

Rewarding the underappreciated heroes of Showbiz

Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards on Saturday



Barkat Hossain Polash



Fuad Shourav



Siddiq Ahmed



Rubama Fairuzz



Ayman Asib Shadhin



Tahsin Rahman



Abdul Mamun



Jobayar Abir Peal



Rashid Al Rashid



Saleh Sobhan Auneem



Arobindhu Joydher Sumon



Atia Rahman



Md Khokon Mollah



Bidrohi Dipon



Neamoth Ullah Masum

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards 2022 is back for the second time to celebrate the finest OTT and digital content creators. This award not only acknowledges the artists in front of the screen, but also highlights the often-overlooked heroes who tirelessly contribute their best efforts to elevate the quality of content from behind the scenes.

Cinematography plays an essential role in skillfully conveying a story through visual elements.

In this category, Bidrohi Dipon earned the nomination for **Redrum**. He successfully managed to keep coherence in his work with the mystery genre of the film. The horror series **Pett Kata Shaw**

was one of a kind in making the audience reconnect with folklore. Tahsin Rahman's cinematography was immaculate, earning him a nomination. Narrating the story of Rajshahi locals, in their own language, and bringing out the visual tone in the similar way couldn't have been easy. The director of the series **Shaaticup**, Mohammad Touqir Islam, did the tough job himself, and got this much-deserved nomination in this category.

Kaiser's cinematography was another surprise for the audience. Abdul Mamun's hard work and creativity brought up a combination of the contemporary time and the flavour of '90s visually. This thus earned him a nomination in the Best Cinematographer category. **Karagar's** brilliant cinematography

and camera work was done by Barkat Hossain Polash. The visual narrative of the series was another striking element, wonderfully done by the cinematographer.

OTT platforms are mostly story driven, and in the recent year, it has been proven that story is one of the key elements for any content.

Vicky Zahed, despite directing **Redrum**, also wrote the thrilling story for it, full of plot twists, earning him a nomination.

Raihan Rafi and Siddiq Ahmed jointly wrote the story and script of the film **Taan**. It was



applauded by the audience for its suspense-thriller plot.

Both of them have jointly earned the nomination in this category. Behind **Karagar's** gripping tale is Neamoth Ullah Masum, another frontrunner for the race. Shihab Shaheen is an experienced director who always manages to come up with unique plots especially in OTT arena. **Syndicate** is no different, however, he also wrote the script of the series as well. Ayman Asib Shahin is the man behind creating the character Kaiser Chowdhury, a homicide detective. Apart from

the character, the entire plot was wonderfully written by him, which is why he has received the nomination. Makeup is another crucial element for adding visual perplexity to a character.

Atia Rahman is the lady behind creating the much-lauded look of Chanchal Chowdhury in **Karagar**. She deserves the nomination for giving her best effort and paying attention to each and every character of the series. Arobindhu Joydher Sumon and Atia Rahman were in charge of the makeup of **Sabrina**. Their collaborative work brought them a joint nomination. **Pett Kata Shaw's** prosthetics and makeup were done by Rubama Fairuzz. The artist has earned this nomination for her brilliant work. Rashid Al Rashid received the nomination for his

work as in **Mayashalik**. **Redrum's** characters were visually smart and had contemporary look. It was done by Md Khokon Mollah, who earned the nomination.

Editing is a massively underappreciated piece of art that does not get its deserved flowers.

Saleh Sobhan Auneem earned the nomination for his great work in **Karagar**. Simit Ray Antor's fine editing in **Taan** made him a candidate in this category, whereas **Pett Kata Shaw's** horror romp was jointly pulled off by Nuhash Humayun and Fuad Shourav. Jobayar Abir Peal is responsible for the editing the series, **Syndicate**, beautifully. His work deserves a nomination. Saleh Sobhan Auneem proved his skill yet again in **Shaaticup**, making him a nominee in the category.

COUNTRYWIDE

Century-old Tangail Eidgah in a shambles

MIRZA SHAKIL

The century-old central Eidgah ground in Tangail has been occupied by an influential syndicate for the last couple of weeks in the name of a temporary truck stand.

The 118 year-old Eidgah, established in 1905 on six acres of land, is owned by the district administration, but Tangail Municipality is responsible for its maintenance.

During a recent visit to the site, this correspondent saw numerous trucks were parked in the middle of the large ground.

Moreover, alongside a bamboo market, at least eight tea stalls and several fast-food shops have been erected near the main gate of the Eidgah.

Apart from these, waste materials like dispensable plates, cups, tea bags, polythene bags and used tissue papers were lying scattered all over the field.

Seeing such a condition, no one could guess that two biggest religious prayers of the Muslims are performed here every year.

On the other hand, as most part of the ground remains occupied by large vehicles, children are being deprived of plying any physical sports.



Established in 1905, the central Eidgah ground in Tangail has remained occupied by this temporary truck stand for weeks, depriving local residents from a healthy environment.

PHOTO: STAR

While talking, several students of different educational institutions of the town said they used to play cricket at the ground on every Friday, but they have been deprived of playing the game for the last several weeks due to illegal construction of the truck stand.

Syed Nazmul Hossain, coordinator at Evergreen Fitness Club, said the truck stand has become a trouble for many health-conscious people who come to the ground every morning.

A number of truck owners, including Hossain Ali and Rubel Miah, said after being evicted from the stadium premises last month, they set-up the truck stand on the Eidgah compound after having discussions with the municipality mayor.

Tangail Municipality Mayor SM Sirajul Haque Alamgir said in order to hold Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Gold Cup Football Tournament, the truck stand was removed from beside the pond, owned by the district sports association, and shifted to the Eidgah ground on a temporary basis.

They will start the renovation work of the Eidgah within December this year.

Tangail Deputy Commissioner Kaiserul Islam said no permission was given to set-up the truck stand on the Central Eidgah ground.

High price, low wage put workers in a fix

FROM PAGE 12

In August 2023, food inflation rose by 12.54 percent – the highest since October 2011.

Against this backdrop, garment workers and rights organisations have been demanding a monthly minimum wage of Tk 25,000 for RMG employees.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Taslima Akhter, president of Bangladesh Garment Sramik Samhati and coordinator of an 11-rights organisation alliance demanding higher wages for garment workers, said the workers have to face a lack of food, poor healthcare, extreme work pressure, and the current meagre wage does not help.

The new minimum wage board to review RMG workers' wages was supposed to settle the situation within six months of its formation on April 9, but they have been delaying, she added.

Experts say that between 2008 and 2022, Bangladesh's garment exports surged from \$10 billion to \$42 billion, expanding the industrial sector's contribution to the GDP by over 10 percent.

Sadekur Rahman Shamim, general secretary of Garment Sramik Trade Union Kendra, told this correspondent, "For higher productivity, workers need more food for more energy. Market prices [of essentials] are increasing daily, while the salaries aren't..."

Contacted, Liaquat Ali Molla, chairman of the Minimum Wage Board, said, "We're going to sit with labour leaders and the authorities concerned by the end of October. We hope to send the final draft [of the revised wages] to the labour ministry by mid-November."

Govt removes river commission boss

FROM PAGE 1

On September 24, Manjur made headlines when he said river grabbers and sand lifting syndicates had political backing.

"The heinous gang swooped on the Meghna River ripping it apart to extract sand worth Tk 6,000 crore. They are trying to extract sand again. Hundreds of dredgers will be engaged here which will deal a blow to the river, its fish stock and environment. They are the reason we can't protect rivers. There are links between sand miners and a female minister

from Chandpur," he told the event, without naming anyone.

Education Minister Dipu Moni, elected from Chandpur-3 constituency, is the only female minister in the current cabinet.

Dipu Moni could not be contacted yesterday, as she is abroad now.

Talking to The Daily Star for a separate story just hours before his firing was made public, he said although he had one and a half more years of his contractual appointment, he would resign if he had to.

"I have my resignation letter ready," he said.

"She is a minister from Chandpur, and also a joint general secretary of the Awami League. She can do a lot of things," said Manjur, also chairman of Centre for Governance Studies, a think-tank.

"I have even received death threats, but I am not afraid or concerned.... But we (the River Commission) stand by our comments on the World Rivers Day that a female minister is involved in sand business," he told The Daily Star by phone.

Asked about the cancellation of his appointment later in the evening, he said the

government can end contractual appointments anytime.

"I don't have any reaction to the decision."

He also said he would not speculate whether there might be any influence of the female minister he referred to in the matter.

"Whatever time I served here, I served with integrity and honesty. I took efforts to do my best to protect rivers going above the influence of various quarters. I received cooperation from the Prime Minister, but the key obstacle I faced was from the administration and political leaders," he said.

Muslim Ummah

FROM PAGE 12

both in Palestine and Israel. Children are becoming orphans and parents are losing their children in the war, the premier said.

"We know their pain as we two sisters had become orphans in 1975," she said.

The PM said she and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana were in forced exile for about six years.

"Spending time as refugees, without knowing when we could return to our country, was the most painful. So, we don't want war..." she said.

'HOLD ISRAEL ACCOUNTABLE' Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday urged United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to hold Israel accountable for charges of war crimes over its ongoing attacks on Palestinian civilians, UN aid workers and health personnel.

Momen, now in Jeddah to join an open ended extraordinary meeting of the OIC Executive Committee over the ongoing Israeli atrocities in Gaza, asked the OIC to take a lead to arrange a special UN General Assembly meeting on the issue.

Africa by 38 runs (D/L method) two days later.

The win in Port of Spain was the first spark that eventually defined Bangladesh's progress and their future battles against India.

India were very disappointed after that chastening defeat that knocked them out of the World Cup from the group stage. It was quite evident when the men in blue toured Bangladesh after the tournament, with Ravi Shastri as the interim head coach.

Upon his arrival in Dhaka for two Tests and three ODIs, Shastri had said, "We will take no prisoners."

His remarks at that time probably played some role in Bangladesh gradually becoming more competitive. Although the Tigers lost the last two World Cup games against their neighbours, those contests were far from

lopsided.

This time around, the Bangladesh fans will expect another fight from the players against their vastly decorated opposition. They will expect their misfiring openers to come to the party and the pacers to produce something special to upset the India appalcart.

More importantly, they will desperately want to see captain Shakib Al Hasan, who was nursing a thigh injury that he sustained in the last game against New Zealand, fit for the game and leading the team from the front.

Bangladesh have already earned the nickname of a 'noisy neighbour' from the Indian ranks because of its strong and passionate fan following. In Pune, the home fans will dominate the stands, but one can rest assured that there will be plenty of Bangladesh fans out there with their full-throated support.