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Draw beyond censorship

Say cartoonists and experts addressing discussion at exhibition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political cartoons have slowly been lifted off from the face of print and digital media due to a growing intolerance toward them.

Many cartoonists need to resort to self censorship, although the country had once witnessed a glorious history of such caricatures, said cartoonists at a panel discussion yesterday.

The discussion was organised as part of an exhibition of political cartoons in Dhaka.

Earki, a satire platform, in collaboration with Bangladesh Cartoonists Association and EMK Center, held the three-day exhibition at the EMK Centre in Dhanmondi.

More than 150 cartoons were placed to highlight the tradition of political cartoons in the country.

Joint General Secretary of Bangladesh Cartoonists Association and one of the organisers of the programme cartoonist Mehedi Haque said, "Political cartoons played an important role during the language and the freedom movement."

"Cartoons were important in every political turn of independent Bangladesh, starting from the movement against autocracy. But under the pressure of the government, the number of political cartoons is decreasing," he added.

Artist and Cartoonist Rafiqun Nabi said, "Political tolerance in our country has significantly decreased, and

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To highlight art form's history and significance, more than 150 political cartoons are on display at a three-day exhibition organised by Earki, a satire platform, in collaboration with Bangladesh Cartoonists Association and EMK Center. The exhibition, being held at EMK Center, will be open from 10:00am to 4:00pm till tomorrow.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

DSA CASE

Inspector fined Tk 5 lakh for remarks against JS whip

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday fined a suspended police inspector Tk 5 lakh in a case filed over remarks on social media against parliament whip Shamsul Haque Chowdhury in September 2019.

Judge AM Zulfiker Hayet of Dhaka Cyber Tribunal found Mahmud Saiful Karim alias Saif Amin guilty and pronounced the punishment, said Special Public Prosecutor Nazrul Islam Shamim.

"If the inspector fails to pay the fine, he will have to serve 18 months in jail," the judge said in his judgment.

Soon after the verdict, the convict submitted two applications, seeking bail and seven days for payment of the fine. Both were granted by the judge.

On September 25 of 2019, Shamsul Haque, also the general secretary of

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Police arrests 2 DU students on assault charges

DU CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested two members of "Proloy Gang", a group based at Dhaka University, yesterday for allegedly assaulting a fellow student on campus on Saturday evening.

The arrestees -- Naimur Rahman Durjoy and Faysal Ahmed Sakib -- were sent to jail after being charged by victim Zubaer Ibne Humayun's mother, who filed a case against 19 university students with Shahbagh Police Station on Sunday night.

Zubaer, a criminology department student and leader of the social science faculty's BCL unit, was reportedly beaten by the gang members.

Witnesses said the incident began when a speeding car splashed muddy water on Zubaer and his friends near the faculty building on Saturday evening. After chasing down the car near Tin Netar Mazar area for an explanation, a quarrel ensued with those inside the car.

About an hour later, Zubaer received a phone call asking him to come to the Kabi Jasimuddin Hall area. When he arrived, a group of around 15 students, some of whom are also BCL activists, allegedly attacked him with sticks, cricket stumps, and leather belts.

The incident was condemned by a group of teachers and students from the criminology department who demanded justice for Zubaer, standing in solidarity with him at the base of Raju Memorial Sculpture yesterday.

PRAYER
TIMING

MARCH 28

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:45	12:45	4:45	6:20	7:45
JAMAAT 5:20	1:15	5:00	6:25	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	MARCH	SEHRI	IFTAR
5	28		6:16
6	29	4:33	6:17
7	30	4:31	6:17

LIBERATION WAR MUSEUM

Revisiting memories of struggle and sacrifice

ARAEAT RAHAMAN and DIPAN NANDY

You are looking at a large portrait of Bangabandhu, depicting his powerful speech on March 7, 1971. An audiovisual of the precise moment in history plays in the background, making you feel as if you are experiencing the historical moment in-person.

But your mood takes a sudden turn as you enter the next room. A dark tunnel leads you towards a bright light that momentarily blinds you. As you adjust your eyes, you realise the source of the brightness: a Pakistani soldier's jeep crashes through the wall, its headlights shining brightly.

You find transcripts that display conversations between Pakistani army personnel on how they planned operation searchlight.

You witness the violence and brutality the Pakistani army inflicted on innocent civilians on the night of March 25, 1971.

The Liberation War museum, situated in Dhaka's Agargaon, is where you can get this vivid experience.

The 3D visuals described above can be

witnessed in the second gallery named "Our Rights, Our Sacrifice".

In this gallery, the dark tunnel provides a haunting portrayal of the horrors of the night. It showcases the sheer devastation wrought upon the country, with countless homes and businesses burned to the ground.



Visitors can witness the tragedy through an elaborate collection of photographs, videos, and symbolic forms, which may elicit fear and discomfort. However, this is the harsh reality that Bangladeshes had faced that night.

The museum boasts an impressive

collection of over 20,000 monuments showcased across four exhibition galleries, designed by the talented architects Tanzim Hasan Salim and Naheed Farzana.

The museum's exhibition halls feature large photographs, diaries written by freedom fighters detailing their experiences on the battlefield, and letters they wrote, weapons they used, and much more information on their struggle, presented through paper cuttings and historic documents.

The first gallery named "Our Tradition, Our Struggle" starts with displaying maps of ancient Bengal and the Indian independence movement against British rule. It features artefacts from prehistoric times to 1970, including relics from the Pal, Sen, and English periods, as well as items related to the Language Movement.

Then the exhibition gradually depicts the revolts, uprisings, and the various stages of the 1971 war through different displays and exhibits.

The third gallery -- "Our War, Our Allies" -- showcases the Bangalee's struggles and sacrifices during the Liberation War.

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Liberation War Museum, situated in Dhaka's Agargaon, is where one can get a vivid experience of the Bangalee liberation struggle, as well as glimpses of the region's ancient history. The museum houses four galleries with distinct themes, housed with artefacts, photographs, 3D and audiovisual experiences, and much more.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

SATTOLA SLUM FIRE

Another tragedy, more stories of despair

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The fire that broke out at Sattola slum in Mohakhali yesterday morning was doused after around three hours.

While no one was physically hurt, the survivors of the fire will have to grapple with the mental trauma and physical loss of the fire in the days to come.

Every time a fire breaks out in Dhaka, which is all too often, it leaves behind a trail of destruction that is unfortunately forgotten much too soon by anyone who hasn't been directly affected.

JOBA RANT'S NEW SAREES BURN'T TO ASHES

"I wore old and torn clothes all the time, and I generally don't have the luxury to get myself things I like. But I saved up and a few months back

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ARCHITECT IMTIAZ MURDER

'Blackmailing racket tortured him to death'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Architect Imtiaz Mohammad Bhuiyan was trapped by an app-based blackmailing racket and was tortured to death at a Kalabagan flat as he refused to pay money to them.

The Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police said this after arresting three persons from different areas in connection with the sensational murder.

They are Millat Hossain Munna, 19; Anwar Hossain, 38; and Ehsan alias Megh Hijra, Harun Or Rashid, chief of DMP's Detective Branch told reporters at his office in Dhaka yesterday.

Imtiaz went missing on March 7 after he went out of his Tejgaon residence. His wife Fahmida Akhter later filed a general diary with Kalabagan Police Station.

Meanwhile, Munshiganj police recovered his body from Chittrakot Kamarkanda Bridge area in Sirajdikhan on March 8. Anjuman Mufidul Islam, a voluntary organisation, buried him on March 9 as an unclaimed body.

The family following a media report later identified the body as that of Imtiaz.

Briefing reporters yesterday, Harun said at least five persons took part in the killing and they are trying to arrest two others.

Police from Narayanganj recovered a car that was used to carry the body to Munshiganj from Dhaka, he said.

The DB official said the racket used to run a dating app, and Imtiaz got acquainted with one of the racket members Alif, who is on the run, through the app.

As the Imtiaz called Alif on March 7, and Alif asked him to come to a flat in Kalabagan area.

The other accused then started blackmailing victim

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