

OTT brings complex stories to the screen: PARTHO SHEIKH

Partho Sheikh impressed fans with his OTT debut in 'BnG', and since then, he has continued to win over viewers with standout performances in productions like 'Karagar', 'Odrisshyo', and 'Baaji'. Reflecting on his journey and the growth of OTT platforms, the actor shared his thoughts on how the digital space has transformed storytelling in Bangladesh.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

"OTT platforms allow us to present stories that don't typically make it to mainstream media," Partho said. "They provide opportunities for new directors to showcase their talent and give actors the chance to explore diverse and complex characters. Since the rise of OTT, we've seen many new artists emerge and flourish. Even technical crews have been able to push their creative boundaries."

Comparing OTT to platforms like YouTube, Partho noted the depth OTT content offers. "On YouTube, we often find lighter stories, but OTT gives us room for deeper narratives—often spread over eight episodes—where almost every character has their own arc. It allows viewers to experience a more detailed version of the story. OTT is truly a blessing."

He further underscored the importance of quality storytelling in the OTT era. "When you dive deep into a story, quality becomes crucial. Many nuanced layers that would usually be left out now get properly explored. Viewers can truly follow the complete journey of a character, which elevates the overall experience."

Reflecting on his own work, Partho said, "Karagar made a remarkable impact on the OTT space, and the same goes for Odrisshyo, Baaji, and Shaaticup. The latter told a story based in Rajshahi—something we wouldn't typically see on platforms like YouTube. Thanks to OTT platforms like Chorki, such regional stories are now reaching wider audiences. It's a very encouraging shift."

Most recently, Partho appeared in the Bongo original web series *Fyakra*, directed by Asif Chowdhury. In the series, he portrays Samad, a man desperate to win the heart of his beloved Golapi (played by Nidra Dey Neha). Seeking financial help from his friends, Samad becomes entangled in a robbery that takes a tragic turn when a woman is accidentally killed. What follows is a gripping tale of revenge, fear, and survival, as the woman's husband seeks retribution and police closes in.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSVED

NEWS

9-yr-old's body found in a mosque

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maktab (elementary religious classes) at the mosque found the girl's body on the second floor and alerted her family. After going to the spot, the family saw the child's body with a cloth around her neck. They informed the police immediately, who recovered the body and sent it to hospital for forensic tests.

Police and army personnel arrived at the scene shortly afterwards.

Speaking to reporters, the grieving mother demanded justice, saying, "My beloved child was tortured and murdered."

The child's uncle alleged, "She was brutally killed after being raped. We demand the highest punishment for those responsible."

The victim's mother that same day filed a case with Sarail Police Station against unidentified individuals.

Morsved Alam Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Sarail Police Station, said, "There is evidence of sexual assault and injury marks on her body. She was

strangled."

Following the case filing, the mosque's imam, Hamidur Rahman, and muezzin, Saidul Islam, were taken into police custody for questioning, he said, adding an inquest report has been prepared, and the child's body was sent for autopsy.

Superintendent of Brahmanbaria Police Ehteshamul Haque said, "We have launched an investigation and are working to bring those responsible to justice."

The Police Bureau of Investigation and the Criminal Investigation Department are conducting parallel probes into the incident.

Meanwhile, the child's father reached Dhaka from Brahmanbaria last evening to his daughter before her burial.

MAN SENT TO JAIL OVER ATTEMPTED RAPE OF 4YR-OLD

A Netrokona court yesterday sent a man to jail for the attempted rape of a four-year-old girl in Kalmakanda upazila on Sunday.

The accused, Nabi Hossain, 40,

was sent to jail after being produced before the Netrokona Judicial Court around 4:00pm, said Netrokona Court Inspector Mofiz Uddin Sheikh.

The child's father filed a case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000, with Kalmakanda Police Station around 12:15am, said Officer-in-Charge Md Lutfur Rahman.

According to the case statement, the girl was playing in her yard on Sunday evening when her neighbour, Nabi, took her to his house and attempted to rape her.

Hearing her screams, her parents and neighbours rushed to the scene, rescued the child, and apprehended Nabi. They later informed police.

"Nabi Hossain was immediately arrested and brought to the police station. After primary investigation, he was presented before the court today [yesterday] and sent to jail," said OCLLutfur. (Our Brahmanbaria and Netrokona correspondents contributed to this report)

this [Huawei] was the lowest bidder, and the misinformation regarding the capacity has already been clarified by BUET, we will form a committee to verify whether the equipment they committed to supplying is indeed being delivered as promised."

When he visited the ACC, they requested him to provide detailed information.

"Based on that, I wrote a letter to the Honourable ACC Chairman, where I mainly outlined my arguments. Since the money has already been disbursed, and since BTCL urgently needs to expand its capacity -- you are all aware that the current capacity at the district level is only 1 Gbps, which makes it practically impossible to provide better-quality internet service."

"As much as Tk 290 crore had been paid through that irrevocable LC before the interim government took charge, Taiyeb said.

"Taking all this into account, we have spoken to the Honourable Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission. I personally visited his office and said, 'Sir, since Tk 290 crore has already been disbursed, and since

allegations of corruption and other issues stemming from the previous government's tenure.

As a result, BTCL's fibre network expansion remains stalled, he said.

"This issue has been misrepresented in the media in an attempt to malign me personally, my ministry and the character of the government. I strongly condemn this and want to state clearly: neither I nor any of the current officials in my ministry are involved in any form of corruption."

All the activities in question were initiated under the previous government.

"We have only exchanged a few letters to express our opinions, and at the end of those letters, we respectfully sought the kind cooperation of the Honourable ACC Chairman. Beyond that, we issued no instructions. It is also worth noting that, regarding this project, there is no formal case only ACC's ongoing observation. So, what we are saying is: if this project is not implemented and the LC is not processed, two things will happen."

If BTCL does not upgrade its network, it could soon be pushed out of the market, he said.

Its competitors are already upgrading their networks, while BTCL has been unable to proceed due to various complications, mainly

Another drama at JP as Quader fires

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Quader from leadership through the party's 10th central council.

Anisul and Hawlader took the key role in planning the council on June 28 despite the party chief's decision to postpone the event citing that the venue authority -- Bangladesh-China Friendship Convention Centre -- cancelled the permission.

They were planning to amend the controversial sections of the party's constitution. Chunnu, who became secretary general in 2021, had expressed solidarity with the move.

Anisul and others, finally backtracked on their decision to hold the council, accepting the reality at the party's grassroots.

According to the release, at a views exchange meeting on June 25, district and city unit presidents and general secretaries made allegations of breaching party discipline against the three senior leaders and demanded disciplinary action.

Based on the complaints, the party's presidium members decided to relieve the three leaders of their duties on June 28.

In the afternoon yesterday, another press release announced the

appointment of Patwary as secretary general.

Just before their removal yesterday, Anisul and Hawlader issued a joint statement, opposing the replacement of Chunnu with Patwary.

They termed the appointment "grossly undemocratic and a direct violation of the party charter".

They said the move reflects "individual centric authoritarianism", putting the very existence of the party at risk.

"Freedom fighter Mujibul Haque is the legitimate and respected secretary general of Jatiya Party. No appointment or dismissal can be valid before the announced council," the statement said.

They further said, "The national council has already been announced based on a decision of the Jatiya Party Presidium. Under such circumstances, any appointment, dismissal, or removal made outside the party constitution is completely illegal and void."

"These decisions are dismantling the party's democratic framework. We are shocked that responsible presidium members, despite regularly contributing to the party fund, have been relieved based on

and regulators to hold inclusive consultations with industry stakeholders to ensure the final policy supports Bangladesh's national digitalisation goals while maintaining investor confidence.

The CEOs expressed optimism about Bangladesh's digital future: "As long term investors in Bangladesh who firmly believe in the country's great potential, we are highly optimistic about the potential for the Interim Government to set Bangladesh on a path towards a bright new future. We stand ready to offer our full assistance in supporting all of your efforts to keep Bangladesh on the right path towards it."

false allegations. This is not just political vengeance, but unethical and defamatory."

They added, "The Jatiya Party must be governed not by individuals but by its constitution and ideology. It is time to restore democracy, discipline, and collective leadership within the party."

The two leaders also called upon all the party members to unite against what they described as unjust and autocratic actions.

Meanwhile, in a video message, Patwary said he will try to revive the party after visiting the grassroots leaders across the country.

"We will build a new Jatiya Party taking all with us," he added.

Govt high-ups

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included Bazlur Rashid Firoz, general secretary of the Socialist Party of Bangladesh; Iqbal Kabir Zahid, general secretary of the Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh; Masud Rana, central coordinator of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (Marxist); and Mushrefa Mishu, general secretary of the Democratic Revolutionary Party.

The alliance announced a series of programmes for July and August, including events marking the anniversary of the mass uprising on August 5.

The LDA leaders also highlighted the road march organised on June 27 and 28 protesting the government's decision to lease out the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) of Chattogram Port to a foreign company.

The coalition leaders called on the government to withdraw its decision to lease the port, which they deemed is contrary to national interests.

The alliance reiterated its demand for urgent reforms and called for the immediate announcement of a specific date for the next parliamentary election.

Taiyeb bins corruption allegations

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The project was also marred by several other irregularities, including unwarranted interference by top ministry officials. Moreover, none of the applicants fully met the technical requirements set for the project.

Later, in April this year, the ACC initiated an investigation into alleged anomalies in the project.

The BTCL fibre network expansion project was undertaken during the previous government's tenure. The tendering process also took place during that time, and any attempts to influence that process were made under the former administration. An LC [letter of credit] was also issued back then."

As much as Tk 290 crore had been paid through that irrevocable LC before the interim government took charge, Taiyeb said.

Taking all this into account, we have spoken to the Honourable Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission. I personally visited his office and said, 'Sir, since Tk 290 crore has already been disbursed, and since

Foreign telco investors raise

and regulators to hold inclusive consultations with industry stakeholders to ensure the final policy supports Bangladesh's national digitalisation goals while maintaining investor confidence.

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The letter was signed by Vivek Sood, Group CEO and Managing Director of Axiata Group; Jon Omund Revhaug, Executive Vice President and Head of Telenor Asia; and Kaan Terzioglu, Group CEO of VEON. They urged the government

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