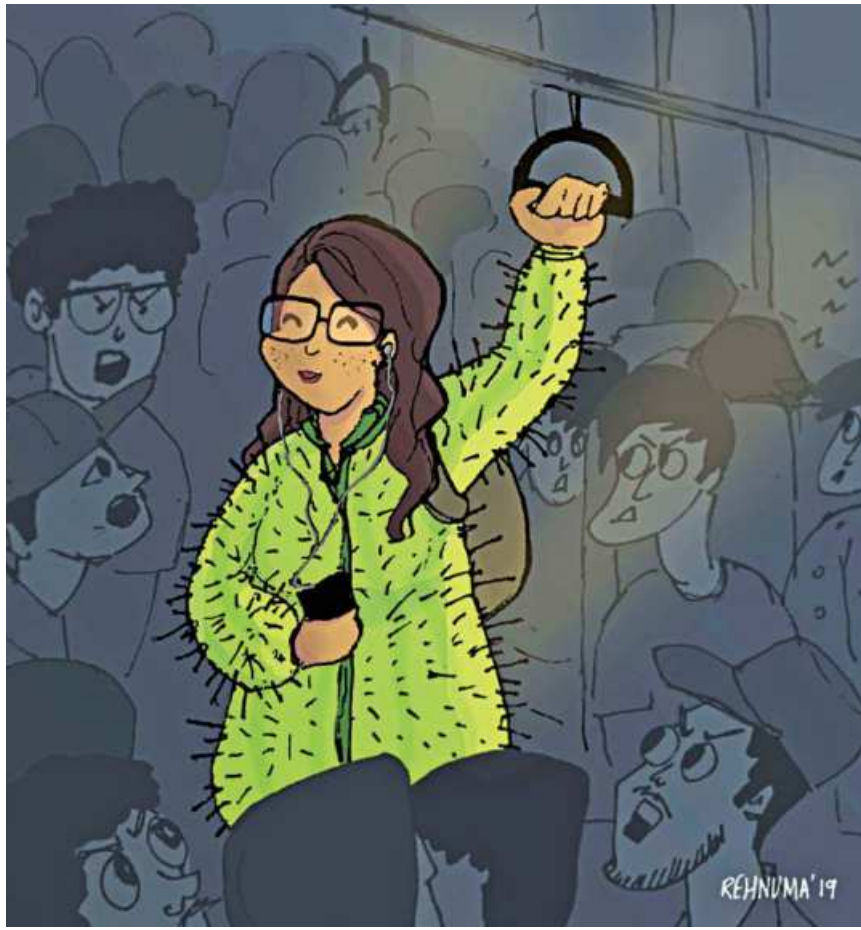


AGENTS OF CHANGE

DHAKA MONDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2021, FALGUN 2, 1427 BS



ARTWORK: REHNUMA PROSHOON



ARTWORK: ASIFUR RAHMAN

How effective is art as a form of protest?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Most of her recent artworks were on violence against women and the Covid-19 pandemic. "I have a responsibility to raise my voice through my work," says Rehnuma. "Art gives us the chance to bring people and ideas together. When we tolerate any form of injustice, it gives the offender the courage to continue their unacceptable behaviour. Unless we raise our voices for justice, things are not going to

change."

Adib Reza Bhuiyan, a Media Studies and Journalism student at University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, loved watching animated films and reading comics from an early age. "I find a lot of things around me frustrating or annoying. I believe that creating comics is the healthiest way of letting all my frustrations out," he shares. Adib further says that art is an arbitrary and interpretive form of expression, and it pushes people to think. "If people are

not aware of what is happening around them, justice is very hard to achieve. I try to highlight the hypocrisy of people, with regards to political or social issues, through my work. Generally, I shed light on an issue from the perspective of the third person or the victim, so that amidst all the chaos, their voice does not get lost," he says.

Twenty-five people were killed in a fire that broke out at FR Tower in Dhaka's Banani area in March 2019. The unfortunate souls who met their

end in the accident included spouses, parents, and friends. Many were surrounded by fire and thick smoke, and could not locate any exit to escape the building. In one of his artworks, Adib depicted an incomplete conversation between a mother and a son during the fire. The illustration stood out among his other works, and received considerable positive response.

He has also made artworks on the movement for the release of journalist

Shafiqul Islam Kajol, harassment of women in public buses, road crashes, and the Abrar Fahad murder case, among other topics. Adib publishes humorous, light-hearted comics under the name Rongdhong, online. While many young artists create comics and cartoons to express their opinions on current affairs, others turn to painting. Jayatu Chakma from Rangamati studied Fine Arts

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