



FRAMING FAME

ANIKO HOSSAIN

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He called his shop Jahangir Frame Ghor, and it is located in Gausul Azam Market, Nilkhel. "I always wanted to work with local wood," he says, "For me, making frames is a form of artwork that few appreciate. My dream is, one day to have it recognised for its own beauty."

His small store soon became renowned through word of mouth. "The first big order I had was from the Bangladesh Photographic Society (BPS)," he tells us, "I was referred to them by Chanchal Mahmood, a well known photographer. He also helped me get some large projects and through these, I met many distinguished personalities, notably the president of our country as well as the education minister," he says. "I also worked on another exhibition known as 'Tales from a Globalising World,' which is held in 18 countries around the world and was hosted by Drik Gallery in Dhaka."

Through these exhibitions, he was exposed to foreign art and framework and collected new ideas for his own shop. "A few years ago the World Bank organised an exhibition as Shilpkala Acedemy, and during that time, someone from their head office in Washington had read an article

about me and asked their local office to look for me to work on their frames," says Hossain.

Hossain has also framed 51 photos by renowned photographer Raghu Rai, "Through this work, I have learned the importance of photography and how it can capture significant moments in time," he says. "I have also worked with Pablo Bartholomew, an Indian photojournalist, who received the Padma Sri Award in 2013, and Tareq and Catherine Masud which was a great experience as well."

Currently, Hossain is working on frames for Chobi Mela VII, which will open on the 23rd, for the fifth year in a row. "I have organised the world's first exhibition at Drik Gallery featuring wooden frames and I had to work very hard to collect about 100 works of art from the contacts I have made throughout my career to do so," he shares. "I will be holding a workshop in March for frame making and am inviting anyone interested to apply through my facebook page. The quality of the frame is important in the preservation of a photo," and that is something he hopes more people will understand and appreciate one day.

Hossain worked with his uncle till 1996, but as his uncle refused to pay him, he eventually left the shop. "Till 1998, I struggled working as a farmhand and at a few other menial jobs, in Bikrampur, until my father passed away," he remembers. Suddenly, he found himself financially responsible for his mother, and three younger siblings.

To support his large family, he returned to work, to do what he is best at. "On the 1st of May 2003; twelve years ago, I started my own frame business, with my life savings and the help of a few relatives," he says.

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A RAY of HOPE

NAZIBA BASHER

Geeti Billah, owner of Geeti's beauty parlour, has been working effortlessly throughout the years to bring change into society. She has trained and worked with mute women and physically abused girls and helped them lead a better and healthier life. The most recent initiative she had taken is training members of the transgender population and helping them find employment.

"These transgender people used to come knocking on our door every now and then to ask for money," she says, "I spoke to them one day and told them how I could help them lead a better life."

Since most of them come from separate communities, the head's of their communities didn't let me help them." After her offer to help was turned down, Geeti came across Bondhu Organisation, which works for the welfare of transgender people. She asked them if they would send a group of transgendered people for a free training programme of ten days and they agreed to send ten of them from different districts. While Bondhu Organisation paid for their living expenses by giving them a certain amount of money per day, Geeti worked tirelessly to train them sufficiently for them to find work. After the training session, there was an award ceremony.

where they received certificates. "This was done mainly to keep them motivated and so that more of them would be inspired to take a step forward and become a part of our society," says Geeti. Two of these trainees now work at Geeti's parlour. Some found jobs as make-up artists, some opened their own beauty parlours and some work as personal therapists. Bondhu Organisation, pleased with the results of the training, has offered Geeti to take in 10 more trainees. This second training session took place during last year's Ramdan, after which Geeti began to work with acid victims while offering community service to the country, one big step at a time.

A MAN of Science

APURBA JAHANGIR

Dr Muhammad Ibrahim is a man of many talents. Though he is mostly known as former professor of physics at University of Dhaka and the moderator of the popular TV show 'Desh o Biggan, Dr Ibrahim is also the editor of the first monthly science magazine of the country named 'Bigyan Shamoiki' and the founder and executive director of CMES (Centre for Mass Education and Science), an NGO which promotes the use of science and technology at the root level.

Born on December 1, 1945 in Chittagong, Ibrahim developed a soft spot for science from a very early age. "I always had a passion for reading. Libraries were my second home. My interest in science developed from my habit of reading science magazines," says Ibrahim. When studying at the Chittagong Govt. College, Ibrahim came up with the idea of Bigyan Shamoiki. "I felt that the things that we used to read are scientific discovery's that already happened ages ago, we didn't get to read about the new discoveries which were happening, so that's the when I thought about 'Bigyan Shamoiki,'" says the professor.

Around 1962 Ibrahim got admitted into the Physics Department of University of Dhaka. "University life was one of the best times of my life. I lived in Salimullah Hall which was the hub of student politics and I soon became an active member of 'Chatra Union,'" says Ibrahim. Around 1966 Ibrahim was elected the vice president of Salimullah Hall Students Union.

After completing his Honours and Masters degrees from the University of Dhaka, Ibrahim started working at the same institute as a lecturer of physics and soon left for the University of South Hampton for his Ph.D in physics. "Other than being busy with my thesis work, I took the opportunity to travel during my time in South Hampton. Back then it was quite easy to back pack across Europe, especially for students."

After completing his Ph.D, Ibrahim founded the NGO, CMES. "The first project of CMES was a TV programme named 'Akkhar Chakkar' which was a

childrens vocabulary programme. After the programme, we started other programmes such as Basic School, Adolescent Girls programme etc which developed the CMES of today," says Ibrahim. Currently, he is working as a professor of the General Education Department at University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB).

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PHOTOS:
KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

