



PHOTOS: COLLECTED

## OTT regaining momentum with exciting projects

### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

After the July Uprising, only a handful of OTT projects saw the day of light. The first local OTT release after August 5 was Vicky Zahed's thriller short film *Ekti Khola Janala*. The project, featuring Tasnia Farin and Sallha Khanam Nádía, was released on September 4 on Binge.

The next project came from Chorki, titled *Forget Me Not*, starring Mehazabien Chowdhury and Yash Rohan. The web-film became available for streaming on Chorki from September 5. Directed by Robiul Alam Robi, it is the fourth instalment of the anthology series *Ministry of Love*.

The OTT industry is slowly attempting to regain the momentum



it has lost during the student-led movement. On September 30, Raihan Rafi's web-film *Mayaa*, featuring Sarika Subrin and Mammun Hasan Emon, was released

on Binge.

This month, the audience can expect two more new projects.

Alok Hasan's *Tribhuj*, featuring Anika Kabir Shakh, Shariar Nazim Joy, Imtiaz Barshon, Shohel Mondol, Mousumi Mou, and Farin Khan, is set to premiere on Deepto Play on October 10.

On the same day, Vicky Zahed's highly anticipated web-series *Chokro*, starring Tawfif Mahubb and Tasnia Farin, will be released on iScreen. The project was earlier halted by the censor board, lead by former AL regime.

Meanwhile, Pori Moni and Mostafizur Noor Imran starrer web-series *Rongila Kitab* for Hoichoi is awaiting release. Directed by Anam Biswas, the project is expected to be released next month.

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## NEWS

### Buddhists won't observe

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where a college student of the Chakma community was lynched in broad daylight, he added.

At Maitri Bihar, a historic Buddhist institution, rioters destroyed scriptures and Buddha statues, and took away the donation boxes.

The monks' association in a statement said violence against the Buddhist community was not new to the hill tracts.

Law enforcers could have prevented

the destruction if they took steps, it added.

Besides, the administration has done little to bring the perpetrators to justice. The government formed investigation committees, but their findings are unknown, said the statement.

A lack of visible efforts by the authorities to address the situation has left the Buddhist community feeling unsafe and unwilling to observe the Kathin Chibar Dan, which was scheduled for November.

Among those present at the press conference were Sourajagat Mahathero, Tejapriya Mahathero, Gyanabangs Mahathero, and heads of 14 Buddhist organisations.

Kathin Chibar Daan marks the conclusion of a three-month seclusion of monks who meditate inside their monasteries for self-edification and atonement for mankind and is preceded by another festival, Probarona Purnima, characterised by the release of sky lanterns.

### Changing 150-yr-old law

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He said they would incorporate the best practices from police reform proposals being implemented in various democratic countries.

"We have an understanding of how police operate in different democratic countries, and we will try to include the best practices of those countries in our reform proposals as recommendations ...," he said.

The chairman further said the commission intends to get opinions from stakeholders, including civil society members, experts, media

personalities (print and electronic media), university students and teachers, and the people to formulate a set of suggestions for reforming the police.

"We have a limited timeframe for completing the work — three months. We have a plan to launch a website with questions in which the stakeholders can write their suggestions."

Safar Raj said they want to complete the task within the stipulated time.

"After discussing all inputs, we will simply suggest the government what

changes need to be made in various sections of the police laws to make them modern and relevant.

"Do I think he's safe? No, I think there's going to be another attempt. But I think he's going to make it through."

After the assassination attempt, pictures of Trump — with a blood-streaked face, pumping his fist and shouting "fight, fight, fight" — became defining images of the campaign.

On Saturday, many Trump supporters wore shirts emblazoned with the iconography, and some sported ear coverings recalling the bandage the former president wore after the shooting.

### Three dead AL leaders

**FROM PAGE 12**  
Rahman Farid, passed away from kidney disease in September 2022. His son, Farhad Hossain, said, "My father died a year ago, yet a case has been filed against him. This is absolutely ridiculous."

Billal Hossain, organising secretary of Sadar South Upazila Awami League, said, "Not only these three deceased Awami League leaders, but elderly individuals with old-age complications and expatriates living in the UK and Canada, have also been accused in this case."

Complainant Md Emran avoided answering the reporters' question about the inclusion of names of dead AL leaders in the case and said, "The complaint is legitimate. The accused will be judged based on the investigation."

Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sadar South Police Station, said, "A proper investigation will reveal the truth."

Accused number 55, Wahidur

### Will never quit

**FROM PAGE 12**  
sniper squads atop surrounding buildings, and a surveillance drone deployed overhead.

"There's a lot going on that's unnerving," said Heather Hughes, 43, who had traveled from New Castle in must-win Pennsylvania.

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### ADB-funded projects face

**FROM PAGE 12**  
management, and governance sector.

Implementation of all major projects, particularly the infrastructure ones, was halted or almost stopped amid the quota reforms protests, which eventually turned into a student-led mass uprising that toppled the Hasina-led government on August 5.

"Almost all work remained halted for two months [July and August]. Work resumed in September, but it is yet to get momentum," a director of a major ADB-funded project told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Situation of other projects were almost same, and I think ADB wanted to mention this problem as additional challenges," the director said seeking anonymity.

**WHAT ADB SAYS**  
According to a background paper made ahead of the tripartite portfolio review meeting, awarding of contract achieved is \$392.5 million (59.6 percent) against the

annual target of \$663.8 million this year.

The disbursement is \$890.2 million (61.6 percent) against the annual target of \$1,445 million, it says.

Insufficient financial and human resources to prepare projects, complex and lengthy approval process of projects and bid documents, challenges in land acquisition, limited experience and capacity of the project implementing agencies are major factors that led to poor project readiness and frequent extension of loan implementation periods, ADB said.

In 2023, all sectors exceeded their contract award targets except agriculture, food, nature, and rural development (73.6 percent) and energy (59.8 percent) sectors.

As of September 20 this year, the annual progress is 60.62 percent with

72 percent of the time elapsed, and the contract award and disbursement performances are "on track" as per year-to-date performance.

"However, we have observed additional implementation challenges in many ongoing projects due to the current political turbulence and changes in the government," ADB document reads.

The ADB, however, is committed to working even more closely with the interim government to ensure continuous improvement of Bangladesh portfolio management, it said.

The multilateral lender, with support from the project implementation units, initiated a rapid market assessment to better understand the impact of the prevailing socio-economic conditions.

The purpose of the assessment was to obtain information on the progress and quality of existing contracts, as well as the interest of potential companies to participate in future bidding opportunities in Bangladesh.

### Army saved the country from instability

**FROM PAGE 12**  
life, irrespective of political ideology.

In the first phase under this promotion board, eligible officers for the ranks of colonel and lieutenant colonel in the Bangladesh Army will be considered for promotion, the press release said.

The chief adviser welcomed everyone to the new Bangladesh following the revolution of the students and people.

He remembered with deep respect all who were killed in the Anti-Discrimination

Student Movement in July-August.

Prof Yunus also recalled all the brave soldiers of the armed forces, including the army, who participated in the Liberation War. The nation will always remember with respect the self-sacrifice of martyrs of the armed forces, said the chief adviser.

On arrival at the venue, Yunus was welcomed by Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman, the chief adviser's special assistant on defence and national solidarity, and the Chief

of General Staff and Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division.

The chief of army staff expressed gratitude to the chief adviser for inaugurating the selection board despite his busy schedule.

The defence secretary and senior officers of the army were present at the inauguration ceremony.

At the end of the ceremony, Yunus participated in a photo session with the army officers and wrote his comments on the visitors' book.

### India steamroll Tigers in first T20I

**FROM PAGE 12**  
regular starters in the format as they rested lead pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammad Siraj and wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant for the series.

However, India never looked to be in any sort of trouble as quick-fire innings from opener Sanju Samson (29 off 19) and skipper Suryakumar set the tone for a fast-paced finish to the game.

India got off to a blistering start in their chase as, following the fall of opener Abhishek Sharma in a run-out in the second over, Suryakumar took the charge to the

Bangladesh bowlers. With two boundaries and three maximums, Suryakumar raced to 29 off just 14 deliveries before being caught off a Mustafizur Rahman delivery in the final over of the Powerplay.

India never took the step off the pedal as Hardik Pandya smashed an unbeaten 39 off 16, featuring five boundaries and two sixes, and Reddy scored a 15-ball 16 not out to get things done in a hurry.

Earlier, Bangladesh batters produced yet another meek display as the openers — Liton Das and Parvez Hossain Emon — could survive only 2.1 overs, amounting

to 14 runs. Liton (4 off 2) was dismissed by unnecessarily slashing at an Arshdeep Singh delivery while Emon (8 off 9) too fell by inside edging one off the same bowler.

Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto could only make 27 off 25 deliveries while nonsensical shots saw the ends of Towhid Hridoy (12 off 18), Mahmudullah Riyad (1 off 2), and Jaker Ali (8 off 6).

Mehidy Hasan Miraz fought hard with an unbeaten 35 but found little support. Pacer Arshdeep and mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy took three wickets each for India.