



# JAYA AHSAN'S love letter from Japan

**The gorgeous Jaya Ahsan has transcended the boundaries of Bangladesh and India with her powerful performances on the silver screen. The actress who is a travel enthusiast by heart, has arrived in Japan for the first time and is fully enchanted by the scenic beauties and big landscapes. Straight from Japan, the 'Debi' actress tells her own account and how she fell in love with the enamouring Cherry flowers.**

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

It's a magical time in Japan as Cherry Blossoms are blooming all over the country. You are drawn towards the pink blossoms which captivate your visions. This is the first time that I have come to Japan with my family and I am completely engrossed by the fragrance of Cherry flowers.

For a long time, I have heard stories about Japan, the land of the rising sun, where people are the most benevolent. Although I have been to many countries, there is something about Japan which is making me excitedly travel from one city to another.

I have a strong desire to see the heritages of various countries. The first thing that I saw when I came to Japan was a volcano. I have also visited various museums including the Mori Art Museum and Tokyo Digital Museum, among others.

I had a wonderful time experiencing the beauty of Tokyo and also got to see Japan's Highest Mountain, Mount Fuji for the first time.

The people in Japan are so friendly and nice. There is a hotel called Isaka, which is run by a family. They only take about 5-7 people as guests. We had a great time chatting and savouring away their yummy delicacies. It was quite a unique experience and I will cherish it forever.

Waking up in the morning, the first thing that I do is watch the sunrise and sunset, as it really calms your mind. I have also seen the sun rise and set from the top of Mount Fuji. Its picturesque beauty is forever captured in my heart.

I will be going to Hiroshima to experience something new. Let's see what new adventures I add this time to my book of memories.

Narrated by Jaya Ahsan



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF JAYA AHSAN

## High Court demands response from Hoichoi over 'Buker Moddhe Agun'

**Buker Moddhe Agun** is allegedly based on the life and mysterious death of Salman Shah. In response to a petition by the actor's mother, the High Court has issued a ruling yesterday, questioning why the series wasn't declared illegal and barred from broadcasting?



According to the High Court ruling, director Taneem Rahman Angshu alongside the Chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, the Chairman of National Broadcasting Authority, the Secretary of Information and Broadcasting Ministry, and the Director of the Hoichoi Bangladesh have been asked to respond to this rule.

## Marvel releases Bangla trailer for new Spiderman film

After *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, fans were quite eager to see the sequel of the animated film, titled *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*.

While they eagerly wait for the film's release, a new Bangla dubbed trailer - which was released on April 4 - took the audience by surprise.



# NEWS

## Why families

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ensure the safety of people, fitness license of vehicles and drivers should not be declared illegal.

Secretaries at the ministries of road, transport and bridges; home; finance; and health; deputy commissioner and superintendent of police in Madaripur; chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority; and managing director of Emad Paribahan whose bus caused the accident, among others, have been made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice KM Kamrul Kader and Justice Khizir Hayat Lizu issued the rule following a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) seeking necessary directives.

Senior Advocate Manzill Murshid appeared for the writ petitioner.

## All 3 accused

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terrorist operation in the building in Shibbari area of Dakshin Surma upazila.

On the evening of March 25, 2017, two grenades exploded around 400 metres away from Atia Mahal when the drive was going on. Seven people, including Rab's intelligence wing director Lt Col Abul Kalam Azad and two police officers, died in the attack.

Later, Rab, SWAT and Bangladesh Army took part in the operation. After the army-led "Operation Twilight", bodies of four people, including a woman, were recovered from inside the building.

Three cases were filed with Moglabazar Police Station after the operation. One was lodged under the Anti-Terrorism Act and two others in connections with bomb blast and murder.

Initially investigated by the police, the cases were later transferred to Police Bureau of Investigation for further investigation.

On July 14, 2019, PBI filed the final report with the court in two cases related to bomb blast and murder, and requested it to dismiss the cases.

On September 7 that year, PBI submitted charge sheet of the case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act to the court, accusing three people.

That year, Jahurul and his wife Argina were arrested in Chattogram's Sitakunda and Hasan in Cumilla in separate anti-terrorist operations. Later, they were shown arrested in the case.

## They must act to protect rights, liberty of people

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Sultana, 41, an office assistant of Naogaon's Chandipur union land office, died on March 24, two days after she was detained by some Rab officials on her way to work.

The HC yesterday directed the cabinet secretary to form a high-powered committee, including a district judge and chief judicial magistrate of Naogaon, to probe the detention of Sultana, her death, and other relevant issues.

The court also ordered the government to remove the Rab officials who were involved in the picking up of Sultana and to attach them to the Rab headquarters.

The probe committee was asked to submit the report to the court within 60 days.

The court also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain as to why Sultana's detention by Rab officials without any case

should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

In the rule, the court asked officials concerned why they should not be directed to take action against the Rab personnel who picked up Sultana.

The HC bench issued the order and rule following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Manoj Kumar Bhowmick.

He filed the petition on March 28 seeking HC directive on the government to form a committee led by a retired judge of the court to probe the incident mentioned in the March 27 report of The Daily Star headlined "Sued under DSA: Woman dies in Rab custody".

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin vehemently opposed the petition, saying that the petition was not acceptable as the government has taken action.

## US is our biggest friend

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US secretary of state has invited him. "Of course, we're very lucky to get invited three times in a row."

Asked what will be discussed in the meeting with the US secretary of state, Momen said the Rohingya issue and bilateral trade would come up.

In reply to a query about the US concern regarding democracy in Bangladesh, the foreign minister

said, "We fought for democracy. Three million people gave their lives to uphold democracy and human rights. Therefore, we don't need lessons on democracy."

"We want a fair election. America also wants that. We don't disagree with that. We have already made necessary institutional arrangements to ensure a free and fair election," Momen added.

## Webb telescope

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astronomers' understanding of the early universe.

In two studies published in the Nature Astronomy journal, astronomers revealed they have "unambiguously detected" the four most distant galaxies ever observed.

The galaxies date from 300 to 500 million years after the Big Bang more than 13 billion years ago, when the universe was just two percent of its current age.

That means the galaxies are from what is called "the epoch of reionisation," a period when the first stars are believed to have emerged.

The epoch came directly after the cosmic dark ages brought about by the Big Bang.

Stephane Charlot, a researcher at the Astrophysics Institute of Paris and co-author of the two new studies, told AFP that the farthest galaxy - called JADES-GS-z13.0 - formed 320 million years after the Big Bang.

That is the greatest distance ever observed by astronomers, he said.

The Webb telescope also confirmed the existence of JADES-GS-z10.0, which dates from 450 million years after the Big Bang and had previously been spotted by the Hubble Space Telescope.

## Biman pilot dodges probe

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(Science) or equivalent with physics and mathematics mandatory.

Sadia is the wife of Captain Sazid Ahmed who was recently removed from the post of chief of training following allegations of irregularities including harassment of female cockpit crew, sources at Biman said.

Biman Managing Director and CEO Shafiqul Azim yesterday said the probe body had asked Sadia to appear before it on March 30 and respond to the allegations against her.

"But instead of appearing before the committee, she sent an email that she is abroad," added the Biman boss.

The Daily Star received a copy of the email in which Sadia said, "[sic] My family life and safety was at a serious stake. As a result I became very sick and was later

diagnosed with nerve entrapment with a requirement of immediate treatment. At that point I was not been able to handle all this harassment including all social pressures in this health condition and decided to leave the country for the time being."

After The Daily Star report that Sadia forged her certificate was found to be true, Biman suspended her and launched a thorough probe, said the Biman MD.

"As she didn't appear before the probe body, the committee will take actions against her in line with the rules," he said.

The Biman chief also said they have already requested CAAB to take action against Sadia.

"As a carrier, we cannot revoke her licence. It is the jurisdiction of CAAB

as it issues the licences to pilots," said the Biman MD.

Shafiqul vowed that they would follow due process. "Good governance must be established in Biman. We will bring everything on track."

Even though Sadia said she has left the country, a number of sources in the carrier told this newspaper that she was actually in Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, a section of Biman officials was critical of CAAB for seeking an explanation from the carrier for appointing Captain Ishtiaque Hossain as chief of planning and scheduling.

"CAAB has nothing to do with this appointment. A competent person like Capt Ishtiaque is very necessary for Biman," said a senior pilot of Biman.

## Crucial in tackling fire incidents, yet not protected

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The aviation regulator did not even taken permission from Rajuk to fill the around 30-acre pond, which had long been used as a water retention pond for Ashkona, Uttarkhan and Dakshinkhan areas.

However, Caab Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman had told The Daily Star that they were implementing the project without affecting the environment.

According to a 2019 study by the Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP), the central Dhaka area lost 3,440 acres out of 9,556 acres of its flood flow zones, water retention areas, and water bodies since the publication of Dhaka's DAP in 2010.

Urban planning expert Adil Mohammad Khan said water bodies are supposed to cover Dhaka city's 12 to 15 percent area considering its population but the coverage in central Dhaka area is only around five percent.

"We didn't feel the necessity of protecting area-based ponds even though different structures have been constructed filling ponds over the years. We have also built roads and box culverts on canals destroying the water network," he said.

According to planning standards,

there should be at least one pond in a small ward and three in a big ward, he said.

Ponds should be protected not only in the capital but also in other cities and towns, and the government will have to take necessary immediate steps in this regard, said Adil, also a former general secretary of BIP.

"A new provision has been incorporated in the DAP 2022 for transfer of development rights. Using these rights, we can even protect private ponds," he said.

Iqbal Habib, joint secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, said a pond or an alternative hydrant system is a must in a particular area, but unfortunately there is no hydrant system in the capital and the ponds are also being filled.

Since wetland protection act-2000 came into force, there is no scope for filling a single pond or water body, but the law is not enforced, he added.

"The main reason for filling ponds in Dhaka city is that the owners think they will get high prices for those. But they don't understand their actual value."

"For the greater interest of Dhaka city, we have to think anew to protect our ponds and all other water bodies," he said.

## Next budget

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year would be 6 percent, up from this fiscal year's target of 5.6 percent.

Both the ADB and the WB forecasted inflation to be upwards of 6 percent next fiscal year. The WB's projection is 6.5 percent and the ADB's is 6.6 percent.

The budget for the annual development programme would be Tk 263,000 crore, up 6.9 percent from this year's allocation.

The allocation for interest payment will be 27 percent more at Tk 102,376 crore on the back of the depreciation of the taka.

"For the same reason, the allocation for interest payment rose by Tk 9,638 crore in this year's revised budget," said a finance ministry official.

Subsidy expenditure was also increased in the revised budget and will increase in the upcoming budget too.

In the original budget for this year, Tk 81,000 crore was kept for subsidy expenditure; it was topped up by Tk 21,000 in the revised budget.

In fiscal 2023-24, subsidy expenses would take up Tk 100,134 crore.

The total revenue collection target would be Tk 500,000 crore, which is 15 percent more than this fiscal year's.

Of the sum, the National Board of Revenue has been tasked with fetching Tk 430,000 crore, which is 16.2 percent more than this year.