



Abul Khair Litu, chairperson and founder of the Bengal Foundation, speaks at a press conference in the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday to announce the inauguration of The Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct with an exhibition of selected artworks by maestro SM Sultan today. Sadya Afreen Mallick, editor of Arts and Entertainment, The Daily Star, looks on.

PHOTO: STAR

The Daily Star-BENGAL ARTS PRECINCT Opens to public today

SM Sultan's works inaugural exhibit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct, a sanctuary for nurturing artistic talent, is opening to the public today with a display of selected artworks by maestro SM Sultan.

Titled "Poradrishti" (second sight), the exhibition will begin following a launching ceremony at 6:00pm, said organisers at a press meet at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

The exhibition includes oil on canvas and monochrome paintings, they added. Themes like conflict, peace and the serene landscapes of Bangladesh will preside over the exhibition.

"The audience will be provided with explanations of the artworks that will attempt to shed light on the context within which Sultan painted them," said Luva Nahid Chowdhury, director general of the Bengal Foundation. Such an endeavour will make paintings come to life for viewers, agreed speakers.

The Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct is the fourth such place for showcasing artworks by the foundation, said Chowdhury. "Any proud nation must celebrate and nurture its arts and culture—it is a responsibility to do so and as a newspaper we are happy to be able to do so in cooperation with the Bengal Foundation," said Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

Abul Khair Litu, chairperson and founder of the foundation, whose personal collections will be featured in the exhibition, and Sadya Afreen Mallick, editor of Arts and Entertainment, The Daily Star, also spoke at the event.

The exhibition will go on till July 13.

DHAKA CITY SLUM Birth of 63pc children not registered

Says Save The Children study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 63 percent of the slum dwelling children in the capital have no birth registration, a Save The Children study said.

Besides, 12 percent children do hazardous jobs while 9 percent beg, said the study titled "Urbanisation trends and implications for children".

The findings were revealed at a function at the Spectra Convention Centre in Dhaka, said a press release.

Around 80 percent girl children in the slums fall victims to early marriage while around 47 percent ones are school going.

The study reports also recommended for investing more in girl children's

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IDENTIFYING THE DEAD IN RANA PLAZA COLLAPSE, TAZREEN FIRE

DNA sampling not enough

Roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Along with DNA sampling, the authorities should use other methods like conducting investigation through interviewing relatives and neighbours to identify the bodies of the Rana Plaza collapse and Tazreen Fashions fire victims, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

The DNA profiling lab will not be able to identify all the dead victims, as the collection of the samples following the two industrial disasters was not appropriate, they said.

Hameeda Hossain, convener of Sramik Nirapotta Forum, urged the authorities concerned to conduct the investigation using the local government bodies and representatives to identify dead workers' families and

compensate them.

"The DNA lab could have identified all the bodies if DNA samples had been taken from all victims of Rana Plaza collapse and Tazreen fire," said Prof Sharif Akhtaruzzaman, chief of the National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory (NFDPL) of Dhaka Medical College.

The roundtable titled "No Grave to Grieve: The Search for Missing Garment Workers and the Challenges of DNA Technology in Bangladesh" was organised by a group of researchers under the banner of Activist Anthropologist at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Around three-fourths of the Rana Plaza victims were handed over to families based on visual identification

marks like shoes, clothes or mobile phones, said Prof Sharif.

"It is very likely that family members of the victims took away the wrong bodies as they identified those based on visual identification marks only," he said, adding that the NFDPL had so far identified 206 Rana Plaza victims, while 105 bodies were still unidentified.

In the case of tragedies like the abovementioned two, the authorities concerned should set up makeshift morgues at the site to collect DNA samples, he suggested.

Prof Anu Muhammad of Jahangirnagar University; Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, assistant executive director of the Bangladesh Institute of

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Rally urges separate lanes for bicyclists

UNB, Dhaka

A bicycle rally was held in the capital yesterday to promote the use of bicycles as part of a campaign for green transport.

Lawmakers and environmentalists took part in the rally demanding separate lanes for bicyclists along the main streets.

The rally was organised by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment and Forests Ministry.

PATIENT'S DEATH AT BARISAL MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Hospital authorities file counter case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The authorities of Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) yesterday lodged a counter case against 15 accused including five family members of a dead patient for assaulting doctors of the hospital.

Abdul Jalil, administrative officer of SBMCH, lodged the case with Barisal Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court for barring

the doctors from performing their duties, and for injuring them by beating, and defaming them.

Md Wahiduzzaman Shikdar, magistrate of the court, ordered officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station to submit a report after investigation.

Julia Begum, wife of the dead patient, Rezaul Karim from Badarpur village under Sadar upazila in Patuakhali; and Razaul's

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Road crashes kill 5

CITY DESK

Five people were killed and 19 others injured in road accidents in the country Wednesday and yesterday.

Our DU correspondent reports, a rickshaw-puller died after a car hit him from behind on Dhaka University campus last night.

Joydul Ali, 32, of Bogra, was hurled against a nearby wall of Salimullah Muslim Haque Hall.

Lone bread earner of a five-member family, Joydul, was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Our Chuadanga correspondent reports, a fish seller died and 19 others were injured when a bus ploughed through Valipur market beside Chuadanga-Meherpur road in Chuadanga Sadar upazila Wednesday evening.

The dead, Ganga Halder, 31, was a resident of Bakri Kaliya village in the district.

The injured were taken to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital and Rajshahi Medical

College Hospital.

Our Gazipur correspondent reports, a traffic policeman was killed when a Tangail-bound truck hit him while he was on duty at Chandra intersection on Dhaka-Tangail highway in Kaliakoir upazila yesterday.

Salamat Hossain, 45, of Gazipur traffic police, hailed from Pathuli in Basail of Tangail.

Police arrested the driver Abdus Samad, 50, of Sirajganj and seized the truck.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports, an unidentified man died when a vehicle hit him on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Barabkunda area of Sitakunda upazila yesterday.

Our Rangpur correspondent adds, a man was killed when an oil-laden lorry ran him over while he was crossing Badarganj-Parbatipur road in Taxer Hat area of Badarganj upazila Wednesday evening.

The deceased was Abdul Kafi, 45, son of Abdul Mazid of Dhakkhin Moksudpur-Botpara village.

Protest continues

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committee, headed by Deputy Secretary Monirul Islam of the health ministry, at a meeting held on the hospital premises, assured student nurses and a four-member team of Bangladesh Basic Graduate Nurses Association of taking proper measures against the responsible people following investigation.

Vice President Nasimul Haque Imran of the nurses' association said they would not hold any form of agitation for the next seven days. Another probe committee formed by the hospital authorities on Tuesday will give its reports within seven working days. Agitated students yesterday staged a sit-in on the college premises from 9:00am to 8:00am demanding cancellation of the internship of the responsible interns and exemplary punishment for them.

Meanwhile, students of Chittagong, Rangpur and Barisal nursing colleges boycotted their classes and hospital duties from 9:00am-12:00noon as part of the centrally declared programme.

JU teachers seeks driver's

FROM PAGE 3

the university in Savar on Wednesday. The driver was later caught by police.

The participants of the human chain also sought safe road for all, a foot bridge at Gate No-1 at JU, maintaining the vehicle's speed limit and reconstruction of the dilapidated speed breaker on the accident spot. JU Vice Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam and the university staff also joined the programme.

Lack of democracy

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In his lecture, Prof Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir said most political activists from the grassroots to the top were divorced from the ideology of public welfare.

Political leaders are more focused on pursuing personal interests rather than serving the people now, said the speakers.

On the occasion, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque claimed that Awami League's politics was less "criminal" than BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami's.

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