

I appreciate that this award includes technicians

SARIKA SABAH

Following three successful editions, the *Blenders Choice- The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards* is returning this year to celebrate the efforts of the artistes in the OTT industry who work both on and off screen.

Rising starlet **Sarika Sabah**, who recently made her appearance in OTT with the much-anticipated web series *Gulmohor*, shared her thoughts on the award ceremony.

"We look up to this award, as this is the only private award that, besides appreciating the efforts of the people who work on the screens, also recognises the hard work of those who are responsible for making a project to its best. Those who work behind the camera often remain unnoticed, and for the past three years—



and now in its fourth year—The Daily Star has recognised these people."

While sharing her happiness, Sarika also added that the technicians and crews are the reason their work becomes easier. "The audience sees us on the screen, and somehow, they can relate to our efforts and hard work. Meanwhile, those who work behind the camera—for instance, the cinematographer, editor, makeup artiste, or be it the costume designer—without their creativity or effort, it would not be possible to make a great project. Since it is teamwork, everyone in the team should be recognised. I appreciate that The Daily Star is hosting a show that honours us all. I am looking forward to this year's award show."



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NEWS

Trump's push for Gaza truce raises hope

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A Hamas official declined immediate comment on Trump's statement. Meanwhile, Hamas is reviewing new ceasefire proposals from mediators, according to a statement released yesterday.

At the end of May, Hamas had said it was seeking amendments to a US-backed ceasefire proposal, which Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff said was "totally unacceptable."

That proposal had involved a

60-day ceasefire and the release of half the hostages held by Hamas in exchange for Palestinian prisoners and the remains of other Palestinians; Hamas would release the remaining hostages as part of a deal that guarantees the end of the offensive.

The number of Palestinians killed by Israeli attacks in Gaza since yesterday dawn has risen to 43, hospital sources told Al Jazeera. Nearly 600 Palestinians have been killed in five weeks, 250 of them in

the past 48 hours.

Since October 7, 2023, Israel's military assault has killed more than 56,000 Palestinians, most of them civilians, according to the Gaza health ministry, displaced almost the whole 2.3 million population and plunged the enclave into a humanitarian crisis.

More than 80 percent of the territory is now an Israeli-militarized zone or under displacement orders, according to the UN.

Beware of plots against polls

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"If you do something that people dislike, every leader and activist, even the party itself, will have to bear its negative impact. That's why I urge every leader and activist in all 64 districts of Bangladesh not to indulge in any activities that may cause public resentment against us," Tarique said.

He directed party leaders and workers at all levels to win public trust through their good work and positive behaviour.

"Why should any of our colleagues do anything that may harm the party? If you see any of your colleagues doing something that could damage the party's image or erode public trust, it is your duty not to let it happen," the BNP leader said.

As members or leaders of the country's largest political party, he said, everyone must act responsibly and live up to people's expectations.

Tarique said it is the responsibility of every BNP member not only

to strengthen the foundation of democracy but also to ensure that neither they nor any of their colleagues do anything that could damage the party's reputation.

"Everyone must keep this in mind. Today, I give every leader and activist of the party this sacred responsibility. It is everyone's duty to protect the party's reputation at any cost. Those who damage the party's image must not be given any kind of indulgence or protection," he said.

NCP, SAD block Ctg-Cox's Bazar highway

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clash at the station the night before, which left at least 10 people injured, including four cops. Protesters alleged that police assaulted their activists after they brought in a now-banned Chhatra League leader of Rangamati and demanded he be arrested.

Demonstrators also blocked Zakir Hossain Road in front of the DIG's office in the port city's Khulshi area later yesterday evening. They withdrew from both spots after Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Ahsan Habib Palash assured them that OC Abu Jayed Nazmun Nur would be withdrawn.

Later last night, the OC was withdrawn from the police station and attached to the Range DIG office. DIG Ahsan said a three-member

committee had been formed to investigate the incident.

"Action will be taken against those found responsible, based on the probe committee's findings," said Sanjoy Sarkar, additional DIG of Chattogram Range.

The blockades caused severe traffic congestion, stranding hundreds of vehicles. Many passengers were seen walking with their belongings. Protesters burned tyres but allowed ambulances and examination candidates to pass.

The protest began around noon at the Bypass intersection near Patiya Police Station, with demonstrators also demanding action against the Chattogram district superintendent of police and the additional SP of Patiya Circle for allegedly defending the OC.

Around 4:00pm, another group blocked Zakir Hossain Road outside the Khulshi Police Station near the DIG's office.

Emon Mohammad, organiser of the Bangladesh Ganatantrik Chhatra Sangsad, the NCP's student wing, said the blockades have been withdrawn till 10:00am today.

"If our demands are not met, we'll take to the streets again," he added.

Contacted by The Daily Star, OC Zayed Nur said, "They came in a procession and beat the BCL member inside the station. Police took him into custody. They raised slogans against the police and later got locked in a scuffle. Then, we had to drive them out."

He added that police filed a general diary over the incident.

Won't accept any implementation delay

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remains intact. Mafia control, land grabbing, and political terrorism continue. NCP aims to dismantle this old order and build a fair, equitable Bangladesh."

Around 12:30pm, the NCP's "Desh Gorte July Podojatra" (July March to Build the Nation) entered Kurigram's Rajarhat upazila from Rangpur. After a stop at Trimohoni Bazar, the march reached Ghoshpara around 2:00pm, where thousands of party activists

joined a brief rally.

Addressing another rally at Rajarhat, Nahid announced that the NCP would unveil its manifesto for the reconstruction of Bangladesh at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka on August 3.

"We vow to resist those who are conspiring to derail the people's uprising," he said.

Hasnat Abdullah, chief coordinator (south) of NCP, addressed the police and said, "Dear brothers in the police

force, do not become BNP's police. The Awami League government once tried to turn the police into its own, and you saw the consequences of that. We urge you not to align with any political party. Instead, stand for Bangladesh."

NCP Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwari, its chief coordinator (north) Sarjis Alam, joint chief coordinator Abdul Hannan Masud and member secretary Akhtar Hossain, among others, addressed the rally.

Navy to run New Mooring terminal

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Saif Powertec, which has 16-17 years' experience in port operations, will also cooperate with them.

"No jobs will be lost. Everyone will retain their positions regardless of who runs the terminal."

On whether DP World would be taking over the operations, Sakhawat said a foreign operator is likely after six months.

"It is too early to confirm details but the process is ongoing."

If an international firm is interested, they are studying whether it benefits Bangladesh.

"Appointing an external operator does not mean handing over the port to them. If today it is the Navy, tomorrow it could be someone else. But before any appointment, we will examine whether it is good for us or not."

Addressing concerns about employment and recruitment under DP World, Sakhawat said the company was told that if it requires additional staff, it cannot recruit personnel from the sub-continent.

"They must recruit from Bangladesh and provide necessary training," he said, adding that DP World plans to make

significant investment, including the rental of existing equipment and the procurement of modern replacements.

DP World operates 85 ports globally, including in Europe and the US.

"Have they ever taken over a country's port? Some local actors have vested interests. DP World's arrival might jeopardise those interests."

A deal with DP World would improve Bangladesh's trade relationship with the UAE, he said.

"We have 1.4 million Bangladeshis in Dubai. They have said they will hire another 400 engineers from here."

BNP leader shot, then hacked to death

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the OC said.

Quoting locals, Prothom Alo reported that at least five young men riding two motorbikes carried out the killing of Harunur and fled the scene after the attack.

According to several witnesses and residents, Harunur was walking along the embankment road near the Padma river near Dhoair Bazar around 6:00am when assailants approached him from behind. They shot him several times.

As Harunur collapsed on the ground, the attackers stabbed him at least three times to ensure his death before fleeing the scene.

Later, locals took him to Dohar Upazila Health Complex, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Police said they have yet to identify anyone behind the killing and are investigating the possible motives.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Harunur's younger brother Abdul Mannan said he suspected multiple motives behind the killing, including political rivalries.

"After the August 5 political changeover, Harunur was preparing to run for chairman in the upcoming union parishad elections from Nayabari. He lost his BNP post two to three months ago due to internal party feuds.

"He [Harunur] also stood firmly against the illegal activities of some local sand traders. A vested group killed him in a planned attack," he alleged.

Harunur's wife, Nahida Parvin, a schoolteacher, demanded justice.

"He paid the price for speaking out against injustices," she told Prothom Alo.

Dohar OC Hasan said that alongside the police, members of Rab and multiple intelligence agencies are working to track down the perpetrators.

The body was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College Mitford Hospital for autopsy.

Govt makes August 5 public holiday

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government holidays.

"Kha" includes other important days such as National Social Services Day and International Anti-Corruption Day, but these do not necessarily carry a public holiday.