



Rise of antagonists on OTT

With the emergence of OTT platforms, the local audience is now more inclined towards antagonists, forsaking the traditional scenario where chivalrous protagonists used to rule over the screens. Multiple actors have started to explore different grey shades through the formation of devious yet charming dark characters. Here are five celebrated actors who have meticulously portrayed negative roles in OTT releases, enthralling the audience with their impeccable performances.

While darker plots, revolving around themes like thrillers and mysteries continue to please OTT streamers, relentless efforts by stars to match up to such challenging characters keep the audience waiting for more.



Tama Mirza

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

AKHLAKUR RAHMAN

Afran Nisho

When it comes to embracing villainous roles, Nisho is one name that cannot be ignored. Forsaking his nag for conventional lead roles, his turn towards darker characters in the production *Morichika*, where he beautifully donned the persona of Salam Sharif Babu – a political mafia, was lauded by audience and critics alike. Be it the charming yet gruesome chef Rafsan Haque in *Punorjonmo*, or the seemingly cold-hearted and calculative lawyer Reza in his new Hoichoi release *Sharey Showlo*, the actor has aced it all!

Nasir Uddin Khan

Nasir's portrayal as Allen Swapan in *Syndicate* not just outshined the performance of his costars but set a new graph for himself. His excellent portrayal of the character encouraged the production's director Shihab

Shaheen to craft *Myself Allen Swapan*, a spin-off solely featuring the 'next door' drug lord hiding under the simple grey uniform of a peon.

Shamol Mawla

Shamol was showered with praises for his portrayal of the dynamic Alnan Chowdhury, the egoistic son of a power lord with no remorse for running over an innocent city dweller, in *Mohanagar*. His incredible depiction of Sharirar, a criminal mastermind who robs Tk 108 crore from a bank, in Tanim Noor's *Money Honey* also gained much attention from spectators, pushing his career to new heights.

Tama Mirza

Tama's stunning performance in *Friday*, a web-film directed by Raihan Rafi, was a delight for mystery buffs. Her portrayal of Muna, a homemaker who eventually

murders her entire family, was relatable and commendable. The actress beautifully projected Muna's transition from an abused woman to a brutal murderer, leaving behind a soft spot for her audience who could relate to the character's psychological trauma.

Shajal Noor

Shajal's dashing and enigmatic portrayal of the 'devil' in Vicky Zahed's *The Silence* was one of the most power-packed OTT debuts in recent times. The actor, showcasing a unique combination of grace and ruthlessness, left an enduring mark in the hearts of the fans who are now eagerly waiting for his next venture. While darker plots, revolving around themes like thrillers and mysteries continue to please OTT streamers, relentless efforts by stars to match up to such challenging characters keep the audience waiting for more.

Shweta Sharda crowned Miss Diva Universe 2023

The spotlight shone on Shweta Sharda as she seized the coveted Miss Diva Universe 2023 title during a glamorous event in Mumbai on August 27. Amidst a star-studded affair, Shweta received her regal tiara from the reigning Miss Diva Universe 2022, Divita Rai. Meanwhile, Sonal Kukreja from Delhi was crowned Miss Diva Supranational 2023 and Trisha Shetty from Karnataka secured the Miss Diva 2023 Runner-up crown. Shweta Sharda's victory secures her a golden opportunity to represent India on the global stage as she sets her sights on the 72nd Miss Universe pageant. The beauty queen, hailing from Chandigarh, has appeared in several reality shows like "DID", "Dance Deewane", and "Dance+.". Her prowess extends to choreography as she contributed to "Jhalak Dikhlaa".



Asaduzzaman Noor leads stellar cast in Hasan Azizul Haque's memoir adaptation

Diving deep into the reminiscences of the Liberation War, celebrated fiction writer Hasan Azizul Haque penned an article titled "Ekattor: Korotole Chinnomatha". Now, this moving narrative is set to leap from the pages to the silver screen in a film adaptation with the same title. The veteran actor Asaduzzaman Noor leads the cast, stepping into the role of 82-year-old teacher Nazmul Haque. Through his portrayal, the story will delve into the memories of the Liberation War, weaving a narrative that captures the spirit and essence of that momentous period. Directed by Rafiqul Anowar Russell, the film secured government funding for the fiscal year 2021-22.



NEWS

Around 30,000 still stranded

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houses were inundated by floodwater in Bidyananda and Ghorialdanga unions of the upazila, reports UNB.
Many roads went underwater, snapping communication between two to unions.
Two government primary schools and a bazaar in Bidyananda are at risk of damage from the imminent erosion.
Md Minhajul, a member of Ghorialdanga union parishad, said around 200 houses and other establishments were inundated.
Abul Kashem, of Kisamat Nakonda area, told UNB that 45 out of 75 houses in his village were flooded.
In the meantime, the flood situation improved in five upazilas of Lalmonirhat as the Teesta was flowing 19cm below the danger level at Dalia Point, said Shunil Kumar, executive engineer of the district WDB.
Despite the Teesta receding, apprehension of a fresh flood still persisted among the affected in nine unions of Nilphamari's Dimla and Jaldhaka upazilas, as an onrush of water from upstream and sudden heavy rainfall are frequent in monsoon.
Many affected people are still living on Teesta embankments and are unwilling to leave as the recurrence of floods has traumatised them.
Ekhlash Ali, 60, of Dimla upazila's Khalisha Chapani union, said, "I'll stay on the embankment until it's safe to return home. We have been badly struck by this unpredicted flood."
With the recession of flood water, erosion took a severe turn in Kisamat Satnai char as five houses were washed away by strong river currents on Sunday night, leaving 30 more homes at risk.
Dimla Upazila Nirbahi Officer Noor-e-Alam said he visited the affected areas yesterday and distributed relief materials.
[Our correspondents from Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari contributed to this report.]

Over 56pc deaths

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the caseload to 116,842.
Of the 556 deaths, 410 were logged in Dhaka. A total of 320 of the deceased were females.
HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at the Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said second-time dengue infection with a different strain and late hospitalisation are among the main reasons for the rise in deaths this year.
He said a large number of patients get admitted to hospitals after suffering from dengue shock – a critical stage of the disease.
There are many who don't realise that they have symptoms and that's why they don't visit hospitals, the physician said, adding these type of patients are more likely to suffer from shock syndrome.
"Shock syndrome in dengue patients are of two types – compensated shock and decompensated shock. In compensated shock, a patient's blood pressure may be low or apparently normal, with narrow pulse pressure of 20 or less," Nazmul said.
Pulse pressure is the difference between the systolic and diastolic pressure of a person.
"... In decompensated shock, the patient is disoriented with cold clammy skin, unrecordable blood pressure, pulse, and unable to urinate. Within a few minutes, many patients die in spite of getting treatment," he said.
Despite given treatment, death rate is high among those patients

who go to hospitals after suffering from decompensated shock, he told The Daily Star.
He said death rate is also high among the high-risk group of patients who are obese and elderly, pregnant, infant, and have comorbidity.
Nazmul said severe stomach aches, breathing difficulties, severe weakness, bleeding from gums or nose, and vomiting are the symptoms for which patients need to be hospitalised immediately.
"If a patient showing warning signs is not hospitalised within 48 hours, s/he may suffer from shock syndrome."
If a patient is hospitalised immediately after suffering from compensated shock, s/he is not likely to suffer from decompensated shock, he said.
The doctor said the chance of recovery for patients suffering from decompensated shock is only 50 percent.
"A patient's blood pressure may remain normal after suffering from compensated shock and that's why he may not realise it. Some of the signs of compensated shock are drop in body temperature, increased heart rate, and rapid breathing," Nazmul added.
There are four dengue strains – Den-1, Den-2, Den-3, and Den-4. Of them, Den-2 is mostly active this year and the severity of this strain is high. This is another reason for so many deaths this year, he said.
The physician said early consultation with doctors and proper medication are essential for dengue patients.

Amnesty

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at university instead of languishing in prison waiting for her fate under the draconian DSA, the statement said.
Her continued arbitrary imprisonment comes as dissenting voices face a shrinking space in Bangladesh, and sets a chilling precedent for anyone whose views differ from the authorities, Amnesty warned.
Although the government decided to repeal the much-criticised DSA, officials continue invoking it to stifle dissent and persecute critics, the statement noted.
Despite the government's decision to repeal the DSA, authorities continue to use the legislation to undermine human rights and persecute critics and activists.
"Authorities should immediately and unconditionally release Khadijatul and all those who are arbitrarily detained in Bangladesh solely for peacefully exercising their human rights, including freedom of expression," said Nadia Rahman, Amnesty International's deputy regional director for South Asia.

18 new cases

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the cases with the Third Labour Court of Dhaka under section 213 of the Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006, said court sources.
The court set October 16 for hearing nine cases and October 18 for hearing the remaining cases.
According to the statements of the cases, 5 percent of the company's dividends was supposed to be paid to the plaintiffs during their service period, which was not paid.
Apart from the 18 cases, 36 more cases with similar complaints are now pending with the Third Labour Court, said Khaja.
According to court sources, the 54 cases are all civil complaints.
The trial of another case filed against Prof Yunus and Grameen Telecom top officials – Ashrafur Hassan, Nurjahan Begum and M Shahjahan – is now pending with the Third Labour Court.
On September 9, 2021, SM Arifuzzaman, a labour inspector (general) of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments, filed this case.

Pro-BNP, AL lawyers

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its today's cause list, which meant the hearing on the rule would not be held today, court sources said.
The bench passed the removal order around 10:40am after a petition was filed by Nasreen Siddiqua Lina, the writ petitioner and a pro-AL lawyer, seeking its directive on the BTRC.
The petitioner said Tarique is a fugitive.
As soon as the bench delivered the order, the pro-BNP lawyers started shouting, saying that they submitted a no-confidence petition on Justice Khasruzzaman before the chief justice and therefore, he cannot deal with the matter.
They were heard in the courtroom shouting "shame, shame".
Justice Khasruzzaman said they did not mention their no-confidence petition before the bench during the hearing.
Referring to Justice Khasruzzaman, a pro-BNP lawyer said, "You are politically biased. You have created anarchy in the judiciary. We are going to be victims of injustice. It is a design to victimise Tarique Rahman."
Protesting it, AL-backed lawyers said the BNP-aligned lawyers were putting pressure on the HC

Don't hatch

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without people's involvement, he said.
Quader, also the road, transport and bridges minister, claimed there is no people's participation in the BNP's movement; rather it is a movement of mere BNP leaders and activists.
The AL leader said if the BNP comes to power again, there will be bloodshed.
"If the BNP assumes power, it will annihilate the existence of freedom fighters. The BNP is the main patron of communalism and militancy. If the party comes to power, they will turn Bangladesh back into Pakistan for sure."
"Now our main aim is to save the country, democracy and uphold the spirit of the Liberation War."
Abdus Sabur, AL science and technology affairs secretary, chaired the programme.

Pakistan court

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The sedition case was registered in the southwestern city of Quetta in March, the capital of Balochistan province, based on an allegation that one of Khan's speeches was seditious.
Balochistan High Court said yesterday prosecutors had failed to obtain the required consent from the federal or provincial government to lodge sedition charges.
The charges are "without lawful authority and are of no legal effect," the court ruled, throwing out the case.
"God be praised," Panjutha said in a jubilant post on X platform