CHIRANJIT BISWAS wins Best Male Actor at Tasveer Film Festival for 'Delupi'

Bangladeshi actor Chiranjit Biswas has won the Best Male Actor award at the Seattle-based Tasveer Film Festival for his performance in ***Delupi***.

Director Mohammad Touqir Islam recently accepted the award on the actor's behalf at the closing ceremony, according to a press release.

Delupi was the only Bangladeshi film at the festival's 21st edition. Tasveer is an Oscar-qualifying South Asian



festival.

The film will also compete at the Virginia Film Festival and London Bridge Film Festival on October 24.

Produced by Footprint Film Production, the film draws on a flood embankment collapse in Khulna and Bangladesh's political turmoil in 2024.

Released locally in 2025, ***Delupi*** has screened at the International Film Festival Rotterdam in the Netherlands and Karawan Film Fest in Italy.



Nine countries for Aparna Ghose this Puja

PHOTO: COLLECTED

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

For Aparna Ghose, Durga Puja has always been a time of cherished memories, family gatherings and celebrations back home. Although this year's festivities have taken her far from Bangladesh, the actress is making new memories as she travels across Europe with her husband while reminiscing about the Puja celebrations of her childhood.

The two-time National Film Award-winning actress, who currently lives in Japan with her husband, is spending this year's Puja holidays exploring Europe. The couple plans to visit nine countries and has already travelled to Switzerland, Italy and France.

Aparna, who began her acting career in theatre, gained popularity through numerous television dramas. She received her first National Film Award for ***Mrittika Maya*** and later won another National Film Award for ***Gondi***.

Speaking about celebrating Puja away from Bangladesh, Aparna said, "To tell the truth, nowhere in the world can offer the same Puja celebrations that we experience back home. The feeling is simply different. Abroad, I don't experience the same emotions that I associate with Puja in Bangladesh."

She also spoke about how the festival brings back memories of her late mother.

"Whenever Puja approaches, I deeply miss the days I spent celebrating it back home. Puja meant new clothes and delicious food. My mother's cooking was always special. She is no longer with us, and although I miss her every day, I miss her even more during Puja," she shared.

Recalling her childhood in Chattogram, Aparna said she spent her early years and university life in the city, where she made countless memories.

"All my memories of Puja are filled with happiness. Puja meant celebration, spending time with relatives and friends, and enjoying every moment together. Those were beautiful days," she recalled.

This year, however, the actress is making new memories with her husband as they travel across Europe.

"I'm really enjoying the Puja holidays. My husband and I are having a wonderful time travelling around Europe. We plan to visit nine countries," she said.

For Aparna, travelling offers more than just the opportunity to explore new destinations.

"There's a different kind of joy in travelling. It brings a wonderful sense of peace. You get to see, discover and learn so many things. I'm enjoying every moment of it," she added.

As the conversation continued, Aparna grew nostalgic about the Puja celebrations of her younger days.

"I'll never get back those golden days of celebrating Puja as a child. We had so much fun! Everything felt so wonderful. There was something truly special about Sharadiya Durga Puja," she reminisced.

Despite being away from home, the actress extended her wishes to everyone celebrating the festival in Bangladesh.

"I wish everyone a happy Puja. I hope the celebrations take place in a beautiful and peaceful environment across the country. May everyone's life be filled with happiness, and may people celebrate together in harmony and joy. That's what I wish for this Puja," she said.

The actress also shared that she often thinks about Bangladesh, her loved ones and her former colleagues from the entertainment industry.

Speaking about her life in Japan, Aparna said, "I'm living here with my husband and would love everyone's blessings. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers. I'm currently teaching at a school here, and I'm having a good time. Spending time with the children at school is a wonderful experience."

EVENTS

'Indian Ocean Cultural Exchange'



Alliance Française de Dhaka hosts an enlightening evening with historian Sahara Cassim, exploring the rich tapestry of Indian Ocean heritage. The talk examines how migration and trade shaped Réunion Island through the fascinating histories of the Zarab and Karane communities, uncovering deep cross-cultural ties and shared narratives across the subcontinent.

Date: Thursday | October 22, 2026
Time: 6:00pm onwards
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi

BTV to air special Durga Puja programme on Bijoya Dashami



Bangladesh Television (BTV) will air a special programme, ***Anjali Laho, Anjali***, to mark Durga Puja. Combining drama, dance and music, the programme will present the mythological story of Goddess Durga, from her arrival to the slaying of Mahishasura.

Produced by Yasmin Akter, the programme will be broadcast today, Bijoya Dashami, at 10:00pm. Jaya Saha and Abhijit will host the programme.

The programme celebrates the spirit of Sharadiya Durga Puja, highlighting the glory of Goddess Durga and the triumph of good over evil. Adhara Riya and Ratan Saha portray Goddess Durga and Mahishasura, respectively.

NEWS

Website names

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resort proprietor Md Tanvir Sultan Mia, chief manager Said Ahmed, manager Mohammad Saeed and assistant manager Zahid Hossain Suman. Suman has been arrested.

Sub-Inspector Ashish Sutradhar filed the case with Ukhiya Police Station on the day of the incident.

Asked about the ownership discrepancy, Officer-in-Charge Atikur Rahman said, "Initially, we found one person's name; now another name, Neaz Morshed, is emerging. We would include more names in the case if more information came to light."

Police are trying to arrest the other accused, he said, adding that Neaz's whereabouts remain unknown. Police have also sought a seven-day remand for Suman, hoping his interrogation will yield further information.

The OC said the fire destroyed the resort's documents, making it difficult to collect records, including its trade licence. Police are trying to obtain documents from various sources, including the union parishad.

On Saturday morning, the fire broke out at the wooden resort on Patuartek Beach. According to the Fire Service, the resort had a restaurant on the ground floor and guest accommodation on the two floors above. It lacked fire safety measures and was declared "risky" by the Fire Service in June.

84 held in raid at add'l DIG's Purbachal house

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received 70 percent of the earnings from the parties, while he took the rest, according to DB. The property was available for bookings through Airbnb, and "DJ parties" were regularly organised for those who booked it.

The arrestees have been sent for summary trial, Elias said.

Meanwhile, following the incident, Jahir, an officer from the 24th police batch, has been attached to the Police Headquarters.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Jahir said that his house had facilities for hosting birthday parties and family gatherings.

They take bookings through Airbnb, but drugs and "DJ parties" are prohibited under their rules. Those who violated the restrictions were blacklisted and fined, he said.

Regarding Monday night's incident, Jahir said the property had been rented out for a birthday party, but the guests brought drugs, which were recovered during the DB raid.

"What is our crime here? We rented out the property. Our guidelines explicitly prohibit drugs and DJ parties. Those found with drugs committed criminal offences," he said, while dismissing allegations that such parties were organised every day.

Every month, two to three parties were held at the venue, Jahir added.

Meanwhile, Opposition Leader and Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman has expressed concern over the country's deteriorating law and order situation following the recovery of drugs and arrests.

The involvement of a property belonging to a senior police official in such an incident has created concern and fear among the public, he said in a Facebook post.

The incident itself reflected the extent of the deterioration in law and order across the country.

Extortion, snatching, looting, robbery and other criminal and anti-social activities had reached alarming levels, he said.

Reserve forest cleared to make room for farming

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The Forest Department has filed two cases and a general diary (GD) with police over the destruction.

Yet, work has continued despite objections from forest officials, who allege obstruction and threats.

The problem arose after the district administration last year leased out 30 acres inside the reserved forest for two years.

The Forest Department has twice asked the district administration to cancel the lease, arguing that the land lies within a protected forest area.

According to Forest Department sources, 415 acres at Char Signboard were declared a reserved forest on April 4, 2010. Mangrove species were planted there, including jhau trees, across around 25 acres in the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Amir Hossain, a forest officer of Rangabali Range, said that the leaseholders, Arif Mir and Manik Molla, cut trees from a jhau plantation to prepare the land for watermelon farming.

Although the two cases are pending with court, work on the embankment began on October 17, allegedly under Arif Mir's direction, he said.

"After receiving reports that 200-300 chaila, keora, and jhau trees had been uprooted, forest officials tried to stop the work but failed," he said.

The department lodged a GD with Rangabali Police Station on October 17, naming three people, including Arif and Manik.

Arif Mir denied attempting to grab forest land. "We have taken out a lease of government land," he said. He refused to produce the lease document or disclose how much he had paid.

This correspondent obtained a document issued to 25 farmers by the Rangabali upazila land office on October 13, 2025, bearing the signature of a former upazila nirbahi officer (UNO). The document "allows" farming for one season or one year and states that the document cannot be used as an official government document in court.

Rangabali UNO Nazmul Hasan said no such permission had been granted since he took office.

"I do not know how the land was leased out. However, an initiative has been taken to identify forest land and khas land in consultation with the forest department and the leaseholders," he said, adding that action would be taken if anyone had cut trees.

In a letter dated October 15, Divisional Forest Officer Mohammad Zahidur Rahman Mia asked the deputy commissioner to cancel the lease and warned that it could threaten the forest, wildlife, biodiversity and surrounding mangrove ecosystem.

Abdul Qaiyum, additional deputy commissioner (revenue) of Patuakhali, said the administration was examining the Forest Department's letter.

"We are verifying the information and will take action in accordance with the rules. We will also investigate whether there were any irregularities in granting permission for cultivation in the past," he said.

Police struggle to act on list of 545 extortionists

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the Awami League and two former police members.

According to the DMP media wing, 41 individuals from the list have been arrested until October 8. Among them was Mizanur Rahman Swapan, president of BNP's ward-28 in Dhaka north.

On October 5, the Special Response Battalion (SRB), formerly known as Rab, held Swapan and handed him over to the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

The following day, he was granted bail after police produced him before a court. He was shown arrested in a case filed over demanding extortion from a doctor.

SRB sources, however, said Swapan was arrested over allegations of collecting extortion from footpath vendors.

Talking to this correspondent, Monirul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station, said SRB had not handed Swapan over in connection with any case. As a result, Swapan was arrested as a suspect in an old extortion case.

An official of the Tejgaon division said SRB recently handed over a BNP leader from the Khilkhet area whose name was on the list.

"We were in a difficult situation as we could not decide on the next course of action," he said. "He was later arrested in a case filed over extortion in the Karwan Bazar area. However, he secured bail within two days."

"If a listed extortionist secures bail within two or three days, then making a list or arresting them will not change the situation," he said.

Another DB officer, seeking anonymity, said police could not simply arrest anyone without a specific complaint or case.

"If we arrest someone based only on the list, under which case would we show them arrested? We need a clear guideline on this.

"As we are yet to receive any clear guideline, we are now proceeding slowly," he said.

Several police officials said the crackdown could not be carried out effectively by police alone, as field-level officers fear repercussions for taking action against politically connected persons.

An additional deputy commissioner of the DMP said listed extortionists have links with the ruling BNP.

"Whenever field-level officers were instructed to arrest them, they were loath to carry out the orders, saying that the individuals have connections with MPs or ministers and could take revenge on them later."

"It would be better if the crackdown were carried out through a joint drive led by the SRB or the army."

A deputy commissioner of DB said police recently traced the whereabouts of a leader of an associate organisation of the BNP.

However, after hearing that he has connections with a minister, field-level officers tried to avoid the drive to detain him, the DB official said, adding that, "A joint drive would be the best option, as it would ensure that police are not solely responsible for such arrests."

Talking to The Daily Star, BNP Joint Secretary General Syed Emran Saleh Prince said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is committed to ensuring safety and security of the people and fulfilling their expectations.

Those who want to undermine that commitment, whether they are from our party or outside it, should not be spared by the administration. There is no restriction, either from the party or the government, on arresting those involved in crimes, no matter how influential they are, he said.

"Where our leader Tarique Rahman has forced a sitting BNP MP to resign as soon as allegations were raised against him, and where the BNP has dissolved a metropolitan unit committee as well as its affiliated organisations, including Chhatra Dal and Jubo Dal, does that not send a message to the law enforcement agencies?"

Contacted, Manzur Morshed, senior home ministry secretary, said joint drives were already underway, with different law enforcement agencies carrying out their respective duties.

Regarding possible repercussions for taking action against politically influential individuals, he said political affiliation should not shield wrongdoers. "Police will take action in accordance with the law."

Patuakhali correspondent of 22 yrs dies

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while riding his motorbike from his village home in Auliapur to his residence in the Banani Mor area last morning.

Around 8:30am, he stopped near the Molla bus stand after experiencing pain, before collapsing on the road.

Locals and family members rushed him to the hospital, where he later died, said Shankar Das, a member of the Patuakhali Press Club.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at the Auliapur Sabina Akter High School field at 10:00am today. He will then be buried in the family graveyard, Shankar added.

Colleagues broke down in tears when Sohrab's body was brought to the Patuakhali Press Club around 10:00pm.

Expressing profound grief, members of the press club said the club "was Sohrab Bhai's life".

The Barishal Reporters' Unity also expressed grief over his death.

Sohrab joined The Daily Star on January 1, 2004.

A former secretary of the Patuakhali Press Club, he was its vice-president at the time of his death.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, a daughter and several relatives.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam expressed deep sorrow at Sohrab's death, recalling his more than two decades of dedicated service to the newspaper and his commitment to reporting on the lives and struggles of coastal communities.

He extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

During his stint at The Daily Star, Sohrab reported extensively on coastal livelihoods, environmental issues, healthcare, agriculture, infrastructure and development projects.

His reports exposed alleged bribery in land acquisition for the Patuakhali EPZ, irregularities in road construction, doctor shortages at government hospitals and bridges that remained unusable for years.

He also reported on the unexplained deaths of 140 dolphins along Kuakata beach, as well as the struggles of fishing communities and coastal erosion.

More recently, Sohrab contributed to an investigative report on the underutilisation of Payra Port despite massive public investment.

He received The Daily Star's Best District Reporter-2023 award in recognition of his work.

Beyond journalism, Sohrab was active in professional organisations and social welfare initiatives.

He served as joint secretary of the Patuakhali Press Club in 2010 and general secretary in the mid-2010s. He was elected vice-president multiple times and also served as acting president.

He was also general secretary of the Prof AKM Shahidul Islam Trust, an organisation supporting underprivileged students and families.