



## The most successful films in the last 12 years: A look back

**There was a period when Bangladeshi cinema seemed hopeless, both as an art form and as an industry but in recent times, the Bangladeshi film industry is experiencing a new wave as most of the films that are being released are doing well at the box office commercially. Let us have a look at the films that did well commercially in the theatres from 2010 to 2022.**

ZAHID AKBAR

After the success of “Monpura”, directed by Giasuddin Selim in 2009, there were no such films that could attract the audience to the theatres. The scene changed when Zakir Hossain Raju directorial “Poramon” was released in the theatres in 2013. The film featured debutants Symon Sadik and Mahiya Mahi, in the lead roles. This film paved the way for Mahiya Mahi in Dhallywood.

Noted filmmaker Amitabh Reza Chowdhury directorial “Aynabaji” drew a fair amount of audience, particularly for its unique storyline, in the theatres in 2016.

Based on the story by Gousul Alam Shaon (who also has an acting role), the film casts Partha Barua alongside Masuma Rahman Nabila and Chanchal Chowdhury, and is the story of a gifted actor, who slips in and out of personas at will.

Bangladesh-India joint production “Shikari”, which stars Dhallywood superstar Shakib Khan, did well at the box office, when it was released in 2016. Shakib’s ragged look in this film has received raving appreciation from the audience.

Action film “Dhaka Attack”, was the most profitable cinema in 2017. It drew throngs of viewers to the halls that year. The film was directed by Dipankar Dipon and casts Arifin Shuvoo, Mahiya Mahi, and Taskin Ahmed in the lead roles. Taskin emerged as a villain in the film industry through this film.

Raihan Rafi directorial “Poramon 2”, the sequel of the film “Poramon” directed by Zakir Hossain Raju, garnered positive appreciation



DESIGN: ANTARA RAISA

from the audience in 2018. Siam Ahmed made his silver screen debut with this film. The film also casts Puja Chery in the lead role.

Humayun Ahmed’s widely read novel ‘Debi’ got its film adaptation in the same year. In the film, Jaya Ahsan played the character Ranu and Chanchal Chowdhury played the character of Misir Ali. This cinema was a breath of fresh air in Dhallywood, which attracted a lot of audiences to the theatres.

Raihan Rafi directorial “Poran” won over audiences, as soon as it was released this year after the dry spell in theatres due to COVID-19. The film casts Bidya Sinha Mim, Sariful Razz, and Yash Rohan in the lead roles. This film is still going strong in theatres. After a long time, the audience returned to theatres to watch this film.

Mejbaur Rahman Sumon directorial “Hawa”, which was released on July 29 this year, captured the audiences with its magic. Due to its unique plot and brilliant cinematography, it took over the country by storm. The song “Shada Shada Kala Kala” created hype amongst the audience. The film stars Chanchal Chowdhury, Sariful Razz, Nazifa Tushii, Shohel Mondol, Nasir Uddin

Khan, and Sumon Anowar in the lead roles.

Both “Hawa” and “Poran” have helped to rejuvenate dead cinema halls across the country, as well as open new ones. Whether it’s Jessore’s Monihar Hall, which experienced record revenues, or Sylhet’s Grand Cineplex, opening to optimistic responses, it seems that the surge is not over yet.

Translated by Antara Raisa



## Bangladeshi film ‘Saatao’ nominated for International Film Festival of India

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bangladeshi film “Saatao” has been nominated at the 53rd edition of the International Film Festival of India, which will take place in Goa. Directed by Khandaker Sumon, the film will premiere in the ‘Cinema of the World’ section between November 20-28.

The crowd-funded movie “Saatao” is based on the life story of marginalised people.

Aynun Putul and Fazlul Haque will play pivotal roles in the movie.

Besides directing the movie, Khandaker Sumon also wrote the story, screenplay and dialogue. The movie also stars Sabera Yasmin, Tashmita Shimu, Mitu Sarkar, among others.



## Shakib Al Hasan stars in Jewel and Rafa’s music video



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The world’s best cricketing all-rounder, Shakib Al Hasan will feature in the music video of the song “Bijoyroth”, voiced by Iqbal Asif Jewel and Raef Al Hasan Rafa.

The song, which has been written by Saki Ahmed, was composed by Jewel himself.

The song, which is themed around the ongoing T20 World Cup.

“I love Bangladesh’s cricket, it is simply an emotion for me,” said Jewel, who is also the guitarist of Miles. “Like everyone else, I want our team to defy the odds and win, and this is what this rock song conveys.”

The song will release today, under the banner of G-Series.

# NEWS

## President fired

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leaders being involved in anti-social activities and drug abuse.

The probe body submitted its report yesterday. Tanvir Abdullah, an assistant secretary of BCL central committee and also a member of the probe body, told The Daily Star.

“The probe body found authenticity of the audio conversation in which Rana claimed himself as the leader of a gang involved in fraud,” read the report, adding that he also demanded Tk 5 lakh from an activist, promising him a post in the BCL unit.

The report said the probe body received an “obscene video clip” of Rana. The probe body also came to know that he was beaten up by locals when he was drunk in Rajshahi city’s Ghosh Para on August 25.

“Rana was driven out of his rented home for carrying out anti-social activities there,” the report mentioned.

However, the allegation of his involvement in Chhatra Dal or Chhatra Shibir was without grounds.

In the report, it was mentioned that Omi took Tk 4.75 lakh from a person to give him a job at Rajshahi City Corporation, and tortured an HSC examinee who refused to become his personal assistant.

“It has been found true that he beat up Aminul Islam Sabuj, a BCL activist of Bagmara upazila unit ...,” said the report, adding that a video clip of Omi taking Phensedyl at his Rajshahi Medical College dorm was authentic.

Members of the probe body said when Rana and Omi were asked to defend themselves, they at one stage said there was “no electoral politics in the country”.

## Bond star

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honour in his obituary in “You Only Live Twice,” Ian Fleming Publications tweeted.

It was not the first time Craig reprised his Bond role with the royal family in on the joke.

## 27,000-mark

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are still undergoing treatment at hospitals.

Experts have urged the authorities concerned to immediately conduct extensive drives to identify clusters of Aedes mosquitoes.

The probe body said their statement went against the BCL’s core principles.

Vice-President Rasel Ahmed of Rajshahi district unit is actively involved in Chhatra Dal and Joint General Secretary Hasibul Hasan Shanto’s family is involved in the BNP. Shanto, who is married, abuses drugs, the report said.

The probe body also talked to Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam, a lawmaker from Rajshahi, and president and general secretary of Rajshahi Awami League.

They were in favour of expelling the four BCL leaders.

On September 15, BCL central committee formed the three-member body to probe allegations against them.

The committee of Rajshahi district unit BCL was formed on February 24 this year.

## Congress

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Rahul stepped down in 2019 in the wake of an abject defeat in the general election.

“The most important issues facing the country right now is inflation, unemployment, a widening divide between the rich and poor and a growing environment of hatred spread by the ruling government,” Kharage told reporters after his win.

The 137-year-old Congress, which helped win India’s independence from colonial power Britain and then dominated politics for decades, has long championed a secular polity.

However, the party now remains sharply divided on ideological issues when it comes to shaping the party’s political and economic stands and the questions related to minorities in the context of BJP’s Hindutva campaign and strident nationalism, reported our New Delhi correspondent.

“This symbolic change of the president is a very powerful moment for the Congress,” said Neelanjana Sircar, a senior fellow at the Centre for Policy Research think tank.

“Its desire to change will have to reflect in organisational change on the ground.”

Despite the change at the top of the Congress, the BJP, which advocates a hard-right, nationalist stance, appears to be in a strong position to win a third successive term in a general election due by 2024.

## BPC gets nod to buy

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He said that the approval was a kind of import limitation.

Last year, the cabinet committee approved to import a total of 74.5 lakh tonnes of oil – 58.5 lakh tonnes refined and 16 lakh tonnes crude for 2022.

Questioned, the BPC chairman told The Daily Star that last year, the figure of refined oil was based on G2G agreements and import from private companies.

The data of Chattogram Customs Office shows that during the January-September period this year, the BPC imported 11.51 lakh tonnes of crude and 50.9 lakh tonnes of refined oil, mainly diesel, jet fuel, octane, and furnace oil.

Bangladesh currently imports diesel from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, the UAE, Kuwait, Thailand, and India.

A top BPC official told The Daily Star that the new approval was also for those countries. “But India may increase oil export to us.”

Currently Bangladesh imports diesel from India’s Numaligarh Refinery Limited on a small scale of 80,000-85,000 tonnes.

## Govt given indemnity

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The draft regulation did not define “in good faith”.

It also states that the commission will not be liable for any loss or damage incurred by stakeholders.

The final draft of the regulation states that all intermediaries must keep a team on the ground to liaise with law enforcement round the clock and coordinate with the BTRC to ensure compliance with the regulation.

All intermediaries providing such content must be registered, and the registration depends on their adherence to these regulations, and the commission harbours the power to revoke or deny registration. All registrations are valid for five years at a stretch.

The latest draft kept intact provisions for fines if the regulations were violated but removed the ceilings that were mentioned in the previous drafts. Instead, it just added that the “fine should not be excessive”.

Speaking at a meeting at the

“A discussion on the import from the state-owned Indian Oil Corporation Ltd is in the final stages,” said the BPC chairman.

Bangladesh imports crude oil from Saudi Arabia and UAE under G2G.

Another senior BPC official told The Daily Star that the estimate of how much to import the following year was routine work. “We estimated how much oil will be needed in the upcoming days and made the proposal to the cabinet committee.”

Replying to a query, he said, the figure might increase by next year and that prices would be fixed based on the S&P Platts’ rate, before including the shipment costs, premium and so on.

Bangladesh’s transport sector is the main user of petroleum, accounting for 63 percent of the total annual consumption of oil, followed by irrigation, electricity generation, and the industrial sector, according to the BPC.

Bangladesh uses roughly 65 lakh tonnes of petroleum annually and imported fuel accounts for 90 percent of the total requirement, according to BPC data.

The rest is made up of gas produced locally.

home ministry, chief of the cabinet committee on law and order and Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque said the government was preparing to clamp down on rumours being spread from abroad.

“Such cyber criminals can’t be controlled as they all live overseas. We will be examining how they can be identified and how steps can be taken against them,” he said.

In July 2020, Supreme Court lawyer Md Tanvir Ahmed submitted a writ petition to the HC saying that several over-the-top (OTT) platforms contain questionable and obscene content and films from Bangladesh and India that cause moral degradation of people.

The HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil fixed November 29 for passing any further order on this matter. On that day, the Ministry of Information too will be submitting an updated regulation on OTT platforms.

## Alarm as vehicle fitness

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advance income tax a vehicle owner has to pay for fitness clearance saw around 50 percent rise since July 1, 2021.

He added the owner of a vehicle, between 150lcc to 2000cc, now has to pay Tk 50,000 now as AIT. The amount was Tk 30,000 before.

“This may be a key reason for the sharp fall in the number of vehicles taking fitness clearance,” he told this correspondent, seeking anonymity.

Another BRTA official, preferring not to be named, said there are some types of vehicles, like human hauliers and trucks, whose owners have to bribe law enforcers and transport sector influentials even if they have fitness clearance. This discourages them to take any clearance test.

He said cars, SUVs and minibuses

had to take fitness clearances annually.

Since January 2020, they have to take the clearance once in two years. The number of vehicles seeking the clearances has fallen due to this too.

In this situation, the number of vehicles without fitness clearance is gradually increasing, shows BRTA data.

Around 5.42 lakh registered vehicles, which are eligible for fitness test, did not renew their documents till October 15. The number was 5.08 lakh till January this year and 4.79 lakh till July 2019.

However, the actual number of registered but unfit vehicles may not be that high because many of the 5.42 vehicles may not be in operation anymore, another BRTA official said.

## Bus owners

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Zakir Hossain Biplob, general secretary of Khulna Motor Sramik Union, said no buses would operate on Friday and Saturday if the government did not take any step to take Nasimons, Karimons, Mahendras and easybikes off the roads by today.

The labor union expressed solidarity with the decision of the owners’ association, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Khulna District Bus, Minibus, Coach Owners’ Association and Khulna Motor Workers’ Union on Tuesday night jointly decided that no buses will operate on 18 routes from Sonadanga Bus Terminal in the city for those two days if their demand was not met by Thursday.

Shafiqul Alam Mana, convener of Khulna City BNP, said although attempts were being made to foil Saturday’s rally, tens of thousands of party men were preparing to join the event defying all obstacles.

Speaking at a press conference at the party office on the city’s KD Ghosh Road yesterday, he alleged that 53 leaders and activists of the BNP and its associate bodies were arrested and detained in Khulna and Bagerhat ahead of the rally.

Meanwhile, Jashore police allegedly detained 17 BNP leaders and activists yesterday, reports our Benapole correspondent.

Delwar Hossain Khokon, joint convener of Jashore District BNP, said, “We are preparing to assemble more than 50,000 people from

Jashore for the Khulna rally. The police are detaining our leaders and activists in a planned way to prevent our leaders and activists from joining the meeting.”

In the capital, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said his party was ready to defy even a curfew to make the Khulna rally a success.

He made the remarks in the wake of the transport strike, reports UNB.

“They [government] had stopped the movement of vehicles in Mymensingh, but failed to stop the people [from joining the rally]. You will see people will join the Khulna rally in the same way to press home their demand for democracy, no matter whether the transport service is suspended or not,” he told reporters at the BNP chairperson’s Gulshan office after holding talks with two political parties.

Fakhrul said people travelled to the Mymensingh rally by trawlers, boats, rickshaws, and also on foot. “This is called people’s participation.”

The BNP held its first divisional rally in Chattogram and the second one in Mymensingh as part of organising 10 rallies of its divisional units protesting the price hike of essentials and fuel, recent killings of five party men in police firing in Bhola, Narayanganj, Munshiganj and Jashore, and also “demanding release” of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

The programme will conclude with a rally in the capital on December 10.

Our correspondents in Khulna and Benapole contributed to this report.