



THE MAGICIANS behind TSC's glow-up

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SHARMIN JOYA

Remember Shirin Akter Shela's stunning attire in the final round of the Miss Universe pageant in Georgia?

Her red Jamdani sari, paired with a stunning 'rickshaw' hood, alphabetic jewellery not only stood out, but earned accolades from all over the world.

Fashion designer Tasmit Afiyat Army was the person behind the bold statement.

The Shela-Army duo recently collaborated in another marvellous outing – giving TSC, considered the heart of Dhaka University, an ambitious glow-up.

This time, Shela and Army worked with Shemanto Saha and Zerine Sinthee, putting their artistic touch on the tea stalls, adorning them with bright, lively rickshaw paint.

"I love creating art that upholds the culture and heritage of

Bangladesh," says Army, who works as the Associate Art Director at Asiatic MCL.

Both Shemanto and Zerine are students of DU.

Tea stalls are an integral part of our suburban 'adda' culture, where people from all walks of life sit down, grab a cup of piping hot tea, and talk about all kinds of subjects – whether it be politics, sports, music or films. "I was impressed when Shela came up with the idea, and we formed a team to execute the plan," she adds.

It took the artists four nights to paint 19 stalls. "We took help from professional rickshaw painters as well," says Army.

"We wanted to make a statement – tea stalls could be just as beautiful as any restaurants. After all, this is something that binds all of us together," she says.

Always keen on preserving age-old Bengali traditions, the artist has been exploring her creativity, with various conceptual projects.

"I want to work further on contemporary Bangladeshi folk art," she concludes.



Shemanto Saha, Zerine Sinthee, Tasmit Afiyat Army and Shirin Akter Shela. PHOTOS: COURTESY

"Shimu- Made in Bangladesh" to release on March 11

SHARMIN JOYA

Rubaiyat Hossain directorial "Shimu- Made in Bangladesh" is slated to release on March 11, across the country. The director herself confirmed the news to The Daily Star.

"We will have the premiere of the film on International Women's Day, March 8," informs the director.

The film highlights the struggle of women from the working class, employed at the RMG sector. It was premiered in the Contemporary World Cinema section at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2019. It was also showcased at the BFI London Film Festival, Locarno Film Festival among other major festivals.

The film stars Shahana Goswami, Novera Rahman, Mita Rahman and Mostafa Monwar, among others.



'Better Call Saul' – will it end with violence or resolution?

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'Breaking Bad' prequel Better Call Saul will premiere its sixth and final season in just over two months.

Recently, a cryptic 'first-look' teaser went out featuring the intimidating Salamanca brothers walking into a crime.

It has now been confirmed that AMC will release the first seven episodes of season 6 from April 18.

The remaining six episodes are then set to follow on Monday, July 11.

Fans are eager to see what fate awaits Saul, masterfully played by Bob Odenkirk. What happened in the past that turned him into what we see in

"Breaking Bad"? Moreover, what will happen to him in the current timeline?



COUNTRYWIDE



This old iron bridge at Karatia in Tangail Sadar upazila has turned awfully risky. PHOTO: STAR

Decades-old bridge poses risk

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A decades-old iron structured bridge on a canal at Karatia in Sadar upazila has turned awfully dilapidated, posing risk of accidents any time.

Hundreds of vehicles, including passenger buses, still ply the risky 80-year-old bridge on old Dhaka-Tangail road every day.

Elderly locals said the bridge was constructed on Sundari Canal during the British era.

"Freedom fighters blew up the bridge partially during the Liberation War in 1971 to resist movement of the Pakistani forces through the road," valiant freedom fighter Bir Protik Habibur Rahman Khan Khoka said.

After the independence, the bridge was repaired and road communication was restored once again.

Since then the bridge was renovated on only a few occasions, several senior locals said.

During a recent visit to the area this correspondent saw the worn out bridge starts shaking whenever a heavy vehicle crosses it. The foundation deck and many other parts of the old bridge also got rusty.

"I get scare every time I cross the shaky old bridge with passengers," bus driver Saiful said.

Besides, hundreds of students of nearby Government Saadat College and two other schools and people, who come to the century-old Karatia Bazar, also use the bridge.

Contacted, Tangail Sadar Upazila Parishad Chairman Shahjahan Ansary, also a local resident, said as far he remember the bridge was built in 1940.

The authorities concerned should construct a new bridge in place of the older one immediately to avoid any fatal accident, he said adding that he already raised the matter on several occasions.

However, despite repeated attempts, this correspondent could not reach any of the Roads and Highways officials for their comment.

Tarmac damaged even before road resurfacing work finished

Use of substandard and inadequate materials alleged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Carpeting got damaged before the completion of the renovation work of a 1.545-km-long paved road under the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) in Ulipur upazila of Kurigram due to the alleged use of substandard and less quantity of bitumen in the work.

However, the sub-contractor has pointed the finger at the villagers who according to him have sabotaged the road being angry with the former.

The road carpeting is getting damaged before the completion of the work due to the use of substandard and less quantity of bitumen in carpeting

the road, locals alleged.

Just three days into the carpeting work on the road, the carpeting got damaged.

Following the tender, the LGED gave Tk 42 lakh work order to a contractor NN Enterprise of Rangpur for the carpeting of the road at Tejarmor Fakirpara village in Daldalia union of Ulipur upazila.

The work began on February 3, LGED sources said.

Masud Rana, a local businessman of Ulipur upazila, took the work under sub-contract, they said.

Resident Nader Ali, 55, alleged that the contractor's men carpeted the road at night. The locals tried to resist the

move but they did not pay heed to them.

The carpeting of the road is being damaged even before the completion of the work due to the use of substandard and less quantity of bitumen, he said.

Locals demanded that the concerned higher authorities take exemplary action after investigating the matter immediately.

However, Masud Rana denied the allegation of using substandard and less quantity of bitumen for carpeting the road.

Some locals wanted to get the entrance to their houses carpeted but were denied, he said.

The locals got angry with the contractor and they sabotaged the road

at night, he said, adding that legal action is being taken in this regard.

LGED's Sub-Assistant Engineer in Ulipur upazila Akram Hossain said some people in the area got angry with the contractor and damaged the carpeting in the dead of night.

A senior LGED official visited the spot to investigate the incident in detail, he said.

LGED's Ulipur Upazila Engineer KKM Sadequul Alam said the carpeting was damaged by locals at night as the contractor had a problem with them in the area. There is no chance of doing poor quality work.

If necessary, a lab test of the bitumen will be done again, he said.



The newly completed carpeting of a paved road in Ulipur upazila of Kurigram got damaged, bearing testimony to the low quality work.

PHOTO: COLLECTED