



Your favourite ‘bad guys’ 2023: WHO WILL WIN?

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The OTT industry has revolutionised storytelling, presenting unforgettable characters that leave lasting impressions. Among these are compelling antagonists who have captivated audiences and redefined what it means to play a villain. The nominations for the Best Antagonist category at the Blender's Choice The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards 2023 celebrate these powerful portrayals.

Afran Nisho, a name synonymous with versatility, made his OTT debut with Shihab Shaheen's *Morichika*, which earned him the Best Antagonist award in 2021 (presented in 2022). This year, he has returned to the nominations for his chilling performance in Yasir Al Haq's *Sharey Showlo*. Known for romantic roles on television, Nisho's portrayal of darker characters has cemented his place as one of the industry's finest.

Abdun Noor Shajal, another fan-favourite, has emerged as a masterful antagonist. His riveting performance in Vicky Zahed's *The Silence* earned

him a nomination this year. Shajal, typically celebrated for his romantic leads on the small screens, has successfully reinvented himself in the OTT space. Adding to his streak, he also starred as an antagonist in Zahed's project *Rumi*, showcasing his range and consistency.

Irfan Sajjad took audiences by surprise with his haunting performance in Shihab Shaheen's *Baba Someone's Following Me*. Playing a mentally challenged antagonist, Sajjad earned widespread acclaim and a well-deserved nomination. His nuanced portrayal solidified his position as a rising star in the industry.

The multi-talented Mostafa Monwar, known for his transformative roles, delivered yet another stellar performance in *Procholito*. Consistently captivating audiences with his craft, Monwar secured his spot among this year's nominees with a performance that solidified his reputation as a powerhouse of talent. His dedication to bringing complex characters to life continues to impress viewers and

critics alike.

Reigning champion Nasir Uddin Khan, who won Best Antagonist last year for *Syndicate*, has also returned to this year's nominations for his menacing role in Shankha Dasgupta's *Guti*. With 18 nominations across Popular and Critics' Choice categories, *Guti* leads the awards this year. Additionally, Khan received a Best Actor (Male) nomination for his exceptional work in Shihab Shaheen's *Myself Allen Swapan*, proving his versatility and dominance in the OTT arena.

These actors exemplify the importance of well-crafted antagonists in storytelling, transforming them into the heart of a narrative's success.

As we celebrate these outstanding performances, it's evident that the rise of Bangladeshi OTT platforms has paved the way for diverse and boundary-pushing content. These narratives and characters are now earning both national and international recognition, beckoning a bright future for the country's digital entertainment landscape.

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NEWS

Lawyers hurl eggs at judge for remark

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Justice Ashraf. But the eggs hit a calendar.

Then both the judges of the HC bench left the courtroom without saying anything to the protesting lawyers, the official said, adding that he did not know the lawyers.

The judges did not sit in the courtroom after the incident took place.

Contacted, some other staffers of the HC bench led by Justice Ashraf refused to comment on the incident.

SC Registrar General Aziz Ahmed Bhuiyan could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts by phone.

However, an official at the SC Registrar General's Office told this correspondent that the authorities concerned of the SC have been informed of the incident.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman Khan, a pro-BNP lawyer and former assistant secretary of the Supreme Court Bar Association, told The Daily Star that Justice Ashraf has made very negative and unexpected comments about late president Ziaur Rahman in a verdict in the "Asaduzzaman Vs Bangladesh" case in 2016 while he was a junior judge of an HC bench.

In the judgment, Justice Ashraf observed that Major General Ziaur Rahman was not only the collaborator of the killers of the father of the nation and his family members but also the killers of the four national leaders. He also rewarded the murderers of Bangabandhu and his family members by making them ambassadors, parliamentarians, etc.

"What he did more heinously is that his government formulated the Indemnity Act that stopped the trial of the murderers of elected president, the father of the nation, and his family members.

"The people were astonished to see Major General Ziaur Rahman had joined hands with the murderers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members and the murderers of four national leaders, and completely illegally and unconstitutionally seized the office of president, which can be said in a word -- seized the people's institutions at gunpoint," Justice Ashraf said in the verdict.

He was appointed as an additional judge of the HC on December 12, 2010, for two years and his service was confirmed on December 10,

2012, during the regime of Sheikh Hasina-led government.

Lawyer Mahbubur added that some lawyers also confined High Court Division's Registrar Munshi Moshir Rahman to his office for some time yesterday afternoon and removed his nameplate from his office as he was one of the behind-the-scenes craftsmen of "the August 10 judicial coup" and an aide of the fascist government.

Moshir forced many lower court judges to visit Tungipara of Gopalganj while he was a judge in Narayanganj, alleged Mahbubur, publicity affairs secretary of Bangladesh Jatiotabadi Ainjibi Forum, a body of pro-BNP lawyers.

Moshir could not be communicated for comments by phone.

Twelve HC judges have been kept away from judicial proceedings since October 20 amid the demand from the agitating students.

On August 10, then chief justice Obaidul Hassan and five other judges of the Appellate Division of the SC stepped down amid students' demonstrations demanding their resignations following the ouster of the Awami League government on August 5.

Khaleda, Tarique cleared

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secretary Harris Chowdhury (now dead), the latter's then private secretary Ziaul Islam Munna, and Monirul Islam Khan, private secretary to a former Dhaka City Corporation mayor.

The Anti-Corruption Commission had filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station on August 8, 2011, accusing the four of abusing power to raise funds for the trust from unknown sources.

Khaleda, who mostly stayed at her Gulshan home for the last five years following the suspension of her prison sentence, was released on August 6 this year after President Mohammed Shahabuddin had granted her clemency in two cases based on the law ministry's recommendation.

The development came a day after Hasina resigned as prime minister and fled the country in the face of a mass uprising.

Khaleda landed in jail on February 8, 2018, after a special court in Dhaka sentenced her to five years' imprisonment in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case. The High Court later doubled her jail term.

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A father lost forever

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the Rangam Convention Hall, adjacent to the Chattogram Court Building yesterday.

Tasnimul Hasan Jaki, his nephew, said, "We didn't know anything about the incident until we received a call from Chittagong Medical College Hospital around 3:45pm. By the time we reached the hospital, he was already dead."

Saiful was the fourth of seven siblings, said his elder sister, Jannat Ara Begum.

"My brother was honest and always stood against injustice.

"His two-year-old daughter has lost her father, and his unborn child will never meet him. This pain is unbearable," she said, demanding justice for his murder.

Saiful's father, Jamal Uddin, unable to bear the grief, was seen repeatedly collapsing outside the CMCH morgue.

"I want justice for my son. I demand punishment for his killers," he cried.

As his family mourns the loss of a husband, father, and brother, they continue to demand accountability for the brutal killing.

Tigresses notch

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each to finish off the job, bowling Ireland out for 98 runs in 28.5 overs.

Batting performances have been a big concern for the Tigresses and the win would be a boost of confidence after recent struggles.

"The whole of Bangladesh watched our victory and we would like to continue on the same path," Sultana said at the post-match press conference.

"The batters took responsibility and that's why we were able to bowl with comfort. We bowled freely and without pressure," she added.

Sultana commended Sharmin's aggressive effort, an inspired knock in Bangladesh's context.

"She (Sharmin) batted really well. This is only the second time I saw her batting this aggressively. She can bat even better if she wants. It would have been better if she could reach her hundred," Sultana opined.

The Tigresses will head to the second ODI on November 30 with more ambition, hoping to clinch the series.

Imran Khan's followers

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The government said at least one police officer and four state paramilitary personnel had been killed, before the main thoroughfare was cleared by forces armed with tear gas and batons early yesterday.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said in a statement that security forces had "bravely repulsed the protesters" as PTI told activists on social media the rally was cancelled "for the time being".

Khan made a statement from his cell outside Islamabad calling supporters to the capital on Tuesday.

But the crowds were led by his key lieutenant Ali Amin Gandapur and his wife Bushra Bibi, who was also jailed earlier this year but released last

month.

"The movement is continuing and it will be ended only by Imran Khan," said Gandapur after retreating from Islamabad to northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province where he serves as chief minister.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called the protests "extremism". Since Sunday, his ministers held regular press conferences in central Islamabad vowing no mercy for the oncoming marchers.

But as they retreated from the capital, there were growing calls for reconciliation to prevent future flare-ups impacting regular citizens in the country of 240 million.

The Human Rights Commission

of Pakistan said in a statement that Khan and Sharif's parties should "immediately enter a purposeful political dialogue".

"It is high time that they agree on a peaceful way forward instead of whipping up the emotions of their respective political workers and bringing the country to a standstill," the organisation said.

Michael Kugelman, South Asia Institute director at The Wilson Center, said on social media platform X that "Pakistan's protests had no winners".

Anger towards the establishment has increased over the crackdown, he said, while at the same time, PTI was forced to retreat.

Govt for trying Hasina

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Separately, Essa Mbye Faal, a senior lawyer of the ICC, said the international court is ready to assist the ICT if requested by Bangladesh.

"The ICC has always said that it is available to assist states in terms of technical support, training, and guidance when requested," he said while responding to a question at a press briefing in Dhaka.

"With this level of cooperation, if Bangladesh were to seek assistance, the Office would be more than happy to oblige," said the ICC lawyer.

During the meeting at Jamuna, Yunus and Khan also discussed the Rohingya crisis, the situation in Myanmar, and humanitarian efforts for the Rohingyas.

The ICC prosecutor informed the chief adviser that his office has formally sought an arrest warrant

against Min Aung Hlaing, the chief of the Myanmar military government, for crimes against humanity regarding the treatment of the Rohingyas.

Khan backed Yunus's call to hold a special global conference on the Rohingya crisis. The UN General Assembly has agreed to hold the conference in 2025. Khan said he hoped a new direction to a sustainable resolution to the crisis would be found at the conference.

The chief adviser said the conference would bring all the international stakeholders to a table to seek a durable solution to the crisis, especially the plight of the Rohingyas and their young children in the refugee camps in Bangladesh.

"We have to make sure that it does not explode," Prof Yunus said, referring to the young people growing up without hope in the camps.