



Arifin Shuvoo as Bangabandhu, Prarthana Fardin Dighi as Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa, Nusraat Faria as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Chanchal Chowdhury as Bangabandhu's father Sheikh Lutfar Rahman. PHOTOS: COLLECTED

High hopes and higher stakes: 'Mujib' biopic releases today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was not only Bangladesh's founding father, but also an integral part of our culture and emotions. A biopic on the Father of the Nation was announced to commemorate Bangabandhu's 100th birth anniversary. *Mujib: The Making of a Nation* has finally arrived after years of delay, and will be showcased across 153 theatres across the country today.

The Bangladesh-India joint venture witnessed ace filmmaker Shyam Benegal take the director's chair for the film. Arifin Shuvoo essayed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, while Nusraat Faria portrayed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the silver screen. The movie also stars Nusrat Imrose Tisha as Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, Riaz as Tajuddin Ahmed, and Elina Shammi as Begum Khaleda Zia, among others.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina watched the special screening of the biopic at the National Film Archives, along with the rest of the cast and crews of the film.

"This film will take you on an emotional journey to discover the life and principles of Bangabandhu. You will get to know more about my family, my mother, and my grandparents. You will get to witness new chapters of history through this movie," she said, after the screening.

Initially, Bangladesh's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Indian Ministry of Information and Broadcasting planned to release the film in 2021. However, due to Covid-19, filming of the movie was delayed. The *Mujib* biopic began shooting at Mumbai's Film City on January 22, 2021, and completed its production in Bangladesh on December 18, 2021.

On May 19, 2022, a preview of *Mujib: The Making of a Nation* was shown during the Marché du Film Commercial Branch at the Indian pavilion of the 75th Cannes Film Festival. The teaser was criticised for its weak



VFX and makeup. Later, Arifin Shuvoo addressed the situation, explaining that it was not the official trailer, that it was created in just 13 days for the Cannes Film Festival, and that the work on visual effects is still ongoing.

However, as the official trailer was released on October 1, much of the criticism was addressed. The video teases the dramatic, patriotic story of Bangladesh's creation.

People were waiting in anticipation for the movie's release to see the character's appearance. Arifin Shuvoo was completely in character, with his grey hair and glasses. He tried his best to emulate Bangabandhu's body language and mannerisms. Nusraat Faria shed her glamorous persona and wore cotton sarees, for her

portrayal of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Zayed Khan, who played Tikka Khan, sported a moustache to play the deceitful Pakistani army chief.

Recently, a press conference was held in which Arifin Shuvoo was questioned how effectively he portrayed Bangabandhu. "I don't think I'm qualified to judge, but the audience can. What I can say is that the director of the film, Shyam Benegal, is pleased with my performance. Furthermore, Bangabandhu's family has seen the film and given their approval. They have recognised the effort and hard work we put in."

Mujib: The Making of a Nation has also caught everyone's attention by releasing the songs *Ochin Majhi* and *Ki*

Ki Jinish Enecho Dulal. Ochin Majhi is composed by Shantanu Moitra, with lyrics penned by Zahid Akbar and vocals provided by Rathijit Bhattacharjee. Audiences were captivated not only by the song's lyrics, but also by its melodious tune and exceptional vocals, which appears to surpass the impact of the trailer.

Ki Ki Jinish Enecho Dulal, voiced by Urmi Choudhury, provided a beautiful insight into the cute but lovable relationship between Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his dear wife Renu (Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib).

Chanchal Chowdhury, who plays the role of Bangabandhu's father Sheikh Lutfar Rahman, said, "It is such an honour to play a part in Bangabandhu's biopic. When I was offered the role, I didn't even think about my own role, but instantly agreed because I wanted the privilege to be in *The Father of the Nation's* biopic."

Prarthana Fardin Dighi looked serene on essaying the role of Bangamata.

"I have been very pleased with being able to play the role. 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," said the actress.

As *Mujib: The Making of The Nation* drops in theaters today, Bangladeshi audiences will get to witness the personal journey of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and how his love for the country inspired him to fight till his death. A new generation will be able to learn about the nation's most important figure through the film, so hopes are high that it will be one to remember.

COUNTRYWIDE

A bridge can ease lives of thousands



Constructed nearly two decades back, this iron-structured bridge over a canal in Bagerhat's Morrelganj upazila collapsed about four years ago. PHOTO: COLLECTED

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

People of 10 villages in Morrelganj upazila have been suffering immensely since the bridge over a canal collapsed about four years ago.

Local residents have been partially using the risky bridge by placing a makeshift platform, but that too broke down about a month ago, snapping all kinds of movement through the bridge.

Mentionable, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) built the iron-structured bridge over Daura Canal at remote Chandipur village about 20 years ago.

Villagers said the iron bridge partially broke down due to flood about four years ago.

Later, villagers temporarily repaired it by putting a makeshift platform, made with betel nut trees and bamboos, since there was no alternative for thousands of people of 10 villages including Chandipur, Jamua, Kachikata and Chargopalpur village.

However, the makeshift bridge too completely broke down last month.

As a result, local residents, especially students of different schools and

madrasas, are compelled to cross the canal on small boats, risking their lives.

Tania Khatun, a Class V student from Chandipur village, said they have to suffer a lot while going to and from the school due to the collapse of the important bridge.

"A few days ago, one of our classmates fell from the boat, but the boatman somehow managed to rescued him," Tania said.

Kamal Jamadder, another resident of the village, said several thousand people of nearly 10 surrounding villages have been suffering since the bridge completely collapsed last month.

As there is no other alternative means of communication villagers are compelled to use boat to cross the bridge to go to their destinations, Kamal added.

Local union parishad (UP) member Jamal Sheikh said he has informed the matter to the authorities concerned long ago, but yet no step has been taken to repair the bridge.

Bagerhat LGED Executive Engineer Mohammad Sharifuzzaman said they have conducted all necessary works including the soil test, but the bridge cannot be built in the current fiscal year due to lack of funds.

'Mujib' hits 153 theatres today

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previously unknown facts and find new chapters of history through *Mujib - The Making of a Nation*.

The film, a joint production of Bangladesh and India, was directed by filmmaking maestro Shyam Benegal.

It is scheduled to be released in India on October 27.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Bangladesh, and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, India, are the producers, while Bangladesh Film Development Corporation and National Film Development Corporation Limited, India, are the executive producers of the film.

The film received its clearance certificate on July 31 of this year from the censor boards of both countries.

Popular Bangladeshi film actor Arifin Shuvoo leads the ensemble cast as the titular character Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, while Nusrat Imrose Tisha plays his wife Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, the film's narrator.

Fazlur Rahman Babu, Dilara Zaman, Khairul Alam Shabuj, Riaz, and others.

The film showcases Bangabandhu's epic journey on the road to the country's independence -- from his entry into politics till his untimely demise in 1975.

The movie's soundtracks and background score were composed by acclaimed Indian music director Shantanu Moitra; the screenplay was co-written by Indian scriptwriter Shama Zaidi and film writer and actor Atul Tiwari; and the Bangla dialogues were penned by Bangladesh's Sadhana Ahmed, Gias Uddin Selim, Shihab Shaheen, and Anam Biswas.

The film's shooting began in Mumbai, India in January 2021 and ended in Bangladesh in December of the same year.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Bangladesh, and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, India, are the producers of the film.

Nusraat Faria portrayed Bangabandhu's elder daughter, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The biopic also features popular actors Chanchal Chowdhury, Prarthana Dighi, Tauquir Ahmed,

Manipulators have to be identified

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ministry, Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection (DNCRP), Dhaka north and south city corporations and different business bodies at the DMP headquarters.

He said police will work together with all stakeholders and if necessary, the law enforcers will also participate in drives with them.

"There is no shortage of any commodity in the markets. But some crises are created by vested quarters."

The DMP chief said goods used for that query, the DMP boss said it was not clear to them

anymore due to Padma Bridge.

Replying to a query from a journalist, Habibur said there is no specific risk of instability in the market ahead of the general election.

"Possibly, there is a lack of coordination. The market monitoring system cannot be controlled either by the consumer rights directorate or the police alone."

Commodity prices depend on the supply and demand, he said, adding that the supply is sufficient now.

Responding to another query, the DMP boss said it was not clear to them

whether any politically motivated activities were fueling the syndicates.

"The DMP is active against syndicates. If we find anything like this, we are capable of breaking those," he warned.

Representatives of police and DNCRP suggested traders at different levels keep receipts.

A trader, however, argued that if extortion of truckers on roads could be stopped, the prices of essentials would come down significantly.

A top DMP official said if anyone stops goods-carrying trucks on roads, police will take punitive actions against that person.

We had talks

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violence in Dhaka ..."

The road transport and bridges minister said the BNP itself has "blocked" its path to power.

"BNP goes to Peter Haas for having breakfast in the morning and lunch at noon. I don't know what Peter Haas has made them dream. But there is no use in dreaming about power."

Reiterating that the 12th parliamentary polls will be held in time, the AL leader said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will hold an unprecedented fair election.

"You gave [elections] a bad name worldwide. So, Sheikh Hasina will hold an unprecedented fair election to get rid of the bad name."

"No one will be able to

obstruct the election as long as Sheikh Hasina is alive. Polls will take place in a peaceful manner," he added.

Quader said the BNP would "lose everything" if it didn't take part in the election.

Calling upon the AL leaders and activists to get ready for the polls, he said, "Don't get tired. Two more months to go... Games will be played. They [BNP] will commit fouls in the match, so we will have to respond."

AL presidium member Kamrul Islam and Joint General Secretary Hasan Mahmud, among others, spoke at the programme, chaired by Abu Ahmed Mannafi, president of Dhaka city (south) AL.

SC sentences mayor

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A four-member bench of the Appellate Division led by Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan delivered the judgment following the contempt of court petition filed by four lawyers.

Three other judges of the bench were Justice Borhanuddin, Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam, and Justice Md Abu Zafar Siddique.

Jahangir's lawyer Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal told The Daily Star that his client would move a petition before the Appellate Division seeking review of the judgement after receiving the certified copy of the verdict.

Jahangir needs not surrender to the lower court before filing the review petition with the SC as this court itself has delivered the verdict, he mentioned.

Replying to a query, he said there is no legal bar for Jahangir to perform the duties of the municipality mayor.

Meanwhile, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin told reporters that Jahangir

in his explanation to the SC admitted making derogatory comments about an apex court judge, and the court refused to accept his apology.

He, however, said Jahangir must surrender before the lower court concerned for filing a review petition with the SC.

After receiving the verdict copy, the LGRD ministry will make necessary decisions about his mayoralship.

On August 17, the Appellate Division issued a contempt of court notice against Jahangir asking him to explain why he should not be punished for the remarks.

Jahangir made the comments on a YouTube channel about Justice M Enayetur Rahim, a senior judge of the Appellate Division, over a verdict in a case lodged against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

The SC on August 17 also directed the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission chairman to immediately remove the video containing Jahangir's comments.