

STAR WEEKEND

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PHOTO: MASHROOR NITOL

A dream doesn't become reality through magic;
it takes sweat, determination and hard work.
— Colin Powell

SNAPSHOT

MAILBOX

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"Not Forgotten"

The story titled "Not Forgotten" published on June 26, 2015 about Kalpana Chakma abduction case was really well investigated. The proverb, "Procrastination is the thief of time" is very much applicable to our judiciary. Nineteen years have passed but there is no progress in the Kalpana abduction case. It is so unfortunate that the perpetrators have been taking the benefit of legal loopholes by abusing their power. On the other hand, poor members of Kalpana's family have been witnessing one of the worst examples of judicial procrastination. I wonder if I shall be able to see the verdict in my lifetime. However, I would like to thank artist Shahidul Alam for his remarkable initiative of raising the appeal for justice once again. Md Israfil Hossen

Bijoy Ekattor Hall, University of Dhaka

"Art that Speaks to the Times"

I am writing in reference to the article "Art that Speaks to the Times" on Venice Biennale which was published on June 26, 2015 in the Star Weekend.

In the article, the writer mentioned that "Bangladesh took part in the previous two editions of the Venice Biennale with very different results. This year therefore, Bangladesh doesn't have a presence in the greatest of the art world's many events." The fact is, though Bangladesh had its own pavilion in Venice in 2011 and 2013; this year not only does Bangladesh have a strong presence in the biennale, but also it is a stepping stone for the Bangladeshi art scene as for the first time a Bangladeshi artist (Naeem Mohaiemen) was included in the main exhibition of Venice Biennale, curated by Okwui Enwezor, titled "All the World's Futures". Naeem's work is being exhibited in Giardini and is one of the first works on display, as one enters the exhibition. Apart from Bangladeshi artists' participation in the main exhibition; the main exhibition of this year's Venice Biennale was also sponsored by the "Samdani Art Foundation", along with other organisations from all around the world. This is the first time a Bangladeshi art foundation has supported a main exhibition.

In this year's Venice Biennale, besides the main exhibition and national pavilion there are over 150 exhibitions taking place and one of the exhibitions was "Frontier Reimagined." It should also be noted that even in that exhibition, there were two works by Bangladeshi contemporary artist Tayeba Begum Lipi, but unfortunately in the aforementioned article there was no mention about the Bangladeshi artist, portraying a wrong picture about our country's strength in the global art scene.

Nadia Samdani
President, Samdani Art Foundation, Dhaka



DIALOGUE

"I believe discussion is essential to change anything in democracy. Without discussion, nothing can change," said Nobel laureate Amartya Sen when he visited Bangladesh a few months ago. BBC Sanglap, one of the most popular TV shows of our country, has been working to bring about this change through dialogue from its very inception in 2005.

BBC Sanglap, a weekly TV debate show, broadcasted in Channel i, has earned reputation for creating a common platform of the policy makers and people en masse to discuss the contemporary issues important for Bangladesh's development.

Unlike a typical talk show that presents political commentators discussing the same old bi-party politics of Bangladesh with each other, the Sanglap has managed to come up with something new to offer to the audience.

Niaz Rahman, a regular audience of Sanglap and a PhD student of Dhaka University says, "BBC Sanglap is really very unique. I like it because it gives the floor to ask questions to the policy makers and all the distinguished panellists, face to face in the studio."



THE PLATFORM FOR INTELLECTUAL BANGLADESH

A WEEKLY TV SHOW CREATES A PLATFORM FOR ALL TO DISCUSS AND THINK ABOUT BANGLADESH'S DEVELOPMENT.

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

This live interaction between the panellists and the audience has made this programme one of the first examples of live public debate with the policy makers in Bangladesh. Walir Rahman Miraz, series producer of BBC Sanglap says, "We always try to ensure participation from all parts of our society. We have always ensured at least 40 percent of our audience present in the studio are female. Atleast one or two of our panellists are also always female."

Besides live audience participation, BBC Sanglap is also credited for reaching out to the people of different parts of Bangladesh. In June 2013, on the eve of the mayoral elections in Khulna, Rajshahi



The ongoing 'BBC Sanglap'.

outside Dhaka. Walir says, "We have travelled to most of the districts of Bangladesh although it is a very challenging task to take the entire shooting crew to another district."

However, due to the termination of current funding cycle the programme will take a pause from September this year. Fayaz Ahmed, project director, governance and rights, BBC Media Action, who has been running BBC Sanglap says, "We are trying to manage support from different organisations to continue this programme. We are hopeful that after this short break we will come back with more new features to entertain our valued audience with a resourceful programme."

For more than a decade BBC Sanglap has been providing the space for a free and fair dialogue between the policy makers and common people. It has been working as a bridge to connect the policy makers with people's rights. By continuing its journey, we hope that it will create the stage for positive change in Bangladesh through dialogue and discussion; as idealised by Amartya Sen.

and Sylhet districts, the Sanglap team travelled to each of the three cities. They organised Sanglap in these cities with the mayoral candidates as panellists and the voters as the audience. The audience bombarded the candidates with questions on what they should do to improve the living condition of the voters.

A post-election survey by BBC revealed

