

‘Going to further explore my inner artist’

Bipasha Hayat’s solo exhibition ‘Prostorkaal’ underway at Gallery Chitrak

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

What does your art reflect?

My paintings reflect what I have witnessed, experienced, and felt in life. I have painted greats like Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Rabindranath Tagore, and Kazi Nazrul Islam – personalities I truly admire. At the same time, I paint natural elements like flowers and leaves.

When I create something on canvas, I don't merely paint it, I express my thoughts and experiences through my art.

How did you discover the artist in yourself?

All credit goes to my mother. I have always been inspired by her to explore my inner artist. When I was young, I used to have thoughts about how the nature is so colourful, and all the colour combinations and contrasts fascinated me.

We used to reside in a quarter beside Dhakeshwari Temple. It was a place full of beautiful, green sights. Nature has taught me so many things in life. After a few years, we moved to Libya. My parents loved gardening; they grew olives and grapes near our house there.

I feel blessed to be surrounded by the beauty of nature. I also encourage my kids to enjoy the beauty, be it the smell of blossoming flowers or the moon in the evening.

You also write poems. How do you come up with ideas for them?

I used to read the scripts written by my father. After a while, I began reading the works of renowned writers. Syed Shamsul Haque's "Tin Poishar Jochhona" greatly inspired me.

Shahidul Zahir and Mahmudul Haque are also my favourite. Currently, I am reading Greek mythology. Reading is now a part of my daily routine.

Tell us about your time in the USA.

I always keep myself busy with work. After I came to the USA with my children, I explored the natural beauty of the place. The flowers that bloom over the mountains are a delight to witness. My school friends in the USA supported me selflessly. My friend Simi helped me a lot during my solo exhibition there.

Do you miss acting?

I have not resigned from acting. It is just that right now, I want to focus on art. I have some plans for theatre, and I will also return to the screen.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Bipasha Hayat is a beloved actress of the 90s. Her performance in ‘Aguner Poroshmoni’ earned her the National Film Award. She is also a prolific scriptwriter and an amazing painter. Born and brought up in a cultural family, she always had a keen interest in art. Her seventh solo exhibition, ‘Prostorkaal’, is underway at Gallery Chitrak, Dhanmondi. The Daily Star caught up with Bipasha Hayat to know more about her exhibition, future plans, and more.



75th Cannes International Film Festival unveils official lineup

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The 75th edition of the Cannes Film Festival will kick off on May 17. The selected films were announced by Pierre Lescure and Thierry Fremaux at a press conference held recently in Paris.

The twelve-day festival will screen selected films from all over the world in the following categories—Competition, Un Certain Regard, Out of Competition, Midnight Screenings, Cannes Premiere and Special Screening. It will conclude on May 28. The festival will kick off with the premiere of a zombie comedy, "Final Cut," from Michel Hazanavicius.

A few big budget films are also set to screen out of the formal competition, including the world premiere of "Top Gun: Maverick" and Baz Luhrmann's "Elvis".

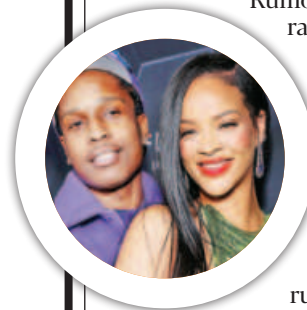
Rihanna’s shoe designer slams rumoured affair with ASAP Rocky

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Rumours have been circulating that rapper ASAP Rocky had cheated on his pregnant girlfriend – who is none other than Rihanna – with shoe designer Amina Muaddi, the woman behind the Fenty 2020 collection. Now, Muaddi has come forward to set the record straight.

She took to social media and posted a lengthy response to the rumours that surfaced recently on Twitter. She expressed that an unfounded lie never deserves a response or clarification but, in this instance, she felt compelled to address the rumour because it affected people close to her.

She called the cheating rumours "fake gossip" that was "fabricated with such malicious intent."



COUNTRYWIDE



Croplands along the banks of the Jamuna in Sirajganj have been submerged by the swelling river. Farmers are cutting half-ripe paddy to save the crop. The picture was taken from Shahjadpur area a few days ago.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

UNTIMELY FLOOD ravages croplands in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Hundreds of acres of croplands on the banks of Jamuna in different upazilas of Sirajganj have been flooded by the onrush of waters from the upstream in the last few days.

Farmers of Sirajganj Sadar, Chowhali, Shahjadpur and Kazipur upazilas are trying to harvest half-ripe paddy and take it home to save their crops from drowning in untimely floods.

Sirajganj District Agriculture Extension Officer Ahsan Shahid Sarkar said about 139 hectares of Boro paddy along the Jamuna river had already been submerged in the last few weeks due to rising water levels in the river.

He said those who had planted Boro paddy in advance in the low-lying areas outside the embankment along the banks of the river Jamuna have been the worst affected.

Visiting the affected areas, it was found that the farmers were not ready for this sudden flood.

Nasima Khatun of Enayetpur village in Chowhali upazila of Sirajganj said she had planted paddy in seven bighas of land in Char. The paddy was to be harvested in the next two weeks. The sudden rise in water last week submerged her entire crop field. One bigha of land was hastily harvested, but the rest was

ruined.

Bulbul Ahmed, a farmer of Betil Char, said the land along the river is fertile and gives good yield at low cost. In that hope, he planted paddy on 11 bighas of land this year. Before the flood, the paddy was to be cut and taken home. The crops of his cultivated land have been submerged by untimely floods.

"I was able to harvest some semi-ripe paddy but the rest sank," he added.

Md Nasir Uddin, sub divisional engineer of Sirajganj Water Development Board (WDB), said that the river water is increasing untimely this year.

"Every year water level increases in Jamuna and adjoining rivers in Sirajganj in May but this year the rivers are swelling up since mid of March due to onrush of water from the upstream," Nasir said.

According to the forecast, the water level is expected to rise till April 18, he said.

However, he also said that even if the water level rises untimely, there will be no situation like flood. The water will start receding in a few days. Agriculture officials, meanwhile, said the untimely rise in the river had caused some damage to the char lands outside the dam, but would not affect the district's overall crop production.

Implant

FROM PAGE 14

disorders, such as essential tremors, Parkinson's disease and dystonia, and psychiatric conditions such as obsessive-compulsive disorder.

This involves implanting electrodes within certain areas of the brain. These electrodes produce electrical impulses that can affect certain cells and chemicals within the brain.

The NINSH authorities said they have been training up their surgeons to run a full-fledged surgery unit at the hospital.

Family calls

FROM PAGE 14

The suspended cops are Sub-Inspector Biswajit Sarkar, constable Shawkat Ali and constable Nabanita Banasen. Besides, police recommended departmental action against Ansar member Sumon Deb. The ansar man was sent back to his force.

The April-8 incident was caught on a CCTV camera installed at Abul's house. The footage showed that constable Nabanita beating up a woman with a stick and slapping her. She was seen trying to strangle the woman and pulling her by the hair. SI Biswajit and constable Shawkat were seen beating up two male members of Abul's family.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Abul's daughter Shilpi Akhter said water supply connection to their home was restored yesterday morning. A part of the wall was knocked down by the police.

Nurul refuted the allegations of blocking the road and attacking Abul's family members. He told journalists that Abul framed him by snapping the water supply line to his own home.

They will be a threat to free speech

FROM PAGE 14

state can easily know "who is telling what".

"This will be a violation of the globally recognised internet policy."

Chapter three comprises summaries of various "authoritarian" laws already in place like the DSA, he further said.

Supreme Court lawyer Sara Hossain said, if implemented, both the

regulations prepared by the ICT division will widen the scope for curbing people's rights.

She said the draft policy and regulation were placed for public consultation for a little over a month, which is not much time, adding that most people are not even aware of it.

She suggested submitting a proposal to the authorities concerned to take opinions

and recommendations from public stakeholders on the proposed draft policy and regulation and ask them whether the two legal instruments should be redrafted.

Nuran Choudhury, a teacher of law department at Independent University, Bangladesh, and Zakir Hossain, chief executive of Nagorik Uddiyog, also spoke at the event.

Rejoinder, our reply

FROM PAGE 1

extent last year. But it is now under control due to the improvement in the overall condition of the pre-treatment inside the tannery estate and also because of regular cleaning of the conveyance system."

Claiming that the CETP (central effluent treatment plant) at the tannery estate is fully functional, the rejoinder said the inlet effluent is being treated to decontaminate the effluent by more than 90 percent and the company is making its maximum efforts to achieve Environment Conservation Rules-1997 standards.

The rejoinder attached a test report done on November 11 last year by "Bureau Veritas" in which nine parameters out of ten were found to be within the permissible limit. It argued that the outrageous picture of a river pollution as a result of discharge of untreated effluents into the river is not true. The river appears to be being polluted by discharge of untreated liquid from many industrial units set up on the two banks outside the Tannery Industrial Estate, the rejoinder added.

OUR REPLY

The report was prepared

based on a study jointly carried out by the geography and environment department of Jahangirnagar University, environmental science department of Stamford University and Waterkeepers, Bangladesh.

The study team took samples from four points of the rivers during pre-monsoon, monsoon and post-monsoon period and analysed the data based on six indicators – biological oxygen demand (BOD), total suspended solid (TSS), chemical oxygen demand (COD), ammonia, oil and grease, pH level and phenol.

It followed the Canadian Council of Ministries of the Environment Water Quality Index (CCME), a method widely followed in North America.

The CCME model assesses water quality by assigning scores out of 100. A score of 0-40 is categorised as poor quality, 45-64 is marginal, 65-79 fair and 80-100 is excellent.

In the six indicators, the Dhaleshwari scored 27.06 and the Buriganga 39.39.

In another study, done last year by the Department of Geography and Environment of Jahangirnagar University, water samples were

collected from spots adjacent to the industrial estate in Hemayetpur found the tannery waste to be the key source of pollution in the Dhaleshwari.

The study concluded that the tannery estate singlehandedly played a role in polluting the river.

In the meantime, the parliamentary body on the environment, forest and climate change ministry on August 24 and November 29 last year suggested the CETP in Hemayetpur be shut for its failure to contain the pollution.

"The Tannery Industrial Estate has the capacity to treat around 25,000 cubic metres of liquid waste every day, but the tanners generate around 40,000 cubic metres of liquid waste per day. That means 15,000 cubic metres are dumped into the [Dhaleshwari] river without any treatment, causing severe pollution," Saber Hossain Chowdhury, chief of the parliamentary watchdog, said on August 24 last year.

The report's information on dumping 15,000 cubic metres of liquid waste was collected from his statement which clearly captured the authority's failure in containing the pollution.