

TRIBUTE

Lifetime Master Craftsperson Award 2017

The National Crafts Council of Bangladesh (NCCB) hosted the much-awaited ceremony, the Lifetime Master Craftsperson Award 2017, in the glorified spirit of honouring unsung artisans of the country.

This year's award-giving ceremony was held on Saturday, 20 January, at the Rezaur Rahman Auditorium of Dhaka University's Ganit Bhaban.

In a wholehearted attempt to keep the often-forgotten crafts alive, NCCB organises the annual event



through which prominent craftsmen, aged over 60, are acknowledged for their life-long contribution to Bangladeshi crafts.

Organised by NCCB and supported by the A F Mujibur Rahman Foundation (a charitable trust dedicated to promote educational opportunities with a special

emphasis on mathematics), this year's award was proudly presented to terracotta artisan, Bisheshwar Pal, a potter hailing from Patuakhali, noted for his fusion of modern techniques with traditional craftsmanship.

He is attributed as the first local artisan to make black terracotta pottery using natural dye, resulting in safe and eco-friendly clay utensils.

"The artisans of Bangladesh don't get enough recognition for the craftwork they do. Events like these are baby steps towards appreciating their skill and art, and providing exposure to the underrated pottery work this country is associated with," shares Simeen Mahmud, Head of the Gender Studies cluster and coordinator of the Centre for Gender and Social transformation of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development.

The closing speech for the event was delivered by the President of NCCB, Chandra Shekhar Saha himself.

"My earnest hope is for Bangladesh's craft tradition and culture to be enriched and to create inspirational stories for the future," he said.

The award ceremony highlighted the long history and the impact of craftspeople and the quality of crafts weaving bits of the local culture into its heritage. And with the bright hopes of inspiring masters of art and craft to reach for great goals, NCCB's tireless efforts culminated for the day and the grand Lifetime Master Craftsperson Award 2017 drew to an end.

By Ramisa Haque

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Taking danger out of the kitchen

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More bacteria thrive in the kitchen than any other room of the house, so it is extremely important to use proper sanitisers diluted with water.

Needless to say, make sure the utensils you use and the cutting boards are also properly cleaned. Use lemon juice diluted with water to get rid of stubborn stains. Use air fresheners and always take half an hour, every two days to clean the kitchen properly along with the surface of the refrigerator, microwave, stove and even the walls.

At first it might seem like a hassle but cleanliness and hygiene are crucial for a healthy living and you will get used to it in no time.

KNOW YOUR WAY WITH FIRE

This segment is especially important for newbies in the kitchen and also an extremely crucial point to note.

When working in a kitchen, not knowing your way with fire can result in terrible incidents leading to burns and even explosions. Normal fire thrives on oxygen, so

smothering a fire with a wet rag or pot cover works well.

Grease fires require special handling; use a pan cover to put out grease fires. Never use water. Microwave fires can be managed by unplugging the microwave, and oven fires should be tackled with baking soda. Always make sure that you have turned off the stove properly before exiting the kitchen.

CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

Even if it seems a little farfetched, wearing the wrong kind of attire while cooking may result in a lot of hazards. Bangles and bracelets can get caught on pot handles, long sleeves and long hair can catch on fire.

Having your 'orna' or 'aanchal' accidentally burnt or getting stuck in the nooks and crannies of the kitchen is a very common happening, especially if the place is a little congested.

Be attentive to what you wear and steer clear of loose fitted garments, or make sure to keep a clean apron handy.

By Jahanara Tariq

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