

# When objects speak

Unique design exhibition underway at Brihatta Art Foundation

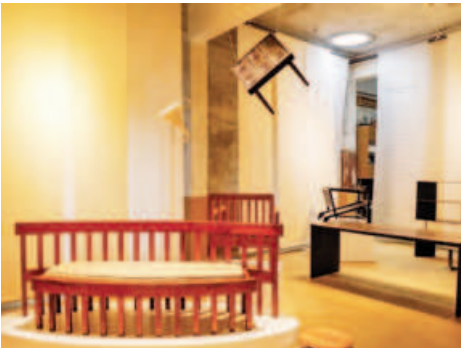


ZAHANGIR ALOM

‘Objects in Conversation’ is the first design exhibition in Bangladesh, highlighting the cultural consequence of furniture as design objects. Exploring relationships across disciplines and between generations, the exhibition elaborates on the various manners in which culture, materiality, and philosophical inquiries emerge to form personal and collective design identities.

“With 33 objects produced by 17 designers including architects, artists, and artisans, the exhibition, curated by Bishwajit Goswami, Diane Rhyu Taylor, Ulrike Fellner, celebrates the fluidity between art and design,” mentions Nusrat Mahmud, Co-Founder, Brihatta Art Foundation. “As an artist-run, collaborative art platform, the Brihatta Art Foundation supports the collective efforts of artists, architects, designers, producers, and researchers in inaugurating a shared dialogue about design in Bangladesh.”

To reflect on the designs and understand the objects requires a reflection on the various contexts from which they were born. The curators invite the audience to participate in the encounter, which is also a celebration of a shared and continuing journey.



A gathering of ideas suspended in anticipation, the exhibition invites its audience to imagine designed objects in dialogue. Positioned as protagonists and gathered across generations, the objects recount stories of a collective journey in defining a Bangladeshi design identity. “We have organised the exhibition revolving



Curators Diane Rhyu Taylor, Bishwajit Goswami and Ulrike Fellner.

PHOTOS: COURTESY

around four thematic inquiries, revealing investigations about materiality and climate, reductivism and resources, heritage and modernity, and a philosophical and spiritual quest for the collective self,” says Diane Rhyu Taylor, one of the three curators of the exhibition.

Spanning fifty years of designed objects post-independence, the pieces bear witness to their social, economic, and cultural contexts, responding to a society in transition. Illuminating individual and collective aspirations, inquiries, and debates, the collection of the objects acts as a mirror, reflecting a cultural ethos. Encountering the objects creates an opportunity for us as the audience to re-examine our current relationship to our created environments while reflecting on the objects’ inherited and embodied values.

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The exhibition has a unique perspective when it comes to design, one that pervades mere aesthetics or the practicalities of function, and delves deeper into the story, memory, meaning, and cultural essence of a piece, be it furniture or art. Confronting the objects creates an opportunity for questioning contemporary art practices and re-examining the relationships we establish with things.

Having opened from June 18 at the Brihatta Art Foundation in Dhaka, the exhibition will run until June 26 from Monday to Thursday from 5pm to 8pm, and from 3pm to 8pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

## Ezra Miller to be dropped from DC Extended Universe

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Ezra Miller is likely to be dropped from any future franchises of DC Extended Universe (DCEU) following major controversial behaviour from the actor. Miller recently received a harassment order after behaving inappropriately towards and threatening a mother and her 12-year-old.

Industry insiders shared that even if no further allegations surface, Warner Bros is unlikely to keep Miller in the role of Flash. Currently, Warner Bros CEO, David Zaslav has yet to announce what will be happening with the upcoming Flash movie, “The Flash”, which was set to be released in 2023.



## Movie on Padma Bridge wraps up shooting

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Director Ali Azad recently completed the shooting of his movie which will be based on the biggest bridge in our country, Padma Bridge. The movie titled “Padma er Buke Ey Sopner Shetu” has recently wrapped up shooting and is currently undergoing the editing process. The entire movie was shot around the Padma Bridge area and the film stars Sanj John and Olivia Maishaa in lead roles. Raihan Mujib, Himel Raj, Anwar Siraji, Khuku, and Shanta Paul play pivotal roles in the movie.

Ali Azad has also written the story, dialogue and screenplay for the movie as well. The director hopes to submit the movie to the censor board within this month.



# COUNTRYWIDE

## Farmers forced to sell paddy at low price

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Bikas Mandol of Sikdermollic village in Pirojpur Sadar upazila cultivated Boro paddy on his one bigha land spending over Tk 20,000, which he took on credit from different people and NGOs.

Those who cultivate paddy on other people's land have to spend Tk 8,000 more. This year the production cost also shoot up due to soaring prices of fuel and labour, said farmers.

Bikas could harvest 32 maunds of paddy this year which he sold at Tk 700 per maund. Although it is being sold at Tk 900 now, he has no paddy left for sale.

Usually farmers get over 40 maunds of paddy from one bigha land but this year the production has fallen due to pest attacks. On the other hand sharecroppers have to spend their produce with land owners.

“As I was under pressure to repay my debts, I sold my paddy right from the field,” Bikas said adding that this is the common scenario for other farmers as well.

“Most of the farmers have to take loans to cultivate Boro paddy as they have no capital to invest,” said Sukumar Roy, another farmer of the village, adding that farmers cannot wait for better prices due to the pressures to repay their debts.

Although the government is procuring paddy directly from the farmers at Tk 1,080 each maund, most of the farmers cannot sell it to the government because of the hyperactivity of middlemen, he said.

“We have to face a great deal of difficulties to sell paddy to the government,” said farmer Jalal.

Government paddy collectors are prone to cite many faults with their paddy like high moisture content and other, he added.

“Finding no other alternative, we have to bribe the brokers to get our paddy selected by the government collectors,” he further said.

Md Nazrul Islam, food inspector of Pirojpur Sadar upazila's food controller's office, said they procure paddy through lottery system and there is no scope for irregularities.

Sheikh Moshir Rahman, district controller of food, said farmers cannot supply the type of paddy they demand.

“So, we can never fulfill our procurement target,” he also said.

As farmers do not have adequate open space to dry up the paddy, they sell it to wholesalers immediately after harvesting it, he added. According to the Department of Agricultural Extension in Pirojpur, this year Boro paddy was cultivated on 26,070 hectares of land.

# Passed yet not passed

FF spends 13yr at court to get a certificate that he well deserved

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

A freedom fighter's aspirations to become a lawyer were muffled as he was shown failed in the LLB examination by the Rajshahi University authorities. But at last the indomitable spirit of the freedom fighter prevailed as he obtained the certificate after a 13-year-long legal battle with the university authorities.

However, as his physical condition deteriorated due to old age, he could not embark on the journey as a lawyer. Being aggrieved, the valiant freedom fighter is now continuing legal battle against the university authorities to get compensated for the loss.

The 71-year-old freedom fighter Munshi Mohiuddin Ahmed, a resident of Harinath Dutta Lane in Jashore Town, sat for LLB examination from Shaheed Mashiur Rahman Law College of Jashore affiliated with Rajshahi University (RU) in 1985.

But he found that he couldn't pass the examination as he got one mark shorter than required. Challenging the results, he applied to the university authorities to reevaluate his answer sheet.

**In 1999, a High Court bench headed by Justice ABM Khairul Haque, who was later became chief justice, rejected the petition and asked the university to publish the result. Following the HC directive, the RU authorities published the result on March 29 in 2001, which showed Mohiuddin had passed the LLB.**



Munshi Mohiuddin Ahmed

Following his prayer, the answer sheet was reevaluated and some flaws of the two examiners, who had evaluated the copy earlier, were found.

But the university authorities did not publish the result. Rather an inquiry committee was formed by the university authorities to look into reason behind the mistakes. The probe body suggested that the two teachers be kept out of examination assessment job for 12 and seven years.

Later in the same year in 1988, Munshi Mohiuddin Ahmed filed a case with the district assistant judge court seeking directive on publishing his result. Around two years later, the court issued order on RU authorities to publish his results.

Challenging the directive, the RU authorities filed an appeal with Jashore District Judge Court which scrapped the appeal in 1993 and

ordered the university to publish the result.

In the same year in 1993, the university authorities filed a Civil Revision Petition with the High Court Division. Later in 1999, a High Court bench headed by the then Justice ABM Khairul Haque, who was later became chief justice, rejected the petition and asked the university to publish the result.

Following the HC directive, the RU authorities on March 29, 2001, published the result which showed Munshi Mohiuddin Ahmed had passed the LLB.

Later on November 15 last year, the freedom fighter filed a petition with the High Court seeking compensation for long delay in publishing his result.

Following his petition, the High Court on November 21 last year issued a rule asking the authorities

concerned to show causes why the victim would not be paid Tk 30 lakhs as compensation for long delay to publish his academic result.

Education Ministry's Secretary, Rajshahi University's Vice-Chancellor (VC), its Registrar and Examination Controller have been made respondents of the rule.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman issued the rule asking the respondents to show cause within four weeks, said the freedom fighter's lawyer Mohammad Shisir Monir.

Later in March this year, the university authorities replied the show cause.

But The Daily Star could not know the content of the reply letter.

Contacted, the university's Vice-Chancellor Professor Golam Shabbir Sattar, Examinations Controller Md Alamgir Hossain Sarkar and registrar Prof Abdus Salam denied making any comment on the matter.

They suggested that the university's legal cell be contacted to obtain information on the matter.

Contacted over phone, the cell's administrator Dr Shahin Zohora asked the correspondent to talk to another officer of the cell.

A man, who identified himself as an officer of the legal cell but denied to disclose his name, said the university authorities replied court's show cause notice in March.

However, the man did not elaborate what the university authorities said in their reply.

Rather, the man told The Daily Star that the freedom fighter's all the claims were not true.

The freedom fighter's son Asif Sahriar Ahmed Sommya said, “My father is very sick and bedridden. We need a huge amount of money to run the treatment. If we get the compensation, we will be able to provide better treatment to my father.”

“We will take further legal steps over the matter,” he added.