

OSCARS 2026 'One Battle After Another' and 'Sinners' dominate



The cast of 'One Battle After Another' celebrates its Best Picture win at the Oscars.

PHOTOS: REUTERS

Autumn Durald Arkapaw, the director of photography for 'Sinners', has made history by becoming the first woman to win an Oscar for Best Cinematography.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The 98th Academy Awards delivered a night full of surprises, memorable speeches, and historic wins as two of Hollywood's most anticipated films, *One Battle After Another* and *Sinners*, dominated on Monday (Bangladesh time).

Paul Thomas Anderson's *One Battle After Another* emerged as the night's big winner, taking home six Oscars, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Supporting Actor, and the inaugural Best Casting award. Anderson, who earned his first Best Director Oscar, expressed gratitude in his acceptance speech: "Thank you very, very much. You make a guy work hard for one of these. I really

appreciate it. I share this with a friend of mine on the other side of the shadows."

Ryan Coogler's *Sinners* also shone brightly, winning four awards out of its 16 nominations. The film secured Best Actor, Best Original Screenplay, Best Cinematography, and Best Original Score. Michael B Jordan, who received his first Oscar nomination this year, accepted the Best Actor award, reflecting on the trailblazing performers who came before him: "I stand here because of the people that came before me: Sidney Poitier, Denzel Washington, Halle Berry, Jamie Foxx, Forest Whitaker, Will Smith... Thank you for keeping betting on me."

Irish actress Jessie Buckley celebrated her first Academy Award for her portrayal



Jessie Buckley celebrates Best Actress Oscar win for 'Hamnet'.



Rei Ami, EJAE, and Audrey Nuna from KPop Demon Hunters perform on stage.

of Shakespeare's wife in *Hamnet*, winning Best Actress. Speaking from the stage, Buckley dedicated the award to "the beautiful chaos of a mother's heart" and acknowledged the lineage of women creating against all odds. She thanked her director Chloé Zhao and writer Maggie O'Farrell for their contributions to the film.

Sean Penn earned his third Oscar, winning Best Supporting Actor for his role as an obsessed military officer in *One Battle After Another*. Known for occasionally skipping award ceremonies, Penn was not present at the Dolby Theatre to accept the honour, joining the ranks of male actors with three Oscars alongside Jack Nicholson, Walter Brennan, and Daniel Day-Lewis.

Animated powerhouse *KPop Demon Hunters* also made history, winning Best Animated Feature and Best Original Song for *Golden*. The film's accolades extended beyond the

Oscars, including wins at the Golden Globes, Critics' Choice Awards, PGA Awards, and ten Annie Awards, marking an unstoppable awards season streak.

While the evening largely revolved around the three-way contest between *One Battle After Another*, *Sinners*, and Guillermo del Toro's *Frankenstein*, several high-profile films were snubbed. Timothée Chalamet's *Marty Supreme* left empty-handed despite nine nominations, while *Hamnet* earned only the Best Actress award out of its eight nominations.

Autumn Durald Arkapaw, the director of photography for *Sinners*, has made history by becoming the first woman to win an Oscar for Best Cinematography. Of Filipino and African American Creole heritage, Arkapaw also

marks the first woman of colour to receive this prestigious award.

The ceremony also featured standout moments of solidarity and advocacy. Actor Javier Bardem, presenting Best International Feature Film, wore a 'No to War' pin and declared, "No to war and Free Palestine", drawing enthusiastic applause from the audience. The award went to the Norwegian film *Sentimental Value*.

Host Conan O'Brien opened the show with his signature humour, joking that he was honoured to be "the last human host" in an era where Hollywood frets over artificial intelligence taking jobs. Highlighting the global reach of the nominees, he noted that films hailed from 31 countries across six continents and encouraged viewers to celebrate resilience and hope in "frightening times."

Beyond the trophies, the evening also revealed how cinema itself is evolving.

From bold, director-driven storytelling to films influenced by global voices and genre-defying ideas, the 98th Academy Awards also showed the growing range of stories being told on screen. The night's winners celebrated individual achievements while suggesting a future where diverse narratives and unconventional storytelling increasingly claim a stronger place on Hollywood's biggest stage.

Read the full list online.



Autumn Durald Arkapaw



Host Conan O'Brien performs during the opening of the show.

NEWS

Meta must act against online incitement

FROM PAGE 1

18, 2025, attack on the offices of The Daily Star and Prothom Alo as an example of how online incitement can translate into violence.

Investigations by The Daily Star and Dismislab found that threats against the two media outlets had circulated on social media for months before the attacks.

According to Amnesty, many social media users portrayed the outlets as "Indian agents" and "anti-national forces", reflecting a broader online narrative accusing them of serving Indian interests and undermining Bangladesh. Some posts also called for burning or attacking their offices.

The investigations suggested a direct link between online incitement and the mob attacks.

Bangladeshi authorities reportedly warned Meta about delays in addressing posts calling for violence and raised concerns about the impact such content could have on public security and minority communities.

Amnesty said harmful content ahead of the polls included misleading and inflammatory narratives about political parties and minority groups, as well as sectarian messaging exaggerating divisions between religious or community groups.

Most of the content originating outside Bangladesh came from India, Amnesty said, citing media reports.

The pre-election events, including attacks on media outlets, mirror a dangerous trajectory seen in several countries, Amnesty said. It said online incitement, misinformation, disinformation, and coordinated harassment campaigns can quickly spill offline into violence and other human rights abuses, especially when amplified by platforms' algorithms.

"The risk is clear that online harms do not remain in the digital space. They can shape public perception, inflame tensions and enable real-world violence and unrest," Alia Al Ghussain said.

"This is a moment for prevention

and taking responsibility for the power that social media companies wield in this space. The world has seen too often how harmful online content can evolve into real-world violence."

There is still an opportunity to stop that trajectory in Bangladesh and it is up to Meta to take action now, she added.

Meta itself has acknowledged that heightened safeguards – sometimes referred to as "break the glass" measures – may be necessary in such situations, Amnesty said.

The warning signs currently visible in Bangladesh make such measures urgent, it added.

Amnesty wrote to Meta on February 10 ahead of the polls asking



The first two floors of The Daily Star in flames in the early hours of December 19. A mob first vandalised the office, then set fire to it and obstructed the rescue of newspaper employees trapped inside, and looted valuables.

FILE PHOTO

The rights body also pointed to previous cases where Facebook was linked to human rights abuses, including its role in promoting violence against the Rohingya in Myanmar and during the Tigray War in Ethiopia.

Bangladesh is at a critical juncture where timely preventive action from Meta could reduce the risk of escalation, said Amnesty, criticising Meta's surveillance-based business model, which relies on maximising engagement and can incentivise the amplification of sensational, polarising or harmful content.

Even when such content is not unlawful, it may still pose significant human rights risks when amplified by recommendation systems, the organisation said.

what steps the company would take to ensure Facebook did not pose a human rights risk and whether it had identified cross-border content affecting Bangladeshi users.

Meta replied that it would not be able to respond within the two-week timeframe provided.

Amnesty said companies have a responsibility under international standards to respect human rights and ensure their operations do not contribute to abuses.

This includes taking proactive measures to identify, prevent, and mitigate human rights risks linked to their platforms through continuous risk assessments, transparency, and effective safeguards, the organisation said.

Goal is to boost agro economy

FROM PAGE 1

"We must, however, remain alert and vigilant against those who try to create disorder through false narratives and misleading remarks. We need to be careful, as many speak sweet words but seek to confuse and mislead people."

Tarique stressed that the government's plans are aimed at benefiting farmers, empowering women, ensuring better healthcare, improving education for the next generation and creating employment opportunities in agriculture and industry.

Once completed, the Sahapara canal will supply water to around 31,000 farmers and benefit nearly 350,000 people. About 1,200 hectares of land will receive irrigation, potentially enabling farmers to produce 60,000 tonnes more crops than at present.

Tarique said the canal will also support fish farming, conserve water during the dry season, and create opportunities for tree planting along its banks. "Once the re-excavation is complete, I will return to see the canal again."

Noting the importance of excavation, a BSS report quoted him as saying, "Across Bangladesh, many canals that existed before have been filled up. In some places, even rivers

have been filled."

He added that excavating canals would allow excess rainwater to be stored during the monsoon and used for a-gricultural purposes later.

The prime minister also highlighted other election pledges, including the Family Card programme, waiving of agricultural loans (up to Tk 10,000 with interest), the Farmer's Card programme and creating employment opportunities.

"Do you think these initiatives will change people's lives? We believe they will. The BNP's politics is about improving people's lives. We want to take steps that will double people's income. This is the aim of our politics – the politics of martyred president Ziaur Rahman, of Khaleda Zia, and of this government that you have elected."

Most of Bangladesh's nearly 200 million people live in rural areas, and agriculture is their main livelihood, making it essential to place the sector on a strong footing.

He also mentioned plans to develop agro-based industries in the agriculture-dependent northern region.

The rally was jointly organised by the water resources ministry and the local BNP.

Earlier, Tarique inaugurated the canal excavation programme at

Sahapara canal. The event marked the launch of the initiative in 54 districts.

The nearly 12 kilometre Sahapara canal was originally excavated by Tarique's father and the then president Ziaur Rahman in 1977.

Like Zia, the prime minister personally cut the soil with a spade to launch the programme at around 12:27pm yesterday.

Wearing a piqué shirt, denims and sneakers, he also donned a red-and-green cap inscribed with the slogan "Bangladesh First".

After reaching the canal bank, he first looked at a map of the canal and then moved forward to cut the soil to begin the work.

Later, he planted several trees along the canal banks.

Meanwhile, Law Minister Md Asaduzzaman inaugurated canal excavation in Jhenaidah; Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo in Feni; and Md Ismail Zabiullah, public administration affairs adviser to the prime minister, did so in Noakhali.

State Minister for Planning Zonayed Saki inaugurated the programme in Brahmanbaria and State Minister for Social Welfare Farzana Sharmin did so in Pabna.

Ten dead in India hospital fire

AFP, New Delhi

A fire at a government-run hospital in eastern India killed at least 10 critically ill patients who were admitted in the trauma care unit, officials said yesterday.

Building fires are common in India due to a lack of firefighting equipment and a routine disregard for safety regulations.

The fire broke out early yesterday on the first floor of the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Odisha state's Cuttack city, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi told reporters.

"A short circuit caused the fire in the trauma ICU ward where patients were being treated," he said, adding that 23 patients were present on the floor at the time of the incident.

Ten people died following the blaze, while the remaining patients were moved to other wards, he added.

At least 11 staff members suffered burn injuries as they tried to rescue the patients.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called the incident "deeply painful" in a post on social media and offered his condolences to the families of the

victims.

He also announced compensation of \$2,160 to affected families.

Electrical short circuits, often caused by poorly maintained wiring, remain the leading cause of fire incidents in India.

In 2024, a fire at a private hospital in the southern state of Tamil Nadu killed at least six people and injured more than two dozen.

The same year, 10 newborns were killed when a fire engulfed a hospital in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.