

REVIEW

FATIMA

Where noble intention trumps flawed execution

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

is fantastically unsettling as Prashad, fighting to get his beau's attention while she fights for a living in the capital.

The supporting cast, primarily consisting of Ayesha Monica, Pantho Kanai, Manosh Bandyopadhyay, Rizvi Rizu, AK Azad Shetu, Gousul Alam Shaon, Ahsanul Haque do their due diligence, with great cameos by Tariq

In some scenes there are 'airplane noises', which I assume was left to create tension within the plot, which borders on annoying rather than anxiety-inducing. The production values in the 'independent film' subplot vary wildly, some being powerfully moving to others harping on cheesy and unconvincing. The director, at a press conference, admitted



Dhrubo Hasan's Fatima is an ambitious undertaking, with the director's passion clearly visible in the script – the aspects of our Liberation War and how we are all fighting our own inner wars, the torment that women still go through for being a woman, the extent to which a close one's betrayal could be delusionally overlooked.

As Fatima parks her yellow scooter at a petrol pump, visibly worn out, she changes, she is conflicted on how much she can pay for an oil change, opting to save Tk 100 on the endeavour – the opening scene attempts to highlight the financial ails that the struggling actor is facing, while trying to book an artist's visa to Canada.

As she simultaneously works on her debut film, a "passion project" about a *Birangana* named Shuborna, it eerily parallels her life, the extent of which she is painfully unaware. Looming over her head is Prashad, her ex-lover, who left her high and dry when they tried to elope, or did he?

Dhrubo Hasan's *Fatima* is an ambitious undertaking, with the director's passion clearly visible in the script – the aspects of our Liberation War and how we are all fighting our own inner wars, the torment that women still go through for being a woman, the extent to which a close one's betrayal could be delusionally overlooked.

The director has also written the story and partial screenplay, edited and executive produced the film – his eight-year fight finally coming to an end with this release.

The biggest strength the film has is Fatima herself, played by Tania Farin. No stranger to a leading role, Farin acts her heart out, so much so that the audience is exasperated, frustrated and often times, unsettled with her. She is easy to root for – carrying an aura of mystery and intrigue around her. Yash Rohan



Anam Khan and Shahed Ali Sujon. Pavel Areen's music does justice to his name as a music director, especially *Shudhu JeTomar* voiced by Konal.

Fatima is, for the most part, let down mostly by its drawn-out length and baffling stylistic decisions. The story could have easily shaved off half an-hour of scenes without much impact on the primary story. A loose end is seen in an 'agency' subplot that the film spends much time developing without any resolution, which the audience will not appreciate.

Concert to mark Bappa Mazumder's 30-year career today



Prominent musician Bappa Mazumder is all geared up to celebrate three decades in the music industry this year.

Aajob Karkhana has thus organised *The Bappa Mazumder Show with Joy Shahriar* today (May 24) at Bangladesh Shishu Academy Auditorium, in collaboration with

Aajob Records. The strictly invite-only concert will commence at 6pm.

Notably, musician Joy Shahriar will open the concert, and Bappa Mazumder will then perform some of his most beloved songs from his extensive body of work.

Excited about the upcoming concert, Bappa Mazumder expressed, "In the past 30 years, I've created many songs and received immense love from my audience. This event is a dedication to them."

'Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga' premieres at Star Cineplex today



The film *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga* is all set to be screened in Bangladesh today coinciding with its global release date.

Under the direction of George Miller and the production of Warner Bros, this prequel to the celebrated *Mad Max: Fury Road* (2015) stars Anya Taylor-Joy as Furiosa, a character portrayed by Charlize Theron.

Chris Hemsworth portrays the warlord Dementus in this origin story, which unfolds ten years before the events depicted in the 2015 film.

Premiering at Cannes, *Furiosa* received a seven-minute standing ovation. The film follows Furiosa's harrowing journey from captivity to vengeance, promising an intense cinematic experience.

NEWS

USA humiliate Tigers

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pointed out that the Tigers are still far off from being an established side in the shortest format.

Pacer Ali Khan's 18th over proved to be detrimental for the Tigers as the right arm quick sent back star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan (30 off 23) and Shoriful Islam in that over to leave the visitors reeling at 130 for eight. Bangladesh could never get back into the game from there.

Bangladesh's top order was once again exposed, with opener Soumya Sarkar departing for a golden duck when he chipped one right back to left arm pacer Saurabh Netravalkar in the very first over.

Tanzid Tamim, who replaced out-of-form Liton Das for the game, also could not capitalise on his start as he saw his timbers rattled while trying to play across the line a Jasdeep Singh delivery. He walked back after a 15-ball 19.

Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto made 36 off 34 deliveries, but always looked out of sorts till he fell to a run out following a miscommunication between him and Towhid Hridoy.

Hridoy (25 off 21) also departed soon after Shanto as Bangladesh were left in a spot of bother at 92 for four in 12.5 overs. Mahmudullah Riyad's dismissal just 11 deliveries later saw Bangladesh fearing yet another

embarrassing defeat before Shakib could only manage to get the Tigers closer to the target.

USA had gotten off to a very good start after being asked to bat, with their openers – skipper Monank Patel (42 off 38) and Steven Taylor (31 off 28) – stitching together a 44-run stand for the first wicket.

However, Bangladesh, with an improved death bowling effort, managed to restrict the USA to 144 for six.

Leg spinner Rishad starred with the ball in hand for the Tigers, ending with figures of two for 21 runs in his four overs. Pacers Shoriful and Mustafizur also got two wickets each.

DNCC couldn't spend even half the money

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14 Councillor Humayun Rashid, also the president of DNCC's environment development committee, said they need more budget to increase the city's greenery.

"The fund is too little to protect even the existing trees. We need gardeners and vehicles to tend to the trees," he said.

Adil Mohammad Khan, president of Bangladesh Institute of Planners, said that spending a little money would not make the city green.

"The low budget and poor implementation prove the DNCC's lack of attention to the environment," he told this correspondent.

He added that due to the shortage of trees, the city dwellers are suffering more during heatwaves.

A recent study titled "Prospects and Challenges of Achieving Sustainable Urban Green Spaces: A case study of urban greening in DNCC, Bangladesh"

shows that the green cover in the northern portion of the capital decreased from 47 percent in 1992 to just 16.17 percent in 2022.

Barren land areas for planting trees in Dhaka north have dropped from around 11sqkm in 2012 to 2.2sqkm in 2022, said the study published on May 9 in US-based journal Plos Sustainability and Transformation.

In March last year, a study conducted by Buet's Department of Urban and Regional Planning revealed that Dhaka city has less than 8.5 percent green areas, while it should have 20 percent.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, the chief executive of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), said, "I don't see new trees being planted or the existing ones being taken care of."

"The DNCC may not have properly assessed the space available for tree plantation," she told this newspaper.

Terming the city a concrete jungle,

she stressed the need for making rooftop gardening compulsory for commercial and private buildings to increase green spaces.

Contacted, Nuruzzaman Khan, executive engineer (additional charge) environment, climate and disaster management circle of the DNCC, said there is a plan to spend the unused money for greenery this monsoon on footpaths, central reservations, on the canal banks, and other suitable places.

DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam told this correspondent that he was more focused on the proper use of funds instead of just spending public money.

"Taking care of the trees is more challenging than planting new ones. To look after the trees, we have appointed 47 gardeners and officials," he said, adding that there was not a single supervisor to tend to the trees eight years ago.

"I'll spend money, but I don't like to use where the chances of return are nil."

Allegations of rights abuse

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"When such cases occur, our peacekeeping colleagues take appropriate actions in accordance with their screening policy and other relevant frameworks, including in consultation with troop-contributing countries."

"And sometimes it can result in uninformed personnel not being deployed or even being repatriated by the UN if allegations are

substantiated."

Dujarric said they have seen the DW documentary, and the UN colleagues in the peacekeeping department interacted and gave a statement to the producers.

"But, you know, we want to restate very clearly that the secretariat [UN] is committed to deploying personnel that meet the highest standards of efficiency and integrity, including respect for and commitment to

human rights, and has established the relevant procedures and mechanisms under the policy on human rights screening of UN personnel."

He said there are three parts to the screening. One involves self-certification; the other one involves the certification by the sending country, and there's another procedure followed by the office for human rights, the High Commissioner's Office for Human Rights.

Russian attack on Kharkiv

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police chief Volodymyr Tymoshko told reporters at the scene. Tymoshko said two missiles had hit the printworks' premises, with one landing nearby.

Oleksandr Filchakov, head of the Kharkiv region prosecutor's office, said about 50 people had been in the printworks when it was hit. Kharkiv is a hub of Ukraine's publishing industry, which has kept working despite power outages and intensifying Russian strikes.

Kharkiv city mayor told national television that 15 missiles had been used in the attack, based on preliminary information. The missile attack also injured seven people in the Kharkiv district, the governor said.

Russia has stepped up its attacks on Ukraine's northeastern region this spring, pummeling its energy and transport infrastructure using guided bombs, missiles and drones.

Meanwhile, Ukraine launched a drone at a village in Russia's Belgorod region and shelled the occupied city of

Gorlivka in its east yesterday, killing two people, local authorities said.

"An aircraft-type unmanned aerial vehicle" crashed into a house in the village of Krasny Vostok in the Belgorod region, destroying the building's first floor, local governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said.

"To our great grief, there was a victim – the body of a woman was found under the rubble," he said.

Belgorod sits directly across the border from Ukraine's northeast Kharkiv region, an area that has seen intense fighting since Russia launched a major ground assault on May 10.

Russia also said yesterday it had captured the village of Andriivka in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, where Kyiv's forces are suffering manpower and ammunition shortages and struggling to hold off Russian attacks.

"Units of the Southern grouping of troops liberated the settlement of Andriivka in the Donetsk People's Republic," the defence ministry said in a statement.

Confiscate

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"A national daily ran a report on March 31 on Benazir Ahmed's illegal wealth. Later, reports on similar allegations were published by some other media outlets," said Khorsheeda. Bangla daily Kaler Kantho recently published a two-part investigative report on the acquisition of substantial property by Benazir and his family.

The first report was published on March 31 under the headline "Aladdin's Lamp in Benazir's House."

According to the report, the former police chief's family owns an eco-resort on around 1,400 bighas and has bought another 800 bighas of land next to that resort. They also own 200,000 shares in five-star hotels.

Additionally, his family owns a 3,500-square-foot flat in the capital's Bashundhara residential area, and all these properties were purchased with illegal money, the report said.

Murshedy fined

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than BDT 25 lakh (CHF 20,000) for the breach of three aspects of the FIFA Code of Ethics.

Shohag had previously been banned for two years in 2023 and was handed a fine of approximately BDT 12 lakh (CHF 10,000) for using falsified documents to legitimise payments, leading to the BFF issuing a lifetime ban on him. Under the new sanctions, Shohag's ban will be extended till 2027.

For violating the same provisions as Shohag, former BFF Chief Financial Officer Abu Hossain and former operational manager Mizanur Rahman

were both sanctioned. Despite having previously left their roles at BFF, the duo has been barred from participating in any football-related activities for two years and forced to pay individual fines of more than BDT 12 lakh (CHF 10,000).

Meanwhile, Imrul Hasan Sharif, BFF's Procurement and Store Officer who had left his post earlier this year, has been asked to attend FIFA compliance training and has been warned about his future conduct.

"The decisions were taken following separate hearings and upon careful analysis, in each of the applicable proceedings, of both the evidence

Israeli forces

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release deal with Hamas to pause the offensive that began on October 7.

Israeli forces yesterday stepped up a ground offensive in Jabalia, where the military has razed several residential areas, and struck nearby Beit Hanoun town, areas where Israel declared major operations over months ago. Israel says it has had to return to prevent Hamas from regrouping there.

Hamas said it was holding an Israeli colonel captured on October 7, who Israel had previously reported was killed in the attacks that day.

At least 35,800 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's offensive in Gaza, according to the enclave's health ministry yesterday. The toll includes 91 deaths over the past 24 hours, a ministry statement said.

Meanwhile, Israel will reprimand the ambassadors of Ireland, Norway and Spain over their governments' plan to recognise a Palestinian state next week, an Israeli official said.

The envoys have been summoned to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, where they will be shown a previously unpublished video of Hamas taking female captives, the official said.

Polls postponed

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Raipura upazila parishad election, which was slated for May 29.

"Elections to all posts in Raipura upazila have been postponed as a valid candidate was killed," said the circular signed by the commission's Deputy Secretary Atiar Rahman.

On Wednesday afternoon, Suman Miah, 40, a vice-chairman candidate of Raipura upazila parishad, was beaten to death allegedly by his rival candidate Abid Hasan Rubel and his supporters at Mirer Bazar area in Paratali union.

Suman was a former joint convener of Narsingdi Government College BCL and son of Charsubuddi Union Parishad Chairman Nasir Uddin.