

# I hope 2022 has intriguing roles for me:

## JAYA AHSAN

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National Award winning actor Jaya Ahsan has garnered immense appreciation on national and international platforms for her impeccable performances over the years. The trailer of her upcoming film “Jhora Palok” was released recently. The diva is also being featured in new Kolkata based production which is currently in works.

In a candid chat with The Daily Star, Jaya Ahsan talks about her upcoming ventures and shares her hopes for 2022.

You have been appointed as the The United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) Goodwill Ambassador in Bangladesh. How do you feel? I am honoured to be named the Goodwill Ambassador of UNDP and extremely privileged to join the team in working towards these goals.

I will advocate and mobilise action to work on SDGs through online and offline media and all other platforms I have access to.

**Tell us a bit about “Jhora Palok”.**

The film is based on the life of celebrated poet Jibanananda Das, played by noted Indian actor Bratya Basu. I will be seen in two characters in the production – as his wife Labanyaprabhai Das who has been his inspiration throughout his journey and as Suranjana.

Playing two characters was challenging but I enjoyed it as it pushed me to extends I did not know I was capable of reaching as an actor.

**When will the film be released?**

The script of this film is amazing and the director, Sayantan Mukherjee, has crafted it in a very exceptional manner. I hope its unique story telling style and our effort appeals to the audience. We plan to bring the film to the spectators by February or March, 2022.

**You recently returned after shooting for a new Kolkata-based production. How far along is the film at the moment?**

I am playing the role of a revolutionary in “Kalantor Bangabhanger Biplobi Jug”, film based on the Partition on Bengal. The project is directed by Soukarya Ghosal.

We have partly shot for the film and plan to resume shooting in the New Year in Jharkhand. This historic film has the potential to become a legend and these are the kind of projects I look to be associated with.

**What kind of roles would you like to play the upcoming year?**

I want 2022 to have intriguing characters in store for me, ones which will help me grow as an artiste.

**The script of this film is amazing and the director, Sayantan Mukherjee, has crafted it in a very exceptional manner.**



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL



PHOTOS: COLLECTED



## ‘My prayers are with Sohel Rana’

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, renowned actress Babita, who is currently in Canada, spoke about her close bond with Sohel Rana, who was put on life support at a city hospital recently. “I was devastated to learn about Sohel Rana’s deteriorating health. I was informed that he needed to take an injection. Even if I am far away, my prayers are with him. I wish my close friend and favourite hero Sohel Rana a speedy recovery,” she said.

READ THE FULL STORY ONLINE.

## ‘Don’t allow my kids on social media’

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular actress Penelope Cruz doesn’t allow her kids to have social media accounts due to her “tough” thoughts about technology.

The 47-year-old actress revealed that she has a strange relationship with social media and finds too much usage of social media doesn’t make sense.

During an interview with “CBS Sunday Morning”, the “Wasp Network” revealed that she believes social media is affecting younger generations and that the world is experimenting with them.

“It’s like, yeah, we’re going to watch movies sometimes or some cartoons. How can I not let them watch movies?” said Penelope.

“That has been, like, some incredible moments of happiness since I was a little girl. But not phones until they are much older and no social media until at least 16,” added the actress.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

# COUNTRYWIDE



## Mobarak, with challenges, aces SSC

S DILIP ROY

Despite having no fingers to grip a pen, Mobarak Ali, 16, has passed last year’s SSC examination obtaining GPA-3.84. Despite an insurmountable odd, Mobarak clung to the hope to pursue his education. He would write with his leg up to class two. Later, he learnt how to write gripping pen with his wrists.

But it was not an easy task to accomplish, he had to try hard to acquire the skills to write with his wrists. Through relentless efforts, he eventually mastered the skills to write.

Mobarak is the son of Enamul Haque, a day labourer from Dharmapur village of Kashipur union in Phulbari upazila of Kurigram. He passed the JSC examination from Kashipur High School in 2016 securing GPA 5. Despite his physical disability and poverty, he is continuing his study.

“I seek everyone’s blessings,” Mobarak said adding, “I wish I could reach the tertiary level of education. I wish to be established in my life.”

“At first, it was very difficult for me to write with the wrists. Now, it has become natural to me. I have been struggling and I have learned to live by struggle. I dream to take part in the BCS exam,” he also said.

“My father is a day labourer,” Mobarak said adding that “It is difficult for my father to pay for my education. This is the main problem; however, I will try my best to fulfill my aspirations.”

Enamul Haque said they have dreams regarding his son’s future success.

“He is studying on his own effort. I do not always have enough money to pay for his educational expenses. But I will do my best to educate Mobarak,” he said.

Mobarak’s classmate Shariful Islam said that although Mobarak writes with his wrists, his writing is more legible and artistic than many others. He is skilled in sports as well.

Zaidul Haque, headteacher of Kashipur High School, said Mobarak is physically-challenged, but he is meritorious and well-versed in cultural activities.

BAIKUNTHAPUR TEA GARDEN

# Tea workers passing hard days

Over 400 permanent workers in Habiganj’s Madhabpur upazila unpaid for 4 weeks



Workers at Baikunthapur Tea Garden in Habiganj’s Madhabpur upazila demonstrate to press home their 25-point demand.

PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Over four hundred workers of Baikunthapur Tea Garden in Habiganj’s Madhabpur upazila with their family members have been passing days in hardship as they are not getting paid their wages or receiving rations for nearly a month.

During a visit to the teagarden area this correspondent saw, due to the closure of the rationing, about 409 permanent workers of the tea garden along with their 2,000 family members are facing acute food crisis and living on either starving or half-fed.

Baikunthapur Tea Workers’ Movement Committee President Manib Karmakar told this correspondent that though the garden owner was supposed to provide housing facility to all the

permanent workers, one of the workers Dilip Keut didn’t had any house to live long.

Despite repeated reminder, the garden authority did not take any step in this regard.

After a long wait, Dilip took verbal permission from the manager of the tea garden and erected a tin-shed house on a cropland inside the garden in the middle of November last year.

But, by the end of November, surprisingly the garden owner served an eviction notice and asked Dilip to remove his house from the cropland.

Later, when other tea workers protested the eviction notice and spoke in Dilip’s favour, the garden authority verbally warned some and told them that they would lose their job if they continue their agitation.

But, in the face of continuous agitation by the workers, the authority concerned closed the tea garden on December 8.

In addition, they also stopped the wages and rations of the workers from the same day, Manib added.

Tea worker Rupanti Rabidas said all of a sudden the owner closed the tea garden and put them in huge trouble.

Most of them passing their days either starving or taking loan from local moneylenders, she said.

While talking to this correspondent, Marzia Prova, rights activist, said failing to tolerate the hunger many workers and their family members falling sick.

Moreover, they were not getting any treatment facilities as the tea garden hospital has remained closed for the past four weeks.

On December 14 last year, the garden authority filed a case with Madhabpur Police Station against 12 workers for launching vandalism at the garden premises.

Acting Manager of Baikunthapur Tea Garden Shamsul Haque said the situation arises after one of the workers started erecting a house on agricultural land without prior permission from the garden authorities.

They will go for a tougher agitation if their 25-point demand are not met by January 3, Bangladesh Tea Workers’ Union Acting General Secretary Nripen Paul said.

Deputy Director at Sreemangal Divisional Labour Office Nahidul Islam said they called the two parties for a meeting at their office today (Monday).