

# Film industry on the verge of collapse

PORIMOL PALMA

The film industry of the country has fallen into decline in the last one decade -- both in terms of quality of films and its commercial viability.

Indifferent attitude of the government, anomalies in the censor board, video piracy and aggression of pornography from foreign countries have made the situation worse.

As a result, the industry lost a major portion of its viewers and about one-third of cinemas was forced to close down.

A section of producers are also responsible for such decline as they started producing vulgar movies to make an easy profit. But these low quality movies dominated by sex and violence led to an increase in crimes and violence in the society,

experts said.

Such situation made the people keep cinemas at bay. The number of film-goers in the capital has declined to three lakh a week now, down from about nine lakh a few years back. Same is the scenario in other towns and rural areas, said Mian Alauddin, law and cultural secretary of Bangladesh Motion Pictures Exhibitors Association (BMPEA).

The investment in the industry also decreased markedly -- it went down to 60 crore in 2004 from about Tk 200 crore in 1995. The government earned a revenue of Tk 27 crore from the film industry in 1995 but only about Tk 9 crore in 2004, according to the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

As profit marked a sharp drop,

cinema owners were forced to close down the movie theatres. About 400 cinemas, out of 1200, were shut down in the last one decade and many others are likely to meet the same fate.

Moon, Tajmahal, Rupmahal, Joyti, Mollika, Beauty, Lion and Modhumita in Dhaka and Gulzar, Khurshid, Mahal, Nupur, Jalsa, Hridam, Upahar and Alankar in Chittagong are vulnerable to closure, according to the BMPEA.

"As no good films are being produced nowadays, viewers do not turn up at the cinemas, resulting the closure of movie theatres," said Mian Alauddin.

The slide in film business has already rendered about ten lakh workers jobless and about ten thousand more jobs are on the line, industry sources said.

Many producers shied away from producing films as there is no possibility of profit in the business, said KMR Manjoor, president of Bangladesh Film Producers and Distributors Association (BFPDA).

On the other hand, some producers invested only Tk 30 to 40 lakh for a vulgar film with low-grade artists to make a huge profit, whereas a good film requires an investment of at least Tk 1.5 to 2 crore, he said.

The artists also get an honourarium at the minimum. The A-grade artists, who received Tk 5 to 6 lakh for a film, are now getting Tk 1 to 2 lakh, said Labu Ahmed, office secretary of Bangladesh Film Artists Association.

The producers of vulgar films use low-grade artists who have neither any academic background nor any

artistic and creative sense, said Chashi Nazrul Islam, president of Bangladesh Film Directors Association (BFDA).

These artists and director-cum-producers are, in fact, dominating the industry, marginalising the good directors and producers, he added.

Low quality English movies, which are being screened across the country, are polluting the film arena.

The censor board censors only 20 English movies a year, KMR Manjoor said, but at least 200 English films, mainly from Hong Kong and China, are screened in the country every year.

Producers are forced to produce vulgar films to compete with these foreign films and the cable television network, causing the film industry to suffer badly.

BFDA leaders blamed the government for not taking any initiative to develop the industry.

"Such indifferent attitude of the government not only hampers the development of the industry but also helps promote a unhealthy culture," said film director Sohanur Rahman Sohan.

Film producers, directors and artists also complained that the government has failed to stop video piracy as a vested quarter is engaged in such practice.

Badal Rahman, a film director, said, "The government efforts to curb crimes and violence have failed because of the impact of bad films on the society."

Film is the most powerful media and the government should promote it through creating scopes for study and research on films and incentives, he added.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia addresses a huge public meeting organised by Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) at Langolkot in Comilla yesterday.

## Body to probe Khulna fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A three-member committee was formed yesterday to find out the cause of the devastating fire that broke out on Saturday noon at Notun Bazar Char area in which a teenage girl was burnt alive and 1500 shanties were gutted rendering several thousands homeless.

Deputy Director of Fire Services Ashraf Ali will head the committee which will submit its report on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Khulna City Mayor has distributed cooked food, 1500 blankets, 1500 pieces of sarees and lungis, 1500 pieces of wrappers and winter clothes among the fire victims.

Local BNP and Awami League workers also distributed relief materials among them.

## Ctg Sangbadik Housing Society executives

BSS, Chittagong

Kazi Jafrul Islam and Swapan Mallik have been elected President and General Secretary of the Chittagong Sangbadik Cooperative Housing Society Ltd (CSCHSL) for 2005-2007.

Other members are Anis Kumer Sen (Vice-President), Omar Kaiser and Mostaque Ahmed (members). The names of the new executives were announced at a special general meeting of the organisation held at Chittagong Press Club yesterday, a CSCHSL press release said.

With CSCHSL Interim Management Committee Mohammad Yusuf in the chair, the meeting condoled the death of its members Prof Mohammad Khaled, Sadhan Kumer Dhar, Syed Mostafa Jamal, Akhterunnabi, Abdul Hamid and Osmanul Haq.

They also prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls and conveyed their heart-felt sympathies to the members of the bereaved families.

## Meter system in cabs, CNG auto-rickshaws in Ctg soon

BSS, Dhaka

Chittagong District Development Coordination Committee (CDDCC) at a meeting yesterday decided to introduce meter system in taxis and CNG-driven auto-rickshaws in Chittagong city.

During the meeting held at the port city, the ministry concerned

has been requested to take necessary steps in this regard, an official handout said here yesterday.

The CDDCC members with former Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury MP in the chair also urged the authorities to introduce a new ferry at Kalurghat and provide the round-the-clock

service at Tailardip ferry ghat.

State Minister for Environment and Forests Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, Whip Wahidul Alam and other officials attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, the District Law and Order Committee, at a meeting expressed satisfaction over the law and order situation in the district.

## 'Set up deep-sea port at Akram point'

### Khulna Dev Action Committee to stage hunger strike Jan 29

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Greater Khulna Development Action Coordination Committee will stage a dawn-to-dusk hunger strike at Shahid Haidis Park here on January 29 to press for its several demands, including setting up of a deep-sea port at Akram point.

The other demands are modernisation of Mongla Port, construction of Khulna airport, installation of a gas network, completion of construction of Sheikh Abu Naser specialised hospital and construction of Padma bridge at Mawa.

Political parties, including BNP and professional and business organi-

sations have extended their support to the hunger strike and other action programmes, committee sources said.

The committee also called for taking stern action against 11 people identified by the government as members of a mafia group involved in creating obstacle to the development of Mongla port.

## Iajuddin, Khaleda greet Kalam, Manmohan

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia felicitated their Indian counterparts on the occasion of the Republic Day of India today.

In a message to President APJ Abdul Kalam, President Iajuddin termed India as close neighbour of Bangladesh and said "Bangladesh and India enjoy friendly relations that are characterised by the spirit of understanding and cooperation."

He expressed his confidence that the relations between the two countries would be further strengthened and deepened in the days ahead.

In a separate message to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Khaleda Zia said "we attach great importance to our relations with India, which is rooted in our common history and tradition."

She said that her nation is committed to work with India to add further depth and dimension to the contents of our relations for the mutual benefit of the peoples as well as for peace, progress and prosperity of South Asia.

## Briefing for UK student visa holders Jan 31

BSS, Dhaka

British Council is organising a pre-departure briefing session for students, who have obtained a British student visa and are leaving for the UK, for the February 2005 academic session.

The briefing session will take place at British Council on January 31 at 3:00pm.

Students concerned have been requested to register their names and collect entry passes from January 26-30 between 10:00am and 3:00pm.

Students have been requested to contact Agatha Gomes, British Council, 5, Fuller Road, Dhaka-1000 Tel: 8618905-7 for registration and collection of entry pass.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Italian film show

Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen three films titled 'The Bicycle Thief', 'Umberto D' and 'After the Fox' directed by celebrated Italian neo-realist filmmaker Vittorio de Sica. Venue: German Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3:00pm, 5:00pm and 7:00pm.

### Indian film show

The High Commission of India will screen a film titled 'Lakshya'. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House-25, Road-96, Gulshan-2.

### Drama

Sushama Natya Sampraday, a theatre group, will stage a drama titled 'Ahiladi Janmoutsav'. Venue: Mahila Samity Auditorium, Bailey Road. Time: 5:30pm.

### Exhibition

A two-day exhibition of books and documents will be inaugurated. Venue: National Institute of Mass Communications, Dharu-salam, Mirpur. Time: 10:00am to 3:30pm daily.

### Eid reunion

Dhaka city unit of Jatiya Oikya Mancha organises an Eid reunion. Venue: Hotel Eden, Arambagh. Time: 10:00am.

## DHAKA TOMORROW

### Italian film show

Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen three films titled 'Two Women', 'Sunflower' and 'The Gold of Naples' directed by celebrated Italian neo-realist filmmaker Vittorio de Sica and starring famous Italian actress Sophia Loren. Venue: German Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3:00pm, 5:00pm and 7:00pm.

### Drama

Sushama Natya Sampraday, a theatre group, will stage a drama titled 'Shahare Nutun'. Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Segun Bagicha. Time: 6:30pm.

## LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION)  
MATTER NO. 06 OF 2005  
IN THE MATTER OF:

An application under section 233 of the Companies Act 1994, -AND-  
IN THE MATTER OF:  
Mrs. Mahfuza Rahman, W/o. Late A. Rahman Khan, 459/2, Green Way, Moghbazar, P.S. Ramna, Dhaka-1217 ..... Petitioner.

-Versus-  
Trade Linkers Office Automation Ltd, a Private Limited Company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1913 having its registered office at Moon Mansion (Ground floor), 12, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000 and others. .... Respondents.

Notice is hereby given that upon an application filed by the petitioner under section 233 of the Companies Act, 1994 Bench of the High Court Division Presided over by Mr. Justice Md. Imman Ali was pleased to admit the same on 09-01-05 and His Lordship has fixed the matter for hearing on 20-02-05. If anyone is interested to oppose the said application, he may do so by an Advocate or in person. Copy of the same may be obtained upon payment of prescribed fees from the office of the undersigned:  
Mesbah Uddin Ahmed, Senior Advocate Supreme Court Room- 302/319, Supreme Court Bar Bhaban, Dhaka.

## Study in Perth, Australia

Located in Perth, Western Australia, Murdoch University is a multi-award winning institution that has an international reputation for research and teaching and is committed to the pursuit of excellence.

Murdoch has an extensive range of Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Research programs including:

- Information Technology- Games Technology, Multi Media, Knowledge Management, Internet Working & Security, Business Information Systems, Computer Science, Internet Computing, Information Systems Development, Multimedia Information Systems and Software Engineering
- Business-Accounting: Marketing, Banking, E-Business, Finance, Entrepreneurship & Business Innovation, Finance and HR Management
- Law- LLB and LLM

Ms Gillian Ajayi, Associate Director, Murdoch International will be available for one to one consultation on the following date:

Date : Tuesday 1st February 2005  
Time : 10:00am to 1:00pm  
Venue : Australian Centre For Education  
IDP Education Australia  
CWN (A) 12, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Gulshan 2, Dhaka  
Tel : (880) 2 9883545, 9895913, 9896134, 9899738, 9894581  
Fax : + (880) 2 8823343 Email : info@dhakaidp.com, www.idp.com  
Please call for an appointment and bring along your transcripts.

www.murdoch.edu.au/international



## Dhaka International Trade Fair-2005

Export Promotion Bureau  
Dhaka

### Change of Dhaka International Trade Fair-2005 time schedule

This is for information of all concerned that due to unavoidable circumstances the time schedule of DITF-2005 has been shifted from 24 February-25 March, 2005 to 01-31 December, 2005.

### Director

Dhaka International Trade Fair-2005 Secretariat  
Export Promotion Bureau, TCB Bhaban (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)  
1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215  
Phone: 9144821-23/123, Fax: 880-1-9119531  
E-mail: epb.bd@aitfbd.net, Web-site: www.epb.gov.bd

GD-57



## Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh

Headquarters, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229

### NOTICE

To ensure proper security during the upcoming SAARC summit meeting, it has been decided to enhance the Security Alert State at Zia International Airport, Dhaka. The present Security Alert State will be raised to "YELLOW" during the period 27 January, 2005 to 03 February, 2005 and 06 February, 2005. During this period only officers and staff working at ZIA with valid Airport passes and only a limited number of guests (visitors) accompanying the passengers will be allowed to enter the Airport after body search and scanning of all accompanied items.

It has further been decided to enhance the Security Alert State to "ORANGE" during the period 04-05 February, 2005 and 07-08 February, 2005. After this period "YELLOW" alert state will continue till the departure of all SAARC summit participants. During these periods no guests (visitors), privately owned vehicles will be allowed to enter the restricted areas of the Zia International Airport. Only office vehicles will be allowed after thorough check. Minimum 50% of the handbags of the departing passengers will be hand checked. All unattended handbags/luggage will be removed to a secured area. Empty cabs/auto-rickshaws etc. shall not be allowed entry. No pedestrians / peddlers / sightseers will be allowed access to the town side. Entry into the terminal building by buying tickets will not be allowed.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh solicits the kind co-operation of all airport users in this regard.

## Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority

WASA Bhaban, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215

Memo No. 03/PFRP

Dated: 24/01/2005

### Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI)

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA) has been allocated public fund from the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) toward the cost of the "Post Flood-2004 Rehabilitation Project", and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this fund to payments under the project for consultancy services.

#### The services include:

- 1) Detailed survey and assessment of damages caused by recent devastating flood to the water supply and sewerage system of DWASA and identification of the extent and quantum of repair and rehabilitation works needed for restoration of the systems.
- 2) Preparation of design, drawing, cost estimates, technical specifications and tender documents for repair and rehabilitation works, materials and equipment/machineries (such as generator, electrical sub-station, chlorinator, submersible water/sewage pump, sewage disposal truck, vacuum truck etc.) and also to assist in tender evaluation.
- 3) Inspection of materials, equipment/machineries and supervision of all repair and rehabilitation works.
- 4) Preparation of as-built drawings of all repaired and rehabilitated works including incorporation of the as-built drawings in existing system maps of DWASA.
- 5) Preparation of inception, various periodical and final completion reports.

Required experience: The applicant (the consulting firm) must have at least 10 years overall experience in consultancy services for Water Supply and Sewerage/Sanitary/Civil Structure/Electro-Mechanical/Environmental/Water Resource/Transport Infrastructure Projects, preferably 2 years experience in Water Supply and Sewerage Project.

Implementation period: The tentative implementation period is 24 months.  
Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA) now invite eligible applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar operating conditions, availability of appropriate professional qualification and experience among staff, etc.).

Consultants may associate with other consultants to enhance their qualifications. Associations with foreign firms are encouraged but not mandatory.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the Public Procurement Regulations 2003 and Public Procurement Procedures issued by the GoB.

Interested consultant may obtain further information at the office of the Superintending Engineer and Project Coordinator, "Post Flood-2004 Rehabilitation Project", Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban (1<sup>st</sup> Floor), 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215 during normal office hours.

Expressions of interest shall be submitted in sealed envelope, delivered to the address of the Project Coordinator, "Post Flood-2004 Rehabilitation Project", Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban (1<sup>st</sup> Floor), 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215 by 14 February, 2005 up to 12:00 Noon, and be clearly marked "Request for Expressions of Interest for the Consultancy Services for Post Flood-2004 Rehabilitation Project", Dhaka WASA.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI proposals either partially or in full without assigning any reason whatsoever.

ANH Akhtar Hossain, PEng

Managing Director  
Dhaka WASA

WASA-P.I-22/2005  
GD-56

Telephone No: 8116792, 8117829-31/201  
Fax: 880-2-8112109, E-mail: mddwasa@bangla.net