

Good films attract cinema goers

With the release of vulgar films, cinema audiences shrank. But recently release of some decent films have attracted audience again

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN

Cinema goers are flocking to the movie houses of the city again.

After the commercial success of films like Matir Moina, Moner Majhe Tumi and Chandrakatha, decent movies have made a brilliant comeback in the film industry. But certain cinema halls are being preferred by the directors and producers of the movies.

"My film Moner Majhe Tumi is showing for the fourth straight week at Modhumita Hall. A good movie also needs a good cinema hall. The business of Modhumita and Balaka theaters is not on the same level to other inferior halls because of their environment and modern equipment," said Motiur Rahman Pannu, the director of Moner Majhe Tumi.

Most of the city's cinema halls are in dire straits due to a rapid fall in attendance.

The cinema hall owners are however hopeful with the trend of good movies breaking the box office records.

"This is a family film. Those who stopped going to the cinema halls because of vulgarity are returning for Moner Majhe Tumi. Ministers, government officials and the city's elite are enjoying it with their families. This has been the most successful movie after the smash-hit Titanic," said Naushad of Modhumita Movies.

Naushad also informed that craze for Moner Majhe Tumi meant that Modhumita could not run the other box office prospect Chandrakatha.

Chandrakatha is in its third week at the Balaka Hall and the response from the audience has been tremendous.

"Even advance booking is complete. Hopefully we will continue running it till the coming International Film Festival," said Lutfur Rahman, manager of Balaka.

Hall owners are now feeling inspired to showcase decent movies in future.

"Films like Kirtan Kholo, Kokhono Megh Kokhono Brishti are in the pipeline," said Rahman.



With the release of some decent films recently a wide range of audience is returning to cinema again.

Nazrul's monuments in dire neglect

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Two monuments of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam built along the Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the city have been subjected to gross negligence.

These monuments were built in 1998 when the first birth centenary of the national poet was celebrated with fanfare and festivity. The monuments were constructed at Doel Chattar, Nazrul's graveyard at Dhaka University, Shahbag and Kawran Bazar on the northwestern side of SAARC fountain.

Political posters, employment notices of various insurance companies, posters of vulgar Bangla movies and even leaflets relating to sexually transmitted diseases are frequently pasted on the monuments. Many people wipe lime on it after having beetle-leaf.

"This is a total disrespect to our great national personality like Nazrul Islam. He is not a politician and is above all controversy. Why is he not being treated fairly?" said Shahnoor Khandaker of West Kafirul.

"I always remain busy managing the traffic congestion of these roads. We barely have any opportunity to look after it. No body even asked about it earlier. From now on, I will probably try to take care of it," said an on-duty traffic police at Shahbagh.

Interestingly, this Star City correspondent tried to figure out the gov-

ernment organisation, which built these four monuments. "No, it has go nothing to do with my department. Our Planning and Design Division (P&D) department may know about it," said Nurul Alam, in-charge of Social Welfare Department of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

"Our department has no idea about the monuments of Kazi Nazrul Islam. You better talk to our Chief Public Relation Officer (PRO)," said Anwar Hossain, Assistance Engineer of P&D Department.

Chief PRO Abdur Rahman requested this correspondent to contact the Cultural Ministry. But the Deputy Secretary (Admin) of Cultural Ministry could not say much about it.

Finally, the Star City sought help from the Ministry of Housing and Public Works to know about it. But the effort went in vain. "As far as I know, our ministry is no way involved with these monuments," said Senior Information Officer Nizamul Kabir of the Ministry of Housing and Public Works.

Every year, the government and many other organisations observe the poet's both birth and death anniversary with much respect. "In seminars and symposia, the rhetoric pours in. No body unfortunately talks about the preservation of these monuments," regretted Shahnoor Khandaker.

Foolproof traps to prevent rickshaws

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB) has installed a 'rickshaw trap' experimentally at Bangla Motor crossing to stop rickshaws from leaving their lane and slowing down traffic of motorised vehicles.

A metal hump on the road can be an enemy to rickshaws and friend to motor vehicles, as the DTCB has been demonstrating it for the last seven days.

The rickshaw trap has metal ribs to block rickshaw wheels, but allows motor vehicles to

pass. "Over the last seven days, the trap has prevented rickshaw-pullers from taking left turn, which was a major problem earlier. If it is successful we will install it at some other important intersections to prevent the rickshaws from slowing down the traffic," said a

senior official of the DTCB. Now the rickshaw-pullers stop at least 120 yards away from this metal bump, not creating any traffic snarl-up at Bangla Motor crossing. "In the last week, several rickshaws tried to jump lanes onto the motorway. But the trap stopped them," Salam, a shopowner at Bangla Motor.

Engineer Jahan-e-Alam of Sutrapur with the assistance of the DTCB demonstrated his invention there. "It can be very effective to stop the rickshaws to create any traffic jam. The trap could be installed on major roads to segregate rickshaws from motorised vehicles," Jahan-e-Alam said.

Jahan worked for about 22 months on his innovations. He has also come up with two new fittings, which can make rickshaws less harmful to its passengers and the cars.

"I have included a shock absorber in rickshaws, which often run into each other from behind. My shock absorber is effective enough to limit the impact of such collisions," said Jahan.

"My third device is a rickshaw wheel-cap. Fixed in the centre of spoked wheels, it prevents injury to legs and the body of the cars and light vehicles," said Jahan.



New innovations to keep rickshaws away from hurting.

Killing of a young man sparks fear in Purana Paltan

CITY CORRESPONDENCE

The killing of Wahidul Islam Igloo on Friday over his protest at extortionists' abusive language against his mother sparked outrage among locals.

The 32-year-old man, once a cable operator, was shot dead by an armed gang in front of the disputed cable service provider AMICO Satellite at Purana Paltan at 3:00pm.

Igloo's brother Mukta alleged that Jahid, Zillur and Bulbul went to their home and threatened Mukta with death for what they said was interference in their extortion.

Hearing quarrels, Igloo rushed out of his room and protested the extortionists' threat against his brother. The gangsters then swore at the mother of the two brothers, spurring Igloo to shout abuse back at them.

Hours later, the gang, prepared with arms, was waiting for the victim at AMICO Satellite and fired on Igloo when he went out. Igloo died instantly. The locals described it as a premeditated killing.

Igloo was a founder partner of AMICO Satellite, established in 1996, with the partnership of his friends - Mona, Rashed and Shapan, all longtime residents of Purana Paltan.

After a year of successful monopoly business of AMICO Satellite, Palash and Nurul Islam joined the company as new partners and Igloo withdrew his partnership because of their dishonest activities.

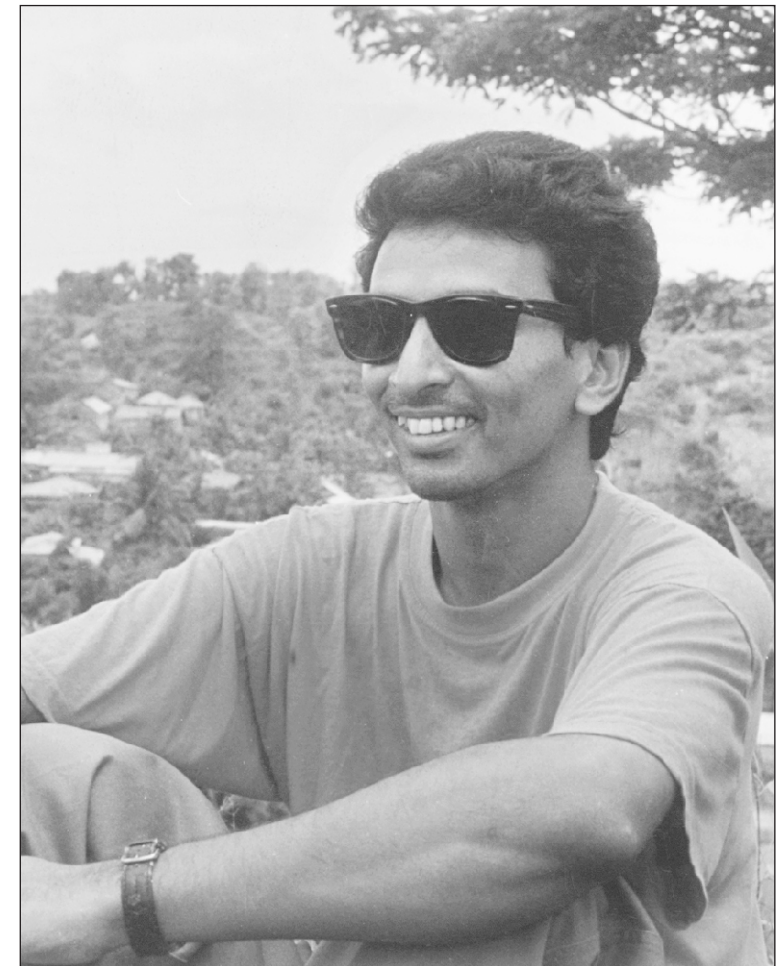
It is alleged that Palash is involved in crimes and has links to Subrata Bain, a gangster charged with multiple counts of crime.

Nurul Islam has also a case against him for alleged involvement in the killing of the son of Samsuddin, Awami League lawmaker from Narasingdi, and took refuge in Purana Paltan.

AMICO Satellite, located in the Sobhan Mansion, became a front for criminal activities by the hoodlums. With the residential character of Purana Paltan turning commercial, outsiders took the chance to take control of the area.

The killing of Igloo sent a wave of panic among homeowners in the area. A local resident asked in an emotion-charged voice, "Why did they kill Igloo? He was innocent."

The local residents demand justice. Although Palash was arrested, people fear he might be released on bail and take revenge.



The young businessman Igloo was shot dead by an alleged gang of criminals.

utility taxicab & city bus route

UTILITY

Electricity
Electricity Complex- PDB- 9566061-5, 9560170-9
Electricity Complex (DESA)- 8616737-43, 8617626
DESCO- 8123138-40
Complaints (Rural Electrification Board, Dhaka)- 8916424-8

Gas
Titas Gas Exchange (Emergency)- 9563667-8
Kawrnazar-8112135-42
Mirpur- 8014132-3
Mohammadpur- 9117215, 9113903
Mohakhali- 9884741, 9885922, 8824993
Motijheel-9667612

Fire Services
Siddique Bazar (HQ)- 9556667
Mohammadpur- 9112078
Khilgaon- 7218329
Mirpur- 9001055
Tongi- 9801070
Demra-7400111
Postagola- 7410771
Sadarghat- 7119759
Mirpur 10 Circle- 9002269, 9001055
Mirpur TVG Complex- 9001189

DO YOU KNOW
Fire services provide cheap, fast and efficient ambulance service too?

WASA
WASA (PABX)- 8117829-31
Mirpur- 9000519
Mohammadpur- 8120192
Fakirapool-9115343
Asad Gate- 8917492
Uttara- 9559142,
Segunbagicha- 7316348
Pagla- 8113900-39

TAXI CAB

Yellow Cab
Navana 9558065
Salida 9344477, 0171620881
Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191
Cab One 7113282-3
Nihon 8624741-2
Orion 9347277
Anudip 8125285 and 8127611
Capital 9352847

Union 8130485
Kool 0171826731
Black Cab
Cab Ex 9358401
Cabline 8321162
JBS Cab 019364575
Sajan 018126036
Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611
Cab One 7113282-3

Palki 0171052500
Cab I 7113282
Jatri 0171540074
Nipun 9572277
R-Cab 8914782
Star Cab 9571919
Shihab 018202477 & 018228675
KGN 8620011

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express Leaves Dhaka at 4:00 pm
Mahanagar Prabhati Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am
Mahanagar Godhuli Leaves Dhaka at 3:05 pm
Turna Leaves Dhaka at 11:00 pm
Parabat Express Leaves Dhaka at 6:30 am
Joyantika Express Leaves Dhaka at 12:30 pm
Upaban Express Leaves Dhaka at 9:30 pm
Tista Express Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am
Ekata Express Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm
Upakul Express Leaves Dhaka at 6:00 am
Padma Express Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 10:15 pm
Reaches Chittagong at 2-55 pm
Reaches Chittagong at 9-11 pm
Reaches Chittagong at 7-05 am
Reaches Sylhet at 2-30 pm
Reaches Sylhet at 9-20 pm
Reaches Bahadurabad at 1-05 pm
Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-55
Reaches Noakhali at 1-35 pm
Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm

CITY BUS ROUTE

Bus No.	Route	Starts from
1	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12	Golap Shah Mazar
2	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2	Phoolbaria bus station
3	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur	Phoolbaria bus station
4	Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi	Shyampur
5	Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur	Sayedabad
6A	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulistan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6B	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6C	Motijheel Shapla chhatter- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2	Motijheel Shaplachhatter
7	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2	Sadarghat
8	Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtol	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahal
10	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrali-Malibagh-Rampura-Biwa Road-Tongi Bridge	Sadarghat
11	Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
11/A	Sayedabad-Khilgaon-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge	Syedabad
12	Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur	Shanir Akhra
13	Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur	Motijheel
14	Signboard -Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12	Signboard (Chittagong Road)
15	Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12	Chittagong Road
24	Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile	Gulistan