

# 'I am not a big star'

Jaya Ahsan strives forward with humility

**I have learned a lot from the lives of different people while playing different characters. When I look closely at life, fame, stardom, glamour, and glitter just seem meaningless to me. Rather than walking around the vanity fair, enjoying the little things in life is more important to me as a human being.**

ZAHID AKBAR

Jaya Ahsan recently won the award for the Best Actress at the Anandalok Awards 2022 in Kolkata for her performance in 'Binisutoy'.

A few months ago, she received the Filmfare Awards Bangla for the same film. The star recently spoke to The Daily Star about her experience with the film and upcoming projects.

**How does it feel receive the award for Best Actress at the Anandalok Awards 2022?**



Each award only adds to my responsibilities. The civic fairy tale that director Atanu Ghosh has woven through 'Binisutoy' has become more rewarding through such accolades.

**The movie was written bearing you in mind. How did it feel when you first came across this fact?**

I am unaware of the fact whether the film was written bearing me in mind. Nevertheless, I do know that the production team did wait for me, until I was available

for shooting.

I have been in this line of work for a long time and thus, I believe they found me dependable. However, that does not mean that I am that big of a star -- I just have the patience and the resilience that an absolute necessity for acting.

**How would you rate yourself as an actor?**

How can one evaluate themselves! It's the audience that will rate our performance, not us. I give my best effort but I never felt that I needed a roadmap, nor do I plan the future. I just believe that if I work sincerely, the rest comes as a reward.

**You do come across a lot of simulated realism through your work. I have learned a lot from the lives of different people while playing different characters.**

When I look closely at life, fame, stardom, glamour, and glitter just seem meaningless to me. Rather than walking around the vanity fair, enjoying the little things in life is more important to me as a human being.

**What are your upcoming projects?**

I am eagerly looking forward to Morteza Atashzamaz's "Fereshte", Suman Mukhopadhyay's "Putul Nacher Itikatha", Soukary Ghosal's "Kalantar", and Mahmud Didar's "The Beauty Circus".



PHOTOS: TAKEN FROM JAYA AHSAN'S OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE.

## Ilias Kanchan honoured with lifetime achievement award in India

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Veteran actor and the President of Film Artistes Association, Ilias Kanchan is revered for his contribution towards the film industry and his

selfless efforts to ensure road safety. This time the actor has been honoured with the Lifetime Achievement award named after Legendary Nayak Raj Razzak in India. The award ceremony was arranged by Bengal Film and Television Chamber of Commerce (BFTCC).

Ilias Kanchan expressed his heartfelt gratitude towards several media outlets, saying that he is overwhelmed with the award named after his idol.

In his acting career, the "Beder Meye Jochona" famed actor has been featured in more than three hundred films.



## 'Nazrul Uthsab' to begin on May 25 at Chhayanaut

Marking the birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Chhayanaut has organised "Nazrul Uthsab" from May 25-26.

Kazi Nazrul Islam crafted his place as one of the best poets in Bangla literature with his remarkable poems including "Bidrohi", "Daridro", "Maa", "Barangana" and "Bashonti". Alongside poems, novels and short stories, Nazrul has written around four thousand songs including Shyamasangeet, Bhajan, and Kirtan.

The two-day event, featuring performances inspired by Nazrul's literature and songs, will be held at Chhayanaut's auditorium at 7 pm.

The festival will also be aired on Chhayanaut's official Facebook page and YouTube channel.

# COUNTRYWIDE

## Riverside people in precarious situation

Dyke collapses in Kalapara due to high tide under the impact of full moon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

People living on the bank of the Ramnabad river in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali are in a precarious condition as around 500 feet of the dyke on the river has been washed away due to the high tide under the impact of the full moon recently.

Jahangir Sikder, a fisherman along with his three children and his wife, has taken shelter on another dyke as he lost his shelter to the abnormally high tide due to the impact of Cyclone Ashani on May 9.

The grief of this landless family seems perpetual as their address changes every year. But Jahangir is not the only one who has borne the brunt of the furious river. At least 50 other

families have been displaced in the incident. Those shelterless families are trying to find a nook on other dams or roads in the periphery.

Fisherman Abul Hossain, who has also lost his shelter, said "I took shelter on the dyke as I have no land property but now I and my family are in utter distress. I don't even afford to erect a makeshift shelter."

Local UP member Zafar Ali Hawlader said that before Eid this year, some parts of the dyke on the banks of Ramnabad river were repaired at the initiative of the Payra Port authority, but this time it has been washed away by the high tide. Now tidal water is entering villages.

There seems to be no let-up in the sufferings of the people of

at least eight villages including Chandupara, Munsipara, Burojalia and Nawapara, he said.

Md Arif Hossain, executive engineer of the Water Development Board (WDB) in Kalapara, said that about a 2.50-kilometre-long dyke at Lalua and Devpur villages of Champapur union on the Rabnabad river banks has been washed away. About two kilometres area of the dyke is being repaired.

Some parts of this ongoing work have also been washed away by the pressure of tidal water.

WDB has allocated around Tk 9 crore for the repair of these dams, he said, adding that about six kilometres of the dyke in Lalua area will be repaired by the Payra Port authority.

**Around 500 feet stretch of a dyke on the bank of Ramnabad river in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila has been damaged due to tidal surge rendering at least 50 families shelterless.**

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN



## Services

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resume with BR rake (train) and that of Bandhan Express from Kolkata with Indian Railway's rake, they said.

Mitali Express, the fully-airconditioned direct train with 10 coaches, will be operated twice from Dhaka and twice from the NJP every week, the officials mentioned.

The train will leave Dhaka at 9:50pm on Monday and Thursday and reach the NJP at 7:15am on Tuesday and Friday.

On the other hand, it will depart from the NJP at 11:45am on Sunday and Wednesday and arrive in Dhaka at 10:30pm the same day, they said.

Customs formalities will be completed at Dhaka's Cantonment Station and the NJP Station.

## Australia votes for climate action

REUTERS, Melbourne

Australia's election has brought in a wave of Greens and independents pushing for aggressive targets to cut carbon emissions, who will pressure the incoming Labor government to step up its climate plans if it wants to pass any legislation.

The country's biggest polluters in mining, oil and gas and building materials face a gradual tightening of allowed carbon emissions, while Labor aims to boost demand for electric vehicles and speed up renewable energy developments.

The election result, with the pivotal role climate change played, represents a remarkable shift for Australia, one of the world's biggest per capita carbon emitters and top coal and gas exporters. It was shunned at last year's Glasgow climate summit for failing to match other rich nations' ambitious targets.

## Self-isolate if you have fever

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already alerted all public hospitals in this regard, she mentioned.

"The surveillance and health screening have to be strengthened at all international airports and land ports for the passengers coming from the infected countries," read a circular issued by the DGHS on Saturday.

Usually, the infected could recover within four to eight weeks.

So far, over 80 cases of monkeypox, a disease that

is caused by infection with monkeypox virus, have been confirmed in at least 12 countries, including the US, Canada, Australia, the UK, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Italy and Sweden, reports BBC.

The World Health Organisation has said another 50 suspected cases were being investigated -- without naming any countries -- and warned that more cases were likely to be reported.

In a statement on Friday,

the WHO said the recent outbreaks "are atypical, as they are occurring in non-endemic countries".

The virus does not spread easily between people and the risk of wider transmission is said to be very low.

Monkeypox is most common in remote parts of Central and West Africa.

There is no specific vaccine for monkeypox, but a smallpox jab offers 85 percent protection since the two viruses are quite similar.

## 'More damaging than murders'

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serious offence which cannot be taken lightly.

With the observation, the bench summarily rejected the petitions of four members of the NSU trustee board seeking anticipatory bail in the case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The HC ordered handing them over to the Shahbagh Police Station. It also asked Shahbagh police to arrest them immediately and produce them before the trial court in 24 hours.

The accused are MA Kashem, Benajir Ahmed, Rehana Rahman and Mohammed Shajahan, who were present during the hearings.

All four were now under police custody, after they were handed over to the police, Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik told The Daily Star last night.

Senior lawyers AF Hassan Arif, Fida M Kamal, Ajmalul Hossain and Mizan Sayeed represented the suspects.

They told the HC that their clients were respectable senior citizens, and all of them were industrialists, involved in different philanthropic activities.

The accused would not flee the country and would cooperate with the investigators and face the trial, they argued.

They appealed for their bail considering their old age and health conditions.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin opposed the bail pleas, saying the petitioners were made NSU trustee board members as the nation trusted them.

But there was now allegation that they misappropriated a huge amount of money, and so they did not deserve to be granted bail, he argued.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told the HC that the accused bought over 250 bighas of land for the North South University (NSU) without taking approval from the education ministry and University Grants

Commission, and without any tender.

They took Tk 500 crore from NSU for this but embezzled and laundered Tk 304 crore. They cannot be granted bail considering the gravity of their offences, he added.

ACC Deputy Director Farid Ahmed Patwary filed the case with its integrated district office in Dhaka on May 5.

NSU Board of Trustees Chairperson Azim Uddin Ahmed, its members -- MA Kashem, Benajir Ahmed, Rehana Rahman and Mohammed Shajahan -- and Ashaly Housing and Developers Managing Director Amin Md Hilaly were accused in the case.

Azim and Amin didn't appear before the court. They were now fugitives in the eyes of law, said ACC lawyer Khurshid.

Meanwhile, members of Shahbagh Police Station took away the accused to the police station from the HC around 11:05pm yesterday, a court official said.

## Kyiv rules out ceasefire

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reach the administrative borders of the Luhansk region, while further north they continued heavy shelling of Sievierodonetsk and

Lysychansk, Ukraine's general staff said in its daily update yesterday.

Sieverodonetsk and its twin Lysychansk across the Siverskiy Donets River form the eastern part of a

Ukrainian-held pocket that Russia has been trying to overrun since mid-April after failing to capture Kyiv and shifting its focus to the east and south of the country.