



The Awards Programme Revolutionising THE INDUSTRY



PHOTOS: STAR/TMZ



The best in OTT and Digital Content felicitated

A serene September night draped itself over Dhaka as the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center (BCFCC) radiated beneath a canopy of lights. In place of sound and fury, there was a subtle kind of glamour. Bangladesh's leading actors, directors and digital storytellers arrived one by one, their footsteps turning the red carpet into a living mosaic of anticipation and artistry.

Inside, the fourth edition of Blender's Choice – The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards unfolded like a couture collection for the screen age. Each camera flash and cheer affirmed how confidently this celebration has become the nation's signature stage for streaming and online entertainment – where the power of a story matters as much as the art of a couture.

Months of careful planning by The Daily Star and Ispahani Tea Limited crafted an evening of effortless elegance, while Tmz Photography: Wedding & Events captured every luminous frame. This supplement honours the visionaries on- and off-camera, and the audiences who make such a night possible – ensuring Bangladesh's digital stage continues to gleam ever brighter.

Arts & Entertainment Desk



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

WINNERS' LIST

CATEGORY	AWARD	RECIPIENT(S)
Popular	Best Actor (Male)	Mosharraf Karim (Adhunik Bangla Hotel)
	Best Actor (Female)	Pori Moni (Rongila Kitab)
	Best Supporting Actor, Series (Male)	Saraf Ahmed Zibon (Osomoy)
	Best Supporting Actor, Series (Female)	Runa Khan (Osomoy)
	Best Director, Series	Vicky Zahed (Chokro)
	Best Director, Film	Kajal Arefin Ome (Osomoy)
	Best Drama/Series	Golam Mamun
	Best Film	Kacher Manush Dure Thuiya
Critics	Best Actor (Male)	Fs Nayeem (Kaalpurush)
	Best Actor (Female)	Zinnat Ara (Sinpaat)
	Best Director	Mohammad Touqir Islam (Sinpaat)
	Best Film/Drama/Series	Sinpaat
	Best Cinematographer	Ishtiaque Hossain (Forget Me Not)
	Best Makeup Artist	Rubama Fairuz (Kaalpurush)
	Best Editing	Syed Mehboob Hussain & Saleh Sobhan Auneem (Kaalpurush)
	Best Screenplay	Kazi Asad (Adhunik Bangla Hotel)
	Best Costume Designer	Zannat Mouri (Tikit)
	Best Art Director	Shihab Nurun Nabi (Kaalpurush)
Music/Song	Best Lyricist	Sadat Hossain (Megh Balika Kacher Manush Dure Thuiya)
	Best Singer	Mahtim Shakib & Sanzida Mahmood Nandita (Megh Balika Kacher Dure Thuiya)
	Best Music Composer	Emon Chowdhury (Megh Balika Kacher Manush Dure Thuiya)
	Best Music, Digital Platforms	Angel Noor (Jodi Abar)
	Best Background Score	Jahid Nirrob (Adhunik Bangla Hotel)
	Best Sound Design	Adeep Singh Manki (Sinpaat)
Individual Content	Best Content Creator of the Year	Nafees Salim & Shuvasish Bhowmick
	Best Content Creator (Food & Recipe / Travel)	Nadir On The Go - Bangla (Turkish Government Offers Free Iftar in Istanbul)
	Best Content Creator (Infotainment / Podcast)	Seenjoy Saha (The Dark Influence of Content Creators)

The visionaries BEHIND THE CAMERA



Vicky Zahed



Mohammad Touqir Islam



Kajal Arefin Ome

From envisioning a project from its inception to its final execution, directors are the engine of any project. They not only curate the narrative but also ensure it is well-defined, with the hope that their vision will be relatable to the audience. Their exceptional talent has been recognised with esteemed accolades at the Blender's Choice–The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024.

Audience's support made this win possible: KAJAL AREFIN OME

"I sincerely thank Blender's Choice–The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards for nominating *Osomoy* in multiple categories and honouring me with the Best Director (Series) award in the popular Film (Popular) recognition. I am grateful to the jury and, above all, to the audience whose support made this win possible.

This award is especially meaningful as it comes from the popular category, reflecting the love of the very people I create my work for. *Osomoy* was acclaimed widely, and even today, audiences continue to appreciate it. I also thank The Daily Star for giving viewers

the platform to cast their votes.

This award renewed my confidence and encouraged me to tell more stories: VICKY ZAHED

An award always inspires an artiste and motivates them to excel. I am thankful to The Daily Star for honouring me with the Best Director (Series) award in the popular category for my web series *Chokro*. For the OTT industry, this award has become a benchmark for everyone behind and in front of the camera, and it reflects Blender's Choice – The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards' continued commitment to fostering healthy competition.

Although I couldn't attend the ceremony due to unavoidable circumstances, winning this award after *Redrum* (2022) is an indescribably special feeling. It has given me renewed confidence, encouragement, and energy to tell more stories in the future.

Winning an award for such a work is beyond words: MOHAMMAD TOUQIR ISLAM

Receiving the award for *Sinpaat* feels extra special because it was such a

challenging project for me and the entire team. The lead role of Sohail Sheikh, a real-life criminal, and much of the plot was inspired by his personal stories. Delving into those accounts was extremely difficult—raw, intense, yet layered with unexpected colours. They shaped the entire show and, in many ways, added depth to our own lives, making us realise so much about the world and ourselves. Winning an award for such a work is beyond words.

Receiving nine nominations was a huge honour: KAZI ASAD

Above all, the team and I are over the moon because Mosharraf bhai won Best Actor in the popular category. He invested immense time and energy into this project and gave everything to pull off his roles. Since it's an anthology series, he played three different characters across three episodes! On top of that, most of our shoots were at night—including one entire 24-hour stretch—so it was definitely hectic. But in the end, all the hard work paid off.

Interviewed by Sharmin Joya



Kazi Asad

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED/COLLECTED



Blender's Choice

Premium Black Tea





The art of PERFORMANCE



especially knowing so many actors and actresses were in the audience. My dress was beautiful, and wearing it made me feel like a fairy. After the performance, receiving praise from my colleagues and seniors was truly the most amazing part of the night.”

MONDERA CHAKRABORTY
 “As a dance artiste, I love performing on stage. I try to make sure that my outfit and overall look stand out, and I am glad I was able to pull it off beautifully at the event. I also make sure that people appreciate the performance as a whole, including



the choreography, makeup, and attire. Receiving so much love from the audience and seeing them enjoy it truly fills my heart.”

XEFER
 “I didn’t just want to sing and get it over with. I wanted to create something more, which is why I put a lot of effort into my performance, including the choreography. Alif was a great help. It’s always amazing to sing my own songs on stage and see people singing along with what I have written. It’s a truly endearing feeling as a singer and songwriter. I hope I can continue performing in the years to come.”

MD MOFASSAL HOSSEN ALIF
 “We always try to stay updated with what’s happening globally in other award shows. First, we select the songs, then a professional editor helps us mix them. Normally, we create mashups of 3-4 songs, adding international trending music to keep it fresh and engaging. That’s why we place great importance on mixing the songs.

Our opening dance was a contemporary fusion performed by Parsa Evana, paired with the Daily Star’s theme song. For the actresses, I wanted to highlight songs they had worked with. Mondera’s performance, for instance, began with her own song, starting with a folk vibe before transitioning into hip hop. Sabila Nur’s dance felt almost like a tribute to Shakib Khan, beginning with delicate movements and building into a high-energy performance. All of them are such skilled dancers, which allowed us to experiment with various steps while keeping their unique styles intact.”

PARSA EVANA
 “Since I was the first to perform that day, I felt both excited and nervous,





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SABILA NUR

"It was amazing to perform at the Blenders Choice - The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards 2024. I would like to thank The Daily Star for giving me the opportunity to perform on such a big stage. Alif, the choreographer, did an excellent job, and I felt very comfortable working with him, even though I was a bit nervous at first. The energy of the crowd inspired me to give my best. Performing my own songs on the big stage is such a special experience, and I hope I can continue performing at this level in the years to come."

JAHID NIROB

"It feels amazing to witness the Blenders Choice-The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards for the past four years. But this year was truly special because, for the first time, I was actually awarded. Honestly, I didn't believe it until I was holding the award in my hands. It was a real surprise. I was grateful to be able to perform my original songs on such a big stage. I would like to thank my former band, Chirkutt, for helping me grow and reach this stage of my journey."

Interviewed by Rakshanda Rahman Misha



A Crafted Blend of World-class Tea



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Leading actors jubilant in CELEBRATION

As the leading actors at The Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards celebrate their big win, they share the emotions of the winning moments with us.



Zinnat Ara

We risked our own money for 'Adhunik Bangla Hotel': MOSHARRAF KARIM
 "We never really thought that this series would ever be showcased. Kazi Asad, Daniel Dany, and I sat together and realised we loved the story, but we didn't have the money or the means to finance it. At that moment, we decided to work on the first episode with our own money for *Boal Macher Jhol*. When Chorki saw it, they really liked it and agreed to finance the rest of the series. That's how the dream of *Adhunik Bangla Hotel* started taking shape.

Heartiest gratitude to Blender's Choice-The Daily Star, to my theatre troupe, Natyakendra, and to my *guru*, Tariq Anam Khan. Their guidance and support have been invaluable throughout my career."
I dedicate this award to my wife: F S NAYEEM
 "I am so happy and grateful that you have given me such respect and honoured me with this award. My heartfelt thanks go to Blender's Choice - The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards and to the jury for believing that I could be the Best Actor in the Critics' Choice category."

"In 18 months, I gained 45 kgs for this role. During this time, Nadia was extremely scared and worried about my health, in case something might happen to me. But by the grace of the Almighty, I am safe. I dedicate this award to her as well."

Pori Moni





Blender's Choice Premium Green Tea






Runa Khan

“To any rising actor who is reading this—if you are passionate about your work and truly dedicated, you will definitely reach your goals and leave a mark. Always stay true to your craft.”

This award is truly exceptional for me: PORI MONI

“I have received many awards in my life, and perhaps I will receive more in the future, but this one will always remain special to me. It is different because this award came for playing the role of a mother, something I was personally going through at that time. It allowed me to relive the journey of my own motherhood.”

“This is not just an award to me; it is much more. It is a recognition that a mother can do anything and achieve anything she sets her mind to. After giving birth, I was body-shamed for gaining weight. Many people commented on how ‘fat’ I had become. But only a few truly understand what a mother goes through—unless they are mothers themselves.

“So, thank you to The Daily Star and Blender's Choice for giving me this honour. I am truly grateful.”

Acting wasn't something I imagined for myself: ZINNAT ARA

“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. That small role grew into something much bigger in the spin-off, resonating with audiences in ways I never anticipated. To then be recognised with two critics' awards,



FS Nayeem



Saraf Ahmed Zibon



Mosharraf Karim

including The Daily Star and Meril Prothom Alo, feels truly overwhelming. *Sinpaat*, as we say, was an expected accident. But the recognition that

came with it was completely unexpected.

This belongs to the ‘Osomoy’ team: Runa Khan

“This award is a huge achievement for me. 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 thank you to The Daily Star for facilitating this award and giving a chance to an artist who might not otherwise have had the platform to express themselves.

I dedicate this award to Iresh Zaker and Ome: Saraf Ahmed Zibon

I really don't know how to act. These are not my words but Mosharraf Karim's. However, I don't know how, but the audience still watches my work and appreciates it, which, again, are his words, not mine. I want to dedicate this award to Iresh Zaker and Kajal Arefin Ome.

SAFIYA SATHI

becomes a mode of self-expression for the hosts



Safia Sathi

Dhaka's most-anticipated digital night unfolded as each look added to a textured, coherent visual story. For the fourth consecutive year, Safiya Sathi crafted the entire wardrobe for all six hosts of the Blender's Choice- The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2024, a house code she first introduced years ago and now wields with confident ease.

"Each edition is a step in continuous improvement," Safia Sathi said. "We began with a signature elegance; today we're bolder, more experimental - anticipating what the hosts need and ensuring the clothes mirror their personalities and achievements." After last year's 'third-year hat-trick' of recognition,

2024 felt like a moment of consolidation and purpose, with a designer steering the image of a live broadcast.

As a designer, Safia Sathi anchored the evening around a modern, OTT-inspired palette - vibrant yet tempered; realised through sleek, future-leaning silhouettes and textures that behave on camera. Fabrics with a subtle sheen and intricate, light-responsive details were chosen to add dimension on livestreams. Embellishments were placed to catch the eye without tipping into visual noise. "It's about looks that are stunning in person and make clean, readable pictures on-screen," Safia explained.

Priyontee Urbee & Partho Sheikh

Priyontee Urbee arrived like a sigh of light: a blush, sequined one-shoulder evening gown. The flowing A-line fell from a cinched waist, its tulle/chiffon layers dusted with scattered sequins and beadwork - a star-mist finish. The asymmetric neckline with an embellished strap framed an intent she'd set from the outset: "I wanted something eye-soothing; nothing loud in colour or makeup."



Priyontee Urbee

PHOTOS: STAR/TMZ



Partho Sheikh

Partho Sheikh cut an effortlessly magnetic figure in a sand-beige double-breasted suit with wide peak lapels, tailored yet slightly relaxed. A muted shirt and coordinated neutrals let the clean lines carry the look. On the carpet, the pair kept the tone loose. “We didn’t script every question,” Urbee smiled. “We even opened by asking guests the event’s name – just to keep it playful.”

Naziba Basher & Irfan Sajjad

Naziba Basher describes Safia Sathi as “silent magic – she lets the work speak.” Their working cadence is effortless; Basher offers only a brief outline, Safia proposes a direction, and the actress steps back to let the surprise unfold.” This year our very own Naziba asked for a “subtle deshi touch” – nothing loud. The creative force behind Safiya Sathi responded with a floral dream of Bangladeshi monsoon: *Shapla* (lotus), *Shiuli* (night jasmine), *Baganbilash* (bougainvillea), *Lebu Pata* (lemon leaves)—motifs arranged with a painter’s restraint. Late in the day, Basher wanted a little extra shimmer; the team set stones and slim chains along the shoulder lines, a touch of shine that lets the motif breathe. “Every year since the second edition, she’s made me feel like royalty,” the actress said. “It’s elegant, rooted, unforgettable.”

Irfan Sajjad exuded refined confidence in a full-black, double-breasted suit with peak lapels, slightly relaxed; a red patterned open-neck shirt as focal point; sunglasses and black shoes for finish. “Naziba’s look was vibrant and floral – if I matched that, we’d lose sync,” he said. First time on this stage, the actor refused to pick a single moment. “Every moment was special,” he said. “I learned I have a natural skill for direct communication with people.

On-stage final hosts: Rafsan Shabab & Afsan Ara Bindu

“We didn’t want to transition from one pair of hosts to the next with the usual lull. Usually, when the other pair of hosts leave the stage, the entry of the next two always feels underwhelming,” Rafsan explained. This year, Bindu and Rafsan avoided the typical stage entry; instead, they crafted a monologue-meets-rap with a short skit – a clip that later drew more than 4.5 million views online. “The Daily Star team gives us creative freedom – that’s why we can push ideas,” he added.

For Rafsan Shabab, Safia Sathi is tradition. “This is my fourth time and Safia is my go-to,” he said. “She listens, gets your idea, then goes the extra mile to deliver the



Afsan Ara Bindu

exact execution.” The professional anchor and creator of “What a Show” opted for a contrast dinner-jacket ensemble, pairing a soft off-white double-breasted blazer with black tailored trousers and an open-neck black shirt – a sharp red-carpet statement without the formality of a full tuxedo. Beyond clothes, Rafsan read the room. “This



Naziba Basher & Irfan Sajjad



Rafsan Shabab

year, recognition widened – first-time nominees, behind-the-scenes artists – makeup, cinematography, sound,” he noted. “It tells audiences the whole ecosystem matters, not just the faces.”

Afsan Ara Bindu, a designer herself, selected trending plum from this season’s colour story. Safia transformed it into a pre-draped saree in satin-crepe, scattered with fine crystal and sequin ‘butti’. Bindu had asked for minimal work and light stone on the blouse; the couturier responded with heavier, couture-grade beadwork. “It turned out gorgeous,” Bindu said. The silhouette kept the classic pallu but wore with an effortless modernity – an elegant, modern answer to her “girl-next-door” on-screen persona. Mid-process, Bindu also requested longer sleeves with a thicker inner – the atelier adjusted cleanly, maintaining line and movement. “I loved how considerate Safia was and how she validated my ideas. As a fellow designer, I made it a point to respect her creative space and not interfere.”

The atelier mindset

What the audience didn’t see on screen were the lighting tests, fabric trials, walk rehearsals, and a designer recalibrating in real time. Safiya Sathi’s biggest evolution from year one to now lies in the confident way the brand commands every detail, showcasing both adaptability and collaboration. “I began by focusing closely on my own vision. Now I keep the conversation open. The best outcomes come when talent and atelier build the look together,” shared Safia.

That approach also widened the brand’s footprint. The earlier three-peat established its credibility; the fourth year turned it into something coveted – opening doors to new collaborations and giving the Safiya Sathi a stronger hand in setting local trends.

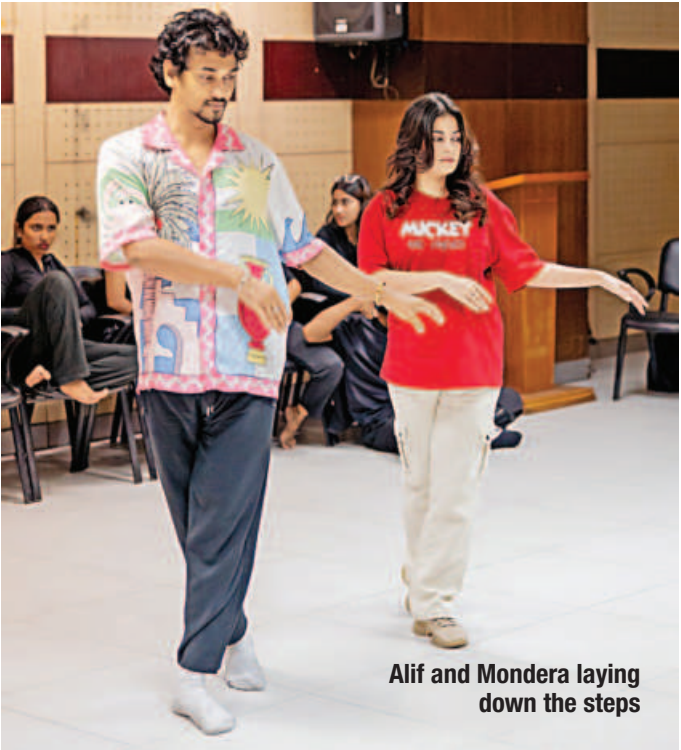
If Safiya Sathi were to return for a fifth season at the Blender’s Choice– The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards stage, the direction is already clear. The brand envisions a wardrobe built on sustainable practice, integrating advanced fabrics and meticulously planned methods to reduce fashion’s environmental footprint while enhancing its artistry. “I want to surprise everyone; with work that’s innovative, responsible and unmistakably ours,” noted Safia Sathi.

By Maisha Tasnim Sreshtha



THE ENGINE

Months of gruelling hard work goes into each iteration of Blender's Choice – The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards. Here are some sneak-peeks into the building blocks of what makes it great!





Nandita, Rubaiyat, Ruslan and Emon pose for a photo



Afran Nisho and Shajal catching up



Toya, Tawsif and Safa reunite



Mehazabien ever-radiant with her lively pose

Beyond the awards are THE MOMENTS

The small, often overlooked moments are the ones that are remembered the most. The awards function, for many is an excuse to meet up with old friends, rekindle old relationships and have a jolly time with people in the industry.

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED, PALASH KHAN, RASHED SUMON, PRABIR DAS AND TMZ



Tanzika steals hearts in her fuchsia saree



The luminous Sarika Sabah



Beauties galore - Heartthrobs of Bangladesh share the frame



Aisha Khan poses for the glam move

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Angel Noor takes tips from Rafa



Shohel Mondol channels his inner 'don'



Oyshee and Zilani mingling during the event



Nawshaba and Sumaiya Shimu burst out in laughter



Sunerah takes a selfie with Sadia Ayman



Imtiaz Barshon looking dapper



Nishat Priom charms with her smile



Parsha Mahjabeen laughs out loud



Safa hits 'Goddess mode' in ethereal look



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