



DESIGN: ANTARA RAISA

Actors who reinvented themselves through OTT

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OTT platforms have taken the Bangladeshi entertainment industry by storm, redefining how stories are told and experienced. In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, these digital platforms emerged as beacons of creative freedom, offering an expansive universe of borderless content and thematic diversity.

Ahead of the coveted *Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards 2022*, we take a look at some of the

Mosharraf Karim is known as the 'King of television'. However, his portrayal as OC Harun in Ashfaq Nipun's *Mohanagar* and *Mohanagar 2* was mindblowing, to say the least. He broke boundaries for what an actor can and cannot do in visual medium.

Chanchal Chowdhury's journey in acting is a textbook for people who want to learn, from his raw emotional performances in theatre to the scintillating 'mystery man' in Syed Shawk's *Karagar*. However, his true renaissance came in *Takdeer*, by the same director.

Alfaz Hossain, a maestro in the craft, broke broke from his conventional romantic roles to embrace darker and mysterious

characters, like in the web series *Ladies and Gentlemen* and *Pett Kata Shaw*.

Intekhab Dinar, a stellar but underappreciated actor, found his footing in the OTT industry. He dedicated his success in the platforms to 'actors with less views'.

Ahead of the exciting Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards 2022, we take a look at established actors who found new footing on OTT and other digital platforms. Through sheer hard work and dedication, they adapted to new mediums.

5-time National Award winner Fazlur Rahman Babu has also made his presence felt in *Mohanagar 2* and *Khachar Bhit* Ochin Pakhi.

Farzana Chobi, known for her television dramas, ventured into the world of OTT with the web

film *Tan*, released in Chorki. Her performances in *Tan*, then *Niswas* and the recently released web film *Friday* have received significant attention from the audience.

FS Nayeem has been a household name in the Bangladeshi television industry for years. But, it was his comeback with the web series *Karagar* in 2022 that he truly showcased his brilliance as an actor. He then followed it up with *Overtrump*.

Rafiath Rashid Mithila, a multi-talented individual, ventured into the world of OTT through the Hoichoi original web series *Ekattor*. Directed by Tanim Noor, she continued to mesmerise audiences with her exceptional performances in *Contract* and *Unoloukik*. She recently captured the audience's attention with her masterful portrayal of 'Shayla' in Chorki's original web series *Myself Allen Swapan*.

Mostafa Monwar possesses an uncanny ability to inhabit his characters on screen. Though not in leading roles, his unique portrayals in web series like *Ekattor*, *Unoloukik*, and *Jaago Bahey* set him apart from his peers, leaving a lasting impact on the audience's hearts and minds.

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NEWS

Summit to set up third floating LNG terminal

FROM PAGE 1

meet the country's daily demand for gas of about 4,000mmcf.

As much as 3,000mmcf gas is being supplied a day, with about 750-850mmcf coming from the two existing FSRUs, according to Petrobangla data. The rest comes from the local gas fields.

Subsequently, a proposal was sent by the ministry of power, energy and mineral resources to build a third FSRU, which was approved yesterday by the cabinet committee on economic affairs.

The approval was taken under the controversial Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provision) Act 2010, which was amended in 2021, according to

the meeting minutes.

The new terminal, which would be Summit's second FSRU, will have the capacity to regasify 600 mmcf of gas a day.

In 2026, the demand for gas will increase further and the government has no option but to import more LNG, said two Petrobangla officials.

The new FSRU would be needed to process the additional LNG coming in, they said, citing the LNG deal signed with Qatar recently to further their point. A similar deal will be signed with Oman soon.

However, experts questioned the rationale of entering into long-term LNG deals without exploring more local gas. The rising dependence on expensive imported gas may hit the

economy in future.

The energy division should give priority to gas exploration, said Badrul Imam, honorary professor of Dhaka University's Geology Department.

"The dependence on gas imports will not ensure energy security," he added.

The country started importing LNG in late 2018. Since then, the country has imported 283 LNG cargoes from Qatar and Oman under two long-term contracts and 37 cargoes from the international spot market.

Yesterday's meeting also approved a proposal for procuring 33.6 lakh MMbtu of LNG at a cost of Tk 574.65 crore from the US's Excelerate Energy LP. The per unit cost will be \$13.9.

Abductors release

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"In [sic] my previous appeal, as I was told that there were some serious interruptions in the negotiation process," he said.

"Pressurise the media to deal with those who are interrupting our quick release process and communicate with UN management to expedite the process of our negotiation.

"I want to mention here that while we were abducted, we were abducted as UN staff, not as citizens of any specific country or Asian country."

He said that he was ill and his colleagues needed immediate hospitalisation. "Otherwise, any of us can succumb to the illness."

The demands being made by the terrorist organisation include ransom.

Sufiul works as a field security coordination officer (head) of the UN Department of Safety and Security in Aden, Yemen. He retired from Bangladesh Army as a lieutenant colonel in 2005.

This is the second time his family has seen him since the abduction.

"My mother was inconsolable," Sufiul's son Sakeef Anam told The Daily Star.

Shanto, Joy pummel Afghanistan Rift in JP resurfaces

FROM PAGE 12

as replays showed the ball taking the slightest outside edge.

Perhaps Afghanistan expected conditions to be more suitable for bowlers on the opening day, but they lacked discipline.

The visitors were expected to threaten more with the new ball, but Shanto's brisk knock was assertive from the beginning. Two drives in the third over signalled his confidence and fluency and in the first session alone, he hit 11 fours on his way to 64.

On the other hand, Afghanistan's bowlers showed their inexperience in the longest format as their line and length wavered frequently. Either they bowled too full or too short and oftentimes with a lot of room. Boundaries flowed as a result and the Shanto-Joy duo ensured Bangladesh reached lunch at 116 for one after just 24 overs, scoring at 4.83 runs per over. The 100-run partnership had come off 126 deliveries.

In the second session, the Afghan attack toiled further. No-balls and overthrows were part and parcel of their bowling effort. Left-arm wrist spinner Zahir Khan alone bowled eight no-balls on the day.

Meanwhile, Shanto began to find the boundaries even more frequently. The sumptuous drives and hand

speed coming in to pull anything short was a trademark of Shanto's knock as he reached his maiden ton on Bangladesh soil and his third Test ton off just 118 deliveries.

At the other end, Joy too grew in confidence but his lapse in concentration saw him guiding Rahmat Shah to the slip cordon and departing for 76.

The partnership produced 212 runs, the second-highest second-wicket stand for Bangladesh in Tests. Mominul Haque struggled early, not looking very comfortable, as spinners started getting more purchase. The former Test skipper then nicked a short delivery from Masood after Tea down his leg side and departed after scoring 15.

Shanto carried on with his free-flowing knock and got the rub of the green when he was bowled off a no-ball by Masood but he eventually perished to Amir Hamza after a 176-ball 146, holed out at deep mid-wicket.

The third session proved to be the most productive for Afghanistan as they landed Liton Das's scalp, out after scoring 9. There was some uncertainty in the Bangladesh ranks but Mushfiqur Rahim and Mehedi Hasan Miraz ensured it was the hosts' day with a 72-run unbroken stand to take Bangladesh to 362 for five, posed for a big first innings total on Day Two.

BNP to go for one-point

FROM PAGE 1

The leaders of the BNP's like-minded parties suggested waging a one-point movement at the earliest possible time.

The leaders demonstrated the possible anti-government demonstrations, but most of them opined that they should not observe programmes like strikes and blockades as those would have a negative impact on the movement, said the sources.

The BNP observed different anti-government programmes for about six months to press home its 10-point demand.

The anti-government movement will be intensified from next month, a senior BNP leader told The Daily Star.

The party standing committee on Monday discussed the outline of a joint declaration on the simultaneous movement. The declaration will be made by the BNP and its like-minded political parties.

Most of the leaders suggested that the declaration should be suspended if the BNP's partners cannot reach a consensus.

The BNP and Ganatantra Mancha have differences of opinions on amending Article 70 of the constitution, the election process of a bicameral parliament, the power of lawmakers and the activities of an election-time government.

BNP leaders said as the party

is leading the anti-government

movement, its partners must have trust in the party. Otherwise, the BNP will go for the one-point movement with other like-minded political parties.

Yesterday, the BNP held meetings with the 12-party alliance and Jatiyatabadi Samamana Jote at the party chairperson's Gulshan office in the capital to discuss the one-point movement.

BNP leaders at Monday's meeting said the government was under serious pressure after the announcement of the new US visa policy, and the pressure would mount if it barred the opposition party from taking to the streets, said meeting sources.

As per a High Court judgement, the leader of the party representing JP will have the right over the electoral symbol of plough, Moshi added.

Before submitting the nomination paper of Kazi Mamun, A JP delegation led by Ranga, who was removed from all posts of JP in September last year, met CEC Kazi Habibul Awal at his office at the election commission secretariat.

Despite repeated attempts, The Daily Star could not reach GM Quader, also deputy leader of the opposition, and JP Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnun for comments.

The upcoming by-election in the Dhaka-17 constituency is scheduled to be held on July 17.

According to the election schedule, the last date for submitting nomination papers is today, while the date for scrutinising nomination papers is June 18. The last date for withdrawal of candidacy is June 25.