



JAYA AHSAN

starts work on first Bangladeshi web series ‘Jimmi’

Jaya Ahsan, who has already made a significant mark on India’s OTT platforms, is now set to venture into Bangladeshi web series with her debut project, *Jimmi*. Directed by Ashfaq Nipun, the web series was first announced in March, later Jaya confirmed that the project is finally moving forward, with shooting scheduled to begin this week.

“The work on this series was supposed to start earlier, but got delayed for various reasons. Finally, it is beginning. The shooting for *Jimmi* will start in a few days. This is my first web series,” shared Jaya, expressing her enthusiasm for the upcoming venture.

Jaya will be seen playing the role of a low-ranking government employee who has not received a promotion in 10 years.

Vikrant Massey blames social media pressure for ‘retirement’

Vikrant Massey recently surprised fans by announcing a break from acting. He revealed that his decision was fueled by social media pressure.

During an interview at Agenda AajTak, Vikrant explained that his demanding career had been limiting his time with his wife, Sheetal Thakur, and their son.

Vikrant shared, “I finally achieved the life I had always dreamed of, so I felt it was time to truly live it. Taking a break seemed necessary because, at the end of the day, everything in life is transient. That’s why I’ve decided to work on just one film next year.”

He admitted that social media pressure played a major role in his decision to announce the break. “I lead a public life and am somewhat introverted,” he said. “Social media is something one has to engage with, but if I had the option, I’d prefer to use it selectively—only when I genuinely want to share something.”



Allu Arjun pledges cooperation in stampede case

Telugu superstar Allu Arjun has pledged full cooperation in the investigation following his brief detention related to a fan’s tragic death at the premiere of *Pushpa 2: The Rule* on December 4. Addressing the media after his release, Arjun expressed condolences to the bereaved family, calling the incident “immensely unfortunate”.

The tragedy occurred when a stampede broke out after Allu Arjun and Rashmika Mandanna made a surprise appearance. Among the casualties, 35-year-old Revathi lost her life, and her son remains critically injured. The victim’s husband filed an FIR naming Allu Arjun as an accused.

The actor was taken into custody on Friday from his Banjara Hills residence and initially



remanded to 14 days of judicial custody. Although the Telangana High Court granted him interim bail, procedural delays forced him to spend a night in jail.

Chirkutt to perform in Victory Day concert at London

On the occasion of Victory Day, Chirkutt will be performing in London for their solo concert, *Love Bangladesh*. Fans in London will have the chance to experience live renditions of Chirkutt’s hit tracks, including *Ahare Jibon*, *Jadur Shohor*, *Khajna*, *Kanamachi*, and *Duniya*.

The concert, organized by NextStage Events, is scheduled for December 16 at the Mayfair Venue in Romford, London, running from 4:30 PM to 10:00 PM. Open to all, including expatriate Bangladeshis, the event requires no tickets, but attendees must register for entry.

The band will team up with international musicians for this performance. Chirkutt’s vocalist Sharmin Sultana Sumi revealed, “We have collaborated globally many times to showcase Bengali music to the world. This event will be no exception, as artistes from different countries will join us. Chirkutt will be the same familiar band, but in a new style.”



Austin Butler to play Patrick Bateman in new adaptation of ‘American Psycho’

Luca Guadagnino is bringing a fresh take on Bret Easton Ellis’ 1991 novel *American Psycho* to the silver screen.

As reported by Variety, Austin Butler has been cast in the iconic and chilling role of Patrick Bateman.

The upcoming film, starring Austin Butler as Patrick Bateman, is not a remake of the 2000 adaptation with Christian Bale but a fresh take on Bret Easton Ellis’ novel, with reports hinting at a markedly different interpretation by Guadagnino.

American Psycho, featuring Christian Bale, was released in 2000. The film tells the story of Patrick Bateman, a wealthy investment banker in 1980s New York City, who leads a double life as a Wall Street yuppie and a serial killer.



WHAT’S THE HAPS?



Shobar Agey Bangladesh concert on Victory Day

On the occasion of Victory Day (December 16), a concert has been organised by **Shobar Agey Bangladesh** at Capital’s Manik Mia Avenue. The concert is open to all and will feature performances by popular bands and solo artistes.

Date: December 16
Time: 12 pm

COUNTRYWIDE

BARGUNA’S AMTALI UPAZILA Unabated encroachment continues

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

One Saiful Islam has built an ice mill by occupying a portion of the canal land, while on the opposite side Mosharef, Razzak Mridha and Nurul Islam erected at least eight to ten shops and earning a handsome amount from those.

Meanwhile, at least 20 to 25 people including Harun Hawladar, Kalam Hawladar and many others have built more than 100 structures in between Amtali Upazila Health Complex and Kamal Talukdar’s house and enjoying benefits.

Local farmers said alongside encroachments, the water of the canal has been badly polluted as fish traders, who sits along the banks of the canal, often throw various types of waste materials into the canal.

Gafur Pada, a local farmer, said due to continuous encroachment normal water flows of the important canal has been severely disrupted, resulting in flooding during the monsoon.

Another farmer Shamim Chaprasi said they cannot cultivate any crops including paddy in their land as the canal needs to be cleared first to maintain its natural flow.

Amtali Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) Tarek Hasan said they will conduct eviction drives to free the canal as early as possible.



A section of local people have continued encroachment on Basugi Khal in Barguna’s Amtali upazila. PHOTO: STAR

Rizwana’s comment misleading

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lack of progress in political reforms over decades.

“If political reforms cannot be achieved without the involvement of political parties, why haven’t those been implemented in the last 53 years?” she asked, speaking at an awareness and driver retraining programme on noise pollution in the capital.

Responding to her comments, Rizvi said, “All democratic political parties have supported the interim government. Drawing a dividing line between politicians and civil society will create complexities in strengthening democracy.”

“The adviser has made a utterly incorrect and untruthful statement. There is no precedent that civil society has ever achieved anything by sidelining someone or keeping someone away,” he added.

The BNP leader said that the party has been cooperating with the interim government to ensure the national election is held within a reasonable timeframe after completing necessary reforms.

AL leader Siraj abducted, freed

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Injured, Siraj was taken to Al-Haramain Hospital around 4:00am, where he underwent a minor surgery on his left leg, said the hospital’s director Nahian Ahmed Chowdhury.

“His family told us that he had been in a motorbike accident in which he was injured. He was discharged the next morning as his condition was good,” the doctor said, adding that the victim’s family had not mentioned any attack and thus, the hospital

Janata Bank exempted

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had not paid back most of the sum.

The amount borrowed by Beximco is 410 percent of its own capital, according to records.

The company’s Vice-Chairman Salman F Rahman, a former adviser to ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, is currently in jail.

Mazibur Rahman, managing director of Janata Bank, said his bank would lend the conglomerate Tk180 crore.

On December 5, Janata Bank requested the BB’s

authorities did not inform the police.

Siraj is currently under treatment at another hospital, his daughter Muntaha Misbah told local newspaper Shyamal Sylhet yesterday morning. She, however, declined to say anything more.

An accused in seven cases filed over attacks on protesters during the July uprising, Siraj was the president of the now-banned student organisation Chhatra League’s Sylhet district unit. He also served as

Man dies

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and Family Planning Officer Mizanur Rahman said the man was dead on arrival around 8:30pm.

After the incident, locals kept three of the policemen confined to a shop. Around two hours later, Border Guard Bangladesh personnel went there and rescued them.

Talking to The Daily Star, Chandgam Union Parishad Chairman Abdul Hafiz Tapan said, “I was in my office that is adjacent to the bridge. Hearing the hue and cry, I went out and saw that the people had confined three policemen. They were saying that the policemen killed Dudu.”

Dudu’s son Shawkat Ali said, “Police have killed my father without any reason. I want justice.”

Bheramara Police Station’s Officer-in-Charge Sheikh Shahidul Islam claimed that police had information that Dudu was involved with drug peddling even though there was no case filed against him.

But police did not physically assault Dudu. Rather, Dudu himself came out of his shop and jumped off the bridge to escape the police, said the OC.

Kushtia’s Superintendent of Police Mizanur Rahman said he has formed a probe body to investigate the incident.

Unite to build a fair, inclusive Bangladesh

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Earlier in the morning, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said the national election will be held soon in line with people’s wishes.

“We’re always hopeful. An interim government has been established, and we’re all cooperating. Hopefully, arrangements for polls will be made very soon as per the people’s wishes” he told reporters after paying tribute at the

Martyred Intellectuals’ Graveyard in the capital’s Mirpur around 9:30am on Martyred Intellectuals’ Day yesterday.

He added, “Through a free, fair and impartial election, the people will get the opportunity to elect their representatives, form the parliament, and establish the government.”

Earlier, Fakhrul and some senior party leaders, including BNP standing committee

Nazrul Islam Khan and Abdul Moyeen Khan, placed wreaths at the Martyred Intellectuals’ Memorial around 9:15am. They then stood in a solemn silence for some time to remember the fallen national heroes who lost their lives for the country.

Fakhrul also told reporters that new opportunities have been created after fascism was removed from the country through the July uprising.

“By making full use of this opportunity, we want to establish a democratic Bangladesh and a modern state free of discrimination.”

Responding to a question, he criticised the Awami League for losing connection with the people.

“Those who have distanced themselves from the people, killed democracy, suppressed democracy and freedom-loving individuals, and sold our independence have

naturally become isolated. That’s why they are absent today.”

Meanwhile, BNP kept the national flag at half mast and hoisted black flags atop all its offices, including the central Nayapaltan office, to mark the day.

The party’s associate bodies, including Jubo Dal, Chhatra Dal, Swechhasebak Dal and Krishak Dal, also paid their respects to the martyred intellectuals.