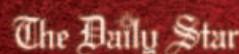


Blender's Choice The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024
Talented actors, inspired performancesThe Daily Star
OTT & DIGITAL CONTENT AWARDS 2024

Ispahani Tea Limited and The Daily Star return for the fourth consecutive year to honour excellence in OTT and digital media. The nominations for the Blender's Choice The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024 have been announced, offering the perfect opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge your favourite artistes for their outstanding performances across OTT and digital platforms.

To vote, visit:
ottcawards.thedailystar.net

A collaboration of



Entertainment Partner



PRITOM HASAN

Pritom Hasan effortlessly plays the boy next door in Shihab Shaheen's *Kacher Manush Dure Thuiya*, winning hearts with his heartfelt portrayal of a simple young man deeply in love. His journey through the struggles of long-distance relationships and the emotional turmoil of separation resonates deeply, moving audiences to tears. With his sincere and relatable performance, Pritom has rightfully earned his nomination, proving his place among the finest in digital storytelling.



CHANCHAL CHOWDHURY

Chanchal Chowdhury's portrayal of Shafkat in *The Last Defenders of Monogamy*, directed by Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, emerges as the film's most compelling performance, breathing life into a flawed character while masterfully navigating a wide range of emotions. Renowned for his versatility across all mediums, the actor continues to win audience acclaim with each role. His performance has earned him a nomination for Best Actor (Popular Category) at this year's awards.



MOSHARRAF KARIM

The actor plays three distinct roles in Kazi Asad's web series *Adhunik Bangla Hotel*—a humble villager, a fearful clerk, and a morally conflicted killer. Renowned for his acting range, he has earned nominations in both the Popular and Critics categories this year. Mosharraf's powerful performances provide depth and emotional weight, elevating each episode and making the anthology a compelling watch for fans of Bangladeshi web content.



SIAM AHMED

In *Tikit*, the actor delivers a gripping performance as Shalek, a man torn between debt, desperation, and moral choices. Embracing a new look and gaining weight for authenticity, Siam immerses himself in the role, guided by director Vicky Zahed's vision. His performance anchors the thriller, keeping audiences hooked through its emotional depth and unpredictable twists, leading him grabbing the nomination in this category.



ZIAUL FARUQ APURBA

Ziaul Faruq Apurba shines as *Golam Mamun*, reprising his iconic role in this gripping thriller, directed by Shihab Shaheen. Portraying a fugitive police officer accused of murder, he delivers a grounded, powerful performance marked by subtlety and strong physicality. Praised for his restraint in action scenes and emotional depth, Apurba effectively carries the suspenseful narrative. The actor's nomination is much worthy, as despite sustaining injuries during filming, his dedication stands out, making this one of his most compelling OTT roles to date.

NEWS

ICT-2 frames charges against 30 accused

FROM PAGE 16 Similar charges were brought against former VC Prof Hasibur Rashid.

The tribunal said ASI Amir Hossain "killed Abu Sayed without provocation," while Constable Sujan Chandra Roy was accused of carrying out orders from the then government and taking part in the killing.

Meanwhile, Raful Hasan Rasel, Imran Chowdhury Akash, and Anwar Parvez face charges of instigating and abetting the killing.

When asked if they pleaded guilty, all six denied the charges and claimed innocence.

Before reading out the charges, Justice Nozrul said, "We did not find grounds to discharge the accused. There is sufficient material to frame charges, and we have done so accordingly. The charges will be read out to those present in court."

Earlier, on June 30, the tribunal took cognisance of charges pressed by the prosecution, including murder, attempted murder, abetment, complicity, and command

responsibility under crimes against humanity.

While formally pressing charges, Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam said the former VC, proctor, Rangpur Metropolitan Police commissioner and his deputy bear command responsibility and coordinated the attack that killed Sayed and injured four others.

He said they jointly instructed subordinates, including ASI Amir and Constable Sujan, to carry out the shooting and later altered forensic evidence to conceal the crime.

Tajul added that the remaining accused either actively participated in or assisted with the killing, torture, and cover-up, including manipulating Sayed's inquest and post-mortem reports.

Abu Sayed was shot dead on July 16 last year in Rangpur during a student protest against the quota system in government jobs. His act of defiance before being killed helped ignite a mass uprising that led to the fall of Sheikh Hasina's regime on August 5.

"We suspect the driver fell asleep at the wheel," he said, adding that the driver went into hiding after the crash. "If a family member files a case, we will take legal action."

Eventually, the driver lost control of the wheel and the microbus crashed into the canal in the Chandraganj Bazar area at around 5:45am.

Bahar's father Abdur Rahim said the doors were locked when the vehicle sank. "We asked the driver to open the locks, but he didn't. Instead, he fled through a window... The four of us managed to escape by breaking a window, but the others seated at the back couldn't get out. We lost them

forever."

Mobarak Hossain, officer-in-charge of Chandraganj Highway Police Station, said police and firefighters recovered the bodies and handed them over to the family.

"We suspect the driver fell asleep at the wheel," he said, adding that the driver went into hiding after the crash. "If a family member files a case, we will take legal action."

Officials of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority from Lakshmipur and Noakhali visited both the crash site and the family home.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Noakhali BRTA's Inspector Mahbub Rabbar said the government would provide the family with Tk 5 lakh for each of seven victims as financial assistance.

"May the Almighty not inflict such pain on any family," he whispered.

Bahar left for Oman just a month after marrying Kabit. "Now I don't

306 Bangladeshis held by Malaysian immigration dept

FROM PAGE 2 recruitment on May 31 last year amid allegations of irregularities in the hiring process.

Negotiations on resuming recruitment are underway ahead of Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus's visit to Malaysia from August 11-13.

According to Bernama, the immigration department also said its officers continue to monitor daily airport operations, with the Malaysian Border Control and Protection Agency handling immigration counters and department staff assisting with intelligence and surveillance.

DG Zakaria assured the department will fully cooperate with the agency to remove officers found involved in misconduct, should any reshuffles be required.

Since 2022, 147 disciplinary cases have been recorded against immigration officers, with 55 resulting in dismissals.

To curb abuse of power, the department is expanding digital systems like auto-gates at entry points to reduce direct officer-traveller contact.

Forex reserves cross

FROM PAGE 16 On the other hand, global lenders, including the IMF, World Bank, and ADB, released funds for Bangladesh in recent months, which boosted the reserves.

According to BB data, the country's balance of payments returned to a surplus in the fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, ending a three-year deficit. The overall balance of payments posted a surplus of \$3.3 billion at the end of FY25, bouncing back from a \$4.3 billion deficit the previous year.

Stay united for the sake

FROM PAGE 16 through reforms. Let us all build this country into a happy, prosperous, and humane nation."

BNP Standing Committee Member Salahuddin Ahmed said the party follows only one policy: Bangladesh

will be no foreign lords, only friends," he said.

The BNP leader said BNP does not want any division among democratic forces.

"Those who are trying to create division are not forces that stand for Bangladesh. Those who speak against the election are not forces that stand for Bangladesh. Those who are trying to break unity are not forces that stand for Bangladesh..."

Standing Committee member Mirza Abbas expressed his dissatisfaction that the names of Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia were not in the July Declaration.

He called on everyone to start preparing for the polls.

Another Standing Committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain urged everyone to stay alert so that no one can make any conspiracy about the polls.

EC seeks details

FROM PAGE 2 widespread criticism for lacking inclusivity, transparency, and credibility. The 2014 polls were boycotted by the BNP-led alliance, leaving 153 seats uncontested. Voter turnout was officially recorded at 51 percent, but violence and low participation raised questions about the election's legitimacy.

In 2018, the BNP contested under the Jatiya Oikya Front, but the election was marred by allegations of ballot-stuffing, voter intimidation, and suppression of the opposition.

Despite the participation of a major opposition alliance, the Awami League won 288 out of 300 seats. The most recent election, held in January last year, saw another BNP boycott.

The EC had reported a voter turnout of 41.8 percent – the lowest in the country's recent history.