

(L) The crew of "The Banshees of Inisherin" (M) Michelle Yeoh won Best Actress in a musical or comedy. (R) India won its first Golden Globe, in the Best Original Song category, for "Naatu Naatu" from "RRR".

80th Golden Globe prevails, correcting previous controversies

This year's Golden Globes was also a glorious season for South Asian films, as Naatu Naatu from the South Indian film, RRR won the Best Original Song award. Our very own Bangladeshi movie, Hawa had also been shortlisted for the prestigious event.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Netizens of Hollywood gathered on Tuesday for the first major award show of the season -- Golden Globes 2023. Despite the scandals and the criticism faced by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association for its last outing, the ceremony was aired by NBC, despite its previous refusal to broadcast the ceremony in 2022.

The night's biggest winners were *The Fablemans*, Steven Spielberg's semi-autobiographical film which also won him the Best Director, resulting in a double win for the cast and crew. Cate Blanchett won the Best Actress in drama for *Tar*, marking her fourth victory and 12th nomination at the Golden Globes. Austin Butler took home the Best Actor in Drama, while Michelle Yeoh made everyone laugh with her hilarious cut-off speech, while she received her award for Best Actress in a musical or comedy.

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(L) Austin Butler poses with his award for Best Actor in a Drama Motion Picture for "Elvis". (R) "House of the Dragon" won the Best Television Series in Drama.

season for South Asian films, as *Natu Natu* from the South Indian film, *RRR* won the Best Original Song award, trumping over Rihanna and Taylor Swift. Moreover, it has also been revealed that our very own Bangladeshi movie, *Hawa* had also been shortlisted for the prestigious event. Sadia Khalid Reeti, film critic and screenwriter along with being the only Bangladeshi to vote for the Golden Globes revealed this news. She added, "Usually we get to know about the rank of the movies after the nominations are announced. I was really surprised when I got to see *Hawa* on the shortlist. It was a matter of pride and joy to see a

Bangladeshi movie's name on the list."

Other winners for the evening included, Jeremy Allen White for *The Bear*, Evan Peters for Ryan Murphy's controversial Netflix hit *Dahmer, Black Bird*'s Paul Walter Hauser, *Yellowstone*'s Kevin Costner and *The Dropout*'s Amanda Seyfried. Guillermo del Toro's *Pinocchio*.

In a surprising yet well deserved victory, Jennifer Coolidge won the award for Best Supporting actress in a television limited-series, ending her speech on an emotional note, thanking the Hollywood insiders for keeping her career alive via 'little jobs'.

Ishrat Nishat Natya Puraskar coming January 19

In memory of noted thespian, Ishrat Nishat, a new award for theatre actors has been established. On Tuesday, nominees for the Ishrat Nishat Natya Puraskar were announced at a press conference in Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The award will be given annually, in eight categories.

The jury board has already completed evaluation for the first batch of awards by watching 17 new plays, staged between 2021 and 2022.

Now, winners of the award will be announced on January 19. The honourable State Minister of Cultural Affairs, KM Khalid, MP will be attending the award ceremony as the chief guest.



Amitabh Bachchan sends best wishes to Chanchal Chowdhury

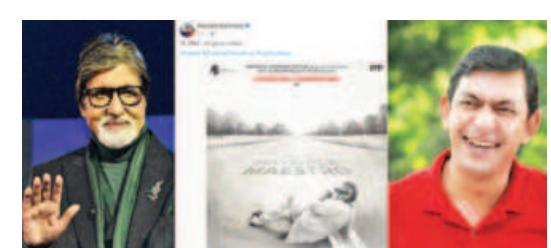
Prolific Bangladeshi actor, Chanchal Chowdhury will soon be playing the role of Mrinal Sen, in the great director's biopic.

Directed by Srijit Mukherji, the biopic will also star Monami Ghosh opposite Chanchal.

After the poster of the biopic, which has been titled *Padatik*, was revealed, Amitabh Bachchan was one of the first to share it, sending his best wishes to Chanchal and the team of the film.

The two had previously met on the stage of the Kolkata International Film Festival.

Mrinal Sen was a pioneer in his craft. Coincidentally, he also gave Amitabh Bachchan one of his first 'film work', in the form of a voiceover in the 1969 film *Bhuvan Shome*.



NEWS

PM likely to visit Japan

FROM PAGE 12
Bangladesh in the month of independence, March.

As the visit was cancelled in November, both Dhaka and Tokyo want to make it happen at the soonest. The new Japanese ambassador also said finalising of the PM's visit is his first job.

Hasina was scheduled to visit Japan from November 29 to December 1 last year, but it was later put on hold.

Bangladesh and Japan expect to elevate bilateral relations to "Strategic Partnership" level from "comprehensive partnership" level during the visit.

During his meeting with the PM, Kiminori said Japan and Bangladesh share a longstanding bond. He assured that he would work to take it to the next level.

Nazrul said Japan will extend all-out cooperation towards Bangladesh to materialise its aspiration of becoming a developed country by 2041.

The Japanese envoy said he would work to strengthen the existing Japan-Bangladesh framework for enhancing bilateral trade and

commerce.

"I will work to bring more Japanese investments to Bangladesh and strengthen economic and trade relations between the two countries," he said.

Regarding the Rohingya repatriation issue, Kiminori said Japan through bilateral and ASEAN forums will pursue it.

He added that the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is working with UNHCR to intensify the humanitarian programme in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char.

Some Japanese NGOs are also working in those areas, the envoy said.

Hasina thanked Japan for their cooperation in constructing the Metro Rail and sought cooperation for other metro rail lines.

She sought Japanese investments in Sabrang Tourism Special Economic Zone, which will be dedicated only for foreign tourists.

The premier assured that a Japanese company will manage the third terminal at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital.

20 killed in suicide blast outside Afghan ministry

AGENCIES

At least 20 people were killed as a suicide bomber detonated explosives outside the foreign ministry in Afghanistan's capital Kabul yesterday, according to an information ministry official.

Ustad Fareedun, an official at the Taliban-run information ministry, said the bomber had planned to enter the foreign ministry but failed.

"Twenty people were killed and many others injured in the suicide attack," he said.

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Furnish proof to support

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the 2018 election halfway through the polling due to nomination business, and that it tried to make the polls questionable.

"The reality is that they have been able to make the election questionable through carrying out various propaganda. But people still have faith and confidence in the Awami League," said the PM, also the AL president.

Fakhrul said there is no possibility that the country would witness another 1/11. In the supplementary question, he asked if the prime minister thought it was time now for all parties to reach a political understanding though.

Hasina said the BNP didn't join the 2014 parliamentary polls as it won only 30 seats in the 2008 election, and the country witnessed an unprecedented development, thanks to the steps taken by the then AL-led grand alliance government. "So, the people put their trust in us and voted for us. They [BNP] boycotted the election."

Pointing at Fakhrul, the PM said there was nothing to be afraid of. "Don't be afraid. We're still here."

She said no force has emerged in Bangladesh yet which has the ability to unseat the AL government as its existence is deeply rooted.

In reply to another supplementary question from AL lawmaker Dhirendra Debnath Shambhu, the PM said, "We are taking proper actions against the hoarders, black marketeers and those who are engaged in LC-related anomalies... If needed, we'll take tougher actions and we will pay special attention so that people don't suffer."

11-POINT TARGET

Hasina yesterday placed in parliament an 11-point target for implementation if the AL could form the government again after winning the next general election.

In reply to a query from opposition Jatiya Party MP (Pirojpur-3) Rustum Ali Faraji, the PM said their vision would be transforming every village into a town and the country into Smart Bangladesh by 2041.

She said the detailed plans would be made public through the AL's election manifesto ahead of the next general election.

In the scripted answer, the PM said Smart Bangladesh will be based

Cost-of-living crisis

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experts, policymakers and industry leaders.

The report described the cost of living crisis as the "biggest short-term risk" by 2025, followed by natural disasters, extreme weather events and "geo-economic confrontation".

"The short-term risk landscape is dominated by energy, food, debt and disasters," said Saadia Zahidi, a managing director at the World Economic Forum (WEF).

"Those that are already the most vulnerable are suffering -- and in the face of multiple crises, those who qualify as vulnerable are rapidly expanding, in rich and poor countries."

The WEF study called "on leaders to act collectively and decisively, balancing short- and long-term views".

And it concluded on the need for cooperation on strengthening "financial stability, technology, governance, economic development and investment in research, science, education and health".

Carolina Klint, a risk management leader at Marsh, said this year will be marked by "increased risks" related to food, energy, raw materials and cyber security that will further disrupt global supply chains and impact investment decisions.

"At a time when countries and organisations should be stepping up resilience efforts, economic headwinds will constrain their ability to do so."

Many analysts warn that the global economy will suffer a recession in 2023 as inflation remains elevated.

Three killed

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The identity of the other deceased, a woman aged about 30, could not be known till the filing of this report last evening.

The three dead were passengers of the auto-rickshaw, said Assistant Sub-Inspector Fazlul Haque of Tangail Railway Police Outpost.

Parvez Ahmed Porag, emergency medical officer at the upazila health complex, said the child was brought dead to the medical facility while five other people, injured in the accident, were referred to Tangail Sadar Hospital after primary treatment.

Sub-Inspector Yakub Ali of Bhauapur Police Station said the level crossing is unauthorised and there was no gatekeeper when the Jamalpur-bound train hit the auto-rickshaw around noon.

Don't drink raw date juice

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juice of dates or molasses is safe when and if it is boiled [as high temperatures may kill the virus].

According to the World Health Organization, the Nipah virus infection is a zoonotic illness that is transmitted to people from animals and can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly from person to person.

It causes a range of illnesses from asymptomatic (subclinical) infection to acute respiratory illness and fatal encephalitis. The virus can also cause severe diseases in some animals.

In Bangladesh and India, the consumption of fruits or fruit products (such as raw date palm juice) contaminated with the urine or saliva from infected fruit bats were the likeliest sources of the virus.

According to the IEDCR, infected people initially develop symptoms such as fever, headaches, myalgia (muscle pain), vomiting and sore

throat. An undetected patient can even fall into a coma within 24 to 48 hours of contracting the virus.

There are currently no drugs or vaccines that specifically target Nipah virus infection. The primary treatment for humans is supportive care.

Dr Sharmin Sultana, senior scientific officer at the IEDCR, presented the highlights on Nipah surveillance in Bangladesh.

The virus was first identified as the cause of an encephalitis outbreak in 2001 in Meherpur.

In 2006, the Nipah Surveillance and Laboratory was established at the IEDCR.

Since then, 330 cases of the infection were documented. Of those infected, 231 died, indicating a very high mortality rate - 71 percent.

At least 139 of those infected contracted it from bats through date juice, while 46 others from another human carrier.

Companies named in the report did not immediately return AFP requests for comment.

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