

# PM honours cinematic excellence at National Film Awards 2022

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The National Film Awards 2022 were bestowed yesterday by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a dazzling ceremony, held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. The prestigious awards, a celebration of excellence in Bangladeshi cinema, saw the attendance of prominent celebrities and artistes from across the country.

Recognised as one of Bangladesh's most esteemed film honours, the National Film Awards is an annual government initiative to acknowledge outstanding contributions to the film industry. This year, the awards ceremony took place in the esteemed presence of the Prime Minister.

In the current edition, awards were distributed across 27 categories, encompassing 33 prestigious awards for 17 outstanding films. Earlier on October 31, the official list of awardees was revealed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The event began with a welcome address by Md Humayun Kabir Khandaker, senior secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, with Dr Hasan Mahmud, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, presiding over the ceremony. Hasanul Haq Inu, chairman of standing committee of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, graced the occasion as the special guest. Following the awards distribution, PM Sheikh Hasina delivered a speech, and the evening concluded with a captivating cultural programme.

The highlight of the event was the captivating dance performances by



(From left) Rozina (Lifetime Achievement), Afsana Mimi (Best Supporting Actress) and Chanchal Chowdhury (Best Actor), receiving their respective awards. PHOTOS: BSS

*Sundarbans*) and Chandan Sinha (*Hridita*) secured Best Singer awards in the male category.

Atiya Anisha won the Best Singer award in the female category for *Payer Chhaap*. The ceremony also honoured Robiul Islam Jibon for Best Lyricist for the song *Dheere*



Jaya Ahsan receiving the Best Actress award.

*Dheere* (Poran), Shouquat Ali Imon for Best Composer for the song *Ei Shohorer Pothe Pothe* (Payer Chhaap), Faridur Reza Sagar (*Damal*) and Khorshed Alam Khosru (*Golui*) for Best Script Writers, and Mohammad Abdul Qayyum for Best Screenplay Writer for *Kura Pokkhir Shunne Ura*.

"Under the authority of Bangladesh Bank, we have arranged a Tk 1,000 crore fund for cinema hall owners, so that they can reconstruct and facilitate their theatres. To ensure a sustainable development in this sector, we have passed the Film Artists Welfare Trust Act 2020, where there is seed money available," mentioned the Prime Minister in her closing speech. She also urged the artistes to join the National Pension Scheme so that they can ensure financial security after their retirement.

After the Liberation War, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman donated 105 acres of land in Gazipur, so that film fraternities would have a proper location where they could shoot their films. "Continuing with his vision, now we are working to finish the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Film City. With the successful completion of its initial phase, the upcoming second phase is set to commence soon."



Reekita Nondine Shimu receiving the Best Actress award.

renowned artistes like Sadia Islam Mou, Nusraat Faria, Mahiya Mahi, Tama Mirza, Zayed Khan-Achol, Symon-Dighi, Ador Azad-Puja Chery, and Sohana Saba-Gazi Abdun Noor. The programme was hosted by the popular on-screen duo Ferdous and Purnima. Their on stage chemistry added an extra layer of charm to the proceedings.

A special moment unfolded as Kamrul Alam Khan Khasru and Rawshan Ara Rozina were honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award for their invaluable contributions to the industry, bringing joy and appreciation to all in attendance.

Veteran actor Alamgir received the award on behalf of Khasru.

The Best Film category saw a joint win for Mohammad Abdul Qayyum's *Kura Pokkhir Shunne Ura* and Md Tamzid Ul Alam's *Poran*. Rubaiyat Hossain secured the Best Director award for her film *Shimu*.

Chanchal Chowdhury has been recognised as the Best Actor for his performance in *Hawa*, whereas Jaya Ahsan (*Beauty Circus*) and Reekita Nondine Shimu (*Shimu*) jointly received the Best Actress accolade.

Nasir Uddin Khan (*Poran*) and Afsana

Mimi (*Paap Punno*) were recognised as the Best Supporting Actor and Best Supporting Actress, respectively. Subhasish Bhowmik earned the Best Actor in a Negative Role award for *Deshantor*, and Deepu Imam was awarded the Best Actor (Comedy) for *Operation Sundarbans*.

The Best Child Artiste award went to Bristi Akter (*Rohingya*) and Muntaha Amelia (*Birotto*), while Farzina Akhtar received a special award in the same category for *Kura Pokkhir Shunne Ura*. Ripon Khan received the Best Music Director award for *Payer Chhaap*, and Bappa Mazumder (*Operation*

## NEWS

### Press Bangladesh to create environ

FROM PAGE 14 we are deeply disturbed by the sharp rise of such incidents."

They also expressed alarm at the threats to media freedom, noting that attacks, surveillance, intimidation, and judicial harassment of the press over the past several years have led to widespread self-censorship in the media.

"The weaponisation of the judicial system to attack journalists, human rights defenders, and civil society leaders diminishes the independence of the judiciary and erodes fundamental human rights," the experts said.

As an example of judicial harassment, they highlighted the case of investigative journalist Rozina Islam, in which the prosecution failed to produce material evidence after two years of investigation, repeated hearings, and a travel ban affecting her work.

In September, the secretary and director of the leading human rights organisation, Odhikar, were convicted and imprisoned on charges of publishing "fake information" when, in fact, they had documented extrajudicial killings and excessive use of force by security forces in 2013, which the Bangladeshi government has never investigated. Odhikar was denied renewal of its registration last year, the press release said.

"When prominent civil society leaders like Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus or human rights defenders like Adilur Rahman Khan or Nasiruddin Elan are charged or convicted in retaliation for human rights work, it sends a chilling message to all journalists and human rights defenders that any dissent or critical opinion may lead to the most severe sanctions, no matter how outrageous the accusations or how prominent the person," said the

experts. "According to the authorities, over 5,600 cases related to freedom of expression, including those of prominent journalists and editors, are still pending under the much-criticised draconian Digital Services Act," noted the experts.

"Despite promises from the government of significant legal change, which we warmly welcomed, the new Cyber Security Act has made only a few improvements and continues to retain many of the flaws of the legislation, threatening the legitimate exercise of the right to freedom of expression."

"The universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council is an opportunity for Bangladesh not only to reiterate its commitment to human rights in words but to take urgent, concrete action to end attacks on human rights defenders and journalists," the experts added.

### People can vote freely

FROM PAGE 1 The AL president alleged that the BNP-Jamaat does not want to take part in the national election, rather they want to create an unstable situation in the country by committing arson to inflict suffering to the people.

Hasina said the BNP-Jamaat has no intention of participating in the next general election, rather they are out to foil the polls.

She said her government has taken all necessary measures, including enacting new law, to make the election free and fair.

The EC introduced transparent ballot boxes and prepared voter list with photographs in line with the AL's proposals, the PM added.

The premier reiterated her call to the people to resist arsonists. She said good sense should prevail among the arsonists and they must quit arson terrorism.

"We are still seeing the suffering of those who sustained burns in arson

attacks carried out in 2013 and 2014. So, we don't want the people to suffer again."

Hasina blasted the BNP-Jamaat as school and college students can't take their final exams due to "arson violence in the name of a movement".

Mentioning that Bangladesh is now considered a model of development, the PM said her government has turned the country into Digital Bangladesh and is now working to transform it into a developed, prosperous and a smart nation by 2041.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Tazul Islam, Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque, and Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder were present.

Among the development schemes opened by the PM, 15 projects were completed by the housing and public works ministry while different agencies of the shipping ministry are implementing 15 others.

### Hospitals doing business in name

FROM PAGE 2 DAG Masud said Rahima with a tumor in her stomach went to Habiganj Sadar Hospital for treatment on September 9. The accused told her relatives to admit the patient to Japan Bangladesh Hospital saying that they would operate on her at minimum costs.

SK Ghosh did the surgery and discharged her from the hospital after three days. She returned home, but her condition deteriorated.

On October 2, Rahima was admitted to Habiganj Sadar Hospital from where she was referred to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

DAG Masud said after conducting tests, physicians of MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital said Ghosh cut the intestine, uterus, and a part of her left kidney.

Rahima died at the hospital on October 15, DAG Masud added.

### JP chief 'urges president to hold dialogue'

FROM PAGE 14 Hass handed over the letter to Quader at the latter's office in the capital's Banani on Monday.

Meanwhile, Quader in a meeting of the JP executive committee yesterday was empowered to decide whether to join the polls.

At the meeting, he said public opinion would not be reflected properly in the polls results if the party runs in the general election under the current situation, said meeting

sources. The meeting was held at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh in the city.

The JP chief said the party would be regarded as "betrayor" or "collaborator" if it takes part in the polls.

He questioned what would happen to the JP if the Awami League gets elected and its government steps down after the polls due to some problem.

Quader called upon the

government to arrange a dialogue among the political parties to resolve the political crisis.

He also expressed concern that the US might impose visa restrictions on the JP and its leaders if the party runs in the election without a consensus among the political parties.

Most of the grassroots leaders in the meeting said the JP should not take part in the upcoming polls under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

### Port city to see new era

FROM PAGE 2 The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council approved the project in July 2017, with an original cost of Tk 3,250 crore and a deadline set for June 2020.

However, the government extended the deadline twice, as the CDA had failed to initiate project implementation on time.

The updated cost of the project

now stands at Tk 4,298.95 crore with the deadline shifted to June 2024.

The under-construction four-lane Chattogram Elevated Expressway, spanning 16.5 metres, is fully funded by the government.

With the inclusion of its 14 ramps - facilitating entries to and exits from Tiger Pass, Agrabad, Barik Building, Nimtala, Biswa Road, Customs area, CEPZ, Karnaphuli EPZ, Katghar area

and the sea-beach intersections - the total length of the expressway will be 28.5km.

Till November 12, the project's construction progress stood at 85 percent, while that of the ramps was only 10 percent.

Last August, the CDA decided to name the expressway after former city mayor and freedom fighter ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury.

### DMP puts all units

FROM PAGE 14 told this newspaper that the field units have been instructed to maintain round the clock vigilance. "The focus is on proactive measures."

According to another official, the higher-ups discussed the incidents of torching buses in the capital and said that the authorities are keen on investigating the motives behind the arson attacks and identifying the individuals or groups responsible.

Responsibility for each incident has been assigned to the appropriate crime divisions, and the DMP commissioner stressed the need for further steps to curb such incidents as they occurred despite previous

measures. The police have also been instructed to use loud sirens and whistles to increase the effectiveness of night-time patrolling. "Officials have been instructed to maintain a service-oriented mentality, be on the field 24/7, and be prepared for any potential challenges," the official continued.

According to sources, police will identify areas that are vulnerable to threats and, if needed, use drones to monitor them to effectively deploy security measures.

Iqbal Hossain, the deputy commissioner of DMP's Wari Division, also confirmed that security

measures would be intensified following the announcement of the election schedule, including increased patrol and vigilance, particularly after sunset when arson incidents tend to occur.

Meanwhile, Harun Or Rashid, additional commissioner of DMP's detective branch, yesterday said police would take measures, as per directives of the EC after the announcement of the poll schedule, to hold a free and fair election.

"Police in both plainclothes and uniforms are already patrolling the city streets. We are setting up check posts to avert any untoward situations," he added.

### Unhappy with delays in improving labour rights

FROM PAGE 14 EPZs, he said.

But the foreign companies in the EPZs do not want unions in their factories, he added.

Citing a Unicef report, the delegation said child workers are employed in different sectors in Bangladesh, but not in the garment industries.

The delegates were led by Paola Pampaloni, deputy managing director of Asia and Pacific Department at the European External Action Service.

The team also raised concerns over delays in recruitment of inspectors for the Department for Inspection of Factories and Establishment, and the

death of four garment workers during recent demonstrations, he said.

BGMEA chief Faruque demanded ethical buying practice from the EU clothing retailers and brands and an increase in prices of garment products as the workers' salary has been hiked.

The BGMEA also demanded the GSP Plus status for Bangladesh so the country can enjoy the duty waivers after graduation from the LDC status.

To secure the GSP Plus status, Bangladesh will have to ensure standards in human and labour rights, environmental protection, and good governance.

### Pvt agencies

FROM PAGE 2 Pilgrims will have to pay Tk 5.78 lakh under the general package, a reduction of Tk 92,450, and Tk 9.36 lakh under the special package.

The special hajj package includes upgrades like double- or triple-bedrooms in luxury Makkah hotels that would be within 800 metres of the Haram Sharif.

Accommodation in "A" category tents and buffet meals will be available in Mina. Bus seats will be guaranteed for every hajji travelling in Makkah.

Around 1.27 lakh Bangladeshis can perform hajj in 2024.

Of them, 10,198 people will be able to make it under government management while the rest can go to Saudi Arabia through hajj agencies.

Hajj is likely to begin on June 16 depending on moon sighting.