BLENDER'S CHOICE –THE DAILY STAR OTT & DIGITAL CONTENT AWARDS 2025

EIGHT WINS FOR 'DUI SHAW', Nuhash Humayun responds with gratitude



RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Nuhash Humayun's ***Dui Shaw*** swept the Critics category, winning all eight awards, including Best Director, at the Blender's Choice–The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2025. Despite earning numerous international accolades, the filmmaker was pleasantly surprised by the overwhelming recognition his psychological horror series received at home.

In an interview with The Daily Star, the director discusses the popularity of the ***Shaw*** franchise, the technical efforts behind bringing ***Dui Shaw*** to life, and collaborating with his mother, writer Gultekin Khan, on the screenplay.

"Most of the awards I have won are from international festivals. But receiving awards in Bangladesh feels great because it is really special. I don't expect much from Bangladeshi award shows because the industry is small and everybody knows everybody, so there can be biases. I knew we might win something because we make unique work, but the result was still surprising and nice," he said.

For Nuhash, the awards were also an opportunity to reunite with the team behind ***Dui Shaw***, a project that took more than a year to complete. "Seeing everyone again after all that time, sharing the joy and bringing some closure to the project, was really nice," he said.

The recognition follows the international journey of the ***Shaw*** franchise. The first season, ***Pett Kata Shaw,*** premiered at the International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR), while ***Dui Shaw*** was screened at the South by Southwest (SXSW) Film Festival in Austin, Texas.

While the Best Director and Best Screenplay awards were gratifying, Nuhash was especially proud of the technical teams recognised for their work in costume design, sound design and editing. Horror, he explained, leaves little room for technical errors.

"With horror, everything has to be absolutely on point. Even a small mistake in the makeup can turn a scene from horror into comedy. Every department has to work together to make the experience believable," he said.

When ***Pett Kata Shaw*** was first conceived, exploring horror on screen was a major risk, despite Bangladesh's rich tradition of folk tales and supernatural stories.

"There is so much potential in Bangla horror, but when we started shooting ***Pett Kata Shaw,*** we were unsure whether it would work. There was an electrifying energy on set amid all that uncertainty," Nuhash recalled.

By the time they made ***Dui Shaw***, the team had gained confidence, making it easier to bring established actors on board, including Jaya Ahsan in a cameo and Mosharraf Karim in a prominent role.

The production also presented technical challenges. One of the most difficult sequences was the chainsaw scene in ***Waqt***. To avoid using a real blade, the team attached a Styrofoam replacement to an electric chainsaw. However, its speed still posed a risk, requiring several crew members to carefully control the equipment around actor Rizvi Rizu. The heat in Bangladesh also made special-effects makeup difficult to maintain, often requiring repeated applications during filming.

Another highlight was the screenplay, which Nuhash co-wrote with his mother, writer Gultekin Khan. Working from the United States while she was in Bangladesh, they exchanged ideas through emails and calls, even writing dialogues together.

Beshura proved particularly challenging, drawing inspiration from Satyajit Ray's ***Hirak Rajar Deshe*** and ***Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne.*** Gultekin's poetry-writing experience helped shape its distinctive dialogue.

From taking a chance on horror to earning critical acclaim at home and abroad, the ***Shaw*** franchise has demonstrated the potential of Bangladeshi supernatural storytelling. For Nuhash, however, its success is measured not only in awards, but also in the collective effort behind the work and the memories it creates for audiences.

'Master' wins Best Screenplay at Belgrade film festival



Bangladeshi filmmaker Rezwan Shahriar Sumit's political drama ***Master*** has won Best Screenplay in the World Competition section of the Belgrade International Film Festival (FEST).

Co-written by Sumit and Sabbir Hossain Shovon, the film previously won the Big Screen Award at the International Film Festival Rotterdam and Best Feature Film at Italy's Lucca Film Festival.

Master follows Jahir, a respected teacher who enters local politics with idealistic ambitions but gradually compromises his principles under the pressures of power.

The film stars Nasir Uddin Khan, Azmeri Haque Badhan, Zakia Bari Mamo, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Sharif Siraj and Tasnova Tamanna.

Sumit previously directed ***The Salt in Our Waters (Nonajoler Kabbo)***, which received seven Bangladesh National Film Awards.

EVENTS

'THE SEA OF SILENCE'



A new theatre troupe Thespians De Dhaka debuts with Tazuddin Tazu's psychological drama, charting a fractured family's emotional voyage from Haiphong to London. Set against an atmospheric sea journey, the production crafts a tense, character-driven exploration of memory, hidden guilt, and quiet longing.

Date: Wednesday | October 14, 2026
Time: 7:15 PM
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA, Dhaka

NEWS

Students lock

FROM PAGE 12

resignation. They gave him an ultimatum to leave campus by noon. When the deadline passed, students declared the building "vacant," re-locked the outer gates, and cut off utility lines.

"The newly appointed VC entered the campus by hiding his identity and broke the locks to enter the office," said Ahnaf Shahriar Arnob, a student and a coordinator of the movement.

"He ignored the ultimatum, so we locked the building from the outside. We will continue our peaceful protests and request him to step down honourably."

Trapped inside alongside the VC, JCD unit President Wasif Rashed denied breaking into the office.

"VC sir went to his office with the teachers and officials. We went to greet him," Rashed told The Daily Star over the phone, claiming the demonstration was being manipulated.

"Students' agitation has been hijacked by a vested quarter. A section of teachers is provoking students for their own interests."

Meanwhile, around 3:30pm, the CUET Teachers', Officers', and Staff Associations held a joint press conference at the university auditorium to announce a strike.

CUET Teachers' Association President Professor Mohammad Ahsan Ullah, at the press conference, said the VC entered the office with outsiders.

"We are calling for a complete work stoppage and all-out non-cooperation until our demands are met. CUET's community does not accept him as vice-chancellor."

"He will be held responsible if any untoward incident occurs," he added.

Speaking to reporters through a gap in the locked main gate, Professor Alam defended his appointment, saying that the government followed due procedure in appointing him.

"Some people here want the former VC reinstated," he said.

Downplaying any personal rivalry, he described former VC Professor Sayem as a gentleman, a great teacher, and a batchmate, adding, "We are not enemies."

Contacted, Superintendent of Police (SP) of Chattogram District, Masud Alam, said, "The vice-chancellor himself does not want to come out of his office. I spoke to him over the phone in the afternoon."

Meanwhile, Chattogram Additional Superintendent of Police Md Sirajul Islam dismissed students' claim that two university buses travelling from the city had been attacked in Madunaghat area around 2:00pm, clarifying that the vehicles were merely turned back by road obstructions.

On September 21, Professor Alam was appointed as VC of CUET, replacing Professor Sayem after just 56 days in office. Professor Alam has been attempting to conduct administrative functions remotely from the Chattogram Circuit House.

As night fell, the main administrative gates remained padlocked, with students holding sit-ins outside.

Ex-army officers on 4-day remand in sedition case

FROM PAGE 2

Gulshan Ara had also used her Facebook account to disseminate content and carry out activities against the state, said DB Inspector Sheikh Bashir Ahmed in the report.

The investigator alleged that the accused were involved in terrorist activities through illegal funding to facilitate the activities of a banned organisation.

"On November 27, 2018, ahead of the national election, Gulshan Ara went to Ganabhaban with more than 150 retired army officers and publicly expressed solidarity with and allegiance to Sheikh Hasina," the report said.

The report further alleged that the two accused, along with 101 others, had established a committee named "Bangabandhu Sena Parishad" and that the two were active office-bearers of the organisation.

Its primary activities allegedly involved spreading hatred among different social groups and communities to incite riots and clashes.

The accused actively participated in such activities to create disorder in the country and undermine its sovereignty, the report said.

They also allegedly spread hatred and contempt towards the government established by law through social media and appearances on various talk shows, engaging in activities amounting to sedition, it added.

Since August 5, 2024, the two accused and their associates had allegedly been conspiring against the government and conducting defamatory propaganda. Evidence had reportedly been found of their links with domestic and foreign spies, the investigator said.

Gulshan Ara, 43, was arrested during a drive in Pallabi, while Debashish, 47, was arrested from Banani DOHS early yesterday, according to police.

The police filed a case against the duo -- along with 101 other unnamed persons -- with Pallabi Police Station under Section 124A of the Penal Code, Sections 10, 11, 12 and 18(1) of the Anti-Terrorism Act, and Section 25 of the Cyber Security Ordinance.

Amid tight security, the two were escorted to a courtroom of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court around 5:45pm for hearing the remand prayer.

Americans Hall, Woodford win

FROM PAGE 12

"...Authorities shouldn't view stabilisation of the economy as an exercise that is simply conducted by people pulling levers to control the economy independently of what people in the economy understand about this," Columbia University's Woodford, 70, told a news conference.

In contrast to the oil shocks of the 1970s, when central banks struggled to combat sky-high inflation, Woodford said the new framework was useful during the global financial crisis of the late-2000s to bolster traditional tools of monetary policy.

"Making more explicit statements about the likely future path of interest rate policy, as opposed to relying on simply being able to cut interest rates further immediately, that was an important part of the policy response in the years from 2009 onward," he said.

Beyond so-called "forward guidance" on the future path of monetary policy, the work of Woodford – and Hall, 83, at Stanford University – promoted other concepts used today such as the idea of "sticky" inflation when price changes lag changes in demand.

Another is the "output gap", a measure of demand pressure building up in an economy and how efficiently resources are being used - the goal of stabilisation policy being to steer that gap towards zero.

Hall has served as adviser to the US Treasury Department, the Justice Department and the Federal Reserve Board.

His insight in a 1978 paper that household decisions on consumption are a perfect indicator of their expectations was used by Woodford in a model on how consumption is determined.

Woodford also showed that central banks can stimulate or suppress economic activity by adjusting interest rates, rather than just by the amount of money in circulation.

Such concepts remain core to central banking today. Forward guidance became especially important after the 2008 financial crisis, when rates were near zero or even negative and standard monetary policy seemed to be out of ammunition.

Now, however, some are questioning how relevant it is given the amount of uncertainty in the global economy - with new US Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh a notable sceptic.

The economics prize, formally known as the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, is the final award to be given out this year and is worth 12 million Swedish crowns ($1.2 million).

First awarded in 1969, it is not one of the original five awards created in the 1895 will of industrialist and dynamite inventor Alfred Nobel, but was established by Sweden's central bank.

Skies over Riyadh

FROM PAGE 12

Saudi Arabia's energy minister acknowledged that the kingdom's infrastructure and resilience had been tested, as he vowed a firm response following a wave of deadly attacks by Houthis, reports AFP.

"For Saudi Arabia, these circumstances have tested our infrastructure, our institutions, our people, and our resilience. They have also tested decisions made long before present crises, because resilience is built before crises begin," Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said.

"Energy security can't be taken for granted," he told a high-profile conference in Riyadh. "The events of recent weeks are serious, our response must be equally serious."

Meanwhile, Iran said it was "deeply concerned" by escalating attacks between Houthis and Saudi Arabia, after 14 people died in two days of strikes on Riyadh's airport.

"We are deeply concerned about the developments taking place in the Arabian Peninsula," foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei told a weekly press conference, adding that Tehran was ready "to help facilitate dialogue between the parties".

A senior aviation source who oversees flights to the Gulf for an airline said operations would be halted for the remainder of the working week in Saudi Arabia, according to messages sent to the carrier yesterday from Saudi aviation authorities.

LPG prices still high despite improved supply

FROM PAGE 12

The society urged the government or the companies concerned to allow operational companies to refill millions of idle cylinders belonging to suppliers unable to provide gas for prolonged periods.

Other demands included showing original prices on company invoices to distributors, ensuring fair transport compensation for companies' failure to deliver gas to distributors' warehouses, and ending traffic police cases against LPG-carrying vehicles solely for lacking safety railings despite having all other required documents.

It also urged the Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection to stop imposing what it called "unethical and unreasonable fines".

Society leaders cited complications with letters of credit (LCs) as a factor behind the supply crisis, saying few companies remained operational. They also alleged that some companies increased prices without regulatory approval, sometimes within days of BERC announcing monthly rates.

Society President Md Selim Khan said traders faced repeated legal action and penalties despite appeals to the authorities. He cited a distributor in the Khulna-Bagerhat region who was heavily fined and had goods confiscated for storing 40 additional cylinders.

During the briefing, BERC Chairman Jalal Ahmed phoned the business leaders and assured them he would take steps to examine their demands and address the crisis, Selim said.

Jalal told The Daily Star that BERC planned to review dealer and retailer commissions, last fixed in 2021. "We will certainly hold a public hearing."

BERC's latest announcement fixes the distribution charge for a 12kg cylinder at Tk 50 and the retailer's charge at Tk 45.

Meanwhile, the LPG Operators Association of Bangladesh (LOAB) called for legal action against businesses hoarding cylinders or selling gas above the regulated price.

LOAB President Mohammed Amirul Haque said the association had repeatedly demanded action against violators.

"My position is clear: if any operator, distributor or retailer does anything wrong, take legal action against them," he said.

He acknowledged that consumers were paying 30-40 percent above the regulated price.

"We have urged law enforcement agencies, district administrations and consumer rights authorities to monitor retail markets and take action against violators," he added.

Man shot dead

FROM PAGE 2

The BGB members first issued verbal warnings, then fired three to four "warning shots", the commanding officer said.

He claimed the attackers did not disperse and instead assaulted a BGB member from behind. When the member turned around, a bullet was "inadvertently" fired, hitting one of the alleged smugglers, the official added.

The injured man was taken to Haluaghat Upazila Health Complex, where a doctor on duty declared him dead, he said.

BGB Nayek Rafiq suffered injuries to his right hand in a machete attack during the incident and received primary treatment, BGB sources said.

The body was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital morgue autopsy.

The OC said a case was being filed on charges of obstructing government officials in discharging duties.

Hurricane Simon churns off Mexican coast after shift in course

AFP, *Puerto Vallarta*

Hurricane Simon shifted track slightly on Sunday and was forecast to skirt Mexico's west coast without making landfall, while packing heavy rain and severe winds.

The cyclone -- downgraded one notch to a Category 3 storm on the five-point Saffir-Simpson scale -- is moving slowly and remained dangerous.

Weather reports had initially forecast a landfall around midday local time (1800 GMT) but data gathered by hurricane hunter aircraft indicated the cyclone was moving slower and would only reach about 15 kilometers (nine miles) off the coast of Jalisco state.

The US National Hurricane Center's (NHC) latest forecast published Sunday afternoon said the storm "appears to be feeling the effects of the nearby high terrain of the Sierra Madre Mountains as the inner core is brushing up against the Mexican coast."