

# LEADING STARS celebrate their triumphs

While ‘Blender’s Choice-The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards 2023’ aimed to celebrate talent both behind and in front of the camera, it is impossible to overlook the star power that lead actors bring to both the screen and the event itself. We speak with six exceptional performers who were major winners at this year’s ceremony.

BY SHARMIN JOYA AND RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA



## The greatest award is the people’s adoration: Mosharraf Karim

The iconic role of OC Harun in *Mohanagar* series was taken to another level by Mosharraf Karim. He took home the Best Actor award this time in the popular category.

“Like the first season, *Mohanagar 2* has been adored by everyone, with audiences thoroughly enjoying it. The overwhelming response has been incredibly gratifying for me as an actor. I am truly delighted and amazed, and I hope we can return with the next season very soon!

In the inaugural iteration of this award, I was honoured with the Best Actor award in the critics’ category for *Mohanagar*. Unfortunately, I was unable to accept it in person at the time. Now, being able to receive this honour myself feels incredibly special and deeply rewarding.

I must emphasise that the director, Ashfaque Nipun, worked with exceptional care and dedication, and much of the credit belongs to him. We, too, gave our utmost effort to our roles, and being nominated in two categories is truly wonderful.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the audience, Ashfaque Nipun, Hoichoi, and the entire team for their unwavering support and contributions to this success.”

## Winning in the ‘Popular Category’ was a great experience: Badhan

Azmeri Haque Badhan, has always been a favourite for critics with her stellar roles in both movies and OTT. This time, the actress jointly won the Popular actress award for *Guti* for her role as Sultana.

“Winning in the popular category was a new experience for me. I’ve previously won critics’ awards for *Rehana Maryam Noor* and *Guti*, so this recognition felt important. I was happy, though I later found out my critics’ score was higher than the public votes – something I’ve faced before,” said the actress.

I’ve often found myself lagging in public votes despite doing meaningful work, including projects like *Guti*. I feel that, in Bangladesh, people often vote for artistes based on their image rather than their actual work. Perhaps I haven’t been able to create an image that appeals to the masses. That’s why winning this award felt different from my previous awards and it felt great.”



## I consider this a powerful source of encouragement: Nasir Uddin Khan

Nasir Uddin Khan nailed his role of Allen Swapan, continuing the role from *Syndicate* to the spin-off, *Myself Allen Swapan*. He won the Best Actor Award in the critics category.

“Criticism is as valuable as praise, offering opportunities to learn and grow. Yet, when harsh words linger, award in the critic’s category provide comfort and reassurance. I am deeply honoured to receive three nominations across the Critics’ and Popular categories for *Myself Allen Swapan* (lead role) and *Friday* (antagonist). Winning the award for my portrayal of Allen Swapan has brought me immense joy, and serves as a powerful source of encouragement.

My heartfelt gratitude goes out to my audience and The Daily Star for this recognition. I dedicate this award to the entire *Myself Allen Swapan* team.”



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