

You will see a different Jaya in ‘Fereshte’

Jaya Ahsan on her first Iranian film

After conquering film industries of both Bangladesh and Kolkata, National Award winning actress Jaya Ahsan is set to feature in Iranian film “Fereshte”.

SHAH ALAM SH AZU

The Bangladesh-Iran joint venture film, directed by Morteza Atashzamaz, has been shot in Bangladesh, and Jaya's straightforward look has impressed one and all.

In a candid chat with The Daily Star, Jaya opens up about her experience in the project.

This is your first Iranian film. Did you face a language barrier while shooting for it?

Art has no boundaries; more important than the

working-class people.

You have been shooting for “Fereshte” for 25 days straight. Can you share a memorable incident from the sets?

While working on the film, I came across this poor woman, who wanted some help. She could not recognise me, as I was driving. I told her that I would give her the money as soon as I get off from the car.

In the end, I could not find her but I was left stunned, as she couldn't recognise me. She probably thought I was poor due to my wretched make-over! Apart from that, while shooting near the railways, I landed up in what was straight-up muddy water!

Tell us about your character in “Fereshte”.

I play the role of a strong woman, who struggles to make ends meet. I do not want to reveal much about the plot. People will get to see a

different Jaya in this film. Iranian director Morteza Atashzamaz worked hard on this movie. We have been shooting the film in various locations including New Market, Jamuna Future Park, and Bashundhara. We are almost done with most of the shooting.

How was the experience on working on this film?

As an artiste, I find sheer thrill in learning through my films. It really did not feel like acting, as the character came naturally to me.

language is the need to connect with the audiences. Iranian films are respected globally among the audience. The crew members could only speak Iranian, but we managed to communicate nonetheless. We vibed together, and were able to create this feel-good film, which I am sure that the audience will love.

“Fereshte” dwells into the humane stories of a rickshaw puller, and the struggles of



Jaya Ahsan in 'Fereshte'



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL



‘The Bad Guys’ thrashes ‘Fantastic Beasts’ at box office

DreamWorks Animation and Universal's "The Bad Guys" now has a projected opening of \$25 million, more than enough to topple "Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore" from the number one position..

The animated film, about a ragtag group of crooked animals, grossed \$8 million on Friday.

Another release, "Sonic the Hedgehog 2" is also beating the Harry Potter spinoff, with a projected gross of \$14 million.

"Fantastic Beasts 3" has fallen off sharply only on its second week, as fans gravitate towards newer releases.

Nawazuddin Siddiqui takes a dig at big-budget films



Nawazuddin Siddiqui has recently criticised mainstream big-budget films, saying that these only create shock amongst the audience. "Where is the actual cinema?" said Nawaz in a recent interview, saying that these are just visual treats. He added that these films are also endangering smaller budget, creative projects.

Movies including SS Rajamouli's "RRR" and Prashanth Neel's "KGF Chapter 2" were recently released, cornering Bollywood while dominating the box office.

The actor also thanked OTT platforms, as they allow creative projects to prosper.

COUNTRYWIDE

GARBAGE DUMPING GROUND

A nuisance for town dwellers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

The garbage dumping ground in Jhenidah municipality has become a nuisance for the town dwellers.

Besides, several thousand residents living in nearby seven villages are the worst sufferers due to the landfill at Jargram village, which is only a kilometre away from the municipality area and not far from the Jhenidah-Chuadanga road.

Moreover, the bad odour and dirt spreading from the huge dumping ground is also posing health hazard for local people as well as hundreds of students of different institutions who use the road every day.

According to the municipality sources, Jhenidah Municipality was established in 1958 while the dumping site, which is around 6.63 acres, was acquired in 1966 and '67.

Mentionable, once there was no locality nearby the

landfill, but now thousands of people of Jargram, Rautaina, Hakimpur, Hamerhati, Chandpur, Nagarbathan and Goalpara villages in Jhenidah Sadar upazila use the road along the vast waste dumping spot.

During a recent visit to the spot this correspondent saw the landfill, which is around 600-feet long and 150-feet wide, has demarcation walls on its east and north sides and two gates on the west.

Meanwhile, due to the bad odour spreading from the garbage, villagers were seen crossing the area holding their nose.

Retired banker Abdul Wahab of Jargram village said the dumping area is posing serious health threat to locals due to the dirt and stinky smell spreading from the landfill.

Besides, around 500 students of different institutions, who use the road daily, find it very difficult while walking along the road beside the dumping zone, he said, adding that mostly people

of Jargram village suffer from different diseases, compared to the other villages.

Mohammad Younus Ali of Jargram and Lavlu Mia of Nagarbathan village said they suffer the most during the rainy season as the entire main road gets overflowed with the garbage.

They said people living near the dumping area cannot even stay at their homes as the bad smell keeps spreading all around.

Tanzim Aktar Mita, a college student, said she finds it extremely difficult while crossing the area.

She also urged the authorities concerned to take immediate step to shift the landfill to another place.

Mohamad Earul Islam, administrator at Jhenidah Municipality, said it is very difficult for them to shift the landfill to another place within a short time.

He is not the right man to do so as he is holding this post temporarily, Earul added.



Dumping of garbage at Jargram village in Jhenidah Municipality badly affects local environment and poses serious health risk to people living in nearby villages. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Another haor

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Committee but they did not take any steps to save it, said Tarun Kanti Das, president of Haor Bachao Andolon in Shalla upazila in Sunamganj.

In the early morning, the dyke broke, he said.

"As we still have a couple of days before the water submerges our part, we are hopeful of completing the harvest," said FM Mobarak Ali, deputy director of DAE in Netrokona.

The flash flood triggered by torrential rainfall in India's Meghalaya submerged 9,700 hectares of Boro cropland in the haors of eight districts in the country's north-eastern region.

Within days of the flash flood, which first hit on March 30, three major dykes in Sunamganj along with a few others broke in the Sunamganj district.

Man to serve eight years

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On October 18, 2019, anti-religious posts were sent from the Facebook account of Biplob Chandra Baidya, a resident of Bhola's Borhanuddin upazila, which sparked anger and protests among locals.

Police then arrested Md Emon, 18, and Kamrul Islam Sharif, 18, who are residents of Patuakhali, the next day.

On October 20, a group of religious zealots, from a rally, attacked police. The incident left four people dead and at least 100 others injured.

Immediately after the attack, 12 Hindu houses and a temple were vandalised in the upazila.

Later, Delwar Hossain, sub-inspector of Borhanuddin police, filed a case against Biplob, Emon and Kamrul under the DSA.

The case was then handed over to Police Bureau of Investigation on January 17, 2020, for further investigation and Barishal's PBI inspector Mahfuzur Rahman was appointed as the investigating officer.

The PBIs investigation revealed that Biplob, Emon and Kamrul were innocent and Biplob's account was hacked by Bapon.

On August 25, 2020, police arrested Bapon from Dhaka's Paltan area and produced him before a court, where he gave a confessional statement.

On August 1, 2021, the PBI submitted a charge sheet against Bapon,

dropping the charges against Biplob, Emon and Kamrul.

The three innocent men languished behind bars for around two years.

Sri Lanka

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global and regional diplomacy in recent years.

"One needs to be very clever in terms of rebalancing relationship with the global powers," said Haque, also Bangabandhu chair at Delhi University.

Sulochana R Mohan, deputy editor at Sri Lankan newspaper Ceylon Today, said the good thing is that the people in Sri Lanka are now united in their demands for change.

The discussion was moderated by Prof Gour Gobinda Goswami of North South University.

Protester, teen son picked up

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was picked up."

C o n t a c t e d . Mohammad Faruquzzaman, assistant commissioner of DMP (New Market zone), said the two were picked up for obstructing police from discharging their duties.

The teen was released around 10:30pm yesterday and Ratna around midnight, he said.

He said Ratna was allowed to go after she "signed a bond".

As her attention was drawn to the matter, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, criticised police for detaining the mother and son.

"Can anyone answer where children [of the area] will play if this place [playground] is used to build

a police station?" she asked.

She said, "The boy was kept in a police lockup. It is totally illegal because he is under 18."

She argued his detention was also illegal as he did not commit any juvenile offence. "How can they detain a boy who is below 18, ignoring the law and directive of the court?"

A photo of reportedly the boy in a cell was doing the rounds on social media, drawing flak.

On January 31, Dhaka Deputy Commissioner's office handed over the playground's land to Dhaka Metropolitan Police to set up an establishment for Kalabagan Police Station.

Locals refused to give up the playground. For several months, they've been demonstrating with the demand to keep it as it is for the sake of the children.

Over the years, Tentultala playground, which is on about a bigha of land, had been used as a playground, an Eidgah, and a place for namaz-e-janazas.

Iqbal Habib, joint secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, earlier said that in the proposed Detailed Area Plan, the ground was not earmarked as a playground. But in sub-zone-17 (Dhanmondi, Zibatola, Kalabagan and Kathalbagani), there is a proposal to keep sufficient open spaces for the areas.

According to the playground, open spaces, parks and water bodies conservation act, no one can change the characteristics of a playground. As the place has been used as a playground for a long time, changing its characteristics would be illegal, he added.

According to a 2014 High Court judgement, there is a specific direction for the DC office to take action against any encroachment on open spaces or playgrounds.

However, no such action is being taken in this case.

Macron beats

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Charles Michel, wrote on Twitter. "In this turbulent period, we need a solid Europe and a France totally committed to a more sovereign and more strategic European Union."

Macron will join a small club - only two French presidents before him have managed to secure a second term. But his margin of victory looks to be tighter than when he first beat Le Pen in 2017, underlining how many French remain unimpressed with him and his domestic record.