



‘1971: Shei Shob Din’

Hridi Huq’s herculean effort brings Liberation War to life

RAFI HOSSAIN

There has been a stereotype established amongst the audience that the directors, who emerge into the world of cinema from television medium, fail to bring a cinematic essence in their works. To my understanding, one of the major reasons behind that is—they fail to understand that the way of representing a story on the silver screen has significant additional elements that need to be paid attention to. These are—framing, art direction, costume, makeup and sound design—which create an individualistic language in cinema. The reason that I bring this up is, after watching *1971 Shei Shob Din* (initially released on August 18, countrywide), I had to give Hridi Huq her due props for nailing all the essential elements of cinema, that too on her first try.

A lot of the times, producers and directors tend to neglect their own product while making government-granted films, and tend to just get done with it without accounting for the actual quality, which was far from the case in *1971 Shei Shob Din*. Hridi Huq’s cast selection, and each crewmembers deserve salute. For instance, we have always known Litu Anam as an actor. Although he acted in this film, he is also the art director of the project, which many were unaware of. Personally, I became nostalgic due to the ambience and costume of the film, since I have personally witnessed the post-Liberation time of Bangladesh while growing up. I could feel the essence of the time through

the visual depiction of the film’s environment, the way the female characters draped sharee, and much more. The entire film was shot in Thakurgaon, and I have to appreciate their choice of the location. Kamruzzaman Ronnie, the chief assistant director, also played the role of one of the cinematographers. Not only that, he also lent his voice to the beautiful song *Jachchho Kothay* in the film, and his efforts were herculean. Coming back to the captain of the ship, the way she managed and controlled the entire team is commendable. Her research on the script was top notch and this reflects on the screen very well. Although the story has originally been written

by her father, Enamul Haque, Hridi has completely scripted the film from the ground up. Even though all of the cast did their job well, a special mention for Ferdous is absolutely necessary, as I feel like it was his most believable work since *Hothath Brishty*. I felt this is the right approach to present the Liberation War to the new generation, who have been brought up by listening to stories of the horrific event. Of course, there will be research and documentaries on the event, but to reach a wide range of masses, films are noteworthy, to say the least. We really need more formidable efforts like this, if we are to retell the stories of our great Liberation War.

Rafi Hossain is a journalist and former Editor of Star Showbiz, The Daily Star.



‘Jawan 2’: Vikram Rathore to get spin-off, SRK as lead

Director Atlee’s Bollywood debut, *Jawan*, smashed box office records by raking in over Rs 735 crore globally within just nine days. The movie’s overwhelming success has prompted Atlee to announce his plans for *Jawan 2*, once again featuring Shah Rukh Khan. During an exclusive interview with Pinkvilla, Atlee also revealed his eagerness to create a spin-off centred around Vikram Rathore’s character. “Without a doubt, Vikram Rathore is my hero, and I aspire to craft a spin-off for him someday. I have a deep affection for strong father characters, as I am a daddy’s boy,” the filmmaker remarked. *Jawan* concludes with a promise for a sequel, as Azad and Vikram Rathore prepare to embark on another mission, this time targeting corruption within the Swiss Bank system.



Pori Moni and Mahfuz Ahmed to pair up for Chayanika Chowdhury’s web film



Renowned director Chayanika Chowdhury has informed The Daily Star recently that she is counting the days until she begins filming her scheduled web film, starring Pori Moni and Mahfuz Ahmed. The *Prohelika* director added that she is still considering a suitable title for the web film. Chayanika confessed to being rather exuberant about the story of the production, revolving around a commoner falling in love with a superstar. She also hinted that the genre of it will mostly be a love story mixed with thrills.

COUNTRYWIDE

Barguna road in awful condition

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Hundreds of villagers in Barguna’s Taltali upazila have been suffering immensely since an important road at Baro Amkhola village has not been repaired for long. Protesting the delay in repair work, local people have continued their agitation and even planted paddy seedlings on the muddy road on Saturday to press for their demand. Villagers said about 2,500 residents of the village use the awfully dilapidated two-kilometre-long road to go to their destinations including the upazila headquarters. During the monsoon, villagers have to suffer a long as the road turns muddy and becomes completely unusable. School and college going students, elderly ones and critical patients are the worst sufferers due to the present condition of the road. Moreover, local farmers have to bear the brunt as most of them cannot take their agricultural products to nearby

markets. One of the villagers Mosharraf Hossain said despite their suffering for long, no initiative has been taken to repair the road. “We have urged the local chairman and members on several occasions to repair the road, but nothing has been done so far,” Mosharraf said. Finding no other alternative, agitated locals planted paddy seedlings on the muddy road on Saturday to press home their demand, he added. Aleya Begum, another resident of the village, said the road needs to be renovated immediately to reduce the sufferings of hundreds of villagers. Mizanur Rahman, assistant teacher at Dr AKM Majumdar Government Primary School, said the school kids have to suffer immensely to reach the institution during the rainy season. Sonakata Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Yunus Faraji said decision has been taken to repair the unpaved road within the current fiscal year.



People of Baro Amkhola village in Barguna’s Taltali upazila plant paddy seedlings on the muddy road protesting the authorities’ indifference to repair it. PHOTO: STAR

Gita Mehta

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Critiquing the exoticisation of India, Mehta writes, “The upmarket Indian hoteliers didn’t try to make India a home away from home. They set out to show that India was infinitely more glamorous than anything at home.” Mehta wryly observed how for “an enchanted travel expert” such spectacle confirms that this is how they always “dreamed India would be.” Her other notable titles include “Raj” (1989), “A River Sutra” (1993), and “Snakes and Ladders” (1997). To the Bangladeshi audience however, Mehta is perhaps better known for her coverage of the 1971 Liberation War for the American television network NBC, where she worked as a war correspondent from 1970 to 1971. She also directed the documentary film “Dateline Bangladesh” based on her time stationed in Bangladesh during the war. It opens with the immortal lines from Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who asked, “Do you know that nobody can suppress 70 million people? That when 70 million people are determined to achieve something, nobody can suppress it?” A powerful documentary detailing the critical and crucial history of the birth of a nation, Dateline Bangladesh bears witness to both the horrors and the triumph of 1971. Born in 1943, Mehta studied in India and later at the University of Cambridge. She was married to Sony Mehta, former head of the publishing house Alfred A Knopf. She leaves behind a son. With Mehta’s passing, Bangladesh loses a valued friend and the literary world, a powerful voice.

Siraj sets up India’s 8th Asia Cup

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he made the ball swing and seam in overcast conditions to easily surpass his previous ODI best of 4-32. He got Pathum Nissanka for two and then struck on successive balls to send back Sadeera Samarawickrama (0) and Charith Asalanka (0), but a hat-trick was averted. Dhananjaya de Silva hit a boundary but Siraj had him caught behind with the next ball, much to the delight of the Indian fans. Siraj got his fifth with the wicket of Sri Lankan captain Dasun Shanaka, equalling

an ODI record for the fastest five-wicket haul from his first 16 balls of the match. Kusal Mendis hit three boundaries before becoming Siraj’s sixth wicket, although Sri Lanka avoided the lowest ever ODI total of 35 by Zimbabwe. After Virat Kohli’s overthrow went for a boundary, and six more runs to the total, Sri Lanka pushed past their lowest ODI total of 43 scored against South Africa in 2012. Hardik Pandya took three wickets to wrap up the innings in just 90 minutes.

Mendis’ 17 and an unbeaten 13 by Dushan Hemantha were the only double-digit scores in an innings that featured five ducks. Shubman Gill, a centurion in the previous match, began with a boundary in the opening over on his way to an unbeaten 27 and fellow opener Ishan Kishan (23) soon joined the party. The left-handed Ishan smashed fast bowler Matheesha Pathirana for two successive boundaries, and three more in a row

from Gill gave India victory in the tournament’s shortest final. Rohit Sharma’s India dropped just one match in the tournament after they lost an inconsequential Super Four contest against Bangladesh. Sri Lanka, who won the previous edition of the Asia Cup played in the T20 format, came in as underdogs and snuck into the Super Fours with a dramatic win over Afghanistan but went down without a fight in their 11th final.

12 hurt as microbus

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However, Natore Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Nasim Ahmed told our correspondent that the microbus did not belong to BNP activists and that there were no casualties. AL activist Koyel denied the allegation and said he had been with local lawmaker Shafiqul Islam Shimul at various programmes since morning. Asked about a photo in which he was seen searching a vehicle, Koyel said they searched vehicles at Madrasa intersection in the morning to see if BNP activists were leaving Natore. No untoward incident occurred, he added. Natore district AL

General Secretary Shariful Islam Ramzan said neither BNP nor AL had any scheduled programmes in Natore. BNP leaders themselves might have set fire to the microbus or there might have been an explosion, he added. Fire service official Akhter said, “The actual reason for the fire is not known. It will be known after investigation.” Meanwhile, speaking at a programme before the road march in Arulia of Bogura, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said the biggest theft is the theft of the right to vote and the AL was planning to steal again. He said people would not allow their right to vote to be stolen again.

Three pro-BNP bodies—Jubo Dal, Swachchhasebak Dal, and Chhatra Dal—organised the road march to press home the party’s one-point demand, the resignation of the government and general elections under a neutral interim government. Fakhrul said, “After 52 years of independence, we have to struggle again. Why do we have to struggle? We have to fight to get our right to vote, right to have rice; and right to live.” He said if Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is in power, fair polls are impossible. “People across the world now believe that the last two elections in Bangladesh were not fair. “But what are they doing? They are filing false

cases and arresting people like before so that the opposition party cannot run in the election. They filed false cases against 40 lakh people,” Fakhrul said. Alleging that the government is not providing treatment to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, he said, “The doctor said that she needs a liver transplant if she is to be saved. It is not possible without going abroad” Fakhrul demanded immediate release of Khaleda so that she could have treatment abroad. The road march started around noon and traversed 129km to Rajshahi. Our Bogura and Natore correspondents contributed to this report.

7-year-old murdered

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Road area for a passenger around 8:45am, a girl came to me and said that my daughter was found dead at the house. “I rushed to the house and found my daughter lying on the bed. My cousin and neighbours had already

reached the spot. They told me that her hands and legs were tied and a black bruise was found on her neck. “My cousin lives beside our house, and she went to see my daughter but found the door locked from inside. When she kept knocking, the door

was suddenly opened, and a man came out and ran away,” said Baker. Sub-Inspector Riyadus Salehin of Chandgaon Police Station told The Daily Star, “On information we went to the spot and found the body on the bed. Locals chased the man and

spotted him in a pond 500 metres from the victim’s house. Later, we detained him and took him to CMCH for primary treatment. “Primarily, we suspect that she was strangled after rape. But without a post-mortem, it is difficult to confirm,” he added.