



Two renowned artistes to exhibit in USA's "Symphony of the Hills"

The artist uses soft pastel, along with thin acrylic dust layers, and charcoal as the background of his paintings. The acrylic and charcoal dust generate amazing textures, along with a mystique aura on the surface of the canvas.

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts is going to organise an exclusive duet art exhibition titled "Symphony of Rivers and Hills" at Gandhi Memorial Center, 4748 Western avenue, Bethesda, MD 20816, Washington DC, US on October 15. Two eminent Bangladeshi artists, Jamal Ahmed and Kanak Champa Chakma, are all set to travel from Bangladesh to US to showcase 44 of their artworks (22 works depicted by each) for the fortnight-long exhibition.

A press conference was held in this regard at Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts, Uttar Badda, Dhaka on September 24. Apart from the featured artist duo, the chairperson of Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts Nilu Rowshon Murshed and gallery curator Sultan M. Mineuddin were present at the press meet.

Those who simply love life and beauty, can find their essence in Jamal Ahmed's works. He is a keen observer, but we cannot comprehend what goes on in his mind when he paints. His creative mind is as enigmatic as the picturesque setting we see in his art.

He is, in fact, recognised for his bold approach to art. He crosses great lengths to depict the subjects he loves to. As a master of drawing, he is acclaimed for his realistic depiction of life, expansive landscapes, gypsy women, nubile women in all their voluptuous beauty, and the mystic troubadours of Bangladesh. "I paint whatever I find interesting,

I once went to the USA, and was struggling to figure out what to portray. Suddenly, a lonely and panicked pigeon sat beside my balcony, and I started painting it. After that, pigeons have become one of my favourite subjects," says Jamal Ahmed.

The artist uses soft pastel, along with thin acrylic dust layers, and charcoal as the background of his paintings. The acrylic and charcoal dust generate amazing textures, along with a mystique aura on the surface of the canvas.



Jamal Ahmed



Kanak Champa Chakma

Evocative of unique themes and vibrant colours, the nostalgic journey of renowned artist Kanak Champa Chakma shines bright with her body of work. Behind the use of vibrant colours, there lies stories of great depth. As we lift the yellow veils of saffron and pierce past the misty cerulean blues, we find the inner thoughts of the artist - a melancholy aesthetic rising out of the canvas. It is a story of generations past, a beautiful, simpler way of

life fading before our very eyes. The exclusive exhibition is an outcome of the artist's research and observation of the lifestyles and rich cultures of the indigenous communities.

"To know the cultures of the indigenous communities is important for me as an artist. I am deeply fascinated with the rhythmic dance and the lifestyles of them," says Kanak Champa Chakma. 'Bangladesh Ethnic Artist Forum' was inaugurated under her supervision, with the participation of all the ethnic communities of Bangladesh. The group dedicates itself to conduct research-based works, workshops, art camps and exhibitions.

Curated by Sultan M. Mineuddin, this exhibition is being organised by Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts, which is a part of Abinta Kabir Foundation, a not-for-profit entity in the memory of Abinta Kabir. The Foundation was set up in 2017 to give free education to underprivileged girls in Bangladesh and now runs a school for them in Dhaka, providing 106 students with free tuition, uniform and lunch. The Foundation also provides scholarship for meritorious students in Emory University in Atlanta in the US.

Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts, originally started as Athena Gallery of Fine Arts in 2012, was renamed as Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts and became a part of Abinta Kabir Foundation in 2017. The main objective of the exhibition is to create a platform for the prominent and promising artists to exhibit their brilliant works to the international arena.

Misha Sawdagor to debut in OTT with 'Jodi Ami Beche Firi'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Misha Sawdagor, one of Dhallywood's most popular villains, is all set to debut in OTT with the Chorki Limited Series, "Jodi Ami Beche Firi". The actor shared an interesting teaser that has left fans intrigued about this upcoming project. The teaser shows Misha Sawdagor stuck in an elevator, repenting for his sins.

Misha Sawdagor will be seen portraying the role of Robiul Alam, while his wife's character, Shahnaz, will be played by Bijori Barkatullah. The cast also includes Doyel in a pivotal role.

"Jodi Ami Beche Firi" will be available to stream on Chorki from September 29.



Bangladesh nominates 'Hawa' for Oscars

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Mejbaur Rahman Sumon directorial film "Hawa" has been selected for nomination into the 'Best International Feature Film' category of the 95th Academy Awards, by the Oscar Committee Bangladesh.

The news was confirmed by the director himself, to The Daily Star.

Two films were submitted for nomination, among which the selected film was sent.

The Academy Awards, also known as the Oscars, is one of the biggest stages for the felicitation of a film. The 95th iteration of the event will take place on March 12, 2023, organised by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts, at California's Dolby Theatre.

NEWS

Atiqul, Taqsem

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"We will place the MD of Dhaka Wasa and the mayor of DNCC before a mobile court. We want they are awarded six months in jail and fined Tk four lakh."

The Daily Star could not reach Atiqul and Taqsem despite repeated attempts.

The condition of the canals in Dhaka South City Corporation areas is not good either, according to media reports. But the NRCC chairman didn't make any complaint against DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Nur Taposh. He, rather, thanked Taposh.

The NRCC boss said the mayor of DSCC has planned to build waste treatment plants at the mouths of the canals so that the polluted water does not flow into the river.

Speaking as the chief guest, State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury said, "Through Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, we have already recovered around 90 percent of the river areas from the encroachment."

He added, "We could not recover many river areas as educational institutions, mosques and temples were built on river banks. We talked to religious leaders to deal with such issues."

The state minister hoped that all the challenges centring on the rivers will be overcome, and vowed stern actions will be taken against the river grabbers.

Ainur Nishat, a professor emeritus of Brac University, slammed the planning commission and the environment ministry for approving the construction of culverts in an "unscientific way" in different parts of the country and it is one of the reasons to kill rivers.

Malik Fida Abdulla Khan, a member of NRCC, demanded a proper database of rivers as well as a health index of rivers like in other countries.

UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Gwyn Lewis, environment expert Prof Ansarul Karim, NRCC member Moniruzzaman, among others also spoke at the discussion.

Zillur Rahman, executive director of the Centre for Governance Studies, moderated the discussion.

BCL president assaulted

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Riva and her followers were punched and hit with chairs.

At least 10 people, including Riva, were injured in the clash. They were all sent to different hospitals in the capital for treatment.

Earlier at noon, a group of Chhatra League leaders -- led by 25 leaders of the existing committee -- held a press conference, in which they brought forth some serious allegations against the president and the GS.

The allegations include blackmailing students into doing unethical work, hall seat trade, extortion, and torture.

"If the BCL central committee doesn't take organisational action against them, we all will resign," said Marzia Urmi, vice president of the committee.

She also demanded justice for Jannatul Ferdowsi -- another vice-president who was attacked by the rival BCL activists in the presence of Riva and Razia on Saturday night.

The BCL central committee formed a two-member probe committee with Vice President Tilottama Sikder and Joint Secretary Benjir Hossain Nishi regarding that incident.

However, 25 leaders declared Riva and Razia "unwanted", saying the central committee was biased

Man picked up

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When they were taking him away, I tried to follow them, but they asked me to go back inside the house. When they went downstairs, I rushed to the window and saw them taking my husband away in a white microbus with tinted windows."

Dilwar's family stated that they went to Mohammadpur Police

towards those two.

Marzia said Jannatul had spoken to the media several times about the unethical activities by the president and the secretary. "That is why she was tortured that night."

The college BCL unit has been mired in controversy and intra-party feud since the announcement of the committee on May 13.

The committee later held meetings to discuss different issues, including a leaked phone conversation of Riva threatening students to join political programmes, torturing two students after confining them for over six hours, pouring hot tea on another.

At the anti-president press conference, BCL leaders alleged the college administration did not sign any student document without Riva and Razia's permission.

The Daily Star could not contact Supriya Bhattacharya, the college principal, for comments despite repeated attempts.

Tilottama Sikder, a member of the central BCL probe body, said they have started the investigation into the incident involving Jannatul.

"Meanwhile, we heard about the attack on Riva and visited the college. We talked to the authorities and heard of the allegations of seat trading, extortion and torture."

27 backed by AL

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member hopefuls and 620 aspirants for member reserved for women in 61 district councils are contesting the local government body elections.

Over 63,000 elected representatives of union parishads, municipalities, upazilas and city corporations will exercise their voting rights and elect zila parishad chairmen.

As the BNP and other major political parties boycotted different tiers of local government polls, ruling AL leaders or its rebels won most local government elections. This made AL district level leaders, knowing victory is virtually guaranteed, desperate to get party support, according to party insiders.

But like the previous local body polls, the ruling AL also failed to manage party dissidents this time.

Repeated warnings of punitive actions such as expulsion, not getting nominations in the future, and not being elected for party posts, have so far failed to prevent AL leaders from vying against its nominees in polls.

To deter rebel candidates, the ruling party last year decided not to give nominations to leaders who contested elections against AL nominees.

But as per the party constitution adopted in 2016, any party leader contesting an election against party-nominated candidates would be expelled directly.

Asked about the reason of so many uncontested elections, Election Commissioner Md Alamgir declined to comment.

In the last elections to local government bodies like upazilas, municipalities and union parishads, the number of uncontested winners also increased compared to previous polls.

Tigresses unbeaten

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at 58 for seven in 12.3 overs. Rumana ended with figures of three for 24 in four overs.

Earlier, Fargana hit her third WT20I fifty, and Rumana played a 20-ball 21-run knock to help Bangladesh post a modest total after electing to bat.

The final only had bragging rights up for grabs as both the finalists -- Bangladesh and Ireland -- already made it into the upcoming T20 World Cup, scheduled to be held in South Africa next year.

'I was abducted'

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people who covered her face with a piece of cloth. But she asked her husband to go back inside and lock the doors, Mushfiqur said.

She could not tell where she was taken, but added that Kibria, and Mohiuddin, two of the people who were involved in the land dispute were present at the place, he said, quoting Rahima.

The abductors then let her go, Rahima told police.

Rahima then went and met a woman named Moni and stayed at her house. Moni gave her Tk 1,000, with which she took a bus to Muksedpur, Faridpur.

Asked why she did not get in touch with her children, Rahima said, "I did not have a mobile phone."

"Those who took me had threatened me as well. I was afraid of returning to Khulna."

The PBI official said Rahima's account of the incident will be verified.

'ANGRY WITH CHILDREN AND LEFT HOME'

Some family members of Quddus told our correspondent in Faridpur that they heard Rahima say that she left home because she was angry at her children.

"After seeing the pictures [on Facebook and in the news], Rahima

said her sons and daughters didn't like her and she would not go home. She also said she would get killed if she went home," Quddus's cousin Mohammad Joyanal said.

Joyanal said Rahima told him that her children were trying to force her to sell two kathas of land she inherited from her late husband.

Her children want to sell the land and go elsewhere with the money, he said.

Meanwhile, Boalmari Union Parishad Chairman Abdul Haque said Rahima met him on September 22 and requested a birth registration certificate for herself.

Rahima told the chairman that she was born in Saidpur, where Quddus lives, and later moved to Bagerhat.

She worked as a maid in Bagerhat and recently returned to her birthplace only to find that her brothers had deprived her of her ancestral property.

"I didn't give her the certificate because I don't know her. Then she left my office," he said.

Monira Akhter, wife of one of those arrested in connection with the abduction, said Rahima's family members staged this abduction to implicate the neighbours.

(Our correspondents in Khulna and Faridpur contributed to this report)

China's Communist Party has elected delegates for congress

AFP, Beijing

China's Communist Party said yesterday that it had elected all the delegates attending a key political meeting starting October 16, where President Xi Jinping is expected to secure an unprecedented third term.

The twice-in-a-decade conclave will also see a shuffle of personnel on the party's powerful decision-making body, the 25-member Politburo.

"Each electoral unit across the country convened a party congress or party representative meeting and elected 2,296 delegates to the 20th Party Congress," state broadcaster CCTV said.

The delegates must adhere to Xi's political ideology in addition to the party constitution, CCTV said.

The representatives include women, ethnic minority party members and those specialising in various fields, such as economics, science and sports, CCTV said.

The congress in the capital Beijing comes as Xi faces significant political headwinds, including an ailing economy, deteriorating relations with the United States and a strict zero-Covid policy that has accelerated China's inward turn from the world.

The congress is the most important date on China's political calendar. It offers signposts on the direction the world's second-largest economy will take in the near term and the extent of the sway that Xi has over the party with millions of members.