



REVIEW

STREE 2

A fantastic fable propagating equal rights

especially in sequences involving action.

I, however, enjoyed Tamannaah Bhatia's (as Shama) presence more—her poise, grace, and a mismatched yet symphonic chemistry with Tripathi. Her elegance in the song *Aaj*

of the character Bhaskar (played by Varun Dhawan in *Bhedhiya*) was smart and synchronised.

Coming to cameos, while most viewers were appalled by Akshay Kumar's special

The overall harmonisation of myth and reality—conjoining the famous Uttarakhand-based folklore of Sarkata with the modern chauvinists—was such a beautifully crafted awakening call.

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

While I have always been a fan of the Maddock Supernatural Universe, I cannot help but commend Amar Kaushik's brilliant take on voicing his thoughts in favour of equal rights for women through *Street 2*, his latest release.

While the film's first instalment, released in 2018, was a delight for awakened souls juggling to find a firm stance in a gender-imbalanced social structure, the second one, released on August 15, reinforced the need for equal status for females with much more finesse and grandeur.

Packed with witty, naughty dialogues penned by Niren Bhatt, the horror comedy ensures laughter in every scene. Rajkumar Rao's effortless projection of innocence, paired with Pankaj Tripathi's and Aparshakti Khurana's impeccable comic timing, adds splendor to the experience.

However, the spotlight of this unique production was Abhishek Banerjee, playing the infamous role of Vicky's friend Jana—anxious, confused, and hilarious—all at the same time.

Shraddha Kapoor's portrayal of 'Vicky's nameless girlfriend', perhaps the only serious character in the production, is praiseworthy,



Ki Raat, trending on social media, requires no further validation.

The other, and most exquisite part of this Sachin-Jigar song, would be how an "item number" could be such a delightful watch for women.

The composition of the number and its visualisation have been one of a kind, which I thoroughly enjoyed after Samantha's *O Antava*.

I cannot help but admit how most cameos I come across seem enforced, out of place, and just the result of a good personal relationship between the actor and the director or producer. However, Kaushik's incorporation

appearance, most failed to notice how well he essayed the antagonistic role of Sarkata's descendent. His pairing with Banerjee was simply brilliant, and hopefully casting directors will note their chemistry.

The overall harmonisation of myth and reality—conjoining the famous Uttarakhand-based folklore of Sarkata with the modern chauvinists—was such a beautifully crafted awakening call.

Made on a mere budget of Tk50 crore, the film earned almost Tk150 crore in the first two days of screening.

The collection came to me as no surprise, as the film—staying true to its commitment of uncompromised entertainment—has been one to remember this year and relish in years to come.

'Meyera Raat Dokhol Kor': Shayan lends voice to Kolkata protests



Musician Farzana Wahid Shayan, a dedicated advocate against injustice, returns with a powerful new song.

In response to the tragic rape and murder of Dr Moumita Debnath at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College Hospital, Shayan has released a powerful protest anthem.

Titled *Meyera Raat Dokhol Kor*, the song has been shared on

her Facebook and YouTube channels, quickly resonating with listeners and drawing widespread admiration.

Throughout her career, Shayan has remained a vocal critic of social and governmental injustices, using her music as a potent tool for protest.

Most recently, she joined students in their fight for change, continuing her unwavering commitment to speaking truth through her art.

Two Shakib Khan starrers postponed

Since the anti-discrimination student movement, Dhallywood has faced a significant slowdown with film releases and productions coming to a halt. Although the interim government has begun planning new movies, many projects are still delayed.

Two major Shakib Khan films have been



affected. *Borbaad*, directed by Mehedi Hasan Hridoy and starring Indian actress Idhika Paul, was set to begin filming in September but has been postponed.

Another film, *Sher*, a Bangladesh-India joint venture, was scheduled for filming in December but has also been delayed, with production now expected to begin next year.

NEWS

6 more cases

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Besides, a "mass killing" case was filed against Hasina and 33 others over the firing on a rally of Hefajat-e Islam at Motijheel's Shapla Chattar on May 5, 2013.

Mohammad Babul Sardar Chakhari, chairman of Bangladesh People's Party, lodged the case with another Dhaka court that ordered inspector (investigation) of Motijheel Police Station to submit a report before it after a probe.

In another development, Hasina, Quader, Asaduzzaman, former law minister Anisul Huq, former foreign minister Hasan Mahmud, and former textiles and jute minister Jahangir Kabir Nanak were sued over the killing of Abdullah Al Tahir, a student at Bangladesh Institute of Glass and Ceramics in Rangpur.

Victim's father Abdur Rahman lodged the case with Rangpur Kotwali Cognisance Court making AL President Hasina the prime accused.

Forty people, including former ministers and members of the units of Rangpur district and city AL, Swachhchasebak League, Jubo League, and Chhatra League were made accused, along with 300 unidentified ones.

In Joypurhat, Hasina and Quader were accused in a case filed over the murder of Najibul Sarker Bishal, a student of class-XII of Panchbibi Business Management Institute, on August 4.

Apart from the two accused, 126 other leaders of AL, Jubo League, and Chhatra League were accused in the case filed by Najibul's father Muzidul Sarker with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in Joypurhat that ordered the OC of Sadar Police Station to record the complaint as a FIR.

Former Jatiya Sangsad whip and AL Organising Secretary Abu Sayeed Al Mahmud Swapan and former AL lawmaker Shamsul Alam Dudu are among the named accused.

Meanwhile, a case was filed against ex-premier Hasina and former AL MP Shafiqul Islam Shimul over the murder of Natore school student Yasin Islam whose charred body was recovered from Shimul's house on August 6.

Yasin's father Fajer Ali also made Natore AL President Sirajul Islam, General Secretary Shariful Islam Romjan, Sadar Upazila Parishad Chairman Uma Chowdhury Joly and 111 unknown others accused in the case lodge with Natore Sadar Police Station.

India SC takes up doctor's

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Questions have been raised against the police handling of the case since the beginning— including the delay in allowing the women's parents to see the body, the postmortem report, and the prompt arrest of a civic volunteer, making it an open and shut case.

On and off the record, doctors have commented that the extent of the woman's injuries indicate the involvement of more than one attacker. There have also been reports that the police cremated the body in a

Govt mulls formation

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of the press is one of the pillars of democracy. If we want democracy, we have to ensure freedom of the press and freedom of speech."

Asked about enacting the mass media employees act, he said the government would look into it.

The information adviser said they would overhaul the Bangladesh Film Censor Board and take logical steps in response to demands for its abolition.

He said the murder of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Rumi was painful and that submission of the probe report had been delayed repeatedly.

He said his ministry would do whatever it can to ensure justice for Sagar, Rumi, and other journalists who had been killed.

"We want justice as soon as possible. We do not want to see any farce or dilly-dallying," he added.

201 officials promoted

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question must mention it in their joining letter.

The notification further states that the authority reserves the right to modify or revoke the order if any contrary or unfavourable information is found against any officer in the future.

Meanwhile, in a major development, the government yesterday promoted 73 police officials to the rank of deputy inspector general (DIG) of police.

Of them, 10 officers got direct promotions, while the remaining 63 got promoted to supernumerary positions (officials who hold the same position and perform the same duties after their elevation).

The Public Security Division of the

hurry, which the Kolkata Police have denied.

The state's opposition BJP has been alleging that the police is involved in a massive cover-up to protect the guilty.

Their allegation got a boost after a midnight attack on the hospital on August 15, as the statewide women's "Reclaim the Night" demonstration was on. With the attackers wrecking the emergency department, the BJP said it was another attempt at obliterating evidence.

Asked about people filing cases just because they have personal enmity with someone, Nahid said those not involved in crimes would not be punished.

"Even if cases are filed, action will be taken based on the probe. The law ministry has issued specific instructions in this regard."

Asked about corruption in the Department of Films and Publication (DFP) and Press Institute Bangladesh (PIB), the adviser said, "We have said that we do not want to see any place for corruption and nepotism. Institutions should be completely neutral."

He asked journalists to work neutrally, instead of being divided along party lines.

Nahid said, "You don't have to call me sir. I come to you as your child, as a representative of the people, with their demands and a vision for a new Bangladesh."

home ministry issued two separate circulars, signed by Deputy Secretary Mahabub Rahman Sheikh, in this regard.

According to the notification, the order will be effective soon after joining.

For the supernumerary posts, the tenure will be one year. The posts will be dissolved in case the officers get promoted, go on retirement, or are removed from duty, read the second circular.

The circular added that the promotion of officers on education leave or on a mission abroad will take effect as soon as they return to their regular workplace.

According to sources, the majority of the police officials, who got promoted yesterday, are from batches 15 and 17 of the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS).

Plunged into darkness

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Of them, 366 lost vision in one eye, and 17 in both.

Al Amin from Barishal said like the days before, the student of Hatem Ali Boys and Girls High School in the southern city joined his peers and seniors in the protests on Nathullabad Road on July 17, with unforeseeable peril awaiting him that afternoon.

"I had gone to support my seniors and fellows who were being attacked indiscriminately. However, I never expected them [police] to fire bullets and pellets at us," said the 14-year-old.

At least 22 pellets entered different parts of the schoolboy's body that day, including one into his right eye. Following the incident, he was rushed to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in the city.

More shocks were waiting for the family there. Doctors asked them to take him home despite multiple pellets still inside his body, including in the eye, as the authorities ordered the removal of all patients injured in the protests by that night, said Al Amin's mother Sharmin Jahan.

With whatever cash she could manage, she left home with her wounded son the next day and visited multiple health facilities for treatment.

"The hospitals were flooded with patients, which caused delays. After several tests and a thorough examination at Grameen GC Eye Hospital, they recommended immediate surgery and referred him [Al Amin] to Ispahani Islamia Eye Hospital in Dhaka," Sharmin said.

Like Al Amin, around 1,300 others were admitted to the hospitals in Dhaka, including the NIOH, Lions Eye Institute, Bangladesh Eye Hospital, and Dhaka Medical College Hospital's eye department, according to Dr Syyed Mehbub Ul Kadir of Bangladesh Eye Hospital.

Of them, 630 underwent surgeries— more than 90 percent of whom have lost vision in one or both eyes,

he added.

Most were admitted with pellet wounds causing retinal haemorrhage that led to loss of vision, said Dr Kadir.

In just 10 days from July 17, as many as 445 patients were rushed to the NIOH's emergency care. At least 305 of them had surgery.

Another 261 patients were brought between August 4 and 10, and 181 of them underwent surgery, the hospital said in a bulletin on August 11.

The patients have either become visually impaired or are at risk of losing sight. Their rehabilitation is important and urgent, added the bulletin.

Similar cases were reported from around the country, although a concrete figure is not available yet.

In Al Amin's case, the pellet had penetrated his retina, said his doctor vitreo-retinal surgeon Dr Farhana Yasmin of Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital.

The boy had the surgery on August 13. However, the doctors could not get the pellet out as it was deeply stuck in his optic nerve, making it nearly impossible for surgeons to remove it.

The pellet would not further harm Al Amin's eye, but the incident has led to a loss of vision in the injured eye, Dr Farhana said. "He would require follow-ups, and perhaps, another surgery," she said.

The doctor attended to at least five similar patients in the past two days.

"My friends have returned to school while all I do these days is sit indoors or lie on the bed," said Al Amin, currently at home after being discharged on August 14.

"I don't know how long it will take for me to return to my old life—enjoying chase with my school friends in the playground."

Restaurant worker Kazi Faruk, however, still lies in his bed at the NIOH, wearing sunglasses.

An unseeable barrier now stands between him and a world he can no longer see after losing vision in both

eyes.

Once filled with hope, Faruk's life took a tragic turn on August 5, the day Dhaka's streets erupted in celebration following Sheikh Hasina's fall and departure from the country.

It began as a regular day in his small room at his mess in Merul Badda. The Capital, the restaurant where he had worked for the past four years, was closed due to the unrest and curfew.

When the news of Hasina's exit spread, Faruk, like lakhs of others, joined the jubilant crowds.

As an active protester who had been demonstrating with Brac University students since July 16, he joined them on this day of victory as well.

As the protesters neared Badda Police Station, the celebration turned into horror.

Without any warning, police opened fire, and in the ensuing chaos, Faruk was struck by shotgun pellets, including in his eyes.

He was rushed to the NIOH immediately, but the irreparable damage was already done.

"We're still trying to regain his vision," said the hospital's Director Prof Mostafa.

"It's tragic for me to be shot on the day of celebration after our successful mission. The doctors are trying their best. I would be happy if I could regain vision in at least one eye," Faruk said, his voice tinged with sadness.

While the hospital is providing necessary care, Faruk's worries go beyond his immediate treatment.

"The hospital is giving me the supplies I need, but I have to buy the medicines that aren't available here. People are checking on me now, but I fear that if they stop, I'll be left alone," he added.

Faruk's family is also grappling with the uncertainty hanging over his future. Having lost his parents long ago, Faruk had faced many challenges in life, but nothing as devastating as this.

Serbian police kill armed man in arrest shootout

AFP, Belgrade

A man has been shot dead by Serbian police, the interior minister said yesterday, after being connected with the attacker behind a crossbow shooting at the Israeli embassy in Belgrade in June.

Interior minister Ivica Dacic said the man fired shots toward the police near the southern city of Novi Pazar late Saturday and refused to surrender.

"During the arrest, he resisted, fired three to four shots at the police, and members of the Special Anti-Terrorist Unit neutralised him," Dacic

told local media.

He added that the man had previously been convicted and jailed for terrorist offences.

The police operation took place in the village of Hotkovo, near Novi Pazar—a historical and political centre of Serbia's Bosniak Muslim minority.