

# Happy to have received this honour while still alive

JAYANTA CHATTOPADHYAY

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Prominent artiste Jayanta Chattopadhyay has been honoured with the Ekushey Padak this year, for his contributions in the cultural arena as an elocutionist. The actor has proven himself as a complete artiste with his powerful and extraordinary performances in every role he played.

Some of his remarkable projects include *Kittonkhela*, *Nodir Naam Modhumoti*, *Matir Moyna* and *Adhiyar*. He has earned both accolades and critical acclaim from these projects. Apart from establishing his name as an actor, he is also an elocutionist.

In conversation with The Daily Star, the actor shared his emotion on achieving the second highest civilian award of the country.

**How does it feel to be awarded one of the highest recognitions in the country?**

I am happy, at least for the reason that I have received this honour while I am still alive. As an artiste, to have received this recognition for my work is very satisfactory.

**Exactly when did you learn that you would be receiving the Ekushey Padak?**

When it was announced, I was getting one call after another from several people. At the time, I was on a rickshaw and my phone was in my pocket. When I finally received the calls, everyone was congratulating me. However, I did not even know the reason for their best wishes. After that, an official call came from the ministry and I finally learned that I was going to be awarded with the Ekushey Padak. People from various sectors, including artistes, journalists and elocutionists gave me their best wishes, for which I am

really thankful to them.

**You are a renowned actor, but the award was given for your work as an elocutionist. Did this upset you at any point?**

Not at all. I am sure that the authorities have taken the decision wisely. This July, I will turn 77. I am grateful to have gotten this award while I am alive, because many receive it posthumously.

Perhaps, the fact that we cannot value artistes in our lifetime, is our failure.

**You have had multiple collaborations with Humayun Ahmed during your career. How was the relationship between the two of you?**

He was very close to me and we were like friends. We would meet at least once a week and always shared a great time together. His demise is irrecoverable, not just for us, but for Bangladeshi literature as well.



PHOTOS: STAR

## CHANCHAL CHOWDHURY’S latest transformation for ‘Padatik’



Actor Nasir Uddin Khan had recently unveiled Chanchal Chowdhury’s newest look for his film *Padatik*, based on Mrinal Sen’s life. The actor posted Chanchal’s photo on his Facebook account.

The *Hawa* actor looks unrecognisable in facial prosthetics and a wig, clad in a white kurta with a cigarette in hand. With the legendary director’s signature glasses on, Chanchal looks like Mrinal Sen in every way.

Directed by Srijit Mukherji, the film is based on the life and legacy of the late eminent director Mrinal Sen.

## Rihanna accused of being a ‘devil worshipper’



Pop icon Rihanna shocked the audience after her marveling 13-minute performance at the Super Bowl on February 12, dishing out her hit songs, one after another including, *Only Girl (In the World)*, *Rude Boy*, *Work* and *Wild Thoughts*, amongst others.

While the celebrity was much appreciated by the fans during her 2023 Super Bowl halftime show, she was also accused of being a ‘devil worshipper’ by some.

American author Brigitte Gabriel tweeted, “Why do all the major live performances by woke artists have a demonic feeling? Sam Smith, now Rihanna, ‘Hollyweird’ has gone insane.”

Previously, Sam Smith and Kim Petras were also accused of being ‘devil worshippers’ after they performed their song *Unholy* at the 2023 edition of the Grammy Awards ceremony.

# NEWS

## Kumar Bishwajit’s

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Shahriar’s father Sharif Khan yesterday told The Daily Star, “The procedure of preparing necessary documents to bring the bodies back to the country is almost complete. Their bodies are likely to reach here on a Biman flight next Sunday.”

Bangladeshi expatriate journalist Shaogat Ali Sagar told The Daily Star yesterday that Angela Barai’s father is going to Canada to receive his daughter’s body. Local police have already given the clearance in this regard.

The accident took place on Monday night, local media CP24 reported, citing the Highway Safety Division of Canada’s Ontario Provincial Police.

## Trinamool

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political parties since 2008 in line with the Representation of the People Order, 1972.

With Trinamool BNP, the number of registered political parties is now 40.

Since 2008, a total of 45 political parties have got registration and five political parties’ registrations were cancelled.

Oikyabaddho Nagarik Andolan, Pragatashil Ganatantrik Party and Jatiya Ganatantrik Party lost their registration as they failed to comply with conditions for getting registration.

Besides, registration of Freedom Party was cancelled in 2009 as it failed to provide a party charter.

Jamaat’s registration as a political party was announced illegal by the High Court in 2013.

Following the verdict, the EC cancelled Jamaat’s registration in October 2018.

## German airport websites hit by cyberattacks

AFP, Berlin

Several German airports said yesterday their websites were down due to suspected cyberattacks, the latest instance of online sabotage in the country.

Airports in Duesseldorf, Nuremberg and Dortmund said they were affected, while at least two others were reported to have been hit.

## Comilla win fourth BPL

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in-form batter Towhid Hridoy and skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza — who again promoted himself to No. 3 — were dismissed to leave them struggling on 26 for two in three overs.

Mushfiquir and Shanto then steadied the ship by adding 79 runs for the third wicket before the latter departed for a 45-ball 64 featuring nine fours and a six.

The left-hander, who registered his fourth fifty of the tournament, was the highest run getter of the BPL with 516 runs at a strike rate of 116.74. Shanto also became the first

Bangladeshi to score more than 500 runs in a BPL season.

At the other end, Mushfiquir took on responsibility as Sylhet kept losing wickets at regular intervals, with only three batters able to reach double figures.

Mushfiquir ultimately remained unbeaten on 74 off 48 balls with the help of five fours and three sixes as Sylhet added 41 runs in the last four overs of the innings.

Left-arm seamer Mustafizur Rahman picked up two wickets while Andre Russell, Tanvir Islam, Sunil Narine and Moeen Ali took a wicket each for Comilla.

## Washington wants Dhaka

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They say the BURMA Act provides additional tools to the US government for increasing humanitarian aid, support for the democracy movement, and sanctions against those funding the Myanmar junta, which took control of the country in early 2021.

Inclusion of the Act in the NDAA-2023 also means Washington has put priority on the Myanmar issue and is ready to expand its funding of various actions against the junta. It will allow the defence department to be engaged in the implementation of actions taken under the law, analysts said.

Foreign ministry officials said the US appeared more positive now than before about the Rohingya repatriation. However, the US emphasises that repatriation is not possible unless the conditions in Myanmar are conducive, which can only be achieved through restoration of democracy.

Former foreign secretary Shahidul Haque said the BURMA Act has provisions to support the civilian groups fighting for democracy. The National Unity Government (NUG) is a major one among the groups. Besides, there are many other ethnic groups fighting for autonomy.

“I believe that the US delegation here tried to understand whether Bangladesh will support the civilian NUG government,” he told The Daily Star.

Chollet told journalists in Dhaka that when he flies back home, he would need to sort out some ideas in addressing the causes of the Rohingya crisis.

Foreign policy analysts say if Washington provides support for the NUG and other civilian groups in Myanmar, there is a risk that China and Russia will bolster their support for the junta, with which both the countries have strong ties.

In that case, armed conflicts in Myanmar will flare up, affecting the neighbouring countries like Bangladesh and India.

Foreign ministry officials say Bangladesh does not want anything that may escalate conflicts near the borders as the country has already been a victim of the refugee influx.

Bangladesh currently shelters over a million Rohingyas, most of whom arrived amid a brutal military crackdown on them in 2017.

A foreign ministry official said, “What we want is the repatriation of Rohingyas and a permanent solution to the crisis. We want democracy everywhere, not only in Myanmar, but it is difficult for us to directly support the NUG.”

Prof Imtiaz Ahmed of Dhaka University said it would be tricky for Bangladesh to handle the situation if Washington wanted Bangladesh to support the NUG.

Bangladesh’s major allies China and India have good terms with the Myanmar junta.

Bangladesh will need to make a difficult choice if it decides to work against the Myanmar military, said the professor of international relations.

“We need to tell the US to find innovative ways of helping Myanmar restore its democracy, instead of doing anything that fuels conflicts.”

## It’s coming under watch, finally

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According to the additional DIG, the 4K cameras will allow them to identify and recognise vehicles and suspects’ faces.

The AI will detect if anyone is driving a motorbike without wearing a helmet, Barkatullah said, adding the CCTV surveillance will also help them reduce road accidents.

The overall progress of the project, which began in June 2021, was around 53 percent until last week, said project officials.

In the first phase, some 260 cameras will be made operational on the stretch between Signboard of Narayanganj and Daudkandi of Cumilla by March. These cameras have already been installed in 88 locations.

The rest of the cameras will be operating by June.

Barkatullah said that they are now in talks with the Power Development Board for ensuring uninterrupted power to the cameras.

“Once it is ensured, we will start the operation of CCTV cameras,” he said.

## AL, BNP take to city streets today

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University College in Mohammadpur at 3:00pm.

Around the same time, the Jubo League’s Dhaka (south) unit will organise a protest rally which will be followed by a procession in front of the AL’s central office on Bangabandhu Avenue.

Dhaka (north) unit will hold a

similar programme at 4:00pm in front of Ananda Cinema Hall in Farmgate.

According to the AL insiders, the party leaders think the BNP and like-minded parties may occupy the streets of the capital with a large number of people at some stage of their ongoing anti government movement.

“We have already set up 490 poles to install these cameras. Two or three cameras will be installed in each pole depending on necessity.”

**Tk 1 CR RENT A MONTH**  
Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) is installing a fiber-optic cable along the 250km Dhaka-Chattoagram highway for running the cameras.

The BTRC has already completed setting up the cable from Dhaka to Feni, said officials.

“The monthly rent of the fiber-optic cable will be around Tk 1 crore. But we are hopeful that we will be able have a concession on the rent and the government will support us regarding the rent as the highway is important for the country’s businesses,” said Barkatullah.

He said once the project is implemented, no vehicle will be able to getaway far after causing an accident or committing an offense. Apart from preventing theft of RMG

products, the CCTV cameras will play an effective role in reducing the drug menace and other criminal activities, he added.

Law enforcement officials said theft of RMG products has increased significantly over the last few years. They, however, failed to give the exact number of cases.

According to investigators, at least 30 cases of RMG product theft took place last year against 22 in 2021 and nine in 2020.

On December 23 last year, Rapid Action Battalion-4 raided an abandoned factory in Dhaka’s Demra and arrested seven members of a gang. They recovered stolen RMG products worth about Tk 6 crore and also seized a lorry.

Rab on September 8 last year picked up four members of another gang in Cumilla, recovered stolen garment products worth about Tk 4 crore and seized another lorry.

“We have recovered stolen garment products worth about Tk 30 crore in seven such drives and arrested around 50 gang members,” Jahidul Islam, additional SP of Rab-4, told this newspaper recently.

If they succeed to do so, the party will launch a continuous programme demanding the resignation of the government, they added.

Fearing this, the AL took the decision to hold counter programmes during every BNP programme until the next national election, a member of the AL’s central committee told The Daily Star, seeking anonymity.

past as well and such heinous acts of continuous harassment, attack, and threatening students are damaging the learning atmosphere, it said in a statement yesterday.

ASK further urged the authorities concerned to stop the repetition of such incidents, and to take political and institutional action against those responsible.