

# RUNA

## revitalised with new accolade



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

**In "Osomoy", the actress portrays a character caught in a swirl of moral conflict and personal loss. The role demanded both vulnerability and resilience qualities that have become hallmarks of her work.**

## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Runa Khan has long been recognised as one of Bangladesh's most versatile screen performers, moving from children's programming to the country's most prestigious film awards. Her latest triumph came at the Blender's Choice - The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024, where she earned the Popular Best Supporting Actor (Female) award for her layered performance in Kajal Arefin Ome's acclaimed series *Osomoy*.

Runa Khan's path to this moment spans decades of steady craft. Audiences first knew her as Sumona Moira, the beloved teacher on *Sisimpur*, the Bangladeshi adaptation of *Sesame Street*. She later won the Bangladesh National Film Award and the Bachsas Award for her moving portrayal of Jui in *Haldaa* (2017).

In *Osomoy*, the actress portrays a character caught in a swirl of moral conflict and personal loss. The role demanded both vulnerability and resilience - qualities that have become

hallmarks of her work.

Accepting the award, Khan refused to see the win as hers alone. "This award is a huge achievement for me," she said on stage. "I would not dare to claim this accolade alone since the entire team of *Osomoy* was a huge support for me. There were some very intense scenes that I had to do, and I could not have done it without the direction of Kajal Arefin Ome and my co-artists. He continues to break barriers in Bangladeshi filmmaking. I would like to thank the audience and well-wishers who supported me in this endeavour, and finally, thanks to The Daily Star for facilitating this award and giving a chance to an artist who might not otherwise have the platform to express themselves."

With upcoming projects, including the film *Neel Podmo* and new web series slated for release in 2025, Runa Khan remains a vital presence on screen. Her journey from educational television to national and now digital acclaim underscores a career defined by perseverance and an unrelenting commitment to craft.

# NEWS

## Tulip's citizenship

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Sir Laurie Magnus CBE, the prime minister's adviser on ministerial standards, has already cleared her of any wrongdoing following a thorough investigation.

Tulip also alleged almost 12 months since these allegations were first made, she is still yet to receive any communication from the Bangladeshi authorities.

The issue has cast an increasingly uncomfortable shadow over Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer, already under pressure following a string of scandals within his party.

Tulip resigned from her position as anti-corruption minister in January, insisting she did not want to be a "distraction".

But Thursday's revelations raise the possibility of renewed pressure for her expulsion from the party altogether.

Privately, a Labour activist familiar with Tulip, speaking to The Daily Star on condition of anonymity, suggested that while the documents - particularly the national identity card - appear questionable, Tulip may seek legal advice to challenge their validity.

After The Times report was published, the Daily Express also weighed in, calling the affair a "new nightmare for Starmer" and linking it to allegations that Tulip benefited from land allocations in Dhaka during Hasina's premiership, which Bangladesh's Anti-Corruption Commission described as an "abuse of power".

Community reaction in Britain's large Bangladeshi diaspora has been sharply divided. Some accuse Tulip of misleading the public, while others claim she is being targeted as part of a political vendetta following Hasina's ousting during the 2024 mass uprising.

Former BBC journalist Masud Hasan Khan said the joint investigation by The Times and Prothom Alo will inevitably fuel debate within the Bangladeshi community. "The fact that Tulip's name appears in the national ID, passport and voter list has created mixed reactions," he observed. According to him, some believe she has been less than truthful.

## This time

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to organise the fair then. That is why publishers proposed a December-January timeframe."

On September 11, the Bangladesh Publishers and Booksellers Association formally proposed alternative timeframes to Bangla Academy.

The association further argued that holding the fair earlier would benefit all stakeholders, including authors, readers, publishers, printers, and the paper and binding industries.

## One killed

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deceased's body to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy."

Farida Gulshanara Kabir, resident medical officer of Narsingdi Sadar Hospital, said, "After the clash between two groups in Alokballi, one person with gunshot wounds was brought to the hospital. Five others with bullet injuries were admitted, and later, two of them were transferred to Dhaka due to their critical condition."

Contacted, BNP leader Shah Alam claimed armed criminals led by Kaiyum attacked people at Muradnagar village.

"In protest, locals resisted the attack. Local Awami League men were also among the attackers," he claimed.

Kaiyum was expelled from all party posts, including his primary membership, for breaching the party discipline, according to a press release issued by the BNP central committee dated July 8, 2025.

Attempts were made to contact him, but he could not be reached over the phone.

Similarly, Abu Saleh Chowdhury, president of BNP's Sadar upazila unit, did not pick up when called for his comment over the clash.

At the community level, British-Bangladeshi groups have begun informal discussions, with some calling for Tulip to "come clean" about her status while others defend her against what they view as "political character assassination."

For now, the Labour leadership remains silent, but the widening rift between legal technicalities and political accountability leaves Tulip, and by extension Sir Keir Starmer, facing one of the most awkward tests of the current parliamentary term.

## Climate change

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to level rise," WMO scientific officer Sulagna Mishra told reporters.

According to the UN, 3.6 billion people worldwide currently have insufficient access to water at least one month per year, and this is expected to increase to more than five billion by 2050.

Stefan Uhlenbrook, head of WMO's hydrology, water and cryosphere division, stressed that "the total amount of water we have on this planet remains the same".

But with "increasingly melting

glaciers and also with overabstraction groundwater... we lose more water from the continents, (which) flows to the sea, contributing to sea level rise".

It is vital to properly manage underground water systems called aquifers and ensure that freshwater from melting glaciers is stored to prevent it from flowing into the oceans, Mishra said.

She also called for optimising water use in agriculture, which accounts for between 75 and 90 percent of all water abstracted.

Meanwhile, a local court sent Mohsin to jail yesterday, he added.

Earlier on September 5, hundreds of people attacked a "darbar sharif", exhumed the body of Nurul Haque - widely known locally as "Nural Pagla" - from his grave and set the body on fire in Rajbari's Goalanda upazila.

One person was killed, and 22 others, including a journalist, were injured in the violence.

## ICT frames charges

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Another victim, Md Nadim, was shot dead in the same incident.

In a separate event that day, a video went viral on social media showing a young man, later identified as 18-year-old Amir Hossain, hanging from the ledge of an under-construction building. The footage appeared to show two policemen firing at him at close range as he clung to the edge before falling.

While reading out the charges, tribunal member Judge Md Mohitul Hoque Anam Chawdhury asked Chanchal, the only accused present in the dock, whether he pleaded guilty or innocent. Chanchal replied, "I am innocent."

The tribunal then formally framed charges and set October 16 for the opening statements of both prosecution and defence, as well as the recording of witness depositions.

## Bangladesh through to Super Four

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Dushmantha Chameera in the meantime over before taking apart Dunith Wellalage in the 20th, hitting the left-arm spinner for five sixes in an over that went for 32 runs.

Nabi was run out in the last ball but his 22 ball 60 gave the Afghans the edge at the halfway mark.

Set a steep 170-run target against a very good attack, the Lankans were unfazed as they expertly navigated the chase with opener Mendis leading the way.

The two Mendis formed an unbroken 52-run stand off 23 balls as Sri Lanka completed the highest successful chase so far in the tournament with relative ease.

With the result, the line-up of the Super Four is also confirmed as earlier India and Pakistan had qualified from Group A. The Super Four phase will begin on Saturday with a showdown between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in Dubai.

## Ukraine pushes back some Russian advances: Zelensky

AFP, Kyiv

Ukrainian forces have pushed back some of the advances Russia made over the summer, President Volodymyr Zelensky said Thursday, calling the operation an "important success" after months of battlefield setbacks.

Zelensky said his troops had reclaimed 160 square kilometres (62 square miles) of land near the eastern coal mining town of Dobropillia, where Russia pierced Ukraine's defences in August.

US President Donald Trump, meanwhile, expressed mounting

frustration at his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin for not halting the invasion.

Russia, which has been chipping away at Ukrainian territory for months, did not immediately comment on Ukraine's claims but announced Thursday that more than 700,000 of its soldiers were fighting on the front line.

Diplomatic efforts to end the three-and-a-half year war have fallen apart in recent months, with Russia last week announcing peace talks were on "pause" and Zelensky warning Russia still wanted to occupy "all of Ukraine".