



Snippets from the film 'Bay of Blood'.



‘I hope our message of tolerance resonates with people’

Krishnendu Bose’s ‘Bay of Blood’: A commanding call for recognition and justice

Krishnendu Bose is a visionary Indian filmmaker with a profound commitment to storytelling. In 1985, he established Earthcare Films – a platform renowned for producing award-winning documentaries that address wildlife conservation and environmental justice.

MAHIYA TABASSUM

Notable works in his repertoire include *Harvesting Hunger* (2000), *The Amazing Race Asia* (2006), and *The Forgotten Tigers* (2014).

His latest endeavour, *Bay of Blood*, is a gripping documentary that delves deep into the heart of Bangladesh’s tumultuous past, exploring the horrors of 1971 Bangladesh genocide.

In a recent interview with The Daily Star, the filmmaker talks about his latest project, political perspectives, motivations and challenges, and more.

What inspired you to choose this particular subject for your project?

I was around ten years old during the Liberation War. I witnessed the staggering effect of the war that rippled through India and it has always stayed with me.

I thought of telling the story in 2019 and spent ten days in Dhaka, interviewing a cross-section of people relevant to the War.

By early 2020, I was determined to narrate the story of this nation’s birth through this film.

Can you share some of your challenges in terms of accessing historical footage and testimonies?

I found the experience rather surprising than challenging.

Visual representations of the Liberation War tend to have relied more on standard footage from the Indian Films Division and Bangladesh Film Archive.

Ironically, though the tale of Bangladesh’s uprising was known to very few, it was extensively covered by news broadcasters like



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

the BBC, Reuters, Associated Press, and the Indian Films Division. They have a goldmine of archives that are easily accessible online. Regrettably, we don’t have the urge to look for it.

Any personal or emotional moments during the process that left a lasting impact on you?

The eyewitnesses and victims’ family members shared harrowing accounts on camera – brutal details of the events etched deep into their memories. For a daughter who witnessed the assassination of her entire family, the trauma became a recurring nightmare.

At times, it seemed if I were standing right there, reliving the incidents. A sense of anger and helplessness came over me when I encountered accounts of premeditated violence unleashed on unarmed civilians.

What role did objectivity play in shaping

‘Bay of Blood’?

Objectivity is crucial as it ensures the film’s credibility. During the process, I realised that this film must address a global audience and for westerners, a story’s integrity streamlines with rationality and evidences. The team’s diversity played a pivotal role in preserving objectivity in the production.

Daniel Feierstein played a pivotal role here in explaining the ‘hows’ and ‘whys’ of genocide. Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, also explained the curve of the genocide in his testimonies – from “superior raciality” to “ethnic cleansing”.

How does ‘Bay of Blood’ highlight the relevance of genocide in current chaotic context worldwide?

Genocide and attacks on democracy were not isolated events confined to 1971. They had existed before and still persist, extending their relevance even into 2023.

Democracy resembles a child – vulnerable and unprotected, unable to survive on its own. It is our responsibility to safeguard, feed, and nurture it. Anti-democratic processes, people, and forces are always there, lurking around to undermine it. However, it is not confined to a particular nation.

‘Bay of Blood’ ends with a message of tolerance. How do you envision this message resonating with audiences across the globe?

Despite intense violence, death, and bloodshed being depicted throughout the 95-minute docufilm, in the end, I hope our message of tolerance is what truly resonates with people.

Everybody should stand for secularism and tolerance.

‘Shurongo’ director’s cut releasing on Chorki

Shurongo, one of the highest grossing films of last Eid ul Azha, will soon greet fans with an extended version on the popular streaming platform Chorki, on August 24.

Speaking about the director’s cut of his debut film, Afran Nisho shared, “For those who haven’t had the opportunity to watch the film in the theatres, you can now watch it on Chorki.”

Tama Mirza also echoed Nisho’s sentiments, adding that she is excited about the aspect that the whole world will now get to enjoy their film.



Selena Gomez, Miley Cyrus announce new music releasing on same day

Millennials rejoiced as their worlds collided when former Disney stars and friends, Selena Gomez and Miley Cyrus, took to their social media on Friday, to hilariously share the news of their new singles, releasing on August 25.

Both the artistes posted on Instagram in support of each other, also releasing the titles of their respective singles. Selena’s song will be called *Single Soon* and Miley will be releasing a song called *Used to be Young*.



NEWS

Agargaon-Motijheel part to open Oct 20

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third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, second unit of Rampal Power Plant and the Purbachal Expressway are expected to be opened within October.

The development projects are opening just months shy of the national election, and the ruling party is sure to showcase these across the country as evidence of its achievements.

However, not all of them would be fully opened or functional on the day of the launching, as some works, including hiring adequate manpower to run them, will still remain incomplete at the time.

Quader, also the general secretary of ruling Awami League, however, denied any link between the general election and the inauguration spree of the mega projects.

AGARGAON-MOTIJHEEL SECTION

On July 7, Quader inaugurated the performance test on Agargaon-Motijheel section and announced that it would be open to the public

late October. The authorities also planned to initially open three out of its seven stations.

After opening the section, the PM will address a rally at Suhrawardy Udyan at 3:00pm, Quader said.

MRT-5 (NORTHERN ROUTE) WORKS

The road minister said the PM will inaugurate the construction work of MRT Line-5 (northern route) on September 16, after which she will address another rally at Savar at 11:00am.

The Tk 41,239 crore project was taken to build a 20km rail line from Savar’s Hemayetpur to Bhataria via Gabtoli, Mirpur, and Gulshan, and its deadline is 2028. The line with 14 stations will have underground and elevated sections.

On May 23, Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL) hired a joint venture firm of Japan’s TOA Corporation and Bangladesh’s Spectra Group to develop land for the line’s depot at Hemayetpur at a cost of Tk 1,189 crore.

The firm on July 16 started

mobilising their equipment and manpower and has begun preparatory work.

140 BRIDGES, 12 OVERPASSES

Hasina will also open 140 bridges and 12 overpasses under Roads and Highways Department on October 22, Quader said.

Earlier, the PM inaugurated 100 bridges under the RHD on November 7 last year. On December 21, she also opened 100 roads constructed or reconstructed by the RHD.

On October 22, which is National Road Safety Day, she will inaugurate the compensation programme for the road accident victims.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) officials said they have so far received 243 applications under a new process to get compensation for road accident victims or their family members.

The same day, she will also inaugurate a vehicle inspection centre at BRTA’s Mirpur office. The centre will help the authority give accurate fitness clearance to vehicles.

Dhaka wants BRICS

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“It should be win-win for all countries. Some people speak more about the geopolitical tension for some reason or the other. There should not be any such tension. In the long run, it [the tension] will possibly go away,” Momen said.

Hasina will fly for Johannesburg at the invitation of South African President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, the current president of the alliance comprised of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS). Some 70 countries will be attending.

Russian President Vladimir Putin will join the summit virtually.

BRICS is considered an alternative to the western-influenced the World Bank and the IMF. Analysts think that China and Russia are considering BRICS as a way of exerting geopolitical influence amid the rising global polarisation since the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

There are also efforts of de-dollarisation. Asked about this, Momen said there have been talks on it but nothing at the official level.

He said some countries are facing difficulties as many banks have

been expelled from SWIFT, a bank messaging system for transactions with dollars.

“Many speak about de-dollarisation, but it is not easy. We don’t have much to comment on this,” he added.

Traditionally, the developed countries have been supporting the developing world. They also had pledged 0.7 percent of their gross national income but only a few could deliver. The developing countries, like Bangladesh, need funding for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

“So, if the emerging countries support us with funding, the developed countries should be happy. In that case, their responsibilities will be shared,” he said.

Since 2021, Bangladesh has been a member of the New Development Bank established by BRICS, but the issue of Bangladesh joining the alliance came under the spotlight recently when Hasina called on South African President Ramaphosa in Geneva on June 14.

The issue of membership is now hanging as the BRICS members say they need to fix the criteria for issuing

membership.

PM’S VISIT

During the visit to Johannesburg, PM Hasina will attend the “Bangladesh Trade and Business Summit” organised by the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) on August 23. She will also attend the “Regional Envoys Conference” of the Bangladeshi envoys in Africa.

She is scheduled to make a courtesy call on South African president and the heads of the states and governments of BRICS. She will attend the banquet to be hosted by Ramaphosa.

On August 24, she will participate in the BRICS-Africa Outreach and the BRICS Plus Dialogue and address there as the member of New Development Bank. In the evening, she will address the Bangladesh expatriates living in South Africa.

A number of African leaders have sought to call on Hasina during her stay in Johannesburg. A separate group of businessmen will also visit there under the arrangement of the BSEC.

Momen said Hasina would also use the visit to South Africa to explore new avenues of strengthening relationship with the African countries in terms of trade and investment.

Jubo Mahila League leader arrested

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her photos, and tortured her, said the complaint filed with Savar Model Police Station.

The accused then tried in vain to force her to take sedatives, and after 5:30am on July 25, they took her upstairs and pushed her off the rooftop, said Dipok Chandra Saha, officer-in-charge of the police station, quoting the complaint.

Hearing the loud noise, locals rescued her and took her to a hospital, he said, adding that the girl

was critically injured and needed surgery on the spinal column.

The accused threatened her mother not to tell anyone what had happened, said the OC, adding that the mother finally gained the courage and filed the case on Saturday morning.

Police arrested Mehnaz at her flat hours later and are looking for the other accused, said the OC.

A Dhaka court is likely to hear the remand petition today.

The case was filed under the

Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

Before she started living with Mehnaz’s family seven months ago, the victim used to live with her poor single mother.

Mehnaz, who was an acquaintance of the family, then offered to provide for the victim. Mehnaz promised that she would pay for the girl’s schooling and took her to her flat.

After Mehnaz got arrested, Jubo Mahila League suspended her, said a press release of the organisation.

‘End to outbreak can’t be predicted’

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However, in the 31st and 32nd weeks, the number of cases began lowering in Dhaka but cases continued to rise outside the city.

In the 33rd week, there was a declining trend countrywide and the number of hospitalised patients

remained below 2000-mark. But, it crossed the mark again yesterday.

“We can’t firmly predict when the dengue outbreak will come to an end this year,” Prof Dr Shahadat Hossain, director of management information system at the DGHS, said in an online briefing yesterday.

He said that there are 2,600 beds dedicated to dengue patients in 20 public hospitals in Dhaka.

As of yesterday morning, 1,872 patients, out of the 7,582 patients currently hospitalised across the country, were undergoing treatment in the capital.

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members on August 15, 1975.

The gruesome killings of August 21 will be marked as a shameful chapter in the history of Bangladesh politics, the premier added.

Noting that the anti-liberation forces are still plotting in various ways, she urged all to work together to resist any conspiracy and make Bangladesh a safe and peaceful home for the next generation.

The BNP-Jamaat came to power on October 1, 2001, through rigged elections and established a reign of terror across the country, Hasina added.

By carrying out bomb and grenade attacks, they tried to turn this country into a militant state, she said, adding that in continuation of this, the grenade attack was launched on the rally against terrorism and militancy.

It was the moral duty of the government to arrest and prosecute those involved in this heinous act. But the BNP-Jamaat government

instead took all measures to protect the killers, allowed attackers to flee abroad and destroyed all important evidence, Hasina said in the message.

By abusing the state machinery, they staged the “Joj Miah drama” to divert this heinous act, the PM said.

Later, it came out through a fair investigation that Hawa Bhaban and many masterminds of BNP-Jamaat were directly involved in the attack, Hasina said.

She said in October 2018, the court concerned sentenced 19 people, including BNP leader and former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and former deputy minister of the BNP-Jamaat government Abdus Salam Pintu, to death for their involvement in the grenade attack.

Nineteen others, including BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and BNP leader Abul Harish Chowdhury, got life imprisonment, Hasina said, adding that through this judgment, the rule of law has been established in the country.

In another development, Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh has been moving forward facing all natural and manmade disasters since 2009.

She made this comment while inaugurating two multi-storey office buildings – named Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission Bhaban and Information Commission Bhaban – in the capital’s Agargaon, reports UNB.

Joining a function from the Gono Bhaban, the PM also laid the foundation stone of BFDC Complex in Karwan Bazar.

200 hurt in AL

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clash between police and BNP activists.

OC Ajay Chandra Dev of Habiganj Model Police Station, who suffered injuries to his eye, was moved to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital for better treatment yesterday morning, said police.