



2022 ROUNDUP

A year of revival for our film industry

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A total of 50 films have released in 2022, and while numbers aren't usually an indicator for quality, the industry did see a number of wonderful movies.

Notable films included *Shohurbari Jindabad*, *Mafia-1*, *Mukhosh*, *Shimu*, *Guni*, *Golui*, *Shaan*, *Bidrohi*, *Paap Punno*, *Agamikal*, *Deshantor*, *Made in Chittagong*, *Payer Chhap*, *Beauty Circus*, *Operation Sundarban*, *Hridita*, *Poran*, *Hawa*, *Damal*, *Lockdown Love Story*, *Jal cherar Chomoy*, *Boddo Valobashi*, *Bikkhov*, *Talash*, *Omanush*, *Psycho*, *Karnish*, *Ja Hariye Jay*, *Ashirbad*, *Bhaiyare*, *Live*, *Birotto*, *Isha Kha*, *Jao Pakhi Bolo Tare*, *Ragi*, *Jibon Pakhi*, *Boshonto Bikel*, *Rohingya*, *Kura Pokkhir Shunnye Ura*, *Bhangan*, *O My Love*, *Hodsoner Bonduk*, *Joy Bangla*, *Ektattor Ekkhondo Itihas*, *Kagaj* and *Din-The Day*.

In first six months of this year, only 18

films released in theatres, but not a single film could do well at the box office. However, films now have other sources of income apart from their theatre performances. Producers can earn from the OTT platforms, digital rights, sponsors, and overseas releases.

The post-Covid season has seen a resurgence in theatres after a long time. Raihan Rafi directorial *Poran* was released in the theatres on July 10. The brilliant performances of Sariful Razz, Bidya Sinha Mim and Yash Rohan grabbed the audience's



attention and brought them back to the hall after a dark period of Covid.

Then, the release of the film *Hawa*, directed by Mejbaur Rahman Sumon on July 29, changed the narrative of Bengali films. The unique storyline of this film and the amazing performances of its cast hooked the audience to the screen till the end, also making a splash in Kolkata. The film was released in Kolkata on December 16. The film stars Chanchal Chowdhury, Nazifa Tushi, Sariful Razz, Shohel

Mondol, and Nasir Uddin Khan among others.

Sariful Razz scored an incredible hat-trick this year, having starred in *Poran*, *Hawa* and *Damal*. The former became a turning point in his career, as movie lovers fell in love with the ravishing ruffian, Roman. He then went on to amaze the audience with his athletic look in the film *Damal*. He dominated the film industry in the last six months of this year.

This year has been particularly memorable for Mim, *Poran* and *Damal* received rave reviews in theatres.

Chanchal Chowdhury has been experiencing one of the best years of his career, as his two films, *Paap Punno* and *Hawa* were released this year. While the former brought him critical acclaim, the latter helped him garner immense fanfare.

Dhallywood superstar Shakib Khan was a little bit off this year because of various controversies. Although, two of his films, *Golui* and *Bidrohi* were released this year, but did not do well in theatres.

After a long time, Jaya Ahsan's much-awaited film *Beauty Circus* was released this year. The actress did a wonderful job of highlighting the indomitable spirit of her character, Beauty, in the film. However, the film could not attract much audience to the theatres.

Slam Ahmed starrer *Shaan*, *Paap Punno*, *Operation Sundarban* and *Damal* were released this year, making him one of the most consistent actors of this generation.

Puja Chery proved with her recent work that she possesses the talent to become the queen of showbiz one day. Her films, *Golui* and *Shaan* garnered much attention this year. Through *Golui* she paired up with Shakib Khan for the first time. Recently, her film *Hridita* was released in the theatres but couldn't attract audiences to the halls.

Nazifa Tushi stole the limelight with her charismatic look and performance in *Hawa*. Her simple attire and mysterious look in this film captured the imagination of the audiences.

NEWS

Man shot dead

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Lt Col Khandokar Md Asadunnabi, commanding officer of Jakiganj Battalion of Border Guard Bangladesh, said, "According to the locals, the deceased was involved in betel nut smuggling and that's why he crossed the border into India...."

"Such casualties keep taking place at the border due to smuggling. To increase awareness, we are holding meetings with the locals near the border every week."

He added, "We have also asked the Indian Border Security Force to conduct awareness activities among the residents of their border areas as well."

Cops file 5 cases

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graveyard following a namaz e-janaza at Haripur Jothdebi Government Primary School.

BNP activists allege Arefin was killed due to indiscriminate baton-charge and firing by police, while police claim he died from heart disease and had no signs of injury on his body.

Ready to negotiate

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Putin also said he was "100 percent" confident that his forces would destroy the Pentagon's most advanced air defence system that US President Joe Biden has promised to send to Ukraine.

"Of course we will destroy it, 100 percent!" Putin said, referring to the Patriot missile battery in extracts of an interview aired on Russian television.

180 Rohingyas

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hardly any access to work. Traffickers often lure them to make perilous journeys with promises of work in Southeast Asian countries like Malaysia.

Braving thirst, hunger and disease, refugees often end up drifting in international waters after leaving southern Bangladesh in the hope of finding food, jobs and shelter elsewhere in Asia.

Last week, two Myanmar Rohingya activist groups said up to 20 people died of hunger or thirst on a boat that was stranded at sea for two weeks off India's coast. The boat with at least 100 people was said to be in Malaysian waters.

Tigers fall short

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getting Unadkat plumb leg before.

Then Mehedi Hasan Miraz's straighter bamboozled the danger man Rishabh Pant, the ball sneaked in to help get a leg-before decision. The crowd pumped fist hoping for a historic win. And from six for 71, it quickly became seven for 74 as Miraz castled Axar Patel, looking good on 34, to complete a flier.

It was Bangladesh's game to win as the spinners piled on the pressure but India's in-form batter Shreyas Iyer and resilient Ravichandran Ashwin kept ticking the score with singles to inch closer to the 145 runs needed to win.

Perhaps Bangladesh missed a trick in introducing a pacer early in the morning session. But as the first hour went by, the sun and the old ball worked to India's advantage with the deliveries not skidding enough as it had done prior.

The pivotal moment was the dropped chance of Ashwin as Mominul Haque at short-leg let it slip and the 71-run unbroken stand between Iyer and Ashwin steered India past the finish line.

Shakib said there were no regrets

after pushing India so far. "We fought for the whole Test. If we can keep hold of this mentality, I think the result will come in our favour in the future," the Bangladesh captain said at the post-match press conference yesterday.

Bangladesh managed just 227 in the first innings in good batting conditions. And although Shakib did not have any regrets on the first innings score, he regretted the fielding effort in India's first innings which saw missed opportunities.

"If these (fielding lapses) did not happen, maybe the score would have been 250 instead of 314. There were definitely chances in the second innings. But this is cricket. It is a bit disappointing because the other teams would not have missed the chances that we did," Shakib said.

Having beaten England and Australia at home, it was a golden opportunity for the Tigers to achieve a historic first win. Shakib further said that their latest performance will encourage fans to support them in Tests, even as something historic like Mount Maunganui win was not recreated.

Russia slams Haas visit

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"We believe that such actions that violate the basic principles of non-interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign states are unacceptable."

On December 14, Peter Haas visited the Shaheenbagh home of missing BNP leader Sajedul Islam Sumon to meet the families of some other victims of enforced disappearances. As the prescheduled meeting was going on, members of "Mayer Kanna" took position in front of the house and demanded justice for their relatives who were victims of court martial during the regime of late president Ziaur Rahman, founder of BNP, in 1977.

The meeting was interrupted by protesters, who attempted to enter the house. Due to security concerns, Haas ended the meeting earlier than scheduled.

He immediately called on Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen at the foreign ministry to share his concerns over the incident.

After the incident, the Russian embassy on Tuesday issued a press

release mentioning its stance against foreign interference in local political issues.

In the statement, the embassy said it was committed to the principle of not interfering in domestic affairs of other countries. It added that countries like Bangladesh "which shape their foreign and internal policy to serve their own national interests instead of following the lead of external powers, take a similar approach".

The following day, the US embassy in Bangladesh posted a news article about Russia's statement, with a caption that read: "Does this apply to Ukraine? #StandwithUkraine."

The same day, the Russian embassy tweeted a cartoon with the caption: "The current state of affairs." The cartoon depicts birds sitting on different rungs on a pole, with national flags beside them. On the top is a solitary bird next to a US flag, then two birds next to a UK flag, followed by birds next to the EU flag, with four birds on the bottom next to a flag of Ukraine.

3 foreign NGOs stop

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earning member in her family.

"If I lose my job, my family of 15 members will die of hunger," said Shabana, who has worked for a foreign NGO for decades and gave only one name.

"While the world is celebrating the arrival of the new year, Afghanistan has become a hell for women."

The ministry said women working in NGOs were not observing "the Islamic hijab and other rules and regulations pertaining to the work of females in national and international organisations".

But NGO staff dismissed the charge.

"Our offices are gender segregated, and every woman is properly dressed," said Arezo, who works for another foreign NGO and also gave only one name.

It remained unclear whether the directive impacted foreign staff at NGOs.

The international community has made respecting women's rights a sticking point in negotiations with the Taliban government for its recognition and the restoration of aid.

On Tuesday, the minister of higher education banned women from universities, also accusing them of being improperly dressed.

That ban triggered widespread international outrage and protests, which were forcefully dispersed by the authorities.

Senior engr

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attacked him and hurled abuse.

He said the incident was a reflection of the country's ongoing political culture, which has derailed over the years.

"We must stop this," he added.

Smoking linked

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could mean that quitting earlier affords people greater benefits, he said.

Data for the study came from the national 2019 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

Survey and allowed the research team to compare subjective cognitive decline (SCD) measures for current smokers, recent former smokers, and those who had quit years earlier. The analysis included 136,018 people 45 and older, and about 11% reported SCD.

DMP to ensure security

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get the force within a month," he told this newspaper yesterday.

However, a top official of the Police Headquarters said it may take some more time to make the dedicated force functional.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the Uttara-Agargaon section of the metro rail on Wednesday. It will be open to commuters the following day.

In December 2018, the road transport and bridges ministry sent a letter to the home ministry requesting the formation of a separate MRT police unit to ensure safety and security of the metro rail networks.

Although, the PHQ proposed a 1039-post organogram, the home ministry approved 357 posts for the force with a deputy inspector general of police as its chief.

The PM in September 2019 had also given a directive to form a separate and specialised MRT police force.

Following that, the home ministry's Public Security Division sent a proposal to the Cabinet Division to create 357 posts for the force.

Faruk Ahammed, an additional deputy inspector general (organisation & management) of the PHQ, told The Daily Star yesterday that once the organogram is

approved by the Cabinet Division, the proposal has to be approved by the prime minister to be functional.

When the proposal was pending, metro rail authorities wrote to the DMP to provide necessary security measures for metro rail, a DMTCL official said.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, DMP Commissioner Khandker Golam Faruq said, "We have received a letter ... We have already taken measures to ensure security for the metro rail as a major key-point installment."

"But it will be easier for us to ensure proper security if the proposal to form the MRT police force is approved soon."

AKM Hafiz Akter, additional commissioner (crime and operations) of the DMP, said, "We have to provide security for programmes in the city every day. A permanent deployment will be needed for the metro rail security."

"It will be difficult for us to ensure a permanent deployment while also providing regular security for programmes. We have spoken to the Police Headquarters in this regard."

About this, MAN Siddique said they hoped the specialised MRT security will come into force within a month and so they may not require the police support from the DMP for long.

Metro rail to initially run

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Uttara and Agargaon without any stoppages.

The authorities will start selling single- and multiple-use cards on Thursday, a day after the inauguration of the country's first metro rail, MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd, which will operate the service, told The Daily Star last night.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the Uttara-Agargaon section of the metro rail on Wednesday and people will be able to commute from the following day.

Earlier, the metro rail authorities had planned to operate metro rail two hours in the morning and two

hours in the evening for the first few days.

"But we have taken final decision to run trains from 8:00am to noon in the beginning considering people's benefit," Siddique said.

The authorities also had a plan to start selling tickets after prime minister leaves the site launching the country's first metro rail.

"But it would take time for withdrawal of security personnel from the site. So, we have decided to start selling tickets from the December 29 morning," he said.

Talking to reporters earlier, Siddique said they would take three months to start fully-fledged operation of metro rail service.