

Blender's Choice The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024 Lead actresses who made a mark in 2024



The 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.

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MEHAZABIEN CHOWDHURY

Mehababien's dedication to breathing life into her characters is undeniable, and as Rupa in *Ararat*, she delivers with effortless conviction, winning the audience's acceptance. Her trusted collaboration with director Vicky Zahed once again proves reliable, never disappointing. Earning a nomination for this role is well-deserved, as she masterfully navigates Rupa's complex emotions—dilemma, anger, betrayal, and an inferiority complex—bringing depth and authenticity to a character that lingers long after the screen fades.



PORI MONI

In *Rongila Kitab*, Pori Moni embodies Supti with striking emotional depth, a convincing physical transformation, and heartfelt sincerity. Her effortless portrayal of a pregnant woman and the struggles Supti endures were powerfully brought to life under Anam Biswas's direction. The performance resonated with audiences and critics alike, earning her a nomination for Best Actor (Female) in the popular category, and reaffirming her talent for delivering authentic, memorable characters.



Safa Kabir

In Vicky Zahed's *Tikit*, Safa Kabir surprised the audience as Suborna, a mysterious, quietly intense character who marks a striking departure from her usual romantic roles. Her layered portrayal, blending intrigue with subtle emotional depth, adds a gripping edge to the series' dark comedy-thriller tone. This bold transformation and compelling performance reverberated strongly with audiences, earning her a well-deserved nomination for Best Actor (Female) in the popular category.



TASNIA FARIN

Tasnia Farin gleams in *Kacher Manush Dure Thuiya* delivering a deeply moving portrayal of Sharmin that beautifully captures her emotional depth and quiet strength with genuine subtlety. Her effortless chemistry with co-star Pritom Hasan brings warmth and realism to every scene, making Sharmin's journey toward independence feel truly authentic and heartfelt. Both audiences and critics have been captivated by Farin's nuanced and sincere performance in Shihab Shaheen's web film, marking yet another powerful milestone in her acting career.



XEFAR

Xefar Rahman's acting debut in Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's *Last Defenders of Monogamy* truly caught everyone's attention. Her natural, heartfelt performance brought a fresh energy to the project, and fans were amazed by her striking transformation. Acting alongside the acclaimed Chanchal Chowdhury, she held her own with grace and depth, making each scene memorable. It's no surprise she earned a well-deserved nomination this year for such a remarkable debut.

NEWS

Govt eases drive

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leaders agreed to call off their 72-hour strike planned for tomorrow following what they described as a "fruitful meeting" at Bidyut Bhaban.

Experts say old and unfit vehicles are a major cause of road accidents. In addition, older vehicles tend to emit more toxic gases due to incomplete fuel combustion, contributing significantly to air pollution.

In May 2023, the then government fixed the economic life of buses and minibuses at 20 years and trucks and lorries at 25 years. But following pressure from transport associations, the order was put on hold, allowing outdated vehicles to remain on the roads.

After the political changeover last year, the interim government, in a stakeholder meeting on October 24 last year, gave a six-month deadline — until May 2025 — to remove all outdated vehicles from Dhaka.

In June this year, the government fixed the economic lifespan of buses and minibuses at 20 years and trucks and lorries at 25 years. According to Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) data updated on July 16, a total of 39,169 buses and minibuses, and 41,140 trucks, lorries, and tankers have crossed their economic lifespan.

On July 20, the government launched a drive against outdated vehicles and removed 38 vehicles and filed 2,030 cases till July 27.

On July 27, transport owners and workers threatened to enforce a 72-hour nationwide strike from August 12 to press home their eight-point demand, including halting the ongoing crackdown on outdated vehicles and extending the economic lifespan of buses and trucks by five to 10 years. Following yesterday's meeting, Transport Adviser Fouzul said the government has assured transport owners and workers that it will address issues that are solvable. "Some steps have already been taken to that effect."

When reporters asked about the drive against the outdated vehicles, he said removing all outdated vehicles at once would cause a shortage unless new ones hit the streets.

"That's why we're now targeting the oldest, unfit vehicles," Fouzul explained, adding, "Besides, there is a lack of dumping ground and adequate magistrates and police to conduct the drives."

Most people will vote for the BNP 12.61cr voters on draft list

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challenges on the path to building the country," said Tarique virtually from London.

The BNP leader made these remarks while addressing the biennial council of Rajshahi Metropolitan BNP as the chief guest at Pathanpara area in the city.

He said after the dictator fled, the rule of the people and the establishment of political rights must now be ensured.

Let students decide

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hall politics. The agitation followed the unveiling of hall committees by the DU JCD's convening body.

After the meeting yesterday, DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan told reporters that student organisations had provided vital suggestions and wanted to continue dialogue.

He said preparations were underway for the Dhaka University Central Students' Union election, and full participation of student organisations was essential. "We want to ensure it is peaceful and that student organisations don't end up in any sort of confrontation with the general students."

Central JCD President Rakibul Islam Rakib said DU should frame a policy on hall politics based on students' opinions.

SM Farhad, president of DU Chhatra Shibir, said his party proposed email voting with a simple "yes-no" format

Man hacked to pieces

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According to the Rab official, the suspects admitted during interrogation that they took Oli to Sadek's home in Tongi's Bonmala area on August 6.

He added that Sadek plotted the killing with Roni after Oli had made derogatory comments about his wife, Shaon. Initially, they took him to a nearby rail line to push him under the wheels of a train. As no train arrived, they returned to Sadek's home and murdered him there on August 6.

Two days later, when the body started to decompose, the suspects

Rebuilding the education, judiciary, economy, health sector and restoring law and order will be the first priority if the BNP forms the government with the people's votes.

Tarique said that he would meet the people of Bangladesh face-to-face very soon.

"We must work to ensure water flow in the Padma river. If necessary, we will go to the International Court of Justice or the United Nations to secure our fair share of water," he added.

on hall politics.

Abdul Kader, convener of DU Gonotantrik Chhatra Sangsad, said, "We made it clear that we do not support any political structure or activities in the halls or academic spaces."

While DU Chhatra Union was initially eager for dialogue on hall politics, they walked out of the meeting due to the presence of Shibir members.

DU Chhatra Union President Meghmalla Bosu said his organisation would not negotiate with those who patronised the acts of genocide in 1971 and 2024.

"But one thing must be made clear: under no circumstances should political space be given to those involved in covert activities. They exploit the identity of general students... Whenever they face political challenges, they use the name of general students to push their agenda, pressuring the university administration into taking various actions."

packed the remains into the bags and threw those in the Tongi Station Road area on early August 8. Police recovered the bags around 9:30am that day.

Using fingerprint analysis, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) identified the victim and informed his family.

The victim's wife, Shahana Akter, filed a murder case with Tongi East Police Station on Saturday.

Rab officer Salman said further probe was underway to determine whether others were involved.

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door-to-door data collection drive to enlist those left out, 4.57 million new voters were added, while 2.13 million names were removed. As a result, the total now stands at 126.17 million.

According to EC data, the voter inclusion rate this year is 3.69 percent, while the net growth rate is 1.97 percent.

GOVT TO BUY 40,000 BODYCAMs
The interim government has planned to procure at least 40,000 body cameras for police to enhance security at voting booths during the February general election.

The move was discussed at a high-level meeting at the State Guest House Jamuna in Dhaka on Saturday with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus in the chair.

Talks begin on implementation

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According to a commission member who requested anonymity, several participants suggested seeking an official reference from the Supreme Court under Article 106 to resolve key constitutional issues related to the charter.

All the experts agreed that since August 5, the country has already entered "a new constitutional order" that the court cannot ignore.

Other proposals included holding a referendum — though some cautioned it would be politically challenging due to the risk of disagreement — and expanding the scope of the current ordinance to accommodate the required changes.

One expert also discussed forming a constituent assembly, while others pointed to the Legal Framework Order as a potential solution, weighing its pros and cons.

"This was essentially a preliminary discussion," Prof Riaz said.

"We listened to the experts to understand the legal options for implementing the July Charter. We will continue engaging with more legal experts, both formally and informally, to ensure all alternatives are explored."

Home Adviser Lt General (ret'd)

Jahangir Alam Chowdhury and the chief adviser's special assistants Khuda Baksh Chowdhury and Faiz Tayeb Ahmed attended the meeting, according to the CA's official Facebook page.

Faiz Tayeb said the procurement process for the bodycams was in its final stage, adding that they would strengthen security at thousands of vulnerable polling centres. "We are aiming to procure the bodycams by October so police officers can receive training on their key features, including AI capabilities."

Authorities have approached three companies from Germany, China, and Thailand to supply the devices, which police will wear on their chests while on

election duty.

Prof Yunus instructed officials to expedite procurement and ensure proper training for police personnel. "We must guarantee complete security at all polling centres, no matter the cost. Our goal is to make the February election the most free, fair, and peaceful in the country's history."

During the meeting, the chief adviser's special assistant on telecommunications and ICT affairs also unveiled plans for an election app to provide information on the February polls, including candidate details, booth updates, and interactive features for submitting complaints.

Prof Yunus urged officials to fast-track the app's launch and ensure it is user-friendly.

He added that the commission is not currently seeking input from political experts. "Right now, we need a clear legal path for implementation. Once we have that, we can speak to the political parties and experts."

The commission will not hold any meeting today but will work internally to finalise the draft of the July Charter and set the schedule for the next phase of discussions.

The National Consensus Commission, chaired by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, was established to build political agreement around reform proposals from six commissions launched by the interim government in October last year — covering the constitution, electoral system, judiciary, anti-corruption measures, administration, and police reform.

In its first phase, between March 20 and May 19, the commission held 44 meetings with 32 parties, reaching consensus on 62 proposals.

In the second, starting June 2, it hosted 23 more sessions with 30 parties, securing agreement on all 19 issues discussed.

The issues were: chairmanship of the parliamentary standing committee; delimitation of constituencies;

provisions relating to the president's power of pardon; decentralisation of the judiciary — (a) decentralisation of the Supreme Court, (b) expansion of subordinate courts at the upazila level; declaration of a state of emergency; appointment of the chief justice; amendment of the constitution; tenure of the prime minister; formation of the Election Commission; and proposals relating to the expansion of citizens' fundamental rights.

The proposals adopted with notes of dissent are: amendment of Article 70 of the constitution; provision allowing the prime minister to hold multiple offices; provisions relating to the appointment of the Public Service Commission, Comptroller and Auditor General, Anti-Corruption Commission, and Ombudsman — previously proposed under the name "Selection Committee for Constitutional and Statutory Bodies" (earlier proposed as the "National Constitutional Council" or "NCC"); women's representation in parliament; bicameral parliament; method of electing the president; caretaker government; fundamental principles of the state; and powers and responsibilities of the president [Article 48(3)].