



Zinnat's unending fight culminates in glory

With two minutes of cameo in "Shaaticup", the lauded character of 'Duru' was spun into "Sinpaat" as one of the important roles in the project," shared Zinnat Ara, who won Best Actor (Female) in the critics' category at The Blender's Choice - The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024.

SHARMIN JOYA

Zinnat shared that her journey into the arts began at home. Since childhood, she drew inspiration from her sister, a theatre artiste, which led her to explore music and dance (Shishu Academy). Yet, she admitted that acting was never a focus of her plan.

"I was always involved in cultural activities—crafting, painting, training in Nazrul Sangeet and folk music, and even taking dance lessons. But acting wasn't something I imagined for myself," she said. "That small role grew into something much bigger in the spin-off,

resonating with audiences in ways I never anticipated.

For her, these honours are more than just trophies. "Such recognition encourages artistes to embrace more challenging roles—ones that break away from the conventional appearances and portrayals we often see in our industry. It pushes us to tell stories that matter," she added with conviction.

Duru is a character who mirrors the struggles of countless women in our society. For Zinnat, stepping into this role was both daunting and deeply relatable.

"I was initially very nervous when I began studying Duru," she confessed. "Her story is heartbreaking—how she was crushed under the weight of societal norms, which ultimately pushed her into becoming a drug dealer. As I explored her

background, I discovered the tragedy of her being from a middle-class family, betrayed by the person she loved, and shaped by that pain into who she eventually became. It was also painfully relatable to see her struggle against discrimination during property disputes, and how she was abandoned and denied her rightful share."

Through Duru, Zinnat not only brought to life a character scarred by society but also highlighted the harsh realities many women continue to face.

Besides her professional journey, Zinnat is also facing what she calls the toughest battle of her life—her mother's five-year fight with cancer. With a heavy heart yet remarkable strength, she shared, "Cancer treatment is extremely expensive, but we are willing to do whatever it takes to keep my mother as stable as possible. At the same time, simply being by her side during this period is equally important."



1300 Hollywood artistes boycott Israeli film industry

More than 1,300 artistes, including Mark Ruffalo, Riz Ahmed, Ayo Edebiri, Olivia Colman, Tilda Swinton, and Javier Bardem, have pledged to boycott Israeli film institutions over alleged complicity in war crimes against Palestinians.



The declaration, released September 8, condemned the "unrelenting horror" in Gaza, where Israeli strikes have killed over 64,000 people and devastated the territory.

Signatories vowed not to collaborate with Israeli festivals, cinemas, or production houses accused of "whitewashing or justifying genocide and apartheid." The boycott echoes cultural actions against apartheid South Africa.

While critics warn of career risks—Susan Sarandon and Melissa Barrera previously lost work over pro-Palestine stances—Palestinian stories are gaining recognition, with *No Other Land* winning this year's Best Documentary Oscar and *The Voice of Hind Rajab* lauded at Venice.

NEWS

After 33 years, Jucsu goes to polls today

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hall posts are either uncontested or vacant.

Of the 315 positions across 21 dormitories, 131 are uncontested and 68 vacant. For the central union, 177 candidates are in the race—132 men and 45 women.

Among the male dormitories, Kazi Nazrul Islam Hall has the highest number of voters with 994, followed by Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Hall with 954 and Hall No. 21 with 752. Among the female dorms, Bir Pratik Taramon Bibi Hall has the highest with 983 voters, followed by Rokeya Hall with 957 and Fazilatunnesa Hall with 808.

There are 10 final candidates for the vice president post and eight

for the general secretary post. Six are contesting for female assistant general secretary, 10 for male AGS, while other posts—including cultural, sports, IT, social service, and executive member—also have multiple contenders.

The campus, long dominated by ruling party-backed student wings, has come alive in recent weeks with colourful campaigning and creative leaflets.

Yesterday, the election commission announced 224 booths would be set up across the halls. Each hall will have a returning officer, with 67 polling agents and 67 assistant polling officers—all teachers—to oversee the process.

Voting will take place from 9:00am to 5:00pm through ballot marking

under CCTV surveillance. To ensure security, over 1,500 law enforcers, including plainclothes officers, have been deployed. Seven platoons of BGB and five platoons of Ansar have also been stationed, alongside security staff at all 12 campus gates.

Observers note that with almost 6,000 women voters registered, a turnout of just over 3,000 could tip the balance in multiple races. "Female voters will certainly play a decisive role in who will win or lose," said Prof Mostofa N. Mansur, a four-time elected Jucsu leader.

At least 20 female students from 10 dormitories told this correspondent they would support candidates committed to gender

equality and women's empowerment.

"We'll vote for those who won't try to bring back evening curfews or side with anti-liberation forces," said anthropology student Nushrika Adri.

Lone female GS candidate Tanzila Hossain Boishakhi said, "Politics is hard for women in our country. I want to show that with qualifications one can move forward despite challenges."

Her chances gained momentum after rival Syeda Ananna Fariya withdrew two days before the polls as call for unity among those committed to gender equality, the spirit of the 1971 Liberation War, and the 2024 uprising.

Other GS contenders include Majharul Islam of the Shibir-backed

Shomonnito Shikkharthi Jote, Touhid Mohammad Siam of the Gonotantrik Chhatra Sangsad-backed Shikkharthi Oikya Forum, Sharan Ahsan of Shomprotir Oikya, and independent candidate Shakil Ali.

For the vice president post, the candidates are Abdur Rashid Jitu, an independent and former Chhatra League activist

who rose to prominence during last year's July uprising; Arifuzzaman of the Gonotantrik Chhatra Sangsad-backed panel; Sheikh Sadi Hasan of the JCD-backed panel; and independent candidate Mahfuz Islam Megh, a theatre activist and former coordinator of the July movement.

The last Jucsu polls were held in 1992.

Mob violence: no end in sight

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He alleged that Sujan and another youth were taken from Nabiganj Housing area around 4:00am, beaten by locals, including a security guard. The two later succumbed to their injuries.

Hanif's elder brother, Milon Hawlader, made similar allegations of his brother being taken from home along with a friend, chased by locals and brutally beaten. "Even if there were allegations against Hanif, he should have been handed over to the police. Killing him in public like this is no justice."

Hanif's uncle, Harun, suggested personal enmity might also have played a role.

Kazi Rafique, officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur Police Station, said both victims had multiple mugging cases against them, and Hanif was seen in CCTV footage of a recent snatching at Chandrima

Udayan. "Police responded to 999 calls and rescued the injured, but they died at hospital later," he said. No arrests have been made yet, though investigations are underway.

On September 8, Yamin, 23, was beaten to death by a mob in Mohammadpur on suspicion of mugging. On September 5, in Rajbari's Goalanda upazila, the darbar sharif of "Nural Pagla" was attacked, vandalised, and his body dug up and burnt. The incident left one person dead and at least 22 others injured.

Rights group Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) recorded 124 deaths in mob beatings in the first seven months of this year, compared to 128 in the whole of last year. Dhaka alone accounted for 55 of the mob-related deaths this year and 57 last year.

"Whether political or non-political, once mobs get away with violence, it encourages repetition. That's exactly what is

happening in Bangladesh now," said Towhidul Haque, associate professor at Dhaka University's Institute of Social Welfare and Research.

"When people see perpetrators going unpunished, they feel encouraged to take matters into their own hands. This culture of impunity is feeding more violence," he said, adding that weakness in law enforcement is a major factor.

"There's a perception that police fear retaliation when confronting politically or religiously motivated mobs. That hesitation emboldens unruly groups. If the state cannot protect its citizens and enforce law, people lose trust and resort to vigilante justice."

Haque warned that mob violence is no longer confined to one-off incidents but is becoming a systemic threat.

"It's not just about criminals being beaten.

Sometimes ordinary disputes, rumours, or even accusations of political allegiance can trigger mob attacks. This reflects deep insecurity in society and a collapse in confidence in formal justice."

Supreme Court lawyer Manzil Morshed told The Daily Star, "It's as if a reset button has been pressed on the justice system. Those in power are taking justice into their own hands. The government must answer whether it's incapable or unwilling to control mob violence."

"If mob violence is not contained now, society will descend into instability and darkness. The only solution is to enforce the law strictly. Stronger punishments, even non-bailable provisions, may be necessary to deter participants."

About addressing mob violence, Col Shafiqul Islam, colonel staff at the Military Operations Directorate of Army Headquarters,

on Monday said the army maintains "zero tolerance" towards mob violence and expressed hope that the number of such incidents would decline.

Briefing reporters at Dhaka Cantonment, he said the army always responds once requested. "The army is requested if police or other agencies fail to control a situation. By the time the request comes through and approval is obtained from headquarters, the situation may already have deteriorated."

Regarding the incidents, Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury acknowledged a "slight deterioration" in the country's law and order following recent incidents. "The situation was good but based on the events of the last few days, I would say it has deteriorated slightly."

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WHAT'S THE HAPS?

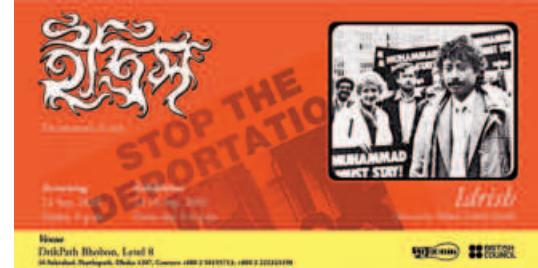
FILM SCREENING: 'IDRISH'

Drik Picture Library, in partnership with the British Council, presents *Idrish*, a 32-minute documentary by Adam Lewis Jacob. The film portrays Muhammad Idrish, a Bangladeshi anti-deportation campaigner in 1980s Britain, and the trade union movement that supported him, followed by a Q&A with Idrish and the filmmaker.

Date: Friday | September 12, 2025

Time: 6pm-8pm

Venue: DrikPath Bhabon, Panthapath



Bangladesh calls for Oscars 2025 film submissions

The Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies (BFFS) has invited submissions for the International Feature Film category of the 98th Academy Awards.

The Oscar Bangladesh Committee, chaired by Dr Mohammad Zahirul Islam, will review all submissions and select the country's official entry.

Eligible films must be predominantly in Bengali with English subtitles, produced in Bangladesh with significant local creative control, and screened commercially for at least seven consecutive days between October 1, 2024, and September 30, 2025.

Producers are required to submit an application form, proof of release, two DVD/Blu-ray screeners or a secured digital link, and a press kit including synopsis and key credits.

The deadline is September 16, 2025, at 5pm, with submissions to be made at the BFFS office in Dhaka.



FEDERATION OF FILM SOCIETIES OF BANGLADESH

Procurement reforms

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of micro and small enterprises (MSEs) and NGOs, particularly in consultancy services for the health and social sectors.

For the first time, a policy on asset disposal will also be incorporated into the procurement framework.

Md Kamal Uddin, secretary of the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), said effective project implementation requires a combination of good governance, financial oversight, and institutional capacity.

To this end, the

total of 153 rules is now proposed—94 amended, 12 added, and 18 repealed. He emphasised the mandatory use of the electronic government procurement (e-GP) system and the introduction of beneficial ownership disclosure to ensure accountability.

The decision was conveyed in a letter dated September 8, signed by deputy secretary Rashedul Islam.

The letter was addressed to the senior secretary of the home ministry, with a copy forwarded to the cabinet secretary.

42,618 centres to be set up

FROM PAGE 12

cameras at polling centres or body-worn cameras by law enforcers during the polls.

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