hawa is my first feature film, and I really can't express in words how much this film means to me. I am sure I will make many movies in the future, but nothing can be compared to the amount of love and hard work I have poured



The cast and crew of 'Hawa' thank the audience.

into it," said the director.

"Earlier on, we couldn't do the special screening of the movie, as we couldn't get hold of the tickets ourselves. We were simply overwhelmed by the massive respond by the audiences. Thanks to the popularity of the movie, audiences know our brilliant cinematographers, performers and I, however, through this screening, we wanted to thank each and every crew member of the team, including our wonderful screenwriters. I am really happy that we are finally able to watch the movie together in this beautiful occasion," added Sumon.

Nazifa Tushi, who played the fierce Gulti, looked astonishing in a beautiful black saree. The actress was full of praises about the movie.

"Hawa has brought me immense fame, and to be able to portray such a powerful character like *Gulti* on screen, made it a worthwhile experience. We had to work for 3 years straight

to complete this movie, while undergoing intense training. Before I was allowed to portray Gulti in front of the camera, I had to embody her in both mind and body," said the actress.

The movie undoubtedly had a roller-coaster ride, racking in profits from ticket sales, and continuously reigning in weekends across the theatres. According to recent reports, the movie collected in BDT 14 crores in multiplexes only, and has also performed exceptionally well in North America and Australia.

The movie has also been selected for nomination into the 'Best International Feature Film' category of the 95th Academy Awards, by the Oscar Committee Bangladesh. However, the film was also muddled in multiple legal issues over its scenes of featuring a captivated shalikh bird, and for not showcasing anti-tobacco messages during smoking scenes in the movie. Nevertheless, the impact of 'Hawa' is undeniable and its songs have been super-hits as well.

Siddharth-Kiara wedding: Couple looks for wedding venues

Siddharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani were only 'rumoured' as a couple a few months ago, but things are escalating fast. The two are now reportedly scouting wedding venues, as reported by Pinkvilla.

According to sources, the couple has contacted The Oberoi Sukhvilas Spa & Resorts, where Rajkumar Rao and Patralekha tied the knot.

"They (Kiara and Sidharth) also gave a thought on changing the destination to Goa but considering Sidharth's big-fat Punjabi family, the plan of tying knot in Goa was dropped," the source told Pinkvilla.

The first confirmation (sort of) that the couple gave was when they hinted at their relationship on *Koffee with Karan*.



ABC generation returns with 'November Rain'

Artcell, Black, Cryptic Fate - the 'ABC' concerts were known to be a hallmark of the 2000's and 2010's. After almost a decade, these three mighty bands will return to the stage with the concert, 'November Rain Volume 2' on November 12.

The concert, which will take place at International Convention Center Bashundhara (ICCB) Expo Zone, will feature a slew young and established talents including *Aurthohin, Viking, Chirkut, Indalo, Meghdol and Powersurge*.

Tickets for the concert start at 550 BDT, and are available at Get Set Rock's website. The programme is an initiative by Brandmyth.



COUNTRYWIDE



Reconstruction work of a major portion of this footbridge at Lalmonirhat Railway Station has not been started even after two years, thanks to negligence of the authorities concerned.

PHOTO: STAR

VULNERABLE FOOTBRIDGE

Users at grave risk

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Long delay in repairing the footbridge at Lalmonirhat Railway Station has made the structures more vulnerable and riskier for people's movement.

The 467-foot-long and six-foot-wide steel-structured footbridge was built during the British era.

In 2001, it was declared risky as its longevity expired years ago.

But pedestrians, especially train passengers, are still using the vulnerable footbridge, risking their lives, as there is no alternative.

Sources at Lalmonirhat Railway Station said construction of a new footbridge was started in March 2020.

But surprisingly, the Railway Bridge Department stopped the bridge construction work and rebuilt parts, about 210 feet, of the 467-foot-long old footbridge, spending Tk 77 lakh.

Meanwhile, the remaining 257 feet portion of the old footbridge still lying in an awful condition and it needs urgent

reconstruction.

Locals said thousands of people including train passengers use the footbridge every day and they fear that it may collapse anytime and cause fatal accidents.

One of the train passengers Atiar Rahman said they are compelled to use the risky footbridge as there is no other alternative to go to their destinations.

Pedestrian Meher Ali, 56, said people have to face serious difficulties while climbing up the stairs of the dilapidated footbridge.

He urged the authorities concerned to rebuild the vulnerable footbridge on an urgent basis.

Aslam Hussain, sub-assistant engineer at Railway Bridge Inspection Department, said preparations to remove the remaining parts of the old footbridge are underway.

He also assured that the reconstruction work of the remaining portion of the footbridge will start soon.

Gas supply

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from the existing nine percent.

Meanwhile, he said, the government should bring discipline to the banking sector as many banks made Tk 200-300 crore each from the sale of US dollar within a short span of time, taking advantage of the forex market's volatility.

Tigers

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their games against Pakistan in New Zealand but the team management will the wave of current momentum can lead to a turnaround.

But Bangladesh must realise the importance of a collective approach instead of relying on individual heroics. The Tigers will need to tick all the right boxes when they take on Pakistan, who are also hoping to keep their semifinal hopes alive.

Rare freshwater

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After hearing about a freshwater crocodile being caught, hundreds of locals flocked to the spot for the rare sight.

Russia detains two after bar inferno kills 13

AFP, Moscow

Russian police yesterday detained two people, including the suspected perpetrator, after a fire killed at least 13 people at a bar in the historic city of Kostroma.

Russian emergency services told state television that 13 people were killed, denying earlier media reports that 15 people had died.

Ghana's Ayew lives

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football 15 years ago, has set new standards for Ghana football.

But Ayew, and younger brother Jordan, continue to be compared with father Abedi Pele, a three-time African Footballer of the Year and European Cup winner.

"What was difficult was people always talking about my dad and what he

had done, always wanting to see him in me," Ayew said in an interview more than a decade ago. "When I decided to try to make a life in football, I knew what would be waiting."

But now, with a substantial career of his own, he has embraced his father's fame.

"I take a lot, if not every, inspiration from him," Ayew said recently

appearance on Ghanaian television.

Abedi Pele was in the Marseille side that won the European Cup in 1993 but never went to a World Cup. His son Andre is heading into his third in Qatar, on top of seven Cup of Nations finals appearances.

Ayew, who will turn 33 the day before the World Cup final and now plays his club football for Qatari

champions Al Sadd, first played for Ghana in August 2007. Some seven months later, he was starting for the Black Stars in a Cup of Nations semifinal and has been a steady feature since.

His tally of 107 caps is a record for the country.

Known as 'Dede', he has been at the heart of the Ghana team for well over a decade.

Bangladesh not running out of gas

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"It has always been proven that gas exploration happens in three stages and that you will get a lot of gas in the first stage. Then this will stop and there will be a plateau. Bangladesh is only at this first stage," he said.

The second stage is where gas in the rocks must be explored, said Prof Imam. "Once that is exhausted, then you have to explore the deep sea, the offshore.

"When the companies could explore, when worldwide exploration was at the peak during 2015-16, we missed the train," he said.

Dr Anu Muhammad, former economics professor of Jahangirnagar University, commented that exploration has always been done to serve corporate interests instead of serving the needs of the country.

Our fuel exploration has been largely export-oriented to the provide for the needs of others, he said.

"During the 1980's, when

Bangladesh discovered gas, international development banks had suggested that we export gas.

"Even coal exploration was export-oriented. Coal exploration lobbyists are now active. They say that coal exploration in Phulbari will develop the north -- but this definition of development does not take into account the loss of agricultural land, water and the internal migration it will cost," said Anu Muhammad.

Those who had suggested that gas be exported are now lobbying for coal mining, he opined.

He also criticised how energy production was governed by indemnity laws and that indemnity laws have wrecked the power plant sector.

"There is an indemnity law protecting those working at the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project passed in 2015. There is no guarantee that there will not be an accident. Then why is there indemnity?"

BD Rahmatullah, former director general of the energy ministry's Power Cell, said the prospects of wind power were promising. No wind power developed here before due to lower wind speeds and older wind speed projections but now there exists improved turbine technology with higher hub heights and larger rotor diameters to take advantage of these lower wind speed sites, he said.

He referred to an exploratory study done in nine places across the country and said wind speeds of 5.75m to 7.75m per second could produce a total of 34,000MW power. The cost, he said, would be about Tk 9.82/kwh.

"The most megawatt [capacity] installed in any technology should be wind. Not liquid fuel, not coal, not nuclear," he said.

"Wind mill cost is continuously going down all over world. Turbine hub heights are getting higher to take advantage of stronger winds," said Rahmatullah.

Ensure power, keep candles ready too

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Shilpa Nagari College in Gobindaganj, Gaibandha, said his studies were frequently interrupted over the last few days.

Prof Tapan yesterday said, "Many centres do not have generators. We believe the centres in rural areas will not face any serious problem because there is enough daylight. But many

centres in the cities are in crowded areas where there is not enough daylight."

The exam centre secretary was also asked to keep enough beds for dengue-infected students who partake in the exams and spray mosquito repellents in and around the exam centres.

A total of 12,03,407 examinees are

expected to sit for the HSC exams at 2,649 centres in nine general, one madrasa and one technical education boards.

This year's HSC exams are delayed by almost seven months due to Covid-19. The tests will be on a small syllabus and the duration of the exams will also be curtailed.