



JAHAN

Reflecting on the dark side of human psyche

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SHARMIN JOYA

Nazia Haque Orsha and Mostafizur Noor Imran will be seen together in the latest Chorki Flick, *Jahan*, which will hit the streaming platform today at 8 pm. The duo earned a lot of appreciation earlier for their performance in another Chorki project, *Shahosh*.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Orsha shared how she had to go through a drastic physical transformation for this role. “I had to gain weight, which is time consuming, and our industry is not very flexible for such experiments,” said the *Sabrina* actress.

It took her almost five months to get ready to play the titular character, Jahan. “Initially I did not want to do this role, as Jahan’s persona is very intricate, her psyche is dark and innocent at the same time. There were some subtle issues, that we had to be careful about, before bringing this character to life.”

Directed by Atiq Zaman, the women-centric plot revolves around Jahan—played by Orsha—who suffers from mental health issues. Her post-traumatic disorder becomes worse and she fails to balance her mind between reality and hallucinations. At one-point, Jahan loses her self-control, which leads to

an unprecedented event.

“Jahan has been a tough role to play, and we could not see anyone playing this character other than Orsha,” shared the director, who will be making his OTT debut with this project. “Orsha was perfect for the role, in terms of age-range and acting skills. So, despite her initial refusal, we managed to convince her and I hope the audience will know the reason why we decided to stick with her.”

According to the director, *Jahan* sheds light on mental health issues, and showcases why one should not ignore it. “This is a harsh reality. We still hide our problems, particularly the ones related to mental health. Such avoidance can lead to major accidents, or unavoidable circumstances,” shared the director, who is looking forward to his OTT debut.



The project has been produced by Methodica, a production company which had earlier produced the indie film, *Shahosh*. Founded by actor Mostafizur Noor Imran, he is also quite hopeful for this project.

“This is our first Chorki original project,” shared the *Mohanagar* famed actor. “Sharing the screen with Orsha is a treat for any actor. Since I am a reaction-dependent actor, it is very important for me to have a co-performer who reciprocates accordingly. Orsha is brilliant at her work, and she was perfect for the role of Jahan.”

The cinematography for *Jahan* has been done by Tanvir Ahsan, while the background score was handled by Jahid Nirob. The 45-minute film also features Shilpi Sarkar Apu, Naima Tasneem and Emel Haque, among others.

Kangana returns to Twitter



Bollywood actress and director Kangana Ranaut was quite an active voice on social media in 2022. The actress even got her Twitter account banned last year, due to being so outspoken. However, after having her account banned for nearly a year, the actress finally got it back yesterday.

Letting her fans and friends know of her return, Kangana took to her Twitter account, writing, “Hello everyone, it’s nice to be back here.”

Celebrities, fans, and friends flooded the comment section welcoming the *Tanu Weds Manu* star back. Tracing back to May 2022, Kangana had her account ‘permanently banned due to multiple violations’ on the social media platform, according to Twitter officials.

‘Birotihin Jatra’ starring Sabila Nur coming this Eid-ul-Fitr

Popular actress, Sabila Nur will be seen in a new avatar this Eid-ul-Fitr. Her new character, Sunaina, will be seen in a wheelchair, with a couple of books in her arms, in Anonno Emon’s upcoming drama, *Birotihin Jatra*.

Birotihin Jatra has been written by Ahmed Tawkir. The film features Sabila Nur, Saberi Alam, and Abdullah Rana, amongst others.

Sunaina is somewhat reclusive, reading book after book every day. In her wheelchair, she travels around, handing out books to the general people. Perhaps that is why many seem to be fond of her. However, this popularity causes the local chairman to fear her. Recognising her efforts, the local police honour Sunaina with an award. However, some hidden truths are unearthed at the award ceremony.



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Dhaka, Delhi seek

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Bangladesh is the fourth or the fifth largest trade partner of India, he said, adding that there will be even more options for the countries to economically engage with each other.

“We are about to launch negotiation for the comprehensive economic productive agreement...”

“So, these are some ways we are trying to work together to meet each other’s requirements,” he explained.

Bangladesh has one of the biggest visa services that any Indian mission has anywhere in the world, he said.

“We are also working together on the international platforms... We have invited Bangladesh to be a special guest country to participate in the deliberation of the G-20.

“This is not only a reflection of the importance that we attach bilaterally to Bangladesh but also our belief that Bangladesh with its developmental experiences and socio-economic success has much to contribute to the global discussions in overcoming a particularly challenging time in our history that the global community is talking about.”

BIFS President Rashidul Alam, a valiant freedom fighter, chaired the reception.

Mahbubul Alam Hanif, joint general secretary of Awami League, Kazi Akram Uddin, member of the AL’s advisory council, and Muzzaffar Hossain Paltu, member of the AL’s advisory council, were present at the reception as special guests.

Saraswati Puja today

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morning at temples, educational institutions and houses. Devotees will offer homage to the goddess by praying, distributing prashad among other rituals.

The students in particular seek the blessings of the goddess Saraswati in their pursuit of knowledge, art, music and culture.

On the day of Saraswati Puja, according to tradition, children are introduced to education and learning in a ritual called “Hatekhor”.

Puja will be arranged in temples across the capital including Ram Krishna Mission, Siddheswari temple, Ramna Kali Mandir and Maa Anandamayi Ashram.

The most decorative and gorgeous celebration of Saraswati Puja is usually arranged on the premises of Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University, where a huge number of people of all religions join the celebration.

Germany okays tanks

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for Ukraine against Russia’s almost year-old invasion: providing arms that have a mainly offensive rather than defensive purpose.

“So the tank coalition is formed. Everyone who doubted this could ever happen sees now: for Ukraine and partners impossible is nothing,” Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said.

“I call on all new partners that have Leopard 2 tanks in service to join the coalition and provide as many of them as possible,” he wrote on Twitter.

The Russian embassy in Berlin denounced Germany’s “extremely dangerous decision” which, it said, “destroys the remnants of mutual trust” and could draw Germany into the war. Scholz pledged that no such thing would happen.

Berlin’s move paves the way for pledges from other countries that field Leopards, which Germany made in the thousands and exported to allies in Nato.

Finland said it would send them, as did Poland, which has already sought Berlin’s approval. Spain and the Netherlands said they were considering it and Norway was reported to be discussing it. Britain has offered a company of 14 of its comparable Challenger tanks and France is considering sending its Leclercs.

“At a critical moment in Russia’s war, these tanks can help Ukraine defend itself, win and stand as an independent nation,” Nato Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said.

Two sources in the United States said Washington would announce later yesterday that it would provide dozens of its own Abrams M1 tanks.

Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksiy Reznikov said he spoke with US counterpart Lloyd Austin yesterday, promising “more good news to be announced soon”. Reznikov said they discussed “further strengthening of (Ukraine’s army), including tank supplies and maintenance of the new armament.”

Moscow says supplies of modern offensive weaponry to Ukraine will only postpone what it says will be its inevitable victory. Anatoly Antonov, Russia’s ambassador in Washington, said deliveries of US battle tanks would be “another blatant provocation”.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said any US tanks sent to Ukraine would “burn like all the rest”.

In the past week, Russia has ramped up threats, including

comments from Dmitry Medvedev, an ally of President Vladimir Putin, that a nuclear state facing defeat could use nuclear weapons.

Western officials who support sending the tanks have dismissed Moscow’s threats, arguing that Russia is already waging war at full tilt and has been deterred from attacking Nato or using nuclear arms.

Last week, allies pledged billions of dollars’ worth of military aid including hundreds of armoured fighting vehicles and troop carriers. Those are seen as more effective for attacking enemy lines when used alongside tanks.

Ukraine sees the weapons as restoring its momentum in a war that has lately become a bloody, deadlocked slog.

Kyiv acknowledged yesterday its forces had withdrawn from Soledar, a small salt-mining town in the east that Russia had claimed to capture more than a week ago, its biggest gain for more than half a year.

The town is close to Bakhmut, a larger city that has been the focus of an intense Russian assault for weeks.

The Russian-installed governor of Ukraine’s Donetsk region said units of Russia’s Wagner contract militia were now moving forward inside Bakhmut, with fighting on the outskirts and in neighbourhoods recently held by Ukraine.

Reuters could not verify the situation there.

Bangladesh fall

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in the group with a net run rate of +1.211. South Africa (+0.387) finished fourth.

The young Tigresses started the tournament on a high note, winning all three matches in the group stages, against Australia, Sri Lanka and the United States, to qualify for the Super Six.

However, Disha Biswas and Co. lost to South Africa in their opening Super Six game by five wickets, which hampered their net run rate and perhaps cost them a spot in the final four.

In their last Super Six game, Bangladesh restricted UAE to 69 for nine after 20 overs. Leg-spinner Rabeya Khan picked up three wickets while Marufa Akter took two wickets.

In reply, Bangladesh reached the target with five wickets and 10.5 overs to spare. Shorna Akter top-scored with 38 off just 19 deliveries, striking two sixes and four boundaries.

Committee there, but only on paper

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as part of a regional agreement among five countries – India, Pakistan, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

The aim of the agreement is to ensure collective response in case of any major spill of hydrocarbon product being transported along shipping routes.

KM Shafiqul Kinjal, coast guard officer and supervisor of the rescue and oil removal operation, told The Daily Star that once they were informed about the spill by their patrol team, they rushed to the spot with the necessary equipment on their own.

“We did not get any instruction from any other organisations in this regard.”

Though the Coast Guard claims to have scooped up two lakh litres of oil, the SHR Navigation Company, which owns the oil tanker, tells a different story.

Mahtabur Rahman, executive director (finance and admin) of the company, told The Daily Star that only 615 litres (three barrels) out of 12.38 lakh litres of oil could be recovered.

Most of the oil had deposited into the riverbed, he apprehended.

Asked whether they had an emergency action plan approved by the DoE for tackling such spills, he said

he was not even aware that something like that exists.

Farhina Ahmed, secretary of the environment ministry and the central contact personnel of the NOCS, did not respond to calls or text messages for comments.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Sanjay Kumar Bhowmik, additional secretary (environment) of the ministry, claimed their works are ongoing.

Regarding the NOCS’s actions, he said they held a meeting recently after the Meghna oil spill.

“Though they [the NOCS] are supposed to hold meetings once every fourth months, they could not do that. But we [the ministry] are providing secretarial service to the committee. In the meantime, we have formed a separate 20-member committee to assess the damages in the Meghna.”

About the progress of the national contingency plan, which tasks the environment ministry with coordinating and mobilising resources, ensuring training and logistics, and establishing a dedicated cell to deal with such spills, he said these mechanisms could not be established yet.

“This will take time.”

Md Maruf Hossain, professor of Institute of Marine Science and

Fisheries in Chattogram University who drafted the final contingency plan, told The Daily Star that the key steps he suggested were omitted from the plan that the government gazetted.

“I suggested a Marine Pollution Control Authority, which neighbouring countries have established. We have many organisations but no action on the ground at all.”

After the massive oil spill in the Shela river near the Sundarbans in 2014, the UNESCO made 10 recommendations, including the formation of a dedicated marine authority to better manage spill incidents and strengthening of the inland vessel management, vessel spacing and navigational restrictions in line with the international practice.

With 90 percent of the country’s trade happening through the shipping routes, the coastal and marine areas of Bangladesh are always at a risk of marine accidents.

“We, however, seem to have no preparedness in that regard,” Maruf observed.

Meanwhile on Tuesday, another vessel carrying 500 tonnes of fertiliser sank in the Mongla river. And once again, the NOCS has remained ignorant and inactive.

ChatGPT bot passes US law

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“bombed” at multiple-choice questions involving mathematics.

“In writing essays, ChatGPT displayed a strong grasp of basic legal rules and had consistently solid organization and composition,” the authors wrote.

But the bot “often struggled to spot issues when given an open-ended prompt, a core skill on law school exams”.

Officials in New York and other jurisdictions have banned the use of ChatGPT in schools, but Choi suggested it could be a valuable teaching aide.

“Overall, ChatGPT wasn’t a great law student acting alone,” he wrote on Twitter.

“But we expect that collaborating with humans, language models like ChatGPT would be very useful to

parties are also against the use of EVMs in the election.

Election commissioners had earlier said they would need the additional two lakh machines for holding polls in up to 150 constituencies with the EVMs in the next parliamentary polls.

The EC sent the proposal in October last year, as it could hold

law students taking exams and to practicing lawyers.”

And playing down the possibility of cheating, he wrote in reply to another Twitter user that two out of three markers had spotted the bot-written paper.

“(They) had a hunch and their hunch was right, because ChatGPT had perfect grammar and was somewhat repetitive,” Choi wrote.

election in 70 to 80 seats using the existing EVMs.

CEC Habibul yesterday said they planned to use EVMs in a maximum of 150 seats, subject to availability of the machine.

“We are checking quality of the existing EVMs. The decision as to how many seats gets EVMs will be made later.”