



Fan favourites vs Critics' picks: Bridging the gap in OTT awards

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The OTT awards have become a reflection of both audience preferences and critical acclaim, yet a recurring question persists: how well do the choices of fans and critics align? Last year's winners of the *Blender's Choice The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards*, like Afran Nisho and Mehazabien Chowdhury in the Popular category for *Redrum*, stood in contrast to Critic's picks like Chanchal Chowdhury and Tasnia Farin for *Karagar*. This divergence highlights a nuanced distinction in the values audiences and critics hold dear.



This year's nominations continue the conversation. In the Popular category, beloved stars like Mosharraf Karim (*Mohanagar 2*), Ziaul Faruq Apurba (*Buker Moddhye Agun*) and Shamol Mawla (*The Silence*), among others, vie for the Best Actor title, while actresses like Azmeri Haque Badhan (*Guti*), Rafiath Rashid Mithila (*Myself*

Allen Swapan) and Tama Mirza (*Friday*) dominate the spotlight.

On the critics' end, Nasir Uddin Khan (*Myself Allen Swapan*) and Siam Ahmed (*Punormilone*) stand out among the male actors, with Azmeri Haque Badhan and Nazia Haque Orsha (*Jahan*) as strong contenders for Best Actress.

Popular selections reflect the audience's emotional engagement, with crowd-pleasers like *Mohanagar 2* and *Myself Allen Swapan* dominating the nominations in the Best Drama/Series category. Conversely, Critic's Choice focuses on narrative depth and artistic integrity,



spotlighting projects like *Guti* and *Friday*.

As OTT platforms expand their reach, bridging the gap between fan favourites and critics' picks remains an intriguing observance—one that could redefine storytelling dynamics in Bangladesh's digital entertainment scene.

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OTT
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AWARDS 2023

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LAST DATE OF VOTING: NOVEMBER 30, 2024

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NEWS

Increase women seats in JS

FROM PAGE 1

"This would streamline the voting process, enabling those who turn 18 after the voter list is prepared to cast their votes without being excluded."

Ajker Patrika Editor Prof Golam Rahman called for guaranteed media access during all stages of the election process.

"To ensure voting rights for expatriates, early preparations are necessary, including amending and updating laws. What we've seen in the past was the influence of ruling parties on elections, which should be eliminated."

He considered proportional representation impractical at this time, saying that meaningful change must originate from within the parliament to be effective.

The Daily Star Bangla Editor Golam Mortoza proposed direct elections for the reserved seats for women in parliament.

Recommending punishment to those responsible for irregularities in the past three polls, he said, "The reform commission should ask the previous election commissions, under

which the 2014, 2018, and 2024 elections were held, on whose orders they conducted such elections."

He also urged the commission to enact laws to establish internal democracy within political parties and stressed the importance of ensuring that every citizen has the right to choose their preferred candidate.

Mortoza further proposed increasing the reserved seats for women to 100 from 50 and suggested that political parties nominate their candidates for national polls.

Prothom Alo Joint Editor Sohrab Hossain said representatives should not contest elections in areas they do not live in, as this deprives locals of proper representation.

He suggested eliminating financial influence in polls by introducing state-funded election campaigns.

About women's seats, he too proposed direct elections.

He also emphasised the need for ensuring every citizen's ability to choose their preferred candidate.

Dainik Protidin Bangladesh Editor Mostafiz Shafi strongly advocated reinstating the caretaker government

system, saying that it could address 80 percent of the challenges posed by partisan governments during elections.

He called for constitutional reform proposals to be presented to both the government and the media to ensure accountability.

Shafi also emphasised ensuring voting rights for expatriates and providing advanced voting facilities for media personnel and election officials.

Regarding a rotational voting system for women's seats, Badiul Alam Majumder said women would directly contest in 100 seats, raising the total number of parliamentary seats to 400.

"These 100 seats would rotate across constituencies over four election cycles, with women competing alongside men for other seats."

He cited similar systems in local government polls in West Bengal and Kerala, where women's participation has been significantly higher.

The commission also plans to recommend internationally recognised guidelines for demarcating parliamentary constituencies to ensure fair representation, he added.

US team flies

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Internationally recognised labour standards, as well as sustainable growth and broadly shared prosperity."

After the interim government took office, the US committed full support for reforms.

The US is the single largest importer of Bangladesh's products, mostly ready-made garments. Its annual import volume from Bangladesh is over \$10 billion. The US suspended the GSP facility after the Rana Plaza collapse in 2013.

Earlier, the US administration said it was not providing funds to Bangladesh under the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), but the funds could be provided if the labour standards improves in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has been seeking to have both the funding under DFC and the reinstatement of GSP.

Khaleda receives warm welcome

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Chief Marshal Hasan Mahmud Khan.

Her presence captured the attention of the attendees, many of whom greeted her.

She stayed at the event for about two hours, during which she greeted the participants and well-wishers.

Addressing a large gathering of dignitaries and VIPs, Yunus said, "We are particularly fortunate and honoured that three-time prime minister, also the wife of a freedom fighter and martyred president Ziaur Rahman, Begum Khaleda Zia, is present here among us."

Noting that Khaleda had not had the opportunity to attend this annual programme in the last 12 years, Yunus

said, "We are all very delighted and proud to have been able to have you in our midst."

He then addressed Khaleda, thanking her for attending the occasion despite her illness. "We hope for her a quick recovery and extend her a special welcome to this function."

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, who had arrived at the event earlier, was visibly moved upon seeing Khaleda at the occasion.

Speaking to reporters at the event, Fakhrul said, "The entire nation is happy, and we are grateful for the honour bestowed upon Madam [Khaleda]."

Adani charged

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"We are raising this issue, it is my responsibility to raise this issue as leader of opposition," Rahul Gandhi, leader of the main opposition Congress party, told reporters when asked if he would bring it up in parliament next week.

Gandhi has led the opposition attack against Modi for what he says are Modi's links to Adani since US short-seller Hindenburg Research issued a report last year accusing the Adani group of using offshore tax havens improperly - which the company has denied.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge called for a comprehensive parliamentary probe into "every aspect of the working of the Adani Group".

Mob killings mark sharp rise

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increased and apparently peaked in September.

There was mob violence in two top universities in the country that month.

On September 18, former Chhatra League leader of Jahangirnagar University Shamim Molla was beaten up by students twice on campus. He died of his injuries that day.

At Dhaka University, Tofazzal Hossain, known to be a wanderer on campus, died after a mob in Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall beat him up.

In late September, this newspaper talked to 16 officers in-charge about 21 mob violence related deaths over the previous 40 days. They said 11 cases had been filed over the incidents, no case was filed regarding two incidents they knew about.

On October 30, six people were killed in three incidents in Narail, Chapainawabganj and Dhaka. Cases were filed, but there were no arrests till November 5 when this correspondent talked to the police stations concerned. ZI Khan Panna, chairperson of ASK, thinks the deteriorating law and order situation is to blame for the spike in the number of deaths in mob beatings.

He said although the number of deaths in mob violence spiked recently, it has been going on for a long time, and a lack of confidence in police and the judiciary is a reason for this.

MOB KILLINGS	
YEAR	DEATHS
2024 (Jan-Oct)	100
2023	51
2022	36
2021	28
2020	35
2019	65
2018	39
2017	50
2016	51
2015	135
TOTAL 590	
SOURCE: ASK	

It is a kind of extrajudicial killing carried out by agitated people. The other type of extrajudicial killing is committed by law enforcement agencies, he said, adding, "Both are harmful for the state."

Sara Hossain, honorary executive director of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), said police were not on duty for quite a while in August.

Besides, the number of army personnel was not adequate.

"That's why the number of mob attacks was high in August. But it [mob violence] continues to reflect that the presence of law enforcers is not enough," she told The Daily Star on November 6.

There were some incidents that may have had political links while there were incidents when people took the law into their own hands, believing the victims were criminals. "People taking law into their own hands is a matter of serious concern. This should not be happening," the prominent rights activist said.

Sara Hossain, also a senior SC lawyer, recommended ensuring that people have trust in the judiciary.

Apart from making law enforcers more vigilant, a change in society is needed because, in most cases, people remain silent when an incident of mob violence takes place, she said.

Besides, it is necessary to bring the people involved in mob violence to book, she added.

The Daily Star tried to contract Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury and Public Security Division's Senior Secretary Mohammad Abdul Momen for comments last night but they did not respond to phone calls and text messages.