



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.