



Artwork by Abdus Satter

'Realizing Divine Harmony' through Oriental art

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Oriental Painting Study Group's (OPSG) 9th Oriental Painting Exhibition titled, "Realizing Divine Harmony", jointly organised by Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts and OPSG, was inaugurated on March 12 at their premises in Uttara Badda, Dhaka.

The inaugural function was presided over by Nilu Rowshon Murshed, Chairperson of Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts. Prof Dr Abdus Satter, Prof Nisar Hossain, Dean, Faculty of Fine Art (FFA), University of Dhaka (DU), Prof Jamal Ahmed, Mikhail Islam, Chief Advisor, OPSG, and Zareen Mahmud Hossain, Founder and ED of HerStory Foundation were present at the ceremony as special guests.

Three awarded artists, selected by the jury members, received crests, certificates, and prize money at the inaugural ceremony. Sanjay Kumar Pramanik, a fine art student of Rajshahi University received the "Abinta Grand Prize" while Habiba Aslam, a fine art student at FFA, DU, and Purnima Aktar, an alumnus of FFA, DU, were honoured with the "Abinta Excellence Award".

The exhibition showcases selected oriental artworks by 54 academic, non-academic and self-taught artists from all over the country. The artworks were collected through a nationwide open call.

"Realizing Divine Harmony" is a rather distinctive one as the selection of the display follows the principles of Saranga of Indian and Chinese Art together with the Darbari, modern, conceptual and traditional art trends of the East. Some artists have beautifully depicted contemporary elements in their artworks, following the flawless wash technique, gouache, tempera, and Mughal miniature style.

A few artists have created new media paintings using traditional folk motifs. Jyoti Paul's work carries the nuances of both classical and folk themes. She has depicted the timeless classics of Ajanta and Ellora cave paintings on paper with an interesting way of presentation.

There are many artists who seem to move forward with the legacy of our own heritage. Several works truly reflect the emotion, nostalgia, and lifestyle of our own society. Amit Nandi's work is a conceptual one. He has depicted mythical heritage and sagas from the Mahabharata blending with traditional motifs. He has represented his work using the oriental wash technique and lyrical lines.

The conceptual paintings on display incorporate motifs, graceful lines, and subjects of our traditional paintings.

The exhibition is open to all till March 24, from 10 am till 8 pm.

By Sourav Chowdhury



Artwork by Shakila Khan Chayan



Sabila Nur's first music video in the works

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular actress Sabila Nur is set to star in her first music video, for a song voiced by Imran Mahmudul.

Written by Kabir Bakul and composed by Imran, the yet to be titled song will feature both Sabila and Imran together for the first time on-screen.

The music video will be released on CMV's YouTube channel on Eid-ul-Fitr.



Preity Zinta to make directorial debut with 'The Kitty Party'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Celebrated Bollywood actress Preity Zinta is set to make her directorial debut with the thriller drama series, "The Kitty Party".

She told *Variety* that the series is "a female-driven murder mystery that moonlights between being a dramedy and thriller."

"Too early to comment more, except that we cannot wait to get started. I'm sure we will have as much fun filming this as we had putting it together," she added.

The "Veer-Zaara" actress has been on a hiatus since 2018. She was last seen on the big screen in the film, "Bhaiaji Superhit".

COUNTRYWIDE

Banana fibre showing export potential

AZIBOR RAHMAN

Two friends in Jhenidah have joined hands extracting fibre from banana plants in Jhenidah Sadar upazila after being inspired by YouTube videos.

Osman Biswas and Shahed Mollah of Boromanderbaria village are eying to export the thread made of the fibre to different countries once they go in full swing production after importing additional machines from China.

Osman Biswas said he had been engaged in farming before going to Dubai where he stayed from 2012 to 2019. Watching videos on YouTube, he and his friend Shahed Mollah came up with the idea of extracting fibre from banana plants. They got two machines made from Sharatganj of Chuadanga district.

They started their venture in November 2021. The duo also aspires to gift a saree made of the fibre to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

They said that they will be able to sell the fibre at Tk 10,000 per kg to the Japanese and German markets. However, they need an initial investment of Tk 15 lakh to import three more machines from China.

Osman added that they collect abandoned banana plants from the

Osman Biswas and his friend Shahed Mollah came up with the idea of extracting fibre from banana plants after watching some videos on YouTube.

farmers. This main raw material does not cost them.

After pressing the banana plans with the machine, they wash it in water and dry it in the sun. Later, they boil the fibre with chemicals and dry it again. At last, they roll it with bobbins.

Five full-time female workers have been working on the project. Each worker is paid Tk 4,000 per month.

Shahed said they have prepared a huge quantity of thread. It will bring them prosperity. They will expand their business in future. Locals throng the plant to see the fibre making process as it is a new and uncommon business in the area.

Archana Das, a housewife, said that her husband is a barber. His income is very scanty. She works here from 8:00am to 5:00pm and earns Tk 4,000 per month which is sufficient for her family.

Another worker China Das said she works here and the amount adds to her family income.

Deputy Director Asgar Ali of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Jhenidah said it is an innovative venture. This is the first of its kind in Jhenidah.

"We welcome their efforts," he added.



The initiative of two friends in Jhenidah Sadar has created income generating opportunities for many women who are earning a good amount of money per month.

PHOTO: STAR

Hours

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Sleep deprivation may also negatively affect the body's ability to regulate appetite, immune system, metabolism, and body weight.

Your inner biological clock controls metabolism, inflammation, reaction to stress. And the right timing and amount of sleep is what keeps the circadian rhythm or internal clock running.

Good quality of sleep is also important to ensure the best outcome of the time you spend in bed.

Brothers

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launched the attack."

Tofa could not be contacted for comments.

2 Bangladeshis

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"The Bangladesh embassy sent a letter to the foreign ministry of Ukraine which was sent to the camp. We were asked to have it translated into Ukrainian. We resent the letter to the labour councillor of the Bangladesh embassy [in Poland], who translated the letter into Ukrainian. The letter was forwarded to the Ukrainian border guards who gave us a no-objection letter. This enabled us to get released from the camp," he said.

About travelling the long distance, he said, "We walked about 25 kilometres to reach a nearby town. We hired a taxi which took us to the railway station in Lviv in three hours. On the way, we had to cross Ukrainian soldiers' check post almost every five kilometres. We did not have enough money to bear the trip's fare. The Bangladesh embassy managed to pay the fare which is equivalent to Tk 7,000," he added.

Cabinet okays

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can be forensic examination," said the cabinet secretary.

He said sufficient laboratories are there in the country for forensic tests of digital evidence, and Bangladesh Computer Council is also equipped with modern technology required for this. The government might set up more such laboratories.

The secretary didn't say how the digital evidence was defined in the draft.

He noted the submission of false or manipulated evidence would be punishable as before. If anyone tampers with evidence, the person will be dealt with as per section 211 of the Penal Code or Digital Security Act.

The Cabinet approved the proposed law only in principle "since it is a tricky matter". It will be put before the Cabinet once again for final nod, he added.

Also yesterday, the Cabinet in principle approved the draft of Bangladesh Supreme Court Judges (Leave, Pension and Privileges) Act, 2022 with a provision for a monthly

special allowance of Tk 70,000 for a retired chief justice.

The special allowance will be given to meet expenses of different purposes like hiring domestic help, car diver, security guard and maintenance of office-cum-residence, said Anwarul Islam.

"The draft was brought to formulate a law repealing an ordinance of the military regime as per a judgment of the High Court," he said.

The proposed law will replace the Supreme Court Judges (Leave, Pension and Privileges) Ordinance, 1982.

The Cabinet yesterday didn't accept another proposal to incorporate a provision in the draft law that the state would provide security to a retired chief justice till a certain period.

It was argued that there is no such provision in other countries.

"If the government can provide such security to a retired chief justice through an executive order. So, the proposal was not accepted," said the cabinet secretary.

DGDA clears

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waiting for the probe report of police to know the reason behind the deaths."

The DGDA could not test the particular bottle of syrup in question that the siblings consumed as police seized it. The reason behind the deaths could only be known after the police's forensic report is available, he said.

"We have also asked our officers to collect samples of medicines manufactured under the batch in question. All these samples would be tested," he added.

The drug administration's investigation team has visited the factory of Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd and its Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) was found satisfactory, he further added.

All these moves came following the deaths of two siblings – Yasin Khan, 7, and Morsalin Khan, 5 – on Thursday night in Durgapur union of Brahmanbaria's Ashuganj upazila.

Family members alleged the children, who were suffering from high fever, died after they were given the medicine, produced by Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

They said they bought it from a local drug store named "Maa Pharmacy".

On Saturday, a DGDA circular said the syrup in question was manufactured under Batch Number 32113121 at a Beximco factory in Tongi, Gazipur, in December last year. The batch expires in November 2023.

The drug administration formed two committees to investigate the matter.

Citing their products are perfect, Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd officials said they were cooperating with the DGDA authorities for the investigation.

Airstrikes, shells

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Officials said at least one person died in the shelling and a second person was killed by falling debris after a missile strike on another part of the Ukrainian capital.

Russia denies targeting civilians, saying it is conducting a "special operation" to demilitarise and "denazify" Ukraine.

The Kharkiv regional prosecutor's office said two people died and one was injured when Russian troops fired artillery at a residential street in the Ukraine's second largest city.

As Moscow's military troops were advancing steadily towards several major urban hubs in its pro-Western neighbour, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "Putin gave orders to hold back on any immediate assault on large cities because the civilian losses would be large."

He added however that the defence ministry "does not rule out the possibility of putting large cities, which are already almost fully encircled, under its full control".