

Blender's Choice The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024

## The most memorable 'independent' releases



### 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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**RUBAYAT REHMAN & RUSLAN REHMAN**  
EKHANE EKHON

A stirring glimpse into human yearning by The Rehman Duo—created, performed, and filmed by the duo—captures an evocative desire to break free from the confines of urban life. Ruslan Rehman's lyrics and guitar, alongside Dipro Ahmed's piano and Ruslan's mixing, paint a soulful narrative of longing and escape in the soulful voice of Rubayat. The music video brings that inner bird longing to life, beautifully resonating with anyone who dreams of boundless horizons.



**ANGEL NOOR**

**JODI ABAR**

You cannot forget this song, the soft, melodious tune laced with melancholic remembrance, that became an anthem last year. Written, composed, and soulfully performed by Angel Noor, it rang deeply with listeners even beyond the borders. Its heartfelt lyrics and haunting melody captured emotions that words alone could never convey. A work of rare artistry and emotional depth, it truly stands as a well-deserved nomination in every sense.



**NACHIKETA & JOY SHAHRIAR**

**AREKТИBAR BACHO**

A poignant duet unites prolific musician Nachiketa Chakraborty and Joy Shahriar in an evocative fusion. Written by Tanbir Sajib and composed by Joy Shahriar, the song complements its stirring message of hope and resilience. Joy also directed the music video, visually amplifying the song's emotional core and making it a memorable addition to the contemporary Bengali music scene.



**XEFER, MUZA & SANJOY**

**ARALE HARALE**

This track from 2024 bursts with infectious energy, fusing playful flirtation with a beat that refuses to let you sit still. Xefer and Muza's voices dance over a rich mix of Afrobeat, Amapiano, Bangla folk, and EDM, with Sanjoy's production adding irresistible polish. Dotara strings weave tradition into the groove, while the Los Angeles shot, choreography-driven video turns this track into a celebration you can both watch and feel.

# NEWS

## Trump begins DC takeover

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specifies on the locations they will be patrolling, according to an official who spoke on condition of anonymity for the same reason.

Mayor Muriel Bowser pledged to work alongside the federal officials Trump has tasked with overseeing the city's law enforcement, while insisting the police chief remained in charge of

the department and its officers.

"How we got here or what we think about the circumstances—right now we have more police, and we want to make sure we use them," she told reporters.

The tone was a shift from the day before, when Bowser said Trump's plan to take over the Metropolitan Police Department and call in the National

Guard was not a productive step and argued his perceived state of emergency simply doesn't match the declining crime numbers.

Still, the law gives the federal government more sway over the capital city than in US states, and Bowser said her administration's ability to push back is limited.

"Even in the post uprising period, under the interim government led by Dr Muhammad Yunus, most print media have continued to play a constructive role in building a democratic state, upholding the aspirations of the July uprising, and bringing the government's shortcomings before the public."

The council urged all, including Jatiya Juboshakti, to make statements that are based on facts.

**Putin, N Korea's Kim vow stronger ties ahead of US-Russia summit**

AFP, Seoul

Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un have vowed to strengthen cooperation, days ahead of Putin's summit in Alaska with Donald Trump, Pyongyang's state media reported yesterday.

Putin and Kim spoke by phone on a "warm comradely atmosphere" on Tuesday and confirmed "their will to strengthen cooperation in the future", the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

The call came three days before the summit between Putin and Trump, the first between a sitting US and Russian president since 2021, as Trump seeks to broker an end to Russia's more than three-year war in Ukraine.

North Korea has sent thousands of troops to Russia's Kursk region as well as weapons to aid its war effort, with Kim offering Moscow his full support for the war during talks last month with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

## 'We reject such sweeping statements'

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They also said the media "acted like the mouthpiece of intelligence agencies, as it did during Sheikh Hasina's autocratic rule".

In response, the Editors' Council said editors and journalists were subjected to various forms of persecution, harassment and repression during the 15 years of Awami League rule.

"During the uprising, the media

courageously brought to the public crucial reports on killings and human rights violations by state forces, internet blackouts and other critical issues."

It added that most print media

fearlessly presented facts and played a

key role in shaping public opinion in

favour of the uprising, often working

under considerable threats and

intimidation.

## 'Use firearms in self-defence'

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Md. Amirul Islam, deputy commissioner of CMP's Bandar Zone, told The Daily Star that a CT scan on the injured officer showed there is no brain injury, but doctors kept him under observation because the wound is close to the bone.

Police officials said they became hesitant to carry firearms after the July uprising. Many were targeted in deadly violence amid public anger over the law enforcers' brutal response to the protests that toppled the AL government.

After the attack during the raid, Commissioner Hasib Aziz ordered CMP officers to carry firearms as authorised before August 5, 2024, a move confirmed by at least five officers across various police stations.

In his wireless directive, Hasib Aziz said no patrol, mobile, DB, or check-post teams will go out without firearms and live ammunition because "rubber bullets alone are not working".

Police sources said the two constables accompanying SI Rana were carrying shotguns but did not fire.

The commissioner's order has

drawn mixed reactions. At least five officers, speaking anonymously, said many remain traumatised.

"In raids, there is always the risk of being attacked by mobs or groups. Even with the order to carry firearms, operational decisions depend heavily on the ground situation," one officer said.

"No one wants unintended deaths. Moreover, if we open fire, the shooter often faces lengthy legal inquiries afterward," he added.

When contacted, CMP Commissioner Hasib Aziz said, "Sections 96 to 106 of the Penal Code specify what police can do in self-defence. This was exactly such a situation. They could have severed my officer's head from his body. Allah saved him. My force will do whatever is necessary in self-defence under the Penal Code. No one will just sit and wait to be attacked."

He added, "The two constables with the injured officer just stood there watching. They could have been attacked as well. I have ordered departmental action against them for not opening fire at that time."

## Trials begin in 3 cases against Hasina, family

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The court then heard ACC Assistant Director Afnan Jannat Keya in another graft case against 18 people, including Hasina, Azmina, and Tulip, from 12:45pm to 1:40pm. In the third case against 18 accused, including Hasina, Radwan, and Tulip, ACC Assistant Director SM Rashadul Islam testified from 1:45pm to 2:25pm.

Court sources said that as all the accused have been declared fugitives, there was no scope for defence lawyers to appear on their behalf, they said.

On August 11, Salahuddin, Keya, and Rashadul testified in three

other graft cases against 23 accused, including Hasina, Joy, and Putul.

The ACC filed six charge sheets with the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court on March 25, naming Hasina as a common accused in all.

Arrest warrants were issued on April 10, 13, and 15 against Hasina, her relatives, and others after the court took cognisance of the charges.

On July 1, the court ordered

29 accused to appear. Charges were

framed against them on July 31.

## Forty people pushed into country: BGB

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by air and bus before being pushed into Bangladesh by the BSF.

They claimed to be residents of various areas in Jashore, Satkhira, Narail, and Lalmonirhat districts, he added.

Panchagarh Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abdullah Hil Zaman said the detainees would be reunited with their families once their identities are verified.

In Thakurgaon, BGB detained eight people who were allegedly pushed in by the BSF through the Fakirganj border in Piroganj upazila. They were apprehended near border pillar 342, according to a press release issued by the BGB-42 Battalion in Dinajpur.

In Lalmonirhat, BGB detained nine people after BSF allegedly pushed them into Bangladesh through the Burimari border in Patgram upazila early yesterday.

The detainees include one man, five women, and two children.

During questioning, they said that they had been living in India for several years. About 8-10 days ago, Mumbai police arrested them and brought them back to the border areas on Tuesday.

After verifying their citizenship, preparations are underway to hand them over to Piroganj Police Station in Thakurgaon. A flag meeting was held between BGB and BSF company commanders in this regard, the release added.

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## BFIU seeks bank details

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political changeover on August 5, 2024.

The nine individuals led the banking industry as regulators during the AL regime.

In 2009, when the AL came to power, the government appointed Atiur Rahman as the BB governor, a period that coincided with the onset of political influence and irregularities in the banking sector.

During his tenure, new banks were given approvals and loan restructuring facilities were extended based on political decisions.

Following the reserve heist in 2016, he stepped down.

He was replaced by former finance secretary Fazle Kabir.

During his tenure, one bank after another came under the control of new owners, who went on to indulge in large-scale irregularities in their institutions, central bank reports showed.

During his tenure, the approval of new banks and the relaxation of loan policies were also used as strategies to conceal defaulted loans.

In 2022, another former finance

secretary, Abdur Rouf Talukder, was appointed governor, and the previous trend continued.

Amid the tenures of the three governors, bad loans in the banking sector rose from Tk 22,481 crore to Tk 345,000 crore, data showed.

However, stressed assets in the sector scaled past the Tk 600,000 crore mark.

Besides, deputy governors of the central bank served the purposes of politically affiliated business groups and businesspersons, as per industry people.