

## ‘This is overwhelming’

Jaya Ahsan on her hat-trick Filmfare win



PHOTOS: TAKEN FROM JAYA AHSAN'S FACEBOOK

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Jaya Ahsan recently won the Joy Filmfare Award (Bangla) for Best Actress in the popular category for her performance in Atanu Ghosh's "Binisutoy". It is Jaya Ahsan's third Filmfare Award.

The actress' achievement was lauded on social media, bringing her into the conversation for perhaps being one of the greatest Bangladeshi actress of her generation.

**“It honestly feels great to win in the ‘Popular’ category, which means that the audience themselves chose me as their favourite,” says the emotional actress, who is equally beloved on both sides of the border.**

She previously won the Bangla Filmfare Award for Best Actress (Critics') in 2021 for her efforts in "Bijoya" and "Robibar". In 2018, she won award for Best Actress in the popular category for her performance in "Bishorjon".

"Binisutoy" has been creating quite a stir amongst moviegoers since its release.

"All this is too overwhelming," Jaya Ahsan told The Daily Star. "I am completely speechless and grateful. We had an incredible team of people working on this film. We are very happy with the outcome."

The actress also thanked the jury board for their decision.

"It honestly feels great to win in the 'Popular' category, which means that the audience themselves chose me as their favourite," says the emotional actress, who is equally beloved on both sides of the border.

Jaya believes that the filmmaking style and powerful story of "Binisutoy" drew audiences to the movie.

She is currently shooting for her upcoming movie, "Kalantar" in Jharkhand, India. On the other hand, renowned Indian director Suman Mukhopadhyay has cast Jaya Ahsan to play Kusum in a film based on eminent Indian litterateur Manik Bandyopadhyay's novel, "Putulnacher Iti Kotha".



## Puja Chery turns gymnast for ‘MASUD RANA’

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

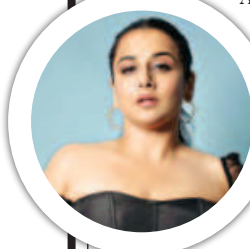
Puja Chery will be playing a gymnast in Saikat Nasir's much-anticipated film, "Masud Rana". She has been undergoing training at Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishtan (BKSP) for the role. She shared some photos across social media recently.

Puja looked fit and confident sporting a traditional gymnast outfit while practicing moves like 'Front Turn Split' and 'Back Somersault Back Turn'.

Based on Qazi Anwar Hussain's thriller series, "Masud Rana" is slated to be released this December.

## ‘I didn’t have courage to look in the mirror for six months’

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Bollywood actress Vidya Balan recently starred in the crime thriller "Jalsa", where she shared screen space with Shefali Shah.

In an interview during the promotions for the film, Vidya recalled how she was once made to feel so ugly by a producer that she could not look at herself in the mirror for six months.

When asked if the same producers who replaced her then, call her for films now, the actress said, "In the recent times, I have received calls from them but I politely refused to be part of their films. I was kicked out of 13 films."

"When one producer replaced me in a film, their behaviour with me was very bad. They made me feel so ugly that for six months, I could not gather the courage to look at myself in the mirror," she added.

# COUNTRYWIDE

## Sand lifting poses threat to century-old bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Lalmोनirhat

Unplanned extraction of sand from Dudhkumar river in Kurigram's Bhurungamari upazila posing serious threat to century-old Sonahat Bridge on the river.

The iron-structured bridge was constructed during the British era, sources said.

People living nearby the bridge said a syndicate of some 12 to 15 local influential men has been extracting sand from the river near the bridge for the last two months.

Although local administration is aware of the matter, they are yet to take any legal action against the perpetrators due to unknown reasons, they alleged.

They said members of the syndicate in cooperation with the chairman of Paikerchhara Union Parishad (UP) continuing the illegal act, defying the law.

No one dares to protest the illegal activity as all the syndicate members are locally influential, they further said.

Sabur Ali, 65, who lives near Sonhat Bridge, said there are vast cultivable land, many dwelling houses and other establishments close to the bridge.

The entire area may face serious erosion threat during the upcoming monsoon due to mindless sand lifting from the riverbed, he added.

Another local Taher Ali, 60, a farmer, said about 200 to 250 trucks carries the sand all day long.

Moreover, due to movement of sand-laden heavy trucks almost all the village roads are getting damaged and will gradually become unfit for use during the rainy season, he said.

Sabirul Islam, 55, a trader at Sonahat Land Port, said the iron-structured bridge is

the only way that connects Sonahat Land Port with other parts of the country.

Trading will be seriously hampered if the bridge collapses, he added.

Khairul Islam, one of the syndicate members involved in the sand lifting, said hired labourers are extracting sand manually from a place far from the bridge.

The sand extraction will not cause any damage to bridge and nearby croplands, homesteads and other structures, he claimed.

Contacted, Paikerchhara UP Chairman Abdur Razzak denied the allegation brought against him and said he did not know anything about the illegal sand extraction.

Bhurungamari Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Dipak Kumar Dev Sharma said they were taking preparation to stop the illegal sand lifting from the river.



Random sand extraction from the Dudhkumar river in Kurigram's Bhurungamari upazila puts nearby Sonahat Bridge under threat.

PHOTO: STAR

## Finland

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its many victims," co-author Jan-Emmanuel De Neve said.

The World Happiness Report, now in its 10th year, is based on people's own assessment of their happiness, as well as economic and social data.

It assigns a happiness score on a scale of zero to 10, based on an average of data over a three-year period.

Northern Europeans once again dominated the top spots -- with the Danes second to the Finns, followed by the Icelandic, the Swiss and the Dutch.

The United States rose three places to 16th, one ahead of Britain. France climbed to 20th, its highest ranking yet.

As well as a personal sense of wellbeing, based on Gallup polls in each country, the happiness score takes account of GDP, social support, personal freedom and levels of corruption.

## TCB's mega

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However, Dhaka and Barishal City Corporations areas have not been brought under the programme for lack of accurate lists of beneficiary consumers.

Regular open market sales of basic commodities will continue in the two city corporation areas.

The TCB has bought two crore litres of edible oil at Tk 155 per litre and Tk 157 per litre, said Shafiquzzaman.

Another two crore litre of edible oil was bought at Tk 168 per litre from the local markets. Lentil was bought at Tk 88-89 per kg, he said.

The TCB will also sell the dates at Tk 80 per kg during Ramadan only in Dhaka.

## Amir Hamza

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Ilias Ahmed Chowdhury, martyred Col Khandoker Nazmul Huda (Bir Bikram) (posthumous), Abdul Jalil, Siraj Uddin Ahmed, Md Sohiuddin Biswas (posthumous), and Sirajul Haque (posthumous) will receive the award in the "independence and the Liberation War" category.

Prof Konok Kanti Borua and Prof Md Kamrul Islam will receive the award in "medicine" and architect Syed Mainul Hossain (posthumous) in "architecture".

Bangladesh Wheat and Maize Research Institute (BWMRI) will receive the award in "research and training" category.

The government will confer them with the award recognising their outstanding contributions to the country at the

national level.

Our Jhenaidah correspondent reports Amir Hamza, who hailed from Magura, had a murder case filed against him 44 years ago.

The murder took place in 1978 in Barishat village of Sreepur upazila of Magura.

Six people, including Amir Hamza, were sentenced to life imprisonment in the case.

Md Rezaul Haque Mollah, 77, brother of life-term awardee Aljal Mollah, said he was an eyewitness of Shahadat Hossain Fakir murder case.

Amir Hamza stabbed Shahadat in the chest with a spear while his brother Golam Rabbani stabbed him in the abdomen over a trivial matter, Rezaul said.

Shahadat died after a few minutes, he added.

## Hope for justice

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Hossain, who suffered a stroke, it is an agonising wait.

"I am worried that I will not be able to see the killers get punished as my health is not well," he said.

On the night of March 20, 2016, he spotted her lifeless body in a bush. There were injury marks on her nose and the back of her head was smashed.

The following day, he filed a murder case against unidentified people.

However, the police inquest and the first autopsy reports did not mention the preliminary evidence of the murder.

The first autopsy did not find any evidence that the victim was raped before being killed. It also failed to determine the cause of her death.

After examining her clothes at a CID laboratory, the agency's investigators

found the presence of three spermatozoa of three males, exposing the flaws of the first autopsy.

Following a court order, Tonu's body was exhumed for a fresh autopsy. But it could neither "determine" the cause of her death nor confirm if she was raped.

After collecting the DNA results from CID, doctors involved in the fresh autopsy said evidence of "intercourse before death" was found.

Tonu's parents rejected both the autopsy reports, saying those were full of wrong information and prepared to save influential people involved in the murder.

"We have now realised that we will not get justice. I am hoping against the hope that the killers would be punished before my death," said a grieving Anwara.

## First puzzle

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constructed on the Padma, said Golam Kibria, managing director at Power Grid Company of Bangladesh.

Construction of the five other towers will be done by June while the cables will be set up by December, he added.

Bangladesh-China Power Company Limited (BCPCL) built the power plant on 982.77 acres of land at a cost of around Tk 20,000 crore or \$2.46 billion. Of the amount, \$1.96 billion was lent by the Export-Import Bank of China. The company started working in 2016.

The power plant is burning some 13,000 tonnes of coal a day, generating 180 tonnes of fly and bottom ash as byproducts.

BCPCL Assistant Manager Shahmoni Ziko said the plant has a 76.30 acre dumping zone where 25 years worth of byproduct can be kept.

The plant is currently importing coal from Indonesia. It has its own jetty whose conveyor belts can unload 3,200 tonnes of coal every hour from four vessels at the same time.

Bangladesh's power generation capacity reached 25,514 MW from just 4,942MW in 2009, according to data.

In 2013, the government planned to build a coal terminal, airport, special economic zone, rail connectivity, shipyard, liquid bulk terminal, and LNG terminal in Payra-Dhankhali area of Kalapara, Patuakhali.

The government is implementing four projects related to the port at a cost of Tk 15,863 crore. Physical establishments of the port made 80 percent progress.

[Sohrab Hossain contributed to the report]