



The last two decades in film

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SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The period between the 60's and the 70's was considered by many as the golden days of the Bangladeshi film industry. During that time, our films competed, neck to neck, with films from Kolkata and Pakistani.

Even after the next two decades, the trend of watching films on the big screens continued. By the end of 90's, things began to change when the film industry witnessed a downfall due to productions indulging in unnecessary adult content.

The scenario persisted over the next couple of years, which led to the destruction of the culture of cinema. People felt embarrassed to go to the theatres with their families. As a result, producers, who once crowded the capital's Kakrail (known as the cinema centre) for investments, started to close their businesses.

Although some producers and directors selflessly tried to prevent the industry from going extinct, to do so required a larger scale effort. The scarcity of the audience did not just cause losses to the films' business, but it also hurt hall owners. Thus, the number of cinema halls began to see a decline.



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

The film which will be remembered in history for once again reawakening the film industry, is Gias Uddin Selim's debut directorial "Monpura", which starred Chanchal Chowdhury and Farhana Mili, in 2009. The film was a commercial success, and also caused audiences return to the halls after a long time.

"Monpura" ran successfully in various theaters across the country for a few months in a row.

The fresh pair of Chanchal and Mili, cast a spell on the audience using their on-screen chemistry. It was also unusual that an emerging filmmaker, outside of the Bangladesh Film Development Corporation, proved themselves by attracting audiences back to the theatres.

As time passed, the film industry went through another existential crisis. On one hand, no new films were being made, while on the other, cinema halls were being demolished to make way for shopping malls.

The type of films being released in the halls did not attract moviegoers for a while, until Amitabh Reza Chowdhury's "Aynabaji"—featuring Chanchal Chowdhury and Masuma Rahman Nabila— was released in 2016. It

took almost seven years for people to return to the halls.

After "Aynabaji", it took another two years for the film industry to come up with another breakthrough project. When Anam Biswas's "Debi", an adaptation of Humayun Ahmed's novel of the same name, was released in 2018, it was a blessing for the industry. The film starred Jaya Ahsan and Chanchal Chowdhury.

In 2020, when COVID-19 had hit the entire world, the Bangladeshi film industry, like all other industries, suffered a lot. The stranglehold of the pandemic was finally relieved when "Shaan" and "Golui" hit the theatres during Eid.

After "Monpura" and "Aynabaji", the film industry was resurrected with the freshly released Raihan Rafi and Mejbaur Rahman Sumon directorial projects "Poran" and "Hawa", respectively. Seeing the buzz and hype surrounding these two films, the Ananta Jalil production, "Din-The Day", could not sustain in theatres for too long, despite creating an initial level of hype.

Currently, "Poran" is on its sixth week of being screened in theatres. On the other hand, "Hawa" is being successfully screened in around 56 halls across the country. Both movies were also running houseful in several halls.

In the last decade, this kind of success in the halls is a record. These films have brought back the culture of selling tickets in advance. According to critics, if this wave continues, the industry will surely succeed and see good days in the future.

Mosharraf announces new film 'Boiddo' on his birthday

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

On Monday, noted actor Mosharraf Karim announced that he will be working on a new film, titled "Boiddo". The day also marked the actor's birthday. The film will revolve around the lives of the 'Kobiraj', mystical men who used magic and special rituals to cure people in villages once upon a time. Mosharraf Karim will play the lead role in the film as a 'Boiddo'.

The director of the film, Niamul Mukta shared the news on his Facebook account.

The shooting of the film will begin once Mosharraf comes back from Malaysia. Niamul Mukta has also directed the films "Kathbirali" and "Roktojoba".



Farooque all smiles with his children at hospital

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Veteran actor Farooque has been receiving treatment at Singapore's Mount Elizabeth Hospital for almost one and a half years now. His wife, Farhana Pathan, has been staying with him during treatment, since March 2021. As the actor's health improves, Sarat and Fariha, their son and daughter, went to visit him at the hospital.

Social media was flooded with several pictures of Farooque along with his family on Monday.

The actor has worked in over 150 films in his career and is considered to be one of the most prolific actors of his time. In 2016, Farooque received the National Film Award's 'Lifetime Achievement Award'.



NEWS

Govt trying to shore up Aman harvest

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place, said Rahman, who was present at the cabinet meeting on Monday.

The water development board has already opened its large irrigation projects and will restart others soon to reach water to cropland, Hazra told The Daily Star yesterday.

However, there is a possibility of a flood in September.

The agriculture ministry has taken preparations to provide seedlings free to the farmers who will face damage. It is also considering giving cash assistance to farmers for diesel, Hazra said.

"We aim to provide power throughout September," said an official of the Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, which accounts for 80 percent of the electricity coverage in irrigation.

Leaves of field-level BREB officers have also been cancelled until October to ensure power supply for

irrigation smoother, he said after an inter-ministerial meeting for irrigation with the ministry of power energy and mineral resources and the ministry of water resources yesterday.

Special teams have been formed and directed to address the power connection issues within 24 hours, said another official preferring to be unnamed.

"We will provide power according to the farmer's demands," he added.

At the cabinet meeting, the agriculture ministry gave a presentation on the areas that require intensive power for irrigation.

Asked, an official of the power division said they will not have to generate extra power for the purpose.

"Plantation has been done in many areas. The weather department informed us that there is a possibility of rain in the coming days. So many areas will not require irrigation."

Farmers will be supplied power from 12 am to 6 pm when household power consumption drops.

"Therefore, it will not be a problem for us to provide uninterrupted power," he added.

If there is less rainfall in the country, farmers may need water until October to protect Aman rice, said one of the officials present at the inter-ministerial meeting.

"Farmers have to pay money for connection charges. That's why some farmers are waiting for rain," he said.

A proposal was made in the meeting to waive the connection charge to encourage farmers, he said.

Farmers get power connection following the recommendations of the local irrigation committee, said Dharendra Chandra Debnath, member director (minor irrigation) of the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation.

Dogs get teary eyed

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They also discovered that the dogs' volume of tears were higher when they reunited with their owners versus other people the dog is familiar with.

According to the researchers, this reaction to tear up is likely linked to the release of oxytocin, nicknamed the "love hormone," due to its connection with bond-building.

The scientists then sought to test whether the tears might have an emotional impact on the owners. To do so, they asked the owners to rank various photos of their dogs with and without artificial tears by how much they wanted to care for them.

"The dog photos with artificial tears were ranked significantly higher than the normal tearless dog photos," the Japanese research team wrote.

"It is possible that the dogs that show teary eyes during interaction with the owner would be cared for by the owner more," hypothesized Kikusui.

In humans, the authors note, infants share their negative feelings by crying, which leads to more caregiving by the parents.

Domesticated by humans like no other animal, dogs have developed specific communication skills over time. Eye contact has been shown to play a role in forming the relationship between a dog and its owner.

Pak HC issues

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Pakistani legal and judicial system".

During yesterday's proceedings in the Islamabad High Court, Advocate General Jahangir Khan Jadoon informed the court that he had filed a miscellaneous application seeking permission to put Imran's statements allegedly against state institutions on record.

The court then asked him when did Imran make "objectionable remarks"

against the judge, to which Jadoon responded that the PTI chief had passed the comments during a rally in Islamabad's F-9 park on Saturday.

"Imran Khan said, 'Zeba sahiba, you should be ashamed, we will take action against you too,'" the advocate general narrated.

When asked which case were the remarks linked to, Jadoon said they were in connection with a case registered against Gill.

OC accused of destroying

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mother told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Now, the OC is spreading different types of propaganda assassinating my daughter's character. This may provoke my daughter to commit suicide," she alleged.

Contacted, OC Kripasindhu denied the allegations and said no such video was recovered from Mukul's phone.

Rather, some blur photos were recovered and sent to the forensic department for investigation, he added.

Contacted, Sudip Kumar Chakrabarty, superintendent of police in Bogura, said, "We have

formed a probe body to investigate the allegations against the OC. The phone was sent to the forensic department to check whether the footage was deleted.

"Necessary legal actions would be taken against the OC if allegations are found to be true."

The SP also added that the charge of investigating the rape case has been shifted to the Detective Branch of police.

Contacted, Additional SP Abdur Rashid, chief of the probe body, said they had already started an investigation and would submit a report shortly.

Longing for home

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more than 1.2 million forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals.

Refugees in August 2017 joined around 3,00,000 of their compatriots, who were already here during previous waves of displacement, causing significant economic and strategic challenges for the country.

Since 2020, the government has relocated about 30,000 Rohingyas from the camps to Noakhali's Bhasan Char island in six phases.

'THINGS ARE IMPROVING'

Visiting various camps in Kutupalong and Balukhali areas, these correspondents found healthcare and learning centres, mosques, madrasas and other facilities there. Some fields for children have also been established at some points — a group of youngsters were seen playing volleyball in a small playground in one of the camps yesterday.

Some Rohingyas, however, are still living in bamboo huts with tarpaulin roofs that they built when they first arrived.

Down an alley of camp 4, Noor Mohammad runs a grocery shop that caters only to the camp residents. He

buys essentials from a market run by locals near Kutupalong.

He said the demand for grocery items is on the rise and his sales go up to as much as Tk 40,000 a day.

"Things are improving gradually here. In the initial days, we were frustrated about what to do. Now, many of us have found a way of living and earning," said Mohammad, who came here in 2017 with his wife and four daughters.

Some work for the NGOs while some toil as day labourers in the camp and some are trying to do business like running small shops, he said.

Forty-year-old Rashida Khatun spoke about how her family is earning a living by selling vegetables.

"When we came here with no money, we used to eat dry foods. As food assistance was given, we started consuming rice and lentils only. Now, we grow vegetables and can earn some money selling those and some rations [from government and NGOs]. With the money, we can even manage fish and meat," she said.

Khatun also said the scarcity of latrines has reduced significantly than during the initial days as separate latrines and showers were

built in the camps.

In one camp, Tahoori Bibi, 60, was found putting the finishing touches on a traditional kantha. She said she sells these stitched kanthas to camp residents for Tk 400 each.

Despite the improvements, Rohingyas are touched by fear as many violent incidents have taken place in the camps, with the murder of Rohingya rights leader Mohib Ullah inside a camp in September last year still fresh in the minds of residents.

'FATE HANGS IN BALANCE'

Although the refugees said things improved significantly in the camps, the feeling of being trapped away from home is breeding frustration.

"We don't know when we will go back. Our fate is just hanging in the balance. We are stateless and every day, children are born stateless. It should be stopped. We want to return home," said Md Zubayer, a resident of Kutupalong.

Karim Mia, a resident of a camp in Balukhali, said, "In Myanmar, the situation made us feel that we were imprisoned. Here in Bangladesh we feel far better. But I still want to live as a citizen of Myanmar and not as a stateless person."

Four sued

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In a separate incident in Narayanganj, a female garment worker yesterday filed a rape case against Rahmatullah, 20, of Ulukanda village in Araihaaz Upazila, police said.

According to the case statement, both the victim and Rahmatullah used to work in the same garment factory in the upazila and had engaged in a romantic relationship.

However, Rahmatullah raped the girl multiple times, promising to marry her.

On August 14, he did the same and then stopped all communications with her, the case statement said.

Azizul Haque Hawlader, officer-in-charge of Araihaaz Police Station, said police were trying to arrest the accused and the victim has been sent to hospital for medical tests.

(Our correspondents from Cox's Bazar and Narayanganj contributed to the report.)

Indian billionaire

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planned 29.18 percent stake purchase, it said its subsequent open offer would be for 294 Indian rupees (\$3.68) per NDTV share, which would be worth 4.93 billion rupees.

That open offer price is at a 20.5 percent discount to NDTV's yesterday's close of 369.75 rupees.

NDTV was founded by one of India's most famous TV news personalities, Prannoy Roy, and his

wife in 1988. Other than TV news channels, the group also runs online news websites.

On Monday, NDTV said in a stock exchange disclosure that Radhika and Prannoy Roy were not in discussions with any entity for a change in ownership or a divestment of their stake in NDTV.

They individually and through their company continue to hold 61.45% of NDTV, the statement said.

Taiwan warns China of 'heavy price' for invasion on battle anniv

REUTERS, Taipei

Taiwan is determined to defend itself and invaders will incur a "heavy price", President Tsai Ing-wen said yesterday on the anniversary of a confrontation six decade ago in which Taiwanese forces beat back Chinese attackers.

Tensions between Taiwan and China have spiked over the past month following the visit to Taipei by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. China staged war games near Taiwan to express its anger at what it saw as stepped up US support for the island Beijing views as sovereign Chinese territory.