



SHOHORNAMA A tribute to our concrete jungle

The prints displayed the beauty and horror of living in a city that contains fatigue and despair, self-conflict, existential crisis, struggles, and joy of the people that live in a city.

MAMUNUR RASHID

Jibananda Das, in his poem *Shohor*, in his mellifluous style, highlighted the bittersweet, mechanical nature of living in the city. Fakir Lalon Shah also touched over the topic fleetingly, in his songs

Over centuries, artists and authors have paid tribute to the beauty of the countryside through their artworks and writings. However, the beauty of city life did not get its fair share of representation.

Young artist Moazzem Hossain shared his experiences of living in three busy and colourful cities of the world – Dhaka, Kolkata, and Hangzhou through his first solo exhibition titled *Shohornama*, which is now underway at Safiuddin Shilpalay, Dhanmondi.

The solo exhibition focuses on the artist's personal experience of living in three cities, which inspired him in his journey of life. The exhibition featured 41 prints, which have been made following different printmaking techniques, namely woodcut, photo etching and lithography, among others.

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Shohornama was inaugurated by Dr ASM Maksud Kamal, Pro-vice-chancellor (academic) at Dhaka University on Sunday. The ceremony was attended by noted artist Syed Abul Barak Alvi as special guest, Rokeya Sultana as chairperson, Professor Nisar Hossain, dean of the faculty of Fine



Art department of Dhaka University, and Professor Anisuzzaman Anis, Department of Printmaking, Faculty of Fine Art of University of Dhaka.

Moazzem Hossain graduated from the printmaking department at Dhaka University. He later received the ICCR scholarship and attended Rabindra Bharati University in India. In 2013, after finishing his master's degree in India, he was then studied at the China Academy of Arts. Then, he completed his second master's degree after spending a year learning Chinese.

"Apart from academic work, these artworks are a reflection of my thoughts on these three cities that made me think about my life. I have been making them since 2008," said Moazzem Hossain to The Daily Star.

According to ASM Maksud Kamal, the artworks of this exhibition were extraordinary, while noted artist Syed Abul Barak Alvi said that Moazzem Hossain has a unique pattern of expressing himself.

Curated by Md. Sajidul Haque, the four-day exhibition will continue until Wednesday, running from 11 am to 8 pm daily.

As new parents, this film is a blessing for us: Pori, Siam

The official trailer and poster for Pori Moni and Siam Ahmed starrer, *Adventure of Sundarban*, was released during a ceremony at the Bangladesh Mohila Samity on Tuesday. The film has been directed by Abu Raihan Jewel.

"I played the character Tisha in the film. I brought my son Rajya to the event. When he grows up, I want this film to be a gift for him," said Pori Moni at the event.

Meanwhile, Siam Ahmed expressed his gratitude to the film and called it a blessing for him and Pori Moni.

"When we initially began filming *Adventure of Sundarban*, neither of us were parents. Now, we are both parents to two wonderful boys. That is why this film really does feel like a blessing for us," said Siam.

The film will hit theatres on January 20, 2023.

Rodela Tapur to receive special debutant award

Young actress Rodela Tapur made her debut in the film, *Deshantor*. Now, the actress will be receiving a special award at the 'Bangladesh Cultural Reporters Association: Bijoy Shommanona 2022' programme. The award ceremony will take place on Friday, at the International Mother Language Institute in the capital's Segunbagicha area.

Tapur is the daughter of actress Golam Farida Chhonda—who has been working in showbiz for over two decades now. Her father, Satirtha Rahman, has etched his name as a noted TV series director.

NEWS

Shahnaz Rahman among top taxpayers

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concern of Transcom Group.

The company has been getting the recognition as highest taxpayer since fiscal 2015-16, when the National Board of Revenue decided to broaden the list of largest taxpayers to honour them with tax cards to encourage compliance among taxpayers.

In the print and electronic media category, East West Media Group, Somoy Media and Times Media were among the top taxpayers.

The tax administration launched the initiative in fiscal 2010-11 to honour taxpayers in two categories – individuals and companies – to motivate people to deposit due taxes and encourage more people to pay taxes.

A total of 76 individuals and 65 companies were announced as top taxpayers for fiscal 2021-22.

Bangladesh Test and T20I skipper Shakib Al Hasan, ODI captain Tamim Iqbal and wicketkeeper-batter Nurul Hasan Sohan were the top taxpayers in the sportsperson category.

In the senior citizen category, Md Kaus Mia, owner of Hakimpuri Jarda, and Khaza Tazmahal were named as top taxpayers.

A Matin Chowdhury, managing director of New Asia Group, topped the war-wounded freedom fighter category, followed by Md Nasir Uddin Mridha, Md Amjad Hossain, Md Joyal Abedin and Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim.

In the category for persons with physical disabilities, Akram Mahmud, Md Mamunur Rashid and Lubna Nigar got the accolades.

In the businessperson category, Golam Dastagir Gazi, chairman of Gazi Group and the minister of textiles and jute, and Walton Group's directors SM Ashraf Alam and SM Shamsul Alam made it to the list.

Jahangir Kabir, AKM Fazlul Haque and Pran Gopal Datta paid the highest amount of tax among medical professionals. In the lawyer category, Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh and Ahsanul Karim were the top taxpayers.

In the actor or actress category, Mahfuz Ahmed and Mehazabien Chowdhury were the top taxpayers. Tahsan Rahman Khan, SD Rubel and Kumar Bishwajit paid the most taxes in the category for singers.

Standard Chartered Bank, Islami Bank, HSBC and Dutch Bangla

Bank were the top taxpaying banks, while Infrastructure Development Company, IDLC Finance and Investment Corporation of Bangladesh were top taxpayers in the non-bank financial institution.

Grameenphone was the highest taxpayer in the telecommunications category. Olympic Industries, Pran Dairy and Square Food and Beverages topped the list in the food and beverage category.

Coats Bangladesh and Paramount Textiles got the recognition of top taxpayer in the spinning and textiles category, while Square Fashions, Universal Jeans and Zaber & Zubair Fabrics were the top taxpayers in the readymade garments category.

In the pharmaceuticals category, Square Pharmaceuticals, Incepta Pharmaceuticals, Renata and Beximco Pharmaceuticals were the top taxpayers.

Bay Developments, Concord Real Estate and Development and Building Technology and Ideas were named in the real estate category.

Bata was the top taxpayer in the leather industry category and British American Tobacco in the "others" category.

1,330 cameras to be installed

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Range, said Abu Naser. Two cameras will be installed in each grid and a total of 1,330 cameras will be set up.

Asked about the number of tigers, the project director said, "The exact figure of tigers will be known after the census. Earlier, it was difficult for tourists to see any tiger during their Sundarbans visit but now, they can take photos of 3-4 tigers which indicates that the number might have

increased."

The tiger census will be conducted in and outside the wildlife sanctuary and the authorities will conduct the survey in the less, more and most saline areas of the Sundarbans, he said.

Tigers mostly hunt deer, but they also eat pigs, monkeys and crabs and another survey will be conducted to figure out their eating habits in 2024, he added.

Three hundred and forty members of 49 village tiger response teams and

185 members of community patrol groups under the four ranges will be given training to conduct the survey.

Local launches and support boats will be hired for four months under the projects while 200 special category cameras, batteries, and SD cards will be purchased.

Nirmal Kumar Pal, during a press briefing held on March 31, said 200 cameras will be purchased for the project as only 90 cameras were available which was not sufficient.

Fakhrul, Abbas denied bail

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On the other hand, the prosecution opposed the petitions saying that leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations carried out subversive activities as per the directives of the two leaders, and so their petitions should be rejected.

After hearing both sides, the judge turned down the defence pleas, considering the magnitude of the

charges brought against them.

He then fixed January 25 for the next hearing.

The case was filed with Paltan Model Police Station on December 8 – a day after the clash broke out in front of the BNP's Nayapalton office.

The clash left one person dead and many injured.

Around 450 leaders and activists of the BNP and its front organisations

were arrested and produced before a Dhaka court the following day.

Fakhrul and Abbas were picked up from their homes around 3:00am on December 9 and were sent to jail after Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Jashim rejected their bail petitions.

The two were shown arrested on charges of provoking party activists to attack police.

It's aimed at recognising defeated forces

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movement are not unknown to us. We hope that people of all classes and professions will stay away from them."

"Earlier, the BNP placed a 10 point demand and a 14 point demand, its 27 point outline is nothing new. We are not worried about its movement."

Asked about his thoughts on some progressive parties going for simultaneous movement with the BNP, Rashed Khan Menon, president of Workers Party of Bangladesh, said if they believed in the spirit of the Liberation War or were progressive, they would not have joined the

movement with Jamaat.

"I don't think those who announced the simultaneous movement with war criminals hold progressive ideology," he added.

Speaking at the press conference, Hasanul Haq Inu, president of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), said the "Rainbow Nation" is for forging unity among Razakars, militants, Jamaat, and war criminals.

"Those who support this can't be leftist or progressive anyway. These 27-point outline and 10-point demand of the BNP are actually a strategic proposal to make the

'72 constitution invalid. Those who support it are neither democratic nor progressive."

Inu said the 27-point outline is not implementable as long as the BNP has political nexus with Jamaat, militants and war criminals.

AL presidium members Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Quamrul Islam, Bangladesh Tarikat Federation Chairman Syed Najibul Bashar Maizbhandari, Gono Azadi League President SK Sikder, and Gonotontri Party General Secretary Shahadat Hossain, among others, were present.

It's unlawful, a violation of human rights

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janaza on humanitarian grounds. Azam's mother died on December 18 due to old-age complications.

Around 9:00am on December 20, he was released on parole for three hours to attend the janaza, which was held on a field adjacent to his Pabriachala village home.

But he was bound by cuffs and fetters during the entire period.

A photo of the incident went viral on social media and provoked criticism.

Eminent lawyer ZI Khan Panna said, "Azam isn't a convict. It's completely illegal to bind him like this. Those who did it should be punished and the jail authorities in charge during the time shouldn't be reinstated to their posts."

He even termed the incident "a kind of torture." Rights activist Nur Khan said, "This was inhumane. The existing laws don't allow this. Those who have done this should be held accountable ... I believe it was a punishable offence."

Rights body Ain o Salish Kendra, in a statement yesterday, strongly condemned the incident, terming it a violation of human rights.

As per the constitution, no one can be dealt with such brutality and inhuman attitude in the name of a trial, the statement read, adding that those who were behind it also violated a 2017 High Court directive regarding binding an inmate with cuffs and fetters, the statement read. Shahjahan Miah, president of the Kaliakoir chapter of rights

body Bangladesh Manobadhikar Bastobayon Sangstha, said, "From a humanitarian perspective, this incident was odd. As far as I know, Azam isn't a listed criminal. He was accused in a case on political grounds. Police couldn't freed him for the namaz-e-janaza."

Azam's brother Ataun Rahman said, "Everyone at the janaza requested police to free him just for a few minutes, but they refused."

Adding to that, Parvez Ahmed, general secretary of Kaliakoir BNP, said, "The inhumanity of the incident was shocking."

However, Gazipur jail super Mohammad Bazlur Rashid said police acted as per the law.

"According to the the Jail Code, any accused must be bound with handcuffs and fetters even if they are released for a while on parole. At the janaza, at least nine policemen were guarding Azam," he told The Daily Star.

Gazipur's Deputy Commissioner Anisur Rahman said, "The police are responsible to ensure security to all and the law enforcers acted as per the Jail Code."

The district's superintendent of police said, "It is not the police's job to cuff any inmate. We will return the accused [on parole] in the manner we received them from jail."

On November 29, a case was filed in connection with an explosion at a local AL office in Kaliakoir's Chandra intersection.

Abdul Mannan Sheikh, a staffer of

the office, filed the case with a local police station, accusing 11 named people, including Azam, and some 150 unnamed people, under the Explosive Substances Act.

Police arrested Azam on December 2.

Weapons, weapons

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hardware, but the army had to learn from and fix the problems it had experienced in Ukraine.

He gave his backing to a plan by his defence minister to boost the size of the armed forces by more than 30 percent to 1.5 million combat personnel. A call up of 300,000 reservists in September was plagued with problems, with many men physically unfit or too old and lacking basic equipment.

Putin also said he still considered Ukrainians – who have been killed in their tens of thousands, forced to flee in their millions, and seen whole towns and cities destroyed – to be a "brotherly" people.

He blamed the war on "third countries (seeking) the disintegration of the Russian world", revisiting a familiar theme. The West has rejected this as nonsense, calling Russian actions in Ukraine an imperialist-style land grab.

Biden will come face-to-face with the man he has spoken with regularly over the past 10 months but not met in person since the war broke out. He will not use the talks to push Zelenskyy towards negotiations with Putin, the US official said.