

JAYA AHSAN

on ‘Dawshom Awbotaar’s’ record-breaking stint

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Dawshom Awbotaar, starring Jaya Ahsan, was released in Kolkata on Thursday, and has already sparked discussions. After a gap of five years, Jaya has acted in a film directed by renowned Indian filmmaker Srijit Mukherji. It initially made a pre-sales record, even before its release.

For the past ten years, she has been featured in Indian Bengali cinema with great success. She has received awards, recognition, and love from the audience, both in India and in Bangladesh. The versatile diva has shared her thoughts with The Daily Star from Kolkata recently.

Congratulations on the record-breaking ‘Dawshom Awbotaar’. You and the entire team have invested a lot of time in the promotional campaign of this film. How are you feeling at the moment?



It feels really great. Srijit is an established filmmaker, who has a wide group of audience. Also, the film comprises of multiple popular stars, thus the response is quite great. I am really happy to be a part of this project. From the promotional campaign, we have received positive response from the audience and fans.

Have you watched the film in theatres yet?

I have watched it at the premiere. I’ve been in Kolkata for a few days, specifically for the premiere of this film. Those who attended the premiere

have praised it greatly. I personally found it very impressive. It’s a great movie. I believe that **Dawshom Awbotaar** will win the hearts of all viewers.

Tell us what impression do you have on Prosenjit and Srijit, after working in this project.

Both of them are highly accomplished individuals.

About their new collaboration, Srijit is a renowned and accomplished director on a grand scale. He is an incredibly talented director, without a doubt. After five years, I had the opportunity to work with him as an actor, and he meticulously handles the production of every film.

On the other hand, Prosenjit is a veteran and accomplished artiste, highly regarded by the audience. The audience knows how excellent his work is. He has also played a significant role in the film.

For a decade, you have been acting in Indian Bengali cinema, achieving success and gaining both the love and respect of people not only within the country, but also outside. How do you perceive this?

Acting is something that I love very much. I enjoy acting. I always want to act, and I want to deliver quality work. So, when people appreciate my acting, and shower love from both sides of the border, that feels really good.

You must have received lots of invitation for Puja in Kolkata?

Yes, I’ve received many invitations for Puja celebrations in Kolkata. Puja here is a unique and grand festival, and it’s a fantastic experience. Besides, everyone here celebrates it with such enthusiasm that it’s enjoyable.



Madonna addresses Israel-Palestine crisis during London performance



In a heartfelt speech during her **Celebration Tour** in London, Madonna expressed her deep sadness and fear regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict. The pop icon, aged 65, deemed it ‘irresponsible’ to remain silent about the ongoing conflict. With tears in her eyes, she passionately called for peace. Madonna’s speech emphasised that all the world’s children belong to everyone, regardless of their background, religion, or ethnicity. She stressed the collective responsibility humanity holds for these innocent lives.

The conflict, which began on October 7, has resulted in a reported 4,651 Palestinian casualties from Israeli strikes, according to Gaza’s health ministry.



New ‘Dunki’ poster unveils international release date

The year 2023 can undeniably be called Shah Rukh Khan’s. He kicked off the year with **Pathaan** in January and later delivered another blockbuster with **Jawan** in September. To cap off the year, his movie, **Dunki**, has been set for its release around Christmas.

This comedy-drama directed by Rajkumar Hirani is scheduled to hit Indian theatres on December 22. An international release poster for the film was unveiled yesterday on social media, indicating that **Dunki** will be released overseas on December 21.

Dunki marks Shah Rukh Khan’s first collaboration with Rajkumar Hirani and includes actress Taapsee Pannu in a significant role.

NEWS

Everyone enjoys religious freedom

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religion and caste unitedly fought for the independence of Bangladesh in 1971 and, so all have equal rights here. “We all are the children of this soil. We’ll live in this land enjoying our respective rights.”

The PM asked the Hindu community to pray for Bangladesh and its progress during the festival.

She said Durga Puja is being celebrated in joyful and peaceful manner throughout the country and all the relevant government agencies, including police, and her party members are working sincerely so no untoward incident happens during

the festival. This time Durga Puja is being celebrated at over 32,000 puja mandaps across the country amid the peaceful environment, she went on. The PM greeted all the Hindu community people in Bangladesh and throughout the world. Bangladesh Puja Udjapon Parishad President JL Bhowmik and Mahanagar Sarbajanin Puja Committee President Manindra Kumar Nath spoke on the occasion. Later, Hasina visited Dhaka Ramakrishna Mission and exchanged greetings with devotees. Speaking there, she assured

the Hindu community that her government will always stand by their side and facilitate them to enjoy their rights as it did in the past. “You were born on this soil. So, we all will live in this land enjoying all due rights here. I can at least say that when we are in power, we definitely give this assurance and will be beside you.” “This country belongs to all Think always that this land is yours too.” Principal of Ramakrishna Math and Mission Swami Purnatmananda Maharaj delivered the welcome speech.

No plan to close roads

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participation in the political process,” said a statement from the US Embassy in Dhaka. The home minister said he told the ambassador that commuters to the capital would not face impediments. “If they [BNP] hold a peaceful programme, we have nothing to say.” If one million or more people come to Dhaka city, as the BNP claims, there will be challenges, he said, adding that the government had requested the BNP not to do that. “We will say that they should not resort to violence. Let the traffic move. This is our request. We have

informed him [Haas] about these,” Asaduzzaman said. When a reporter asked whether it was within the diplomatic etiquette for an ambassador to ask questions about a political party’s event, he said, “I want to ask you this question.... He is the ambassador of a state. He asked questions, and we answered. Whether he can or cannot [ask such questions] is not my concern. We have our foreign minister, and there is the foreign ministry.” Information Minister Hasan Mahmud had earlier said the streets will be under Awami League’s control on October 28. Regarding this, the home minister said, “These are

political statements. These are things our political leaders say to keep our activists motivated. “As the home minister, I request anyone organising events not to block roads and disrupt traffic....” The law enforcers will ensure Dhaka city does not come to a standstill on October 28, he said, adding that the police “will do what needs to be done to clear the roads.” Haas and Asaduzzaman also discussed the Rohingya crisis. “They [US] want to take some Rohingyas but our SB [police] clearance gets delayed. We said it bothered us too. If Rohingyas are taken to another country, we appreciate it.”

Convicts cannot contest polls

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verdict, originally delivered on November 17, 2018, after rejecting five applications seeking suspension or a stay on conviction and sentences given by the lower court. The applications were filed before the 2018 general elections by five BNP leaders, including AZM Zahid Hossain, who sought a stay or suspension of the lower court orders so that they can contest the election held on December 30, 2018. “If any person being convicted participates in the election that will be wholly contrary to the spirit of the preamble of the constitution and article 66(2)(d) of the constitution,” reads the full verdict. Article 66(2)(d) reads: “A person shall be disqualified for election as, or for being, a member of parliament who has been, on conviction for a criminal offence involving moral turpitude, sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years, unless a period of five years has elapsed since his release.” “So, a person who is convicted no matter whether he is on bail or his

conviction has been suspended by the order of the court, he will not be allowed to participate in the election unless the conviction and sentence are set aside by the competent court of law,” reads the HC verdict. “Mere pendency of the criminal appeal does not mean that the convicted person would be treated as innocent person unless those are set aside by the competent court of law,” it added. Zahid, a leader of pro-BNP Doctors’ Association of Bangladesh, was convicted and sentenced to 13 years’ imprisonment in a corruption case. The four other convicted BNP leaders are former state minister and BNP chairperson’s adviser Aman Ullah Aman, Khagrachhari district BNP president and former lawmaker Wadud Bhuiyan, Jhenaidah BNP president and former Jhenidah-2 MP Md Mashiur Rahman, and ex-Jhenidah-1 lawmaker Md Abdul Wahhab. Trial courts convicted and sentenced them from eight to 20 years in jail in corruption cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Reach Dhaka by 25th for rally

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“If we can hold a large rally, it will help us mount pressure on the government. That’s why we are keeping an eye on the government’s strategy. We will chalk out our next course of action considering the government’s strategy,” said a senior BNP leader. The ruling party leaders and law enforcement agencies have warned of tough actions if there is any untoward incident centring the rally. BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said his party has only one plan: Hold the October 28 grand rally peacefully in Dhaka. He said the BNP has no intent to occupy the streets. “It [the notion that the BNP will go for a sit-in] is completely untrue and propaganda. We did not ask our leaders and activists to come to Dhaka and sit on the streets. We told them that after the programme on the 28th, everyone would go back to their respective places and they would wait for the next programme,” he told journalists at the BNP Nayapaltan office. The BNP leader also said the party would not call any programme for

which its leaders and activists would have to stay in the capital. “We can assure you that our grand rally will be held peacefully like before. We will take necessary steps in this regard,” he said. Fakhru called upon law enforcers not to obstruct the opposition’s movement for a free, fair, and credible election. “If you do that, it will be considered taking a position against a free and fair election.” The BNP has sought the Dhaka Metropolitan Police’s permission for the rally to be held in front of its Nayapaltan headquarters. Party leaders said they would not hold the rally anywhere else. Last year, the party tried to hold the December 10 rally in front of its headquarters but was denied permission. It had difficulties getting permission for its July 28 rally too but was eventually given a conditional go-ahead. The BNP has formed 10 divisional committees to make the rally successful and five standing committee members were given the responsibility of coordinating with those committees.

Trader beaten

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commissioner of police, said the inquest report mentioned that there was no injury mark on the body. “The exact cause of death will be known in the autopsy,” he added. Jahanara yesterday filed a case with Shah Ali Police Station accusing Muhammad Mim, Sourav, Leon, Shaikat, Abu Hanif Rony, Roman Ahmed and several unnamed others. Police arrested Rony, a former office secretary of Ward 8 Swechchhasebak League; Sourav and Rahat. Monir Hossain, a cousin of the victim, said Faruk had enmity with the gang because he did not let the key accused Mim extort five vendors on the footpath in front of his house.

EC to hold

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commission will exchange views with officials about the election atmosphere, law and order, and the possible date for announcing the election schedule. The commission will sit with the principal staff officer of the Armed Forces Division, chiefs of police, Rab, BGB, Ansar, and others on October 30. It will talk to the Bangladesh Bank governor, secretaries of foreign, home, public administration, local government, secondary and higher education, director generals of the BTV, Bangladesh Betar, chairmen of Dhaka and madrasa education boards, director of meteorological department and others on November 1. The EC has approved 67 local observers to monitor the polls and sought applications from international observers and journalists.

Kamal defends

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events including war and the pandemic. As of yesterday, 15,000 beneficiaries enrolled under the four schemes of the universal pension system, depositing a total of Tk 12.45 crore, said Khairuzzaman Mozumder, the finance secretary. The government invested Tk 11.31 crore of the money in the 10-year treasury bond, Khairuzzaman said. The universal pension system saw about 13,000 enrolments in the month after its launch on August 17. However, only 2,000 beneficiaries enrolled for the four different schemes in the following month.

Creation of Palestine state only solution

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over time and suddenly it recently became very explosive and unacceptable against any civilised standard,” Prof Yunus said in the release. He added the two-state solution is the only way forward to resolve this crisis. “There is no way to escape from this resolution [two-state solution] if we want to bring peace to the region. The top-most priority right now is to implement the long-ignored UN resolution on creating two states.” He said if the conflict is allowed to rage on, this might set the whole region on fire. “We don’t know where this conflict will lead us to. It has the potential to set

the whole region on fire and suck in a larger part of the world into that fire.” He further said that in the creation of a Palestinian state, the United States has to play a key role. “We must create the state of Palestine with extreme urgency. The key actor in bringing this to reality is the United States. If the US moves fast, others will follow. The Biden administration must lead the world on this vital and urgent issue without delay.” Prof Yunus urged uninterrupted humanitarian access in the besieged Palestinian territory. “I urgently call upon all parties engaged in the conflict to immediately cease hostilities, ensure the safety and well-being of the innocent children and civilians caught in the midst of this

crisis. “It is time to focus on saving human lives, protect dignity and get to work on a permanent solution.” In the press release, he further said, “Let us join hands to... foster an environment conducive to meaningful peace negotiations and work out the modalities to create Palestine state at the fastest pace.” He added, “In this day and age, we should collectively recognize that war and bloodshed are inconsistent with the values and progress of our modern civilization. “The world is watching and it is our shared responsibility to work towards a future where both Palestine and Israel can co-exist in harmony and peace together with friendly collaboration.”