

‘Renu’ made me a part of history: Dighi

I am extremely thrilled. The trailer was released recently, and I have been hearing praises about it. It won't just be a film, it will be a historic phenomenon for our nation.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU
Prarthana Fardin Dighi played the role of Renu in *Mujib: The Making of a Nation*, directed by the famed director Shyam Benegal. It is set to release in a record number of theaters on the 13th of this month. After her debut film as a protagonist, *Tumi Acho Tumi Nei* was released, the former child actor could finally revamp her image and head towards becoming an actress. Her film *Tungiparar Miya Bhai* has also been released recently. She is set to begin filming for a brand-new movie, starting next month. The Daily Star caught up with a very excited Dighi, where she talks about her experience filming *Mujib*.



Mujib: The Making of a Nation is releasing later this month, how are you feeling about it finally being released?
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been hearing praises about it. It won't just be a film, it will be a historic phenomenon for our nation.

How did you feel about portraying Renu?

I have been very pleased with being able to play the role of Renu. Once I received the confirmation to be a part of the movie, I began reading various books and watching various videos. I researched film archives, and my father even bought me associated books. The pandemic, however, came at that point in time. I got my script during that period along with the notice that we would begin filming at any moment. I then prepared myself and completely memorised the entire script.

Say something about your experience with Shyam Benegal.
I cannot begin to describe his caliber as a director. Initially, I couldn't even believe that I was working with a director as grand as him. He has masterfully brought out beautiful performances from all the actors.

What are your feelings about being in a movie about Bangabandhu's biography?



Again, I really don't have words to express my sentiments regarding this immense honour. I feel like I became a part of history by playing the role of Renu. *Mujib: The Making of a Nation* will be there to stay as it is the biopic of the Father of our Nation.

Can you reveal your new projects?
We are done filming a movie called *Jibon Jua*. Other than that, I am scheduled to begin filming a new movie titled *Deyal* in November.

Aamir's next project triggers speculation

Following the underwhelming performance of his last film, *Laal Singh Chaddha*, recent reports circulating online suggest that Aamir Khan's next film has been tentatively named *Sitaare Zameen Par*.

The title's resemblance to his blockbuster hit *Taare Zameen Par*, has ignited speculations amongst fans, accompanied by trolling from the netizens.

There was also speculation about the film possibly being a remake of the 2018 Spanish film *Champions*, which was recently adapted into a Hollywood film with the same name in 2022.

The plot is said to center around a sports coach who develops a profound connection with a team of specially-abled children.

Sushmita Sen announces release date of 'Aarya 3'

Actress Sushmita Sen has revealed the release date for the highly anticipated Season 3 of the web-series *Aarya*.

On her social media platforms, Sushmita shared an intriguing video along with the caption, *Sherni ke lautne ka waqt aa gaya hai* which translates to "It is time for the lioness to return".

Aarya 3 marks the third instalment of the popular action-thriller franchise *Aarya*, led by Sushmita. The series debuted in 2020, and the first season even received a nomination for 'Best Drama' series at the International Emmy Awards.

Aarya Season 3 is set to premiere on the Disney+ Hotstar OTT platform on November 3.



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Mim inaugurated Bio-Xin in a grand ceremony at Bogura



The grand opening of Bio-xin's new and 14th branch in Bogura took place on Thursday, October 5th at 7 pm. The country's popular actress, Bio-xin's brand ambassador Bidya Sinha Mim was present in it. Bio-xin CEO, Muhammad Zahidul Hoque, who was also present there, said - 'Bio-Xin cosmeceuticals has opened a new horizon of beauty practice for the people of Bogura'.

NEWS

Big rise in 10 banks' bad loans

FROM PAGE 1
Bangladesh Bank's latest published data.

State-owned BASIS Bank, which saw rampant financial irregularities during the tenure of its former chairman Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu, has as much as 62.66 percent of the total disbursed credit going bad as of June 30 – the highest in the banking sector.

A year earlier, the lender's defaulted loans accounted for 58.86 percent of total loans, according to the Bangladesh Bank's latest published data.

Bangladesh Commerce Bank, where Chattogram-based conglomerate S Alam Group has a stake, has 50.49 percent of its loans go bad at the end of June, up from 42 percent a year earlier.

Bangladesh Development Bank, another state-owned commercial bank, has as much as 44 percent of its disbursed credit turn sour, up from 36.07 percent a year earlier.

State-run Janata's defaulted loans soared much last year.

At the end of June, its total defaulted loans stood at Tk 28,541 crore, which is 32.6 percent of its total disbursed

loans. A year earlier, its soured loans accounted for 24.91 percent of its total loans.

"We are trying to recover the bad loans – there are some issues but nothing bad is happening," Md Abdul Jabbar, managing director of Janata Bank, told the correspondent at his office in Motijheel on October 2.

The bank is not able to recover the large amounts of loans from some of its large borrowers, which have turned into defaulted loans, said Janata Bank officials on the condition of anonymity.

Agrani Bank had the next highest proportion of defaulted loans: it was 23.51 percent of total disbursed credit as of June, up from 17.23 percent a year earlier.

Its soured loans increased largely due to approving huge volumes of loans without due diligence in recent years, said Agrani Bank officials on the condition of anonymity.

Murshedul Kabir, managing director of Agrani Bank, could not be reached for comment at the time of filing the report.

AB Bank's defaulted loans rose

to 18.61 percent of total outstanding loans from 14.46 percent a year earlier.

Mercantile Bank's defaulted loan rate stood at 8.3 percent, up by 3.91 percentage points from a year earlier.

Defaulted loans at Mercantile Bank increased due to the withdrawal of a central bank relaxation on loan classification introduced during the pandemic, said a senior official of the bank on the condition of anonymity.

"Now, borrowers are not interested in repaying bank loans using the ongoing economic situation as an excuse," he said.

Army-owned Trust Bank's defaulted loans stood at 7.69 percent, up by 3.48 percent a year earlier.

UCB's defaulted loan rate rose by 1.94 percentage points to 6.64 percent.

"There are some wilful defaulters who have no intention to pay back bank loans while some borrowers have a tendency to divert funds to the sectors not specified in the loan proposals," said Anis A Khan, a former chairman of the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh, a platform of banks' chief executives.

considering the batting firepower England possess.

Besides, the opening conundrum has remained a cause for concern for the Tigers despite the easy victory.

On his World Cup debut, young opener Tanzid Hasan got himself run-out for five while looking for a non-existent single. His more experienced opening partner, Liton Das, was dismissed for 13, inside-edging a lazy drive off left-arm pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi.

The early dismissals of both openers had Bangladesh in a spot of bother at 27 for two inside the opening Powerplay – a situation that has been more frequent in recent times. Thankfully, Miraz's chancy 57 and a solid unbeaten 59 from Najmul Hossain Shanto saw Bangladesh coast home without further damage.

But with bigger challenges ahead, the Tigers need their openers to fire if they are to do something special under the leadership of Shakib, who, despite having his shortcomings and controversies off the field, looked primed to emulate his magnificent exploits of the 2019 World Cup where he scored over 600 runs and took 11 wickets.

Politically, your time is up

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have asked [you] to resign, dissolve parliament, and hold elections under a non-partisan caretaker government."

Referring to the PM's remarks at the Gono Bhaban on the caretaker government, the BNP secretary general said, "Without a neutral caretaker government, a free and

fair election cannot be held in Bangladesh... There were proofs in the polls held in 2014 and 2018."

He further said that the prime minister's claim that they held free and fair elections was shocking.

Mentioning that 45 lakh false cases were filed against BNP supporters in recent years, Fakhru

alleged that over the last year, 22 BNP men were killed while numerous false cases were filed against 8,000 leaders and activists.

Criticising the incidents of dismissing, oppressing, and jailing teachers, he said if the BNP comes to power, it will implement the declaration to nationalise teachers' jobs.

EC officials want to be ROs

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officer. It stipulates that the commission shall appoint a returning officer for the elections to each parliamentary constituency; and a person can be appointed as returning officer for two or more constituencies.

Asked about the issue, an election commissioner told this correspondent that appointing EC officials as RO and ARO in as many constituencies as

possible is in the commission's work plan for the 12th parliamentary polls, likely to be held in January.

"The commission is yet to make the final decision on the appointment of ROs and AROs," the commissioner said wishing not to be named.

Meanwhile, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal at the meeting asked the EC officials to maintain strong coordination with

the administration and law enforcers to create a conducive atmosphere so that voters can exercise their franchise freely.

The EC will make all efforts to hold the next general election in a free, fair, peaceful and participatory manner, the CEC said.

He also said the word "participatory" means a large presence of voters at the polling centres.

Records tumble

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brief fightbacks by Kusal Mendis (76), Charith Asalanka (79) and Dasun Shanaka (68).

South Africa's mammoth score replaced Australia's 417-6 against Afghanistan in 2015 as the highest total in the men's World Cup.

Shanaka elected to field after winning the toss and the 1996 champions did not have to wait long for a breakthrough.

Dilshan Madushanka trapped Temba Bavuma lbw in the second over but Sri Lanka did not get a chance to celebrate another dismissal in the next 29 overs with De Kock and Van der Dussen combining in a rollicking 204-run stand.

De Kock pulled Matheesha Pathirana to reach an 83-ball century, celebrating the milestone by punching the air and letting out a scream.

He attempted another pull off the next ball, only to top-edge to mid-on and depart after a whirlwind knock that included three sixes.

Van der Dussen's nearly run-a-ball knock came to an end when he holed out trying to hit Dunith Wellalage out of the park.

Markram, who clobbered 14 fours and three sixes, then took over and

boundaries started flowing.

When Sri Lanka returned to begin their chase, Mendis decided to fight fire with fire and raced to a 25-ball fifty, threatening to snatch Markram's record.

Kagiso Rabada came to his team mate's rescue and dismissed Mendis caught behind after the batter's 42-ball blitz that was studded with eight sixes and four fours.

Asalanka and Shanaka made half-centuries down the order but that only affected the margin of their defeat.

Afghanistan quake

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"We came home and saw that actually there was nothing left. Everything had turned to sand," said the 32-year-old, adding that some 30 bodies had been recovered.

Herat province disaster management head Mosa Ashari told AFP that in addition to "about 120" killed, "more than 1,000 injured women, children, and old citizens have been included in our records."

Crowds of residents fled buildings in Herat city as the series of tremors began, although casualty reports from the metropolitan area were minimal.

Man missing

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accused in a case.

"At first, we thought the law enforcers came looking for Rahamtullah's elder brother who is accused in a case filed over a property dispute. But the officers said they were after Rahamtullah," she said.

However, the men did not say why they were detaining Rahamtullah or what he was accused of, she added.

Contacted, Lt Col Abdur Rahman, commanding officer of Rab-4, said that his team was not involved in detaining Rahamtullah.

Rahamtullah is the youngest among three siblings. He, Momtaz and Sathi live in their house in Dhamrai's Gangutia union. His elder brother lives in Saudi Arabia.

Mokhlesur Rahman, a member of Gangutia Union Parishad, said he also tried along with the family to find Rahamtullah and found no clue.

Space for civil

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He went on to say that this is the time for CSOs to lie low. "Otherwise, we may not survive. This is the time not to do promotion but to do preservation."

He spoke about the rise of partisan CSOs in this situation. "Partisan civil society is part of the state structure, a part of the political structure."

The three-day conference is being held at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel.