



Diving into the trajectories of the forerunners in art

The exhibition showcases over 120 artworks, including paintings, prints, drawings, tapestries, audio and video materials, books and memorabilia, curated from several institutional and private collections. The show is open for all from 3 pm to 8 pm every day except Sundays till June 18.

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

On the occasion of the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence, HSBC and Bengal Foundation jointly organised the tribute exhibition, "Forerunners Rashid Choudhury, Murtaja Baseer, Debdas Chakraborty – their pedagogy and modernist approach". The exhibition opened on March 16 at Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

The show, curated by leading pedagogue and contemporary visual artist Dhali Al Mamoon, seeks to explore the contexts, trajectories, and interpretations that characterise fifty years of institutional art practice in Chattogram.

The Governor of Bangladesh Bank Fazle Kabir was present at the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest while CEO of HSBC Bangladesh Md Mahub ur Rahman, Professor Dr Syed Manzoorul Islam, and the founder and chairman of Bengal Foundation Abul Khair Litu were present as special guests.

The programme began with an introductory note by Dhali Al Mamoon. He expressed how Rashid Choudhury, Murtaja Baseer, and Debdas Chakraborty foregrounded new modernist thinking that resisted conventional categorisation, setting new idioms and parameters, while keeping up with the politics of their time.

This was followed by a speech by Professor Dr Syed Manzoorul Islam. "When an artist looks into the work of their predecessors, they discover new dimensions while tying their thoughts to the old masterpieces and that's the beauty of this exhibition," he

shared.

His speech was followed by remarks by Md Mahub ur Rahman.

Afterwards, Fazle Kabir took to the stage to share his thoughts. "I got to meet these legends at University of Chittagong and I still miss their presence," he said. "We have lost them, but their work never cease to revive their legacy. Through such initiatives, we

come across the opportunity to relive their heritage."

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The Governor of Bangladesh Bank Fazle Kabir, CEO of HSBC Bangladesh Md Mahub ur Rahman, Professor Dr Syed Manzoorul Islam, the founder and chairman of Bengal Foundation Abul Khair Litu and artist Dhali Al Mamoon at the exhibition. PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

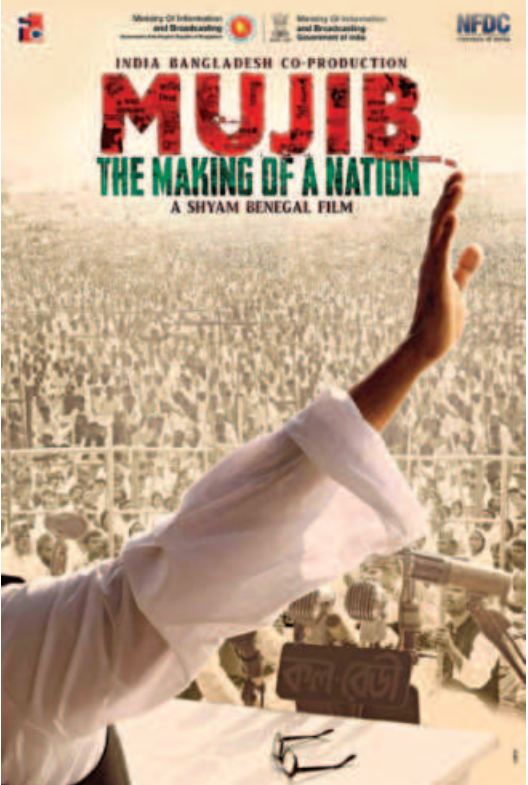
Poster of Shyam Benegal's biopic on Bangabandhu unveiled

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The poster for Shyam Benegal's much-anticipated biopic on Bangabandhu was released yesterday. Titled "Mujib: The Making of a Nation", the film is jointly produced by Bangladesh and India as part of the birth centenary celebration of the Father of the Nation of Bangladesh.

Atul Tiwari and Shama Zaidi have written the screenplay of the film, while Nitish Roy is the art director. Shantanu Moitra directed the movie's music, and Akashdeep is the director of photography.

Popular Bangladeshi actor Arifin Shuvoo is set to play the role of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



COUNTRYWIDE

CHAR BIJOY riddled with dead fish

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A new shoal covering an area of about 5,000 acres has sprung up in the deep Bay of Bengal, about 30-km south of Kuakata. Tourists have dubbed it "Char Bijoy", after discovering it in the month of December in 2017. Due to the free movement of migrant birds and red crabs, the shoal has started attracting seasonal tourists, who mostly come from Kuakata on trawlers and speed boats.

Patuakhali Forest Department has already started planting 1.5 lakh trees in the shoal. Thousands of tourists have visited the shoal this season to enjoy the natural beauty and they are still coming. Although it remains submerged in the rainy season, it resurfaced in the winter with an area of 5,000 acres.

Fishermen stay here and in the vicinity during the winter

season to catch fish including hilsa. They make temporary shelters for fishing and drying up the fish. Due to the less movement of people, guest birds flock here in winter. Host of red crabs and guest birds are adding a new dimension to the beauty of the shoal.

Some seasonal tourists come here from Kuakata in hired trawlers or speed boats to enjoy the serenity of the pristine shoal. Arifur Rahman, a tourist, said more than a hundred seasonal fishermen were seen fishing and drying up fish there. During low tide, they bury small nets in the sand, and at certain distances, they place bamboo twigs next to the nets. When the water recedes during low tide, large and small fish of various species get caught in the nets. The big fish are collected by the fishermen but the small fish are left there; they die.

For this practice, various

species of fish are being killed prematurely, he added.

He said, "I have seen innumerable small dead fish in several nets while roaming in the char."

Authorities need to take immediate action to stop the killing of such fish, he added.

Contacted, Patuakhali Divisional Forest Officer Abdullah Al Mamun said, they have already started planting 1.5 lakh trees in the char this year. This will make the char permanent and the birds will be able to take shelter.

District Fisheries Officer Mollah Edadullah said, fishermen were not allowed to fish there and proper surveillance could not be carried out as the char was isolated and there was no water vessel to patrol there.

The matter of killing small fish was not known but action will be taken in this regard, he said.



A section of fishermen fishing near Char Bijoy has been killing fish fries. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

How to prevent osteoporosis?

FROM PAGE 12

People aged between 18-50 should consume around 1,000 mg of calcium daily. The amount increases for older women and men.

Good sources of calcium we can have daily are dairy products, green leafy vegetables, seafood

like salmon and fish, soy products etc.

You can also consider taking calcium supplements as per the dosage your doctor recommends.

Vitamin D is essential for bone health as it helps absorb the calcium you consume. The most basic source of

vitamin D is sunlight. Dietary sources are cod liver oil, trout and salmon etc. There are several brands of milk and cereal available nowadays, which claim to be fortified with vitamin D.

People with limited access to vitamin D sources may also take supplements.

Most people need around 600 international units (IU) of vitamin D per day.

Exercise also helps you build strong bones and slows down the process of bone loss. It is best to start exercising when you're young and continue throughout life.

BNP to wrap up councils by year-end

FROM PAGE 12

is taking time but we will do it by the year end," said Fazlul Huq Milon, BNP organising secretary (Dhaka Division).

He said in Dhaka division, there are 10 organisational districts. The committee of one has been formed and the rest will be completed soon.

In Rajshahi division, there are nine organisational districts, of which all ward and union committees have already been formed.

"We are expecting to complete all the thana committees by the end of

this month. After that, we will start holding district councils," Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu, Rajshahi divisional organising secretary, said.

Although BNP is yet to contest the 2023 national polls, its focus this year is to complete the party reorganising process and be ready for both a movement and elections.

The rationale behind reorganising is that the party wants to be in a stronger position from where it can mount pressure on the government to hold the polls under

a non-partisan interim government -- a demand it has been making since the system was abolished a decade ago.

"The main focus is to restore democracy and return voting rights to the people. The revamping will continue and at the same time, the movement for restoring democracy will go on," said Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the party.

BNP leaders said that if the government pay heed to their demands, they will take to the streets.

The party has also been holding various

programmes in different district and divisional headquarters on pressing issues like the price hike of daily essentials.

"We want to restore the election-time neutral government and for that, the reorganisation of the party and the movement will go on simultaneously," said Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, BNP standing committee member.

The BNP had boycotted the January 5 polls in 2014 but later took part in the 2018 election that was marred by ballot stuffing. It got only a handful of seats in parliament.

Howler monkeys play to reduce group

FROM PAGE 12

signals, such as shaking their heads.

However, scientists say play is an energy-costly activity for howler monkeys, who generally have an inactive lifestyle due to their primarily leaf-based diet.

These monkeys typically

eat leaves as fruit is a highly prized resource that generates competition among the monkeys. The study found that play among adults increases in line with time spent foraging for fruit.

Researchers said the amount of adult play is also linked to the number

of potential playmates, increasing with the size of the group.

Adults spend more time playing with other adults rather than juveniles, while adult females spend more time engaged in play than adult males, the study noted.

Since juveniles do not pose a threat or provide competition at fruit trees, scientists believe that play among adults is a mechanism for solving conflicts within the group, in a similar way that grooming is used by some other primate species.

Holy Shab-e-Barat tonight

FROM PAGE 12

happiness for themselves, their families, relatives and friends.

On this night, devotees would visit graves and pray for their loved ones seeking

eternal peace of their departed souls.

On this occasion, the Islamic Foundation has drawn up programmes at the Baitul Mukarram national mosque.

Tomorrow will be a public holiday on the occasion of the holy Shab-e-Barat.

Bangladesh Television, Bangladesh Betar, and private television channels

and radio stations will air special programmes on the occasion. Newspapers published special supplements highlighting the significance of the night.