



How I would make a 1971 film: Directors speak

“Since it is an untouched topic, I want to focus on their psychology, social status and details about their association, from where did they run their operations and how they planned.”

SHARMIN JOYA

I would highlight how we outsmarted the Pakistani army: Ashfaq Nipun

I would rather work on a drama-based story, than a typical action thriller. It has been a common practice among us to showcase formulated concepts of the Liberation War of Bangladesh.

There are so many different stories that have never been told. We have defeated them with our strategy and intelligence, however, we have never properly shown how we have outsmarted the Pakistani army.

The representation of them has always been very weak in our film. Pakistani armies were known for their efficiency and that they had sharp officers and planners. The joy of victory is more enjoyable when we win against someone strong.

Mine would be a story from a fresh perspective: Adnan Al Rajev

For me, 1971 is a delicate matter, and a larger than life topic to deal with. I am much more interested in telling a story of a female freedom fighter. I want to show my protagonist as a warrior, as a mother and a wife with her growth, through a time when nothing is stable.

One of the major concerns for my project would be the production design. I want to shoot the film with high visual standards. We have multiple films based on 1971, but most of them fail to connect to the right audience because of a lot of problems. I want to tell my story from a fresher perspective. My vision would be connecting my film with the current generation.

Want to portray female 'Rajakars': Vicky Zahed

Films based on 1971 are always made from a certain point of view. We always get to see the winners' perspective. However, if I make a production on it, I would love to portray female war criminals, which most of us are still unaware of.

Since it is an untouched topic, I want to focus on their psychology, social status and details about their association, from where they ran their operations to how they planned their schemes.

The whole story would be from their perspective— those who supported Pakistan while staying in Bangladesh.

We have a lot of great stories that have already been told in our films. I believe it is time to represent the liberation war in a grand way in larger scale, presenting proper action and war.

Documentaries are my medium of choice: Kajal Arefin Ome

As we belong to a newer generation, we have not seen the Liberation War of Bangladesh. All the stories we know are either by reading books and watching fictions or films based on them.

I feel we should make documentaries to archive the stories from different people who have witnessed the genocide. They could be the freedom fighters and their family members. They are the survivors, so they can tell their stories better than anyone else.

Entertaining the audience is important, but at the same time, it is essential to keep telling new stories which could be more relatable and informative.

If the iconic film *Ora Egaro Jon* is remade, it will be technically rich, and can get proper cinematic treatment in terms of technology.

Creating visual comfort and believable situations are very crucial for periodic projects, as the audiences already know the plot.

Mine would focus on the battlefield: Rezwan Shahriar Sumit

Films on World War I, the Holocaust, and World War II are still being made from new perspectives. As artists, we have to keep telling these stories because even after 50 years of our liberation war, we still get questioned by a group of people about the notion of our independence.

My perception for a perfect liberation war project will have a representation of the battlefield, along with the intimate stories of people's lives.



Vicky Zahed



Enjoy WC Final, Concert at the same time

As the madness of the World Cup reaches a crescendo, Bangladeshi audiences are gearing up to watch one last exhilarating match, between Argentina and France, on December 18.

Apart from watching the live game on the big screen, audiences will also get to enjoy performances by six bands at the ICCB Expo Zone in Bashundhara. The event is being hosted by Banglalink.

The lineup includes: Warfaze, Artcell, Cryptic Fate, Nensis, AVOIDRafa, and many more. The gates will be opened at 2pm.

Henry Cavill will not return to play Superman

It was a sad day for DC fans, as Henry Cavill confirmed that he will no longer play the Man of Steel.

This was especially jarring as the actor announced in October that he will return as Superman, and even made a cameo as the character in *Black Adam*, starring Dwayne Johnson. (CNN and DC Films are both part of the same parent company, Warner Bros. Discovery.)

The actor explained on Instagram that he had a meeting with director James Gunn and British film producer Peter Safran.

“I will, after all, not be returning as Superman,” wrote Cavill. “After being told by the studio to announce my return back in October, prior to their hire, this news isn't the easiest, but that's life. The changing of the guard is something that happens. I respect that.”



NEWS

Fog sparks crashes, delays

FROM PAGE 12

and pick up were piled up in Dulla Mansur area around 9:00am, leaving an unidentified helper of the bus dead on the spot and injured few others, he said.

Meanwhile, an unidentified vehicle ran over a motorcycle in Baoikhola area around the same time, leaving the unidentified biker dead on the spot, the OC added.

The accidents occurred between 8:00am and 9:00am, he said.

The dense fog also disrupted flight schedules as four flights of different airlines were unable to land at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka yesterday.

The flights were later diverted to Chattogram and India's Kolkata airports.

After being kept in a holding

pattern for several hours, one flight was diverted to Chattogram airport and three others to Kolkata airport.

HSIA Executive Director Group Captain Kamrul Islam told The Daily Star that due to dense fog, the pilots were unable to see the runway.

An Abu Dhabi-Dhaka flight of Air Arabia and two flights of US-Bangla Airlines from Doha and Sharjah were diverted to Kolkata airport, while Fly Dubai's Dubai-Dhaka flight was diverted to Chattogram. All the flights landed safely.

Light to moderate fog was sweeping over most parts of the country for the last two days. It may continue till January, said AKM Nazmul Haque, meteorologist of the Bangladesh Met office.

'Danger' lurked

FROM PAGE 12

Citing previous studies, they say sealed vessels filled with liquid mercury have been reported at several ancient Maya sites, including at Quiriqua in Guatemala, El Paraiso in Honduras, and the multi-ethnic megacity Teotihuacan in Central Mexico.

Archaeologists have also previously unearthed mercury-containing paints, mainly made from the mineral cinnabar, at other places in the Maya region.

Based on these observations, scientists say ancient Maya may have frequently used cinnabar and mercury-containing paints and powders for decoration. This mercury, they say, may have leached from patios, floor areas, walls, and ceramics, and spread into the soil and water.

Father bins

FROM PAGE 1

After over a month of investigation, the Detective Branch of police and the Rab on Wednesday said Fardin died by suicide after jumping off a bridge into the Shitalakkhya river, where his body was found.

Frustrated with the findings, Nooruddin said his son had grown up facing financial struggle and thus, had the ability to cope with all sorts of situation.

“Why would he kill himself,” Nooruddin asked, adding that Fardin even went to the salon before heading to the Buet campus the day he died.

“I saw my son's body; there were injury marks on his head,” Nooruddin said showing photos of Fardin.

“If need be, walk me to Sultana Kamal Bridge, I will jump off there. Maybe then you will realise how much it hurts,” he told reporters.

He alleged that false information is being spread since the beginning of the incident to cover up this “planned killing”.

He also expressed anger over the Buet administration, alleging they didn't bother to visit and console his family.

A group of Buet students, who went to the DB to get updated details about the death of their peer, said there are some gaps and ambiguities.

Those need to be clear.

They added that the DB officials could not show any solid or concrete evidence that Fardin indeed died by suicide.

The officials themselves said they were not 100 percent sure about the suicide, the students told reporters.

Citing an example, the students said the driver of the human haulier that dropped Fardin near a bridge on the night he disappeared told investigators there was someone with him that night.

“Who that person was is still not clear.”

Fardin, a third-year student of the civil engineering department of Buet, was found dead in the Shitalakkhya river in Banani Ghat area on November 7.

His father filed a case accusing Amatulhah Bushra, the victim's friend, with Rampura Police Station on November 10.

DB FIRM ON ITS FINDINGS Mohammad Harun-or-Rashid, head of DMP's Detective Branch, said they have shown evidence of Fardin's suicide to Buet students and that they were satisfied.

He said Fardin spoke to 522 numbers over the phone in two years and they enquired everyone.

Harun said Fardin had talked

about his depression with his friends.

“Reviewing his words with his friends, it seems Fardin was suffering from depression. Moreover, there was no sign of injury on his body, no sign of assault. His mobile and money were in his pocket, his watch was on his hand. Nothing was lost. Forty students of Buet also agreed after seeing these signs.”

‘BUSHRA NOT INVOLVED’ The DB chief also said they did not find any involvement of Amatulhah Bushra in Fardin's death.

She was arrested by Rampura police on November 10, three days after Fardin's body was recovered from the Shitalakkhya river.

“We did not find Bushra's involvement in the incident... We will let the court know about this matter,” said the DB chief.

Ukrainian forces

FROM PAGE 2

One person was killed near Bakhmut, he said, adding: “It is dangerous to stay in the Donetsk region! Evacuate in time!”

Separately, Russian shelling killed two people in the centre of Kharkiv, the southern city liberated by Ukraine last month, said Kyrylo Tymoshenko, deputy head of the president's office.

Girl gang-raped to frame political rivals

FROM PAGE 12

hand man”, Shamshu alias Sultan, had known her from before.

In her confession at court on December 14, she further said Sultan brought her to Dhaka and took her to the UP, promising that she would be given a better job.

He then brought three other people and they all raped her.

She said they had even made a fake NID of hers.

With the information given by the victim, police managed to arrest three of the gang members and the UP chairman from different areas in Dhaka and Faridpur, Ziaul Ahsan Talukdar, deputy commissioner of Wari Division police, told The Daily Star yesterday.

“We have primarily come to know that there was a rivalry between UP

chairman Maznu and Uzzal, who was also planning to contest for chairman post.”

Due to this, Maznu attempted to tarnish Uzzal's image by staging the crime, he said, adding, “We are now trying to find out and verify what kind of rivalry exists between the two.”

The gang members who were arrested are Md Mosharrar Hossain, Harun Molla, and Sohel Matubbor.

Police produced the four arrestees in a Dhaka court yesterday seeking a seven-day remand.

After the hearing, the court granted a three-day remand for each arrestee, SM Jahangir Hasan, additional deputy commissioner of Wari Division police, told this newspaper.

“In primary interrogation, Mosharrar, Harun, and Sohel

admitted to taking part in the gang rape as per Maznu's instruction,” he said, adding, “We are now conducting a drive to arrest Sultan, who masterminded the gang rape.”

About the victim, Jahangir said the court handed her over to her family.

According to investigators, Maznu and his gang had rented the flat in November using fake NIDs and even bought sim cards using the fake details and kept them active at the flat to ensure the location remained the same at all times.

And on December 5, the crime was committed, said Madhusudan Das, assistant commissioner of Wari Division police.

“We are also trying to find out how the criminals have managed the fake NIDs and SIMs.”

Her one son killed, another behind bars

FROM PAGE 12

unconscious and collapsed on the floor of the drawing room on the first floor. He was bleeding profusely, his family said.

He was declared dead after the family took him to a nearby hospital.

“I asked him to go to save his brother. Had I not insisted he intervene, he would not have been killed,” Fazilatunnesa told The Daily Star on December 12 in a choked voice.

Millat's mother and other family members are still reeling from the shock.

Since the incident, the family has been passing days in insecurity as police did not take any action against those AL men who entered the house in the dead of the night and allegedly killed Millat.

They are so scared that they have installed some additional CCTV cameras in the house so that those cameras cover every corner of the house.

Around 12:30 am on December 8, some 50-60 activists of the ruling AL entered the premises of Millat's house on Gopi Mohon Boshak Lane in old Dhaka's Wari. Eight to 10 of them searched every room on the first floor for Millat's son Faysal Mahub, a former joint convener of Wari unit Jubo Dal, said family members.

They even forced the family to unlock the wardrobes and searched if

Faysal was hiding there. But, they did not find him.

At one point, the outsiders caught Swapan, 52, on the rooftop of the two-story building. They started dragging him down and some even beat him.

Millat tried to interfere as they came down to the first floor when he was hit, said his younger sister Yasmin Bulbuli, a lawyer by profession.

“At first, I advanced and asked why are they beating my brother (Swapan). Some pushed me aside. One even threatened that he will shoot me if I do not move away,” Yasmin said.

Kabir Hossain Hawlader, the officer-in-charge of Wari Police Station, however, said that Millat was sick and collapsed when he was locked in an altercation with some people who entered his home. He suffered a head injury after he fell, he added.

He said Millat's younger son Farhan Mahub Ridoy filed an unnatural death case following the incident.

The family, however, alleged that Ridoy was forced by local AL men and the police to file such a case.

Asked whether police have taken action against those who forcibly entered Millat's home in the dead of night, he said that he did not take any action as none has lodged any complaint.

“Many unknown people entered

our home at ungodly hours. We want justice,” Yasmin said, adding that they file a murder case to the court after getting post mortem report.

Faysal, who has been on the run, told The Daily Star over the phone that the next day police chased him when he joined his father's burial at Azimpur graveyard. As he tried to jump over a boundary wall after being chased, he fractured one of his legs.

4th Covid

FROM PAGE 12

be used in the campaign and the jabs will be given at permanent vaccination centres across the country.

There are around 1,000 such centres, according to the DGHS.

As of Wednesday, around 14.9 crore people have been inoculated with the first dose while more than 12.65 crore people with the second dose and around 6.46 crore with the booster dose against Covid-19.

The government started mass inoculation against the Covid-19 vaccine on February 8 last year using Oxford-AstraZeneca's vaccine produced by Serum Institute of India.

Later, six other Covid-19 vaccines developed by different companies were added to the list. Those are—Pfizer, Sinopharm, Moderna, Sinovac, Johnson and Johnson, and Pfizer-PD (Comirnaty).