

CELEBRATING LIFE 2011 FILMMAKING WORKSHOP

Red & Green/লাল আৰ সবুজ

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The Screenplay

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This screenplay utilizes the following elements: Flower/Village/Train

EXT. MOTIJHEEL SHAPLA CHATTAR – DAY

A huge anti-government demonstration takes place around Shapla Chattar in present-day Motijheel. The people of Bangladesh want the current communications minister, Sayed Abul Hossain to resign after his ministry repeatedly failed to ensure proper road conditions which inadvertently led to the deaths of film director Tareque Masud and ATN News CEO, Mishuk Munier.

People from all walks of life but mostly students are protesting against Abul Hossain. Most of the protesters are holding the Bangladeshi flag on short poles while others wear it around their heads. The day is cloudy and gloomy as the protests turn violent and soon riot police are running after the protesters with rods and thick plastic screens. The protesters hurl stones and sticks at the police. They are cries of 'Joy Bangla' and the protesters charge at police vehicles. Buses and CNGs are burned. A policeman is beaten up brutally and his skull smashed to a pulp nearby. Most of the female protesters flee fearing extreme consequences for them. Somewhere a student is dragged across the street by riot police.

[CUT]

Abdul Sattar, a 66 year old freedom fighter is stuck in the jostling crowd at the scene of the riots. The camera follows him as he tries to struggle through the thick crowd in vain. He shouts and screams for people to move but to no avail. Soon riot police charge at them and the crowd breaks out and Abdul Sattar makes a run for the shopping mall nearby.

While he runs, the camera becomes his **POV (POINT OF VIEW)** so we see the carnage through his eyes. He is holding an old shopping bag with some fruits and vegetables in it from the nearby bazaar.

[SHAKY CAM IS USED THROUGHOUT THIS ENTIRE SCENE]

Abdul Sattar finally reaches a safe spot near the mall entrance. He is unable to walk home at the moment as all the exit points are blocked by protesters and police. It starts raining and some umbrellas sprout up. Abdul Sattar left his at home.

He is a little exhausted and breathes heavily. He looks around to see a young couple, a boy and a girl, probably university students, snuggling up to each other beside him. The girl is in shock and the boy tries to comfort her by hugging her and placing a light kiss on her forehead. They are both drenched wet by the rain. On the other side, he sees a family of four – father, mother and two little kids. The children are crying as the father holds them tightly. Suddenly Molotov cocktail bombs explode nearby and the scene cuts when Abdul Sattar falls to the ground and the **POV camera** shakes and falls too.

[CUT]

EXT. MOTIJHEEL SHAPLA CHATTAR – DAY

Its raining heavily.

[THIS SCENE IS IN SLOW-MOTION]

[THIS ENTIRE SCENE IS SILENT AND THERE IS A SHRILL RINGING BACKGROUND SOUND PLAYING OVER IT. WE DO NOT HEAR ANY SOUND FROM THE SCENE SITUATIONS. THIS IS TO DENOTE THAT ABDUL SATTAR IS TEMPORARILY DEAF DUE TO THE LOUD BOMBING SOUNDS AND HE ONLY HEARS A RINGING SOUND IN HIS EARS]

[THIS SCENE USES DOLLY CAMERA]

Abdul Sattar is slightly bruised on the side of his forehead from the fall and is being dragged away by some people. He is left to rest on the inner-side of the shopping mall's entrance. The doors and windows of the mall are broken and people are rushing into it to loot whatever they can. Abdul Sattar glumly looks at a riot policeman kicking and beating a young protester who is on his back on the ground as blows land on him. The boy screams in pain but no one pays attention. Tears come to Abdul Sattar's eyes.

Suddenly his ears can hear normally and all the sounds are heard on-screen. We hear police sirens nearby. The boy's face is now fully bloody and he is not moving, probably dead. His Bangladeshi flag lies on the street and some policemen are standing on it as they beat and prod the boy's body. The flag is dirty and wet with shoe dirt on it. Abdul Sattar's breathing becomes heavy as he sees this. He cries almost. The red and green of the flag are now black and grey with wet mud.

He inhales deeply. **[Inhalation sound heard distinctly]**

[CUT]

EXT. MAIN FARIDPUR MUKTIJODDHA BASE CAMP/1971 – NIGHT

[THE YEAR IS 1971. THE FOLLOWING EVENTS TAKE PLACE DURING BANGLADESH'S LIBERATION WAR – 3 MONTHS BEFORE THE COUNTRY GAINS INDEPENDENCE FROM PAKISTAN].

Abdul Sattar, a youth of 26 years, exhales [exhalation sound heard distinctly]. He is cleaning the nozzle of his old shotgun at the camp. It's almost midnight and the only light is from a kerosene lamp close by. He pauses and looks at the night sky above. Suddenly he hears a loud meow and sees a black cat disappearing into the bushes beside his makeshift tent. On the far side of the wide Padma river, gunshots are heard.

At one point he becomes aware of someone shouting his name. Most of the fighters are asleep. A man comes running towards him.

MAN: সাত্তার জাউকান্দিতে পাক বাহিনী ধুকে পরসে! তুমি তারাতারি যাও!

Abdul Sattar, his gun in hand, runs as fast as he can. His village, Jhaukandhi, is 25 minutes from the camp by foot.

EXT. CORN FIELDS/1971 – NIGHT

[SHAKY CAM USED HERE]

Abdul Sattar runs through the open fields. The camera follows his barefoot as they make their way through the wet patch of land. Chirping sounds are heard as Sattar tears through the grass. He recites the Ayatul Kursi as he runs.

ABDUL SATTAR: Allahu La Ilaha Ilalla. Mohammadur Rasulallah...ইয়া আল্লাহ সুভ হানা টা আলাহ আমার আস্থা, বিবি আর জয়নাল কে হিফায়ত করুন। তারা তমারিই বান্দা...

He breathes harder as he runs and tears come to his eyes.

[CUT]

EXT. ABDUL SATTAR'S VILLAGE HOUSE/1971 – NIGHT

Abdul Sattar hides behind low bushes and peeks at his mud house. There is a jeep parked outside and a couple of Pakistani soldiers stand guard, laughing and shouting outside. He hears his wife screaming inside. The soldiers also make funny screaming noises.

Sattar runs out and towards his house. When the soldiers see him he chants “Allahu Akbar, mein Musalman hu bhai, Mein pakka Musalman hu...”. The soldiers catch hold of him and throw away his shotgun rifle. They carry him into the house where his mother is held down by two soldiers and the dead body of his 5 year old son, Joynal, lies in a pool of blood in the corner. Inside in the bedroom, Sattar’s wife screams as the lieutenant tears off her blouse and bra, exposing both the breasts, while frantically kissing her on the mouth. Sattar’s old mother cries silently as the other soldiers tie Sattar on a chair in front of the bedroom where his wife now lies completely naked on the bed as the lieutenant has sex with her. Her hands are tied to the bed-posts.

PAKISTANI SOLDIER: Toh tum Muktijoddha ho hah? Kaminey suar ki oladh! (You Son of a Pig!) [He spits on Sattar’s face]

And then hits him with the butt of his gun. Then he takes a Bangladesh flag from Sattar’s almirah and lights fire to it, throwing it front of the bedroom door. Sattar screams and cries as he watches his wife and then the flag burning on the floor.

Gunshots and bombing sounds are heard outside.

EXT. MOTIJHEEL SHAPLA CHATTAR/PRESENT DAY – DAY

Gunshots and bombing sounds are heard and Abdul Sattar shouts as he watches the Bangladesh flag being trampled on the street. The flag is almost torn now. Nearby the young boy and girl talk on the phone with their anxious parents.

Abdul Sattar slowly stands and tries running towards the flag on the road.

[SHAKY CAM USED HERE]

We watch his feet moving quickly through the crowd, limping along.

EXT. RAILWAY LINE – FARIDPUR 1971 – DAY

[SHAKY CAM USED HERE]

We see Sattar’s legs running hurriedly through the grass as he shouts “জয়নালের মা! কি করো তুমি?!
ট্রেন আস্তাসে সর তুমি!”

Now we see Sattar’s young bruised wife, dressed in a white torn sari, standing on the side of a railway line. A train is seen approaching in the distance as its sirens are heard. Behind we see Sattar running towards her.

When the train reaches her, Sattar’s wife jumps in front of the moving train. Some blood spatters on the camera screen. Abdul Sattar stops dead in his tracks and shouts loudly in pain and anger as he sees the train pass by. He faints to the ground.

EXT. MOTIJHEEL SHAPLA CHATTAR/PRESENT DAY – DAY

Abdul Sattar opens his eyes as rain drops fall into his dry mouth. There is tear-gas smoke in the air. He is lying on the ground with fruits and vegetables from his shopping bag strewn about. He stands up and runs to the flag.

When he reaches it, he takes it up, folds it neatly and is about to return when a baton rod comes swinging and hits his head hard from the side. There is loud THUD!

The camera lens cracks as it is hit and lands on the ground.

[SCREEN GOES BLACK AND SILENT]

THE END