

All of my hard work paid off: CHANCHAL CHOWDHURY

When *Karagar* premiered on Hoichoi last year, Chanchal Chowdhury as the mystery guy left an indelible effect on viewers and critics alike. The story of the strange man who appeared out of nowhere in cell 145, which had been sealed for 50 years, along with Chanchal's performance, made it one of the most critically acclaimed series.

When asked about the most challenging part of *Karagar*, the actor said that the whole series itself was fully challenging for the artiste.

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

The noted actor took home the Best Actor (Male) award in the Critics category at the Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2022.

"The Daily Star has consistently maintained quality by rewarding the best works in OTT this year. *Karagar* is close to my heart, and I don't think I will ever get a story and character as wonderful as this web series. I am proud of winning the award for *Karagar*, and our project winning nine awards really made my heart swell with pride," said the actor.

At the event, Chanchal Chowdhury's mentor, Gias Uddin Selim, handed him the award. The acclaimed actor and director sang a song from their film *Monpura* as the crowd cheered on throughout the performance.

"It felt great to receive the award from Selim bhai because we have a long history of working together. Selim bhai offered me the opportunity to work on his projects when I wasn't that famous in showbiz. People still remember our first film together, *Monpura*, which is still fresh in their minds. After such a long time on stage, I felt nostalgic when we sang *Nithua Pathare Nemechi Bondhu Re* on stage. It brought back some beautiful memories. He was instrumental in my career, and I will be eternally grateful to him," stated

the actor.

When asked about the most challenging part of *Karagar*, the actor said that the whole series itself was fully challenging for the artiste.

"We had to showcase a cell which was sealed for fifty years. I had to get ready for the makeup as early as 3-4 am in the wee hours of twilight, where I had to sit for almost two hours to penetrate into the skin of the character. It wasn't really easy to portray a dumb and mute prisoner who could interact with sign language, but at the end of the day, all of my hard work finally paid off when the audience and jury appreciated my acting," added the artiste.

When *Karagar* was released on Hoichoi, it created a strong fan base in both Kolkata and Bangladesh alike.

"At that time, *Karagar* was the most talked-about series in Kolkata. Coincidentally, both *Karagar* and *Hawa* were released in Kolkata in the same year on OTT in 2022. I don't think I have met any such directors or artistes in Kolkata who didn't mention about *Karagar* to me. I remember when I went to shoot for *Padatik* in the city of joy, the audience would come up to me and talk about the project," concluded the actor.

Chanchal Chowdhury will be seen in Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's *Last Defenders of Monogamy*, which is one of the anthology films from Chorki's original production *Ministry of Love*. He will play the role of Shafiq, a devoted father of two teenagers and a loving husband who strongly upholds the principles of monogamy. However, his beliefs face a significant challenge when changes in his life come into play.

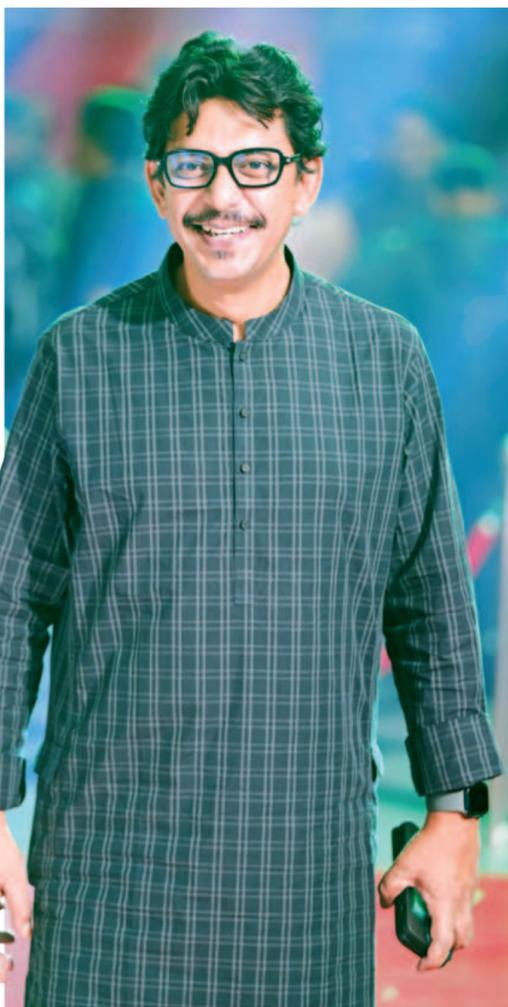


PHOTO: CHECKMATE

Ed Sheeran returns to India for solo concert

Ed Sheeran is making a grand return to India in 2024 as part of his *Mathematics Tour*, with a scheduled performance at Mumbai's Racecourse on March 16.



This concert marks his third visit to the country and is a highlight of his Asian tour in early 2024. Tickets for the tour became available to the general public already. He is going to make a unique change during his upcoming tour by introducing a full band for the first time.

The tour commenced in Dublin in April 2022, showcasing material from his six albums, along with the highly anticipated 2023 release, *Autumn Variations*.

Swifties demand Taylor Swift to take a stand for Gaza

Taylor Swift's fans, also known as Swifties, are urging the pop star to use her influence and speak up for the Palestinian people amid the ongoing conflict in Gaza. The hashtag #SwiftiesForPalestine has been trending on Twitter, with many fans expressing their disappointment in Swift's silence on the issue.

One of the since-deleted tweets that sparked the hashtag was from a fan account that posted a picture of Swift holding a Palestinian flag and wrote, "Taylor Swift we need you to speak up for Palestine."

Other celebrities, such as Rihanna, Selena Gomez, Bella Hadid, Dua Lipa and Zayn Malik, have spoken out in support of Palestine and called for peace and justice.



NEWS

EU for finding a peaceful way forward

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This year, the EU has decided not to send a full-fledged election observer mission to Bangladesh. Instead, it is sending a seven-member delegation that will arrive in mid-November.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, the US condemned the political violence, saying that it will be "reviewing all violent incidents for possible visa restrictions".

"The reported killing of a police officer, a political activist, and the burning of a hospital are unacceptable. As is violence against civilians, including journalists," the US embassy in Dhaka said in a statement.

"We call for calm and restraint on all sides," added the statement.

On May 24, the US said it would impose visa restrictions on individuals and their immediate family members "if they are responsible for, or complicit in, undermining the democratic election process in Bangladesh".

On September 22, it said it started applying the curbs.

Press bodies slam attacks on journos

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of their professional duties and inform the public. "But it is a matter of great concern that journalists are attacked or their safety is hampered while performing their duties," the release said.

The Council requested all political parties and law enforcement agencies to ensure safety of journalists as they carry out their professional duties.

In its press release, BFUJ said, "On Saturday, when BNP activists were vandalising and burning public properties in different parts of the city, journalists covered those, which made the BNP activists furious and then they assaulted journalists."

BFUJ President Omar Faruq and Secretary General Dip Azad on Saturday demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the culprits. They requested the intervention of the home minister in this regard.

DUJ also demanded exemplary punishment of those who assaulted the journalists.

Friends star Matthew Perry

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The news brought an outpouring of grief from fellow celebrities and other high-profile personalities.

Actor Mira Sorvino said on X: "Oh no!!! Matthew Perry!! You sweet, troubled soul!! May you find and happiness in Heaven, making everyone laugh with your singular wit!!!"

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who was a former schoolmate of Perry's in Ottawa, described the latter's passing as "shocking and saddening".

"I'll never forget the schoolyard games we used to play, and I know people around the world are never going to forget the joy he brought them," Trudeau said on X. "Thanks for all the laughs, Matthew. You were loved - and you will be missed."

NBC News, citing an unnamed representative of Perry and a law enforcement source, said he was found

dead at his home in the Pacific Palisades neighbourhood of Los Angeles.

"We are incredibly saddened by the too-soon passing of Matthew Perry," NBC Entertainment said. "He brought so much joy to hundreds of millions of people around the world with his pitch perfect comedic timing and wry wit. His legacy will live on through countless generations."

Perry's last post on Instagram, on October 23, included a photograph of him sitting by a pool or jacuzzi at night, with the words: "Oh, so warm water swirling around makes you feel good? I'm Matman."

Perry was best known for his longtime role as Chandler in the internationally successful "Friends," which ran for 10 seasons from 1994 to 2004, co-starring Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, David Schwimmer, Matt LeBlanc and Lisa Kudrow.

DU confers doctorate

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success in agricultural research. Today we have ensured food security," she said.

The government has launched Bangabandhu-1 Satellite and is planning to launch a second one.

"Then we have to go to the moon. In order to go to the moon, I have already established the Aviation and Aerospace University in Lalmonirhat."

The prime minister said her goal is to build a Bangladesh that the father of the nation had wanted.

"The Prime Minister's Office is nothing to me. I could have become the prime minister long ago. But I didn't want it that way."

She then asked the educated people not to forget those living in rural areas.

"The more the rural people develop the better for the country. The progress of a handful of people is not desired. It has to be universal. Our development will come from the grassroots, from the villages."

Since 2009, when the Awami League government came to power, the face of Bangladesh has changed.

She mentioned that Bangladesh became independent in exchange for blood.

"We will deliver the benefits of this freedom to everyone. Not a single person will be homeless or landless in Bangladesh."

She thanked Dhaka University

authority for awarding the Doctor of Laws to Bangabandhu.

"Dhaka University is the university of my heart. If I could get admission again, I would be happy to complete my Master's degree from here."

She said she had received many degrees from many countries.

"I am not satisfied with those. I didn't get it from my university. Of course I was given an honorary degree here, but it would have been better if I could have studied here again."

The prime minister received the honorary degree of 'Doctor of Laws' (posthumously) of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from DU Vice-Chancellor Professor Md Akhtaruzzaman.

EC's preparations

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the polls schedule early next month, while the polls are slated for January next year.

Meanwhile, Election Commission Secretary Jahangir Alam while talking to reporters yesterday said the existing situation is conducive for announcing the election schedule.

Saturday's clash between the BNP and police left two people dead. At least three people were killed during yesterday's hartal enforced by BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami. BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir was arrested.

Perfect India keep England in the pit

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match as fireworks lit up the sky.

England had a disastrous start and fell to 52-5 after Bumrah took wickets on successive ball to be on a hat-trick and Shami joined forces to grab two more.

Bumrah sent back Dawid Malan, for 16, and Joe Root, for nought, but Jonny Bairstow played out the hat-trick ball.

England soon lost Ben Stokes, bowled by Shami, to raise India's hopes of defending the total he then brought the house down when he bowled Bairstow for 14 as 46,000 fans, largely all Indian in blue jerseys, roared.

Wickets kept tumbling and skipper Jos Buttler was bowled by Kuldeep for 10, and Shami sent Moeen Ali packing

for 15 and the end was near.

Earlier England left-arm quick David Willey returned figures of 3-45, including the prized wicket of Virat Kohli for a nine-ball duck, after they elected to bowl.

The unbeaten hosts lost three early wickets, including two to Chris Woakes, to slip to 40-3 before Rohit steadied the innings and built a 91-run stand with KL Rahul, who made 39.

Rohit survived a reprieve on 33 when he was given out lbw but the opener reviewed the decision in his favour with tracking showing the ball would have missed the leg stump.

Rohit reached his second fifty of the tournament -- he also hit a century against Afghanistan -- to the noisy delight of the nearly-packed

50,000-seater stadium.

The captain and Rahul, who was returning to his IPL home ground where he suffered a serious injury earlier this year, kept the score ticking before Willey broke the stand with Rahul's wicket.

Rohit kept up the fight but fell to leg spinner Adil Rashid after he holed out to deep mid-wicket where Liam Livingstone took a low catch.

Kohli, who endured his 16th duck in ODIs, remains one century away from equalling all-time great Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 hundreds in the 50-over format.

Suryakumar Yadav made a fighting 49 before becoming Willey's third wicket but the tail played out the full 50 overs.

Man posing as Biden's adviser arrested

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of the BNP and its front organisations at a press conference at the party's Nayapaltan office.

Speaking in English, he said he was an adviser to Biden.

"I am a member of the national democratic committee ... we have a hot connection ... Joe Biden [US president] and I exchange text messages 10 to 15 times a day," he was heard saying.

As news of the media briefing spread, the US embassy in Dhaka clarified that he was not speaking for the US government.

"This gentleman does not speak

for the US government and is a private individual," news agency UNB quoted the US embassy in Dhaka as saying.

After the embassy statement, the BNP high command on Saturday distanced itself from the man.

In a statement issued on Saturday night, the party said it had no information about the person who spoke at the press conference and the BNP was not informed by the US embassy about him.

Asked about Arefy, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen on Saturday told reporters that the US president would not have such an adviser. "I don't believe it."

"My personal position is that such a person who promotes violence should be arrested. I will talk to officials of the relevant department," he said.

Arefy hails from Manikdiar village of Ullapara upazila in Sirajganj. He is known as Belal in his village, but none of his family members lives there, our Pabna correspondent reported.

His father, late Rawshan Ali, was a former education officer of Pabna in the early 80s, said Enamul Haque, officer in charge, of Solonga Police Station.

"He and his family migrated to America approximately 35 years ago," he said.

AL 'upbeat' after BNP's Saturday 'setback'

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Addressing a press conference yesterday, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader alleged that the BNP-Jamaat alliance once again indulged in "brutal activities" to disrupt the country's democratic process.

"Though BNP talked about a democratic movement, in secret it was preparing to implement its terrorist-style politics. It was just biding its time to get back to its old ways, its terrible politics," Quader said at the party president's Dhanmondi office.

AL leaders are also of the opinion that the scale of the violence shows that BNP didn't have control over its own people.

They said they believe the opposition

doesn't stand a chance against them and it's apparent especially after the way BNP central leaders left the dias soon after police action.

The AL leaders admitted there was some unease within the ruling party about the final phase in the BNP's oust-government agitation, but Saturday's events made it clear that toppling the government with street demonstrations will be nearly impossible.

Talking to reporters at his office at the Secretariat yesterday, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal hinted that law enforcers will go tough on BNP following Saturday's clashes.

He said BNP has showed their original character by "killing and

beating policemen, journalists and innocent people and they must be brought to book".

The AL, meantime, will remain on the streets with various programmes till the 12th national polls slated for early January. It will not concede an inch to the BNP, said party sources.

The party will hold peace rally in every district, upazila and thana apart from its programmes in the capital to counter the three-day "countrywide blockade" that BNP will enforce on October 31, November 1 and 2.

On those three days, the ruling party men will take position at every unit office across the country to resist BNP if the latter resorts to violence centering on its blockade programme.