

Tisha on portraying Bangamata, walking the Busan red carpet

SHARMIN JOYA

The Shyam Benegal directorial biopic featured Arifin Shuvoo as the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, alongside Tisha, who had an essential role in the narrative of the project.

The film was released across the nation on October 13, in 154 halls, gracing a grand premiere attended by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, alongside the crew of the film from both sides of the border.

Tisha, at that time, was attending Busan Film Festival, in Korea for her film *Something Like an Autobiography*, which she both produced and acted in, alongside her real-life husband, acclaimed director Mostofa Sarwar Farooki. Farooki also acted and directed the project.

"I actually missed the opportunity of watching the film with prime minister and the entire team. However, I will soon watch the film and after getting the theatrical experience, I can express my personal thoughts on the film," added the actress who has been receiving praises from audience after the release of the project.

Tisha also shared that the excitement that is surrounding social media is amazing for her. Although she does not use social media personally, she keeps up with time through her official page. "I really feel honoured that the character was well received by people," she said. "A film is made for the audience and when they express their fondness, all of the challenges we endured and hard work we put into feels worthwhile."

Bringing to life such a role that had limited reference and almost

no visual reference was a challenge in itself. "A very few aspects of Bangamata's personality is known to us," she asserted. "Portraying the role was not easy for me, as there is not enough reference on Sheikh Fazlalumnesa Mujib."

Due to the lack of visual reference or archive, Tisha initially found it hard to create the image of the role. However, she mentioned that she read whatever reference she could grab, and it was the PM who helped her the most in infusing the role. "We had the opportunity to meet and talk to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana for three hours before we began the shooting of the film," shared Tisha. "Within that time, the amount of information she shared about her mother was of great help for me to understand the character better."

Tisha cited that the narrative of Mujib has been shown from Bangamata's perspective. After being a part of the project, the actress realised that this film will remain as a visual testament for the next generation, to know about the actual contributions

of Bangamata. "There are a lot of factors that we didn't know about her role in politics, in forming the nation and maintaining her family, while making important decisions for the party as well. However, she has always been underappreciated. These words came from both PM and her sister."

Tisha felt a great sense of responsibility with this role, and shared that she was personally inspired a lot from Bangamata's character.

This is the second time that the actress is gracing the Busan



Film Festival. "I attended it for the first time with the team of the film *Television*. The experience has always been great," shared Tisha. "What really amazed me is that Korean people tried to get a better understanding of the film (*Autobiography*) from the subtitles, and they have really appreciated us."

"When we walk through the red carpet, we get the equal respect as the Korean celebrities, this is also something I really felt amazing about."



Afsana Mimi to return to theatre stage

Hailing from the golden age of the Bangladeshi film industry, actress Afsana Mimi, who captivated the audience with her exceptional on-screen performances, is preparing to return to her theatrical roots.

The actress initiated her artistic journey on the theater stage of Bangladesh's renowned theater troupe, Nagorik Natya Sampradaya, and was once an ardent member of the troupe. Now, after a significant hiatus, the famous actress from the 90s is gearing up for a comeback on the theater stage.

According to Afsana Mimi, she will make her stage comeback in the upcoming production of *Darpan* by Nagorik Natya Sampradaya. The play, directed by Naila Azad Nupur, is scheduled for performance in November.

I am coming to Bangladesh: Ankush Hazra

Tollywood actors Ankush Hazra and Priyanka Sarkar are all set for the simultaneous release of their upcoming film, *Kurban*, in Bangladesh and India on November 24.

In an exclusive interview with Bangladeshi media, Ankush expressed his eagerness to visit Bangladesh once again.

"Since 2015, I haven't had the opportunity to visit Bangladesh. I'm delighted that, after all these years, Now, our film is set to grace the screens of Bangladeshi theatres, and we're planning promotional activities. That's why I'll be coming," Ankush Hazra revealed.



NEWS

2 Jubo League activists held

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leaders and activists of the unity council held a rally in the city's Raninbazar area around 10:00am on Friday as part of the council's programme protesting Munshiganj Mayor Faisal Biplob's "communal" comments against local MP Minal Kanti Das, Cumilla 6 lawmaker AKM Bahauddin Bahar's "disrespectful" remarks about Durga Puja, attack on poet Radhapada Roy in Kurigram, and vandalism of temples at different places in the country.

The council leaders and members were heading towards Pubali Square in Kandirpar with a protest procession around 11:30am. When they reached near Nazrul Avenue area, the accused attacked the procession with iron rod, sticks, brickbats and stones, according to the case statement.

The attackers mercilessly beat

up the processionists, leaving four people injured. They also looted cash and mobile phones from at least two of the injured, it added.

"The accused have unleashed a reign of terror and have been threatening leaders and activists of the unity council," said the case statement.

The council leaders had alleged

that the attackers were supporters of the lawmaker Bahauddin. The MP, however, denied it. On October 4, Bahauddin during a meeting on the upcoming Durga Puja at the Cumilla deputy commissioner's office spoke on consumption of alcohol at the puja mandaps and making mandaps free from alcohol.

Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council on October 8 issued a statement condemning the lawmaker's remarks.

The attackers mercilessly beat

Shakib doubtful for India game

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we are hopeful [about his condition]. But there is a difference between walking slowly and being able to run in the field since he hurt himself while taking a run," Khaled Mahmud Sujon, the Bangladesh team director, told reporters in Pune yesterday.

Mahmud said that Shakib had a tear, but did not provide the exact details about his left thigh injury which he sustained in the Tigers' previous game against New Zealand in Chennai on Friday.

The former Bangladesh captain said that they would wait and see how the all-rounder reacts when the team resumes training today after a two-day break ahead of their encounter against hosts India on October 19.

However, a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) source told The Daily Star that Shakib had a Grade-1 tear which requires more than a week of rest to recover.

The source further said that it would be wise for Shakib to sit out the India fixture to avoid further aggravating his injury, which could rule him out of the entire tournament.

Bangladesh team director Mahmud informed that the ace all-rounder will undergo yet another scan after batting in the nets today.

Shakib felt discomfort near his left quadriceps while batting in Bangladesh's previous game against New Zealand and following an MRI scan, the team management issued a press release informing that they would 'assess his condition on a day-to-day basis', keeping enough room for speculation regarding the entire matter.

Shakib, however, is willing to play the game against India, informed Mahmud.

"Suppose, we say Shakib is 90 to 95 percent fit but we will have to see how things pan out when he trains on the field. His running will be observed tomorrow [today]. He batted and also bowled 10 overs even after suffering the injury blow in the previous game.

If that is the case, that is if he does not feel any discomfort then maybe he can play. Shakib wants to play, but it will depend on his 100 percent fitness," Mahmud said.

Police refuted the allegation and said officers hospitalised Shahidulla after he fell ill.

Following the incident, Chatogram Metropolitan Police closed ASIs Younus and Sohel, who detained him, and attached them to the CMP Dampara Police Lines.



Smoke billows after an Israeli air strike in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

EC seeks security

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that election. As a result, 153 out of 300 lawmakers were elected unopposed.

New York-based Human Rights Watch in its report in April 2014 said the polls were the most violent in Bangladesh's history. Months of political violence before and after the elections left hundreds dead and injured across the country.

Three election officials were killed and 330 other officials and law enforcers were injured on election day, HRW said citing media reports.

The attackers also torched dozens of schools that were supposed to be polling stations. Ministers of the government claimed that 553 educational institutions were damaged in election-related violence, it added.

On October 9, eminent citizens in a discussion said a political consensus through dialogue is urgently needed to avoid possible violence in the days ahead as the Awami League and the BNP are at odds over the polls-time government.

The AL says the election will be held under the current government as per the constitution, while the BNP is demanding a caretaker government saying polls under the current administration will not be free and fair.

Australia revive

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Marsch reached his first fifty in a World Cup off 39 balls but was soon run out after attempting a second run with Marnus Labuschagne, who hit 40.

Labuschagne and Inglis put on a key stand of 77 to deny the thin crowd of any late drama.

Left-arm quick Dilshan Madushanka broke the partnership to send back Labuschagne for his third wicket and spinner Dunith Wellalage got Inglis.

But Glenn Maxwell, who hit a 21-ball 31, took the team home with Marcus Stoinis, who made 20, for company.

Australia captain Pat Cummins was under attack for his captaincy in the opening two losses.

"Outside noise doesn't bother us too much," said Cummins.

"All parts of the game came together at the end. We're underway in the tournament and hope we keep it up."

Start of final phase soon

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treatment, and BNP's one-point demand that includes the resignation of the government and holding the next election under a non-party government.

Bangladesh team director Mahmud informed that the ace all-rounder will undergo yet another scan after batting in the nets today.

Thousands of youths from different parts of the country wearing red and green caps joined the rally that stretched from Bijoynagar to Fakirapool crossing. Many of them were seen sitting in the rally with white shrouds on their heads.

Terming the youth's massive gathering a "historic" one, Fakhrul said the rally will surely inspire the country's people to participate in the final movement with fresh vigour and aspirations.

"Insha'Allah, we will be able to defeat this terrible fascist regime that is sitting on our chest like a big stone through our peaceful movement," he said.

Referring to his ruling party counterpart Obaidul Quader's comment on talks with the BNP if it withdraws conditions, Fakhrul questioned whether the government is constitutionally legal.

He alleged that the government has been in power illegally by

bringing the 15th Amendment to the Constitution unconstitutionally.

The BNP leader said former chief justice ABM Khairul Haque first gave a short verdict, saying two more national elections could be held under the caretaker government in the interests of the country and its people, but he unethically gave the full verdict, changing the short one 16 months after his retirement.

"This Awami League passed the 15th Amendment in parliament by completely deceiving the people before the release of the full verdict. As you're saying, the election should be based on the Constitution, and you [the government] must resign first of all. Because you are illegal," Fakhrul said.

He warned that people will not forgive the current government for violating the Constitution and staying in power by deceiving people.

The BNP leader called upon the government to quit power by handing over power to a neutral government to pave the way for holding the next election in a fair and credible manner.