



Cherry Blossoms - 2



Eiza González



Innocent - 1



Shuku



Flower Cherry Blossoms - 1

## Reimagining 'Watercolour'

Sarker Helal Uddin's exhibition underway at Galleri Kaya

### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

This Friday, the solo exhibition of artist Sarker Helal Uddin was inaugurated at 6 pm at the capital's Galleri Kaya in Uttara. Organised by Galleri Kaya, the exhibition is titled "Water Color".



Winter in Canada

Sarker Helal Uddin is a professional artist who currently lives in Canada, Toronto. He obtained his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Central Academy of Fine Art in Beijing China. The artist has been working with watercolours and oil paintings since 1982. In his biography for the exhibition he said, "I love to paint various subjects such as landscapes, flowers, portraits, figures, etc. I also enjoy plein air painting and live model portraits. My speciality is in watercolour, oil Painting, and various mediums.

A total of 54 watercolour artworks were displayed at the exhibition. Covering everything from flowers and canals, to intricate portraits were showcased. Looking at some of the works on display, once can spot the intricate details that Sarker Helal Uddin puts into his work. His deft brushstrokes



Hong Kong - 1

apparent in the fusion of colours on canvas and paper.

The artists ability to blend colours to give a perspective of depth and distance is at times breath-taking, particularly in pieces such as "Winter in Canada" and "Hong Kong -1".

The exhibition was inaugurated

by eminent artist, Professor Abdus Shakoor Shah. Accompanying the beautiful paintings will be the music of noted singer Kanak Aditya on the occasion of the inauguration ceremony.

"Water Color" will run till August 2, with the exhibition being open between 11:30 am and 8 pm.

## First look of Deepika from 'Pathan' out

### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



The makers of "Pathaan" have dropped the first look of Deepika Padukone from the film on Monday. Directed by Siddharth Anand, the film also stars Shah Rukh Khan and John Abraham.

In the motion poster, Deepika holds a gun and shoots. The film promises to show Deepika in an avatar that the audience have never seen before.

"Pathaan" will release in theatres on January 25, 2023.

## 'Ityadi' to air on July 29

According to a press release, this year also marks the centenary celebrations of "Angibeenaa", his first published poetry book. The shooting took place on July 17. It will be aired simultaneously on BTV and BTV world on July 29, after the Bengali news of 8 pm.



## After Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif & Vicky Kaushal receive death threats

### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

After Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal have become victims of death threats and stalking.

An unidentified man on Instagram has threatened both the actors, and also stalked Katrina on various occasions. A case was filed against him at Mumbai's Santacruz police station, and after a rigid investigation, the man was arrested.

# COUNTRYWIDE

## Substandard materials used in road work

### OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Substandard materials are allegedly being used in construction of a paved road in Basail upazila, thanks to the alleged negligence of the authorities concerned.

Construction of the 700-metre-long road, stretching from Basail Union Parishad (UP) Office to Nayapara, under the government's Priority Basis Rural Infrastructure Development (IRIDP-3) Project is going on in full swing.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is implementing the Tk 87.90 lakh project.

Construction firm Doyel Enterprise got the work order.

Locals, however, alleged that the contractor concern is using low quality and abandoned brick cheeps, bringing those from a nearby brick kiln that remain closed for a decade now.

Moreover, the soil beside the narrow road has collapsed at different places due to low-quality work, they alleged, adding that although the sub-base is supposed to be 10-inch-wide, the contractor made it only 6-inch-wide.

They also alleged that no one from the upazila engineer's office come to supervise the work.

Mahfuzur Rahman, owner of the construction firm, said the work to one Matin, who is doing the construction work.

A number of locals said as the subcontractor is a local influential man, they do not dare to protest the irregularities fearing harassment.

Nowshad Rana, a rights activist, said after being informed about the low-quality work, he along with some other locals visited spot and found huge substandard brick chips at different places.

"When we asked about the matter, the sub-contractor misbehaved with us," Nowshad said, adding that although the work is half done, the contractor already withdrew over 50 percent of the total bill.

Despite repeated attempts this correspondent could not reach subcontractor Matin for his comment in this regard.

Basail LGED upazila Engineer Abdul Jalil, however, denied allegation of using low-quality brick chips in the road construction work.

The contractor brought few trucks of substandard brick chips to prevent the erosion beside the road and later took those from at the site after they directed them to do so," he said.



PHOTO: STAR

Locals alleged use of low-quality brick chips and substandard materials in construction of this 700-metre-long road in Tangail's Basail upazila.

## US dollar gains

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of Bangladesh Jute Mills Association, exporters are getting Tk 92-93 for a dollar.

A number of bankers said banks are buying greenbacks from remitters for Tk 102 per dollar.

The rate in the kerb market, the unofficial channel, has shot up to Tk 107.50 per USD.

Bangladesh's foreign exchange market is facing a shortage of dollars due to rising import payments and declining inflows of remittance.

Between July and May last fiscal year, import payments went up by 39 percent year-on-year to \$75.40 billion while exports grew 33 percent to \$44.58 billion.

The inflow of remittance fell 15 percent year-on-year to \$21.03 billion in fiscal 2021-22.

Foreign exchange reserves stood at \$39.67 billion on July 20, in contrast to \$46.15 billion in December.

## Junta executes

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Association of Political Prisoners (AAPP), said Myanmar's last judicial executions were in the late 1980s and that since the coup 117 people had been sentenced to death.

The junta spokesman last month defended the death penalty, saying it was justified and used in many countries.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), appealed in a letter in June to junta chief Min Aung Hlaing not to carry out the executions, relaying deep concern among Myanmar's neighbours.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi said the executions went against Japan's repeated urging for a peaceful resolution and release of detainees, and would further isolate Myanmar.

The US embassy in Yangon condemned the executions of "pro-democracy leaders and elected officials".

China's foreign ministry urged all parties in Myanmar to properly resolve conflicts within its constitutional framework.

Myanmar has been in chaos since last year's coup, with conflict spreading nationwide after the army crushed mostly peaceful protests in cities.

## Teknaf UNO withdrawn

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the UNO's quotes in a report.

On July 21, Deputy Commissioner Md Mamunur Rashid issued a show-cause notice asking Kaiser to explain in seven days why recommendations should not be placed to the higher authorities concerned to take departmental action against him.

Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik informed the HC of the steps as the court on Sunday wanted to know what actions have been taken against Kaiser regarding his conduct.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Khizir Hayat then said it will pass necessary orders after getting the UNO's explanation.

Meanwhile, another HC bench yesterday exonerated Faridpur's Boalmari UNO Rezaul Karim from the contempt of court rule issued on July 7.

The rule was issued after, the

HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil blasted, on June 21, and rebuked Rezaul and Ukil for misbehaving with two process servers and threatening to try and punish them through a mobile court.

Rezaul had threatened the two for getting into an altercation with an official of the UNO office, Ukil Miah, over handing over a summons order on April 27.

The court also exempted Ukil from the same proceedings after both of them offered unconditional apologies before the court.

The HC bench delivered the verdict after disposing the suo motu (voluntary) contempt of court rule issued by the court.

Lawyers Mahbub Shafique and Mozammel Hoque appeared for Rezaul and Ukil Miah respectively, while Deputy Attorney General Tushar Kanti Roy represented the state during the hearing.

## Think twice

FROM PAGE 1  
except in cases of foreign aid and procurement matters.

"The government is considering austerity in the transport sector as it should cut costs in all sectors," Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said while talking to reporters after the meeting.

The government had earlier already decided to cut imports of fuel, particularly diesel, the import of which was cut by 20 percent, and asked its officials not to spend more than 80 percent of the allowance for their vehicles' fuel.

Following the PM's directive to slash the spending for government projects, Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam, while briefing about the outcome of the meeting, said the ministries would divide their own projects into A, B and C categories.

The A-category projects would be implemented immediately and the full allocation for those projects can be spent. For B-category projects, up to 75 percent of their budgets can be spent. The implementation

of C-category projects will remain suspended for the time being.

The government took several measures to keep foreign exchange reserves stable and various austerity measures in the wake of the global economic fallouts from the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

Bangladesh Bank on July 5 asked the banks to take 100 percent of import payments in advance from businesses while opening letters of credit for luxury and non-essential items.

On July 3, the first working day of the current fiscal year, the government ordered all government, semi-government and autonomous institutions to stop purchasing vehicles, including ships and aircraft.

## SUST student

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around 11:00pm and demanded immediate arrest of the culprits.

They also started a sit-in in front of the administrative building.

## CU expels 4 BCL

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September incident, we expelled four students from the campus for one year as they were found guilty."

The four are Raju and Iman of the philosophy department, Rubel Hasan of the Islamic history and culture department, and Junaid of the Arabic department.

They are all students of the 2019-2020 session and followers of the CFC -- a BCL faction led by the CU BCL President Rejaul Haque Rubel, campus sources said.

On September 16, two students of the journalism department, on their way back to the campus around 11:30pm, were harassed by the four BCL men.

As part of probing previous cases, the authorities sent ATM Rafiqul Haque, a teacher of the environmental science department, a warning letter in connection with molestation allegations filed by a female student.

Another student of the chemistry department was also served a letter for sexually harassing a female student on the campus.

Meeting another demand of the agitating students, CU has also reformed the sexual harassment prevention cell, the acting registrar added.

The authorities also withdrew the restriction imposed on female students, which asked them to return to their dormitories by 10:00pm.

Demonstrators hailed the CU administration's decisions and announced that they would discontinue their movement.

Farhana Akter Ayushi, a protesting student of CU, said, "All of our demands have been met, so we won't continue the protests. However, we urge proper implementation of the decisions."

## Scientists discover

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on to say that the brine pools are home to a large number of microbes and are rich in diversity.

He emphasised that these discoveries are essential as they can help determine if alien planets with similar hostile conditions can host any living beings.

"Until we understand the limits of life on Earth, it will be difficult to determine if alien planets can host any living beings," Purkis said.