

# The more you look local, the more you go global

JAYA AHSAN

SHARMIN JOYA

Jaya Ahsan is a brand herself; she needs no introduction. Her immense talent, beauty and charm extended her career into the Tollywood industry, becoming one of the most loved actresses on either side of the border.

After her last release “Alatchakra”, Jaya is returning to the silver screens today, with Mahmud Didar’s debut directorial “Beauty Circus”.

The actress recently flew to Kolkata to attend the ‘World Film Festival’, as the Chief Guest.

**Share your experience of ‘Beauty Circus’ with us.**  
The experience was amazing! This film has a special place in my heart, as it is based on a lost heritage of our culture. We learned how circus troupes work from a professional team. Since it is a diverse entertainment show, it has a lot of stunt-oriented and object manipulative gestures, which needs to look perfect on screen.

**The director and crew shared that you had to risk your life during this process...**

We did take a lot of risk, but then again, no risk no gain! I am glad that we did this at the end so well, and I believe that the audience will appreciate our effort. Also, the circus includes animals, and we had to be extra careful about taking care of them. We are relieved to have made this happen successfully.

**After ‘Debi’, your upcoming production is going to be ‘Jaya Aar Sharmin’. You seem to produce films that empower women, which is still not that regular in our mainstream industry.**

I feel like our patriarchal mindset holds us back to take the initiative of making more female-centric films. If you consider ‘Debi’, it is a nice middle-ground in a popular genre, while the films I have been featured in Kolkata, including the likes of—‘Bijaya’, or ‘Bishorjon’, go all-in on that aspect. At the same time, films like ‘Robibar’ and ‘Binisutoy’ have both male and female roles with significant importance.

**Your films that were released in Kolkata were arguably more successful than the ones that released in Bangladesh. Why do you think that this happened?**

‘Debi’ was the most talked about film of that year. About ‘Alatchakra’ and other productions, I would say that each film has its unique mood and tone. Thus, the way ‘Debi’ was received because it was a

middle range cinema, might not happen in case of ‘Alatchakra’ or any other similar project.

**After ‘Debi’, you have received a government grant for the second time for ‘Roid’. There was a debate over the grants received this year, about the process not being fair. What is your take on that?**  
Formula films lost their place a long time ago. Mainstream films need financial support to regain its lost charm, and the government has taken this initiative of supporting the mainstream films, it is really great. Then again, commercial films tend to get more producers compared to documentaries, or archival films. Such films need extended support, because these works of art are also essential to keep us rooted towards our history and culture.

**‘Roid’ is your second production, and it is Mejbaur Rahman Sumon’s second directorial project as well. Your collaboration has presented some of the finest works in television from 2007 until 2010. Why did you and Sumon not collaborate in your first projects?**

All I can say is, when Sumon wanted to make his debut as a director in the silver screen, he wanted to tell his own story, while I was more into producing a popular plot. Now, after years of working on television, we’ll have our first film together.

**What are your upcoming projects?**

After “Beauty Circus”, I have a few pipelined projects in Bangladesh—“Jaya Aar Sharmin”, and Nurul Alam Atique’s “Peyarar Shubash” and government granted film “Nakshi Kanthar Jamin”.

As for Kolkata, I have five films which awaits release—“Ardhangini”, “Bhutpori”, “OCD”, and “Kalandor”.



PHOTOS: TAKEN FROM FACEBOOK



## UNICEF National Ambassador Mim visits flood affected children in Sylhet

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

UNICEF Bangladesh National Ambassador, Bidya Sinha Mim came to Sylhet on a two-day tour to visit the flood affected children. The extensive flooding led to a food, water and sanitation crisis and disrupted the lives of 7.2 million people, including 3.5 million children.

“The stories I heard from children and their parents in Sylhet are heart-rending. They have shown incredible resilience even as their lives have been turned upside down by the floods, and we must continue to stand by them and support their recovery,” said Mim.

Mim was appointed as UNICEF’s National Ambassador in Bangladesh in May 2022.

## Coke Studio Bangla headed to Kolkata

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Coke Studio Bangla is all set to perform in the city of joy, Kolkata, alongside popular Indian musicians, between September 24-25.

The concert will take place at Eco Park, New Town, and will feature an ensemble of renowned Indian artistes.

Coke Studio Bangla was invited to the event by Coca-Cola India. The programme will feature Arko Mukhaerjee, Anupam Roy, Shreya Ghoshal, Shankar–Ehsaan–Loy, and Fossils.

# NEWS

## Rohingya volunteer SSC questions

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On Wednesday, 35-year-old Jafar, who used to work as a volunteer in guarding the camp, was murdered in another camp in Ukhiya.

With the two, four Rohingya volunteers and two leaders have been killed in the camps in the last three months.

## Injured Jubo Dal

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“violence, damaging public properties and setting fire to vehicles”.

Suman Dev, additional superintendent of police in Munshiganj, told The Daily Star yesterday evening that they have so far arrested 24 people.

The sheer number of the unnamed accused has sent most local BNP leaders and activists into hiding.

Md Mohiuddin, convener of BNP’s Munshiganj Sadar upazila unit, said almost all party leaders and activists were on the run as police were raiding their homes.

Meanwhile, criminals allegedly set fire to a spinning mill owned by former general secretary Md Nizamuddin of the district BNP in Mireshorai area. Nizamuddin is also the nephew of BNP’s Munshiganj district unit convener Abdu Hai.

Locals said they woke up to the smell of something burning around 1:30am yesterday and found the factory ablaze.

“On information, we rushed to the spot and doused the fire after around two hours of efforts,” said Nirmol Chandra of Fire Service and Civil Defence in Munshiganj.

The fire department could not say how the fire began.

Nizamuddin alleged that ruling AL men had set fire to his factory and that all machines and products were gutted.

He also alleged that he sent a person to the local police station to file a general diary, but police did not record it.

Suman Dev refuted the allegation and said police were supposed to record the GD.

## Neptune’s delicate

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to methane in its atmosphere.

However, the near-infrared wavelengths captured by Webb’s primary imager NIRCam shows the planet as a greyish white, with icy clouds streaking the surface.

## SSC questions

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22, chemistry on September 24, agricultural studies on September 25, and physics on September 26.

According to board officials and the police, the question papers were leaked from the Nehal Uddin Pilot Girls’ High School centre in Bhurungamari. Police on Wednesday arrested three teachers of the school for their alleged involvement in leaking the question papers.

The arrestees are Lutfar Rahman, the school’s headmaster and an exam centre secretary; Russel Ahmed, the school’s English teacher; and Jobayer Hossain, its Islamic Studies teacher.

In another development, three more people – the school’s agricultural studies teacher

Hamidul Islam, Bangla teacher Soheli Chowdhury, and a worker Sujon Mia – have been arrested in connection with the leak.

They have been arrested from their homes on Wednesday night, police said.

“All those who were involved with the leak will be brought under the purview of the law,” said Al Asad Md Mahfujul Islam, superintendent of police in Kurigram.

In the meantime, the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education yesterday suspended Bhurungamari upazila education officer Abdur Rahman for negligence of duty.

(Our Dinaipur and Lalmonirhat correspondents contributed to this report.)

## Death toll from Iran

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will be reinstated quickly”.

Iran’s powerful Revolutionary Guards yesterday called on the Islamic Republic’s judiciary to prosecute “those who spread false news and rumours”, reported Reuters.

The United States placed Iran’s

morality police on its sanctions blacklist yesterday.

Some women have burnt their scarves and symbolically cut their hair in protest at the strict dress code, in defiant actions echoed in solidarity protests abroad from New York to Istanbul.

## We should have acquired skills

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“The ongoing crisis will last a long time. After Russia stopped supplying gas to Europe, there was a supply shortfall in the global market and all are depending on the spot market for liquefied natural gas.”

He said the price would not come down soon, and Bangladesh has no way out in the near future.

The experts suggested emphasis on local gas production, renewable energy, and making state-owned institutes like Petrobangla, Bapex, and Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation accountable.

The dialogue was jointly presided over by MM Akash and Sayema Haque Bidisha, economics professors at Dhaka University.

## New chiefs of police

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including Benazir, a former DG of Rab, and Mamun, in December last year.

Benazir was made the IGP in April 2020 and took the charge in May that year.

The newly appointed IGP Mamun is scheduled to retire on January 11 next year.

The new IGP joined Bangladesh Police as an assistant superintendent of police in 1989.

Born in Srihail village of Sunamganj’s Shalla on January 12,

1964, Mamun obtained honours and master’s degrees from social science department of Chattogram University, according to Police News, news portal of PHQ.

He served different police units, peacekeeping missions, and at the PHQ in various positions.

Before becoming the Rab DG, Mamun served as the chief of the Criminal Investigation Department.

Newly appointed Rab DG Khurshid was born in Kashiani, Gopalganj.

Khurshid will retire on June 4 next year.

## Global solidarity needed to face challenges

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manifolds. There is targeted support for agriculture, MSMEs, and other vulnerable sectors.”

She said the government has also adopted specific plans to increase the share of renewables in the country’s energy mix.

The premier shared six specific thoughts on facing the challenges of the present crises.

First, she said, the world needs to address the volatility of the global financial and economic outlook.

The PM said the G-7, G-20, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, international financial institutions, multilateral development banks should now scale up efforts to address the immediate concerns. “These include lack of SDGs financing, limited fiscal space, declining official development assistance, and debt servicing.”

Second, Hasina lauded the UN secretary-general for his pivotal role in the Black Sea Grain initiative.

“We commit to support any such future initiatives for keeping food production and delivery system out of harm’s way during conflicts.”

Third, the premier said the world

needs bold and comprehensive measures to revitalise global trade. “It is imperative to ensure fair share of low and middle-income countries in global trade and export earnings.”

Fourth, she said there should be increased investments in the agriculture sector of developing countries to enhance productivity, and for effective food storage and distribution systems.

“We need more G2G and B2B collaboration for creating new business opportunities, targeted technology support, enhanced official development assistance, and concessional financing.”

Fifth, she said the world needs to make the global architecture for climate cooperation more effective and just.

“We should seize the opportunity of the upcoming COP-27 to address the concerns of the most vulnerable countries. We wish to work with our partners for creating necessary impetus for addressing energy security issue in a comprehensive manner.”

Finally, Hasina said, “We do need to find ways and means to bring an amicable end to this blood-soaked disastrous crisis.”

The sanctions and countersanctions are deeply hurting people around the globe, more so, those in the countries at direct conflict, and those in developing and least developed world, she observed.

PM’S CALLS

The prime minister on Wednesday expressed concern about financial and commercial challenges alongside food and energy crises facing the developing countries in the wake of the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war.

She expressed this concern when the executive chairman of World Economic Forum (WEF), Klaus Schwab, paid a courtesy call on her at her place of residence.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen briefed reporters about the day’s activities of the PM on the sidelines of the 77th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Schwab invited the PM to attend the WEF Summit in Davos next January, said Momen.

Besides, the premier held bilateral meetings with Slovenian President Borut Pahor and President of Ecuador Guillermo Lasso at the bilateral booth at the UN Headquarters.

## PK Halder likely to be extradited

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associates swindled around Tk10,000 crore from four financial institutions, according to investigators of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The ACC came to know about his money laundering during the 2019 crackdown on illegal casinos.

Yesterday, Halder and his associates, accused of money laundering in West Bengal, were produced before the special Kolkata court upon the expiry of their previous remand.

Halder was charged with laundering money to India and purchasing massive amounts of real estate in and around Kolkata.

On June 7 last year, the ED had told the special Kolkata court that it had detected property worth around Rs 350 crore and 88 bank accounts in the name of Halder and his associates in India.

All the property were purchased

and the bank accounts were opened using forged Indian multi-purpose Aadhar cards, according to the directorate.

The ED is also probing the involvement of local politicians in abetting Halder, who was arrested along with his brother Pranesh Kumar Halder.

Halder also has a Canadian passport and had travelled to Canada, Malaysia and some Caribbean countries after escaping Bangladesh, according to ED.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday began the trial of a case filed against Halder and 13 others over laundering Tk 80 crore to Canada and amassing about Tk 426 crore illegally.

Halder and nine others are shown as fugitives.

Four accused – PK Halder’s lawyer Sukumar Mridha, daughter Anindita Mridha, associate Abantika Baral

and cousin Shankha Bepari – were arrested in connection with the case and are now in jail.

Judge Mohammad Nazrul Islam of the Special Judge’s Court-10 of Dhaka recorded the statement of Mamunur Rashid Chowdhury, a deputy director of ACC and also the complainant of the case.

The judge then fixed October 13 for cross-examination.

On September 8, the same court framed charges against PK Halder and 13 others in the case.

Besides Halder, his mother Lilabati Halder, brother Pritish Kumar Halder, and associates Purnima Rani Halder, Amitav Adhikari, Rajib Som, Subrata Das, Ananga Mohon Roy, Uttam Kumar Mistri and Swapan Kumar Mistri are shown fugitives.

Of the arrestees, Sukumar, Shankha and Anindita gave confessional statements earlier.