

# I am thankful for everything: JAYA AHSAN

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SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Just a day before her birthday, Jaya Ahsan returned to Dhaka after completing shooting in Kolkata for her upcoming film *Dear Ma*. Yesterday, the National Award-winning actress celebrated the special occasion with her family.

Jaya’s busy schedule rarely allows her the chance to spend time in the country and with her close ones. In conversation with The Daily Star, the actress spoke about her special day, current projects, and more.

“As soon as I returned home, the hour of celebrations began,” she said. “I usually like to stay home on my birthdays, and spend quality time with my family.”

From her colleagues in showbiz, friends, and fans, the internet boasted with good wishes for Jaya. “I was overwhelmed with all the love that everyone showered upon me. I am thankful for the lovely wishes and prayers, and for everything,” the actress shared.

Her mother likes to cook special cuisine for Jaya’s birthday every year. “My mother is always excited about my birthdays,” smiles Jaya, “This year she made Hilsha Polao and it was heavenly! To tell you the truth, I was craving for this for a long time (laughs).”

Marking her birthday, the teaser of another project, titled *OCD* starring Jaya, was revealed. It is directed by Soukarya Ghosal. Jaya earlier worked with the director in *Bhootpori*, which was released in February. “The name of the film says a lot about itself, and for now, I can say that it will reveal many answers.”

Talking about *Dear Maa*, the actress shared, “The plot of *Dear Maa* is emotional and conveys a strong message. It is a very sweet story between a child and mother.”

Directed by Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury, the film also features Chandan Roy Sanyal and Saswata Chatterjee. This film marks the second collaboration of Jaya and Aniruddha after their much-acclaimed Bollywood web-film *Kadak Singh*. “Aniruddha da’s style of filmmaking is quite different and impressive. I have observed that while working with him in the previous project and he has put a lot of effort into this film as well. The audience will be able to witness it on the screen.”

Jaya’s experience of working in this film was great for her co-actors as well. “All of my co-artists are power-packed performers, it was quite challenging to perform with them and enjoyable too.”

The actress further added that she would be happier if the Bangladeshi audience could watch *Dear Maa*. “Whenever my film releases in Kolkata, I always feel if Bangladeshi audience could enjoy this film too, I hope we will be able to make it possible in near future,” concluded the actress.



PHOTO: COLLECTED



## Vicky Zahed’s horror-thriller ‘Ekti Khola Janala’ to premiere on Binge

Director Vicky Zahed, renowned for his psycho-thrillers like *Redrum*, *Punorjonmo* series, returns with another similar instalment— this time blending horror into a short film, titled *Ekti Khola Janala*.

The film stars Tasnia Farin and Sallha Khanam Nadia in the lead roles, both portraying the characters of nurses.

Vicky Zahed explains, “This is an international story adapted to the Bangladeshi context. It revolves around two nurses and the strange events they encounter one night. It’s an attempt to create something different.”

*Ekti Khola Janala* will premiere on the OTT platform Binge in the first week of July.

## Actress Bobby faces charges of attempted murder and theft

Renowned actress Eamin Haque Bobby is embroiled in legal controversy after Muhammad Sakib Uddoja, AGM of YN Centre, filed a case against her, accusing her of theft and assault with the intent to murder.

The case was registered at Gulshan Police Station on June 23, confirmed by Gulshan Police Officer-in-Charge Mazharul Islam. He also mentioned that Bobby and the primary accused, Mirza Abul Bashar, have filed a countersuit. The investigation, led by Sub-Inspector Anwar Hossain, is currently underway.

The complaint also noted that the YN Centre suffered damages worth Tk 1,50,000 and thefts amounting to Tk 1,00,000, which are yet to be recovered.



# COUNTRYWIDE

## AMTALI UPAZILA HEALTH COMPLEX Manpower shortage cripples health service

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Patients in Barguna’s Amtali upazila are deprived of proper treatment facilities as the upazila health complex is plagued with various problems including shortage of doctors and other staff.

The upazila health complex serves as the lone government hospital for nearly 2.5 lakh residents of different unions under the upazila.

Only three doctors, including two medical officers, are currently serving at the 50-bed health complex.

At least 28 posts of doctors, out of 31 posts, are lying vacant for a long, hampering health service of thousands of people in the upazila.

Apart from the doctors, about 60 out of 90 posts of Class II staff, including statistician, cashier, store keeper, and 19 out of 33 posts of Class III employees, including ward boy, gardener, cook, security guard and cleaner are lying vacant for nearly three years, disrupting overall activities of the government hospital.

According to the hospital sources, though Dr Faizur Rahman, a resident medical officer joined the hospital on February 29 this year, he has remained absent at his workplace since the next day.

The hospital authorities served him two show-cause notices, asking him to explain the reason behind his absence,

and withheld his salary, but he is yet join the health complex.

Local residents said as the upazila health and family planning officer (UHFPO) remains busy with different administrative works, it is quite difficult to manage so many outdoor, indoor and emergency patients with only two medical officers.

In case of any medical emergency, patients need to be taken to Patuakhali Medical College Hospital, about 35km away, or Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, which is about 75 km from Barguna’s Amtali upazila, they added.

During a recent visit to the hospital this correspondent saw Rushia Begum from Haldia village, who came to the hospital with itching problem, was wondering what to do as there was no doctor at the hospital then.

“We are poor people and can’t afford more money to go elsewhere for treatment,” she said.

While talking, Amtali UHFPO Dr Chinmoy Howladar said they have informed their higher authorities on several occasions in this regard, but nothing has been done so far.

Contacted, Barguna Civil Surgeon Dr Pradeep Chandra Mandal said usually, doctors posted from distant areas do not want to stay at the remote upazila health complex for long.



The 50-bed Amtali Upazila Health Complex in Barguna.

PHOTO: STAR

India replaces

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adding that the first case logged under the new law was that of a motorcycle theft in the central city of Gwalior, registered 10 minutes after midnight.

“The laws were debated for three months ... It is not fair to give political colour to this big improvement happening after centuries. I ask the opposition parties to support this legislation,” Shah said.

Opposition Congress party lawmaker P Chidambaram said the previous parliament session did not hold any “worthwhile debate” before passing the laws.

He said that there was only marginal improvement in the new laws, which could have been introduced as amendments to existing laws.

“The initial impact will be to throw the administration of criminal justice into disarray,” he posted on X.

The Indian Express newspaper said in an editorial that criminal justice reform should not be “a one-time solution or one that just takes place in the books”, and called for police reform and addressing gaps in judicial infrastructure.

Parties rush

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was not greater, it was still a huge setback for Macron who had called the snap election after his ticket was trounced by the RN in the European Parliament election last month.

Whether the anti-immigrant, eurosceptic RN can form a government will depend now on how successfully other parties manage to thwart Le Pen by rallying round the best-placed rival candidates in hundreds of constituencies across France.

## The corrupt will face music

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Hasina said people should be reminded about Bangladesh opting out of the Trans-Asian Highway.

Talking about the BNP’s “anti-India stance”, she said it is their double standard.

When the BJP came to power in India, BNP leaders visited the Indian High Commission in Dhaka with sweets and flowers, but they are now talking against India, the PM said.

She said that former premier Khaleda Zia had forgotten to speak about the Teesta water sharing treaty during her visit to India.

Hasina said the BNP came to power in 2001 promising that it would enter a gas deal with India although there was a shortage of gas in the country. “Why are they talking against India now?”

The PM said she will never do anything against the interest of the country.

She also questioned the source of income of BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman who “leads a lavish life” in London.

Meanwhile, Cabinet Secretary Md Mahbub Hossain said the government will show no sympathy to the corrupt people.

“Are all the officials in an office corrupt? There are only a few of them. But all the staffers feel embarrassed because of those few people,” the cabinet secretary told reporters during a briefing after the cabinet meeting yesterday.

Mahbub said the administration is neither creating any obstacles to taking actions against the corrupt people nor questioning those actions.

“All the mechanisms of the government are

always cooperating [with the authorities concerned] to take action against the corrupt people,” he added.

The cabinet secretary said the cabinet approved a proposal for the formation of Padma Bridge Operation and Maintenance Company (PLC), reports UNB.

The 100 percent government-owned company will look after the operation and maintenance of the Padma Bridge, he said.

It will have a 14-member board of directors with representatives from different agencies, including Bridges Division and Finance Division.

Currently, Korea Expressway and China’s Major Bridge Engineering Company are responsible for toll collection and maintenance of the bridge.

The two companies were appointed for five years.

## Sylhet, Sunamganj

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Sarighat is 35 cm above the danger level.

In Sunamganj, at 12:00 pm, the Surma River was flowing 36cm above the danger level at Chhatak and 11 cm above in Sunamganj town, while the Jadukata in Tahirpur’s Shaktiarkhola was flowing 70cm above the danger level.

Some 156 mm of rainfall was recorded in Sylhet town in 12 hours from 6:00am yesterday, according to the local Met office.

The Sylhet region faced the first phase of flood on May 30 due to heavy rainfall caused by cyclone Remal.

Before the flood waters could retreat, the region was struck by flash floods on the eve of the Eid-ul-Azha.

The fresh round of flash floods in Sylhet and Sunamganj is coming at a time when more than 20,000 are still taking refuge in shelters and over a million people are reeling from the previous phases of the flood.

Over in Rangpur, Teesta river was flowing 7cm above the danger level at Kaunia point at 12:00pm yesterday, according to WDB.

The rising water levels have inundated lower lands in the Gangachara, Kaunia and Pirgachha upazilas, causing suffering to residents.

Around 300 houses have been affected by flood since Sunday morning, said Abdullah Al Hadi, chairman of Laxmitari Union Parishad in Gangachara upazila.

Local WDB officials have issued a flash flood alert.

Teesta started flowing above the danger mark at Kaunia point from Monday

due to the rainfall in the Indian upstream, said Rabiul Islam, the executive engineer of WDB in Rangpur.

The situation now depends on the rainfall over the next 24 hours, he added.

Nazrul Islam Hakkani, president of the Teesta Bachao Nadi Bachao Sangram Parishad, emphasised the need for implementing the Teesta Master Plan, including dredging and conservation, as a long term solution to the recurring problem.

The Teesta causes property losses amounting to Tk 100,000 crore every year, he said.

Last week, Teesta was flowing 52cm above the danger mark.

[Our Correspondents from Sylhet and Rangpur contributed to the report]

## France

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2022 World Cup runners-up into a last-eight tie in Hamburg on Friday as they remain on course to become European champions for the third time.

“We are so proud to once again be in the quarter-finals. We are expected to get there but we must appreciate it and not think that is something that is just normal,” said France coach Didier Deschamps.

France’s back line was outstanding against Romelu Lukaku and his fellow attackers, and Belgium bow out after what will go down as a disappointing tournament for them.

“It’s a shame,” said captain Kevin De Bruyne. “We had a plan. We knew they were strong. It’s a shame to concede a goal in the way we did.”

The French were widely seen as the favourites to win this tournament before arriving in Germany, but they were below par during the group phase.

The broken nose suffered by Kylian Mbappe in their opening game against Austria did not help, and the uncertain form of Antoine Griezmann has been a problem too.

The Belgians were happy to sit deep and did not test Mike Maignan in the first half other than from an awkward De Bruyne free-kick which the France goalkeeper blocked with his knee.

France had lots of the ball, yet often looked untidy, imprecise and rather flat, with Griezmann appearing lost on the right wing.

The breakthrough almost came for Belgium an hour in as William Saliba lost possession on halfway and De Bruyne released Carrasco, who was about to pull the trigger when Theo Hernandez arrived to make a brilliant saving block.