



Eminent personalities inaugurate the event.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

RECORDS OPEN a nostalgic portal to the past

About 16 collectors brought their gramophone records to exhibit. Some records are open for sale, while others are for display.

ANTARA RAISA

In a fast-paced world, where one can listen to music with just a tap on their phone, music lovers flocked to The Daily Star to witness the first exhibition of gramophone records in Bangladesh.

As April plays host to the occasion of World Record Store Day—which took place on April 22—a day-long record exhibition was organised for the first time in Bangladesh, yesterday at The Daily Star Art Gallery in the capital.

“Through vinyl, you can inherit not only



“When I was a teenager, I used to save money from my tiffin allowance and used to buy records using that money. At that time, each record would cost BDT 7. You couldn’t imagine how much effort the singers put in just to record one song,” said Syed Abdul Hadi.

“Nowadays, we can listen to music on digital platforms. However, the purest form of music was recorded on the gramophone. If you are truly an audiophile and music enthusiast, you can tell the difference in audio quality between digital platforms and gramophone records,” he added.

In the sixties and seventies, gramophone records were the only medium to record music in this subcontinent. Many timeless songs by legendary artistes were recorded through this medium. Looking back, most of the songs of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra were released by Kolkata’s Hindustan Records in 1971.

There was also a record company in Dhaka called Dhaka Records. Many believed that this company secretly published the first recording

of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s March 7 speech. Aside from this, many Bangladeshi films and music were released by Dhaka record, most of which are just an anecdote in the history books now.

“Today, around 16 collectors have brought their gramophone records to exhibit. Some records are open for sale, while others are just for display. We have a wide range of records here, from Gauhar Jan, who was the first recording superstar of India, to Runa Laila. We have some rare pieces here, like a recording of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s historical March 7 speech,” said Paritosh Kumar Deb, Member Secretary of the Record Store Day celebration committee.

“We didn’t expect such an overwhelming response. We are planning to organise this event on a broader scale in the upcoming years,” he added.

Syed Danik, who is the director of Universal Music, came to the exhibition with his collection of 800 records. He has been in this industry for over 32 years now.

“In our country, nobody makes these gramophone records anymore. It’s our duty to preserve the classic songs through these records. I hope this type of celebration will help the younger generation learn more about our arts and culture,” he said.

World Record Store Day was conceptualised by Chris Brown, owner of American Bull Moose Music, and Eric Levine, proprietor of Criminal Records. Due to their united effort, World Record Store Day was observed for the first time in 2007. Now, this occasion is observed and celebrated all over the world.



Duronto TV to debut five new shows

Popular children’s entertainment channel, Duronto TV is all set to kick-off its latest season with five brand new shows. The new children’s shows include *Picklu & Pai*, *Duronto Family*, *Gunjoner Adda*, *Cartoon Cartoon* and *Sweet Little Monsters*. Additionally the fifth season of *Rong Beronger Golpo* will also be coming soon.

Picklu & Pai portrays the funny adventures of an uncle-nephew duo will air on April 30 at 12:00 pm and 8:30 pm daily. Hosted by the popular actor Runa Khan, *Duronto Family* will be a game show with five rounds in each episode.

Mim hopes for a ‘sign language’ restaurant in Bangladesh

Bidya Sinha Mim is in a care-free mood, as she is travelling around India. Recently, she visited a restaurant in Mumbai that hired speech and hearing impaired employees.

The actress posted about her experience on Facebook, and wished for similar opportunities in our country as well.

“It was an experience of a lifetime!! Using ‘sign language’ to order food in a restaurant. I really appreciate this. And the food was so good. Hopefully, we will have this sort of restaurant in Bangladesh too someday soon,” read her post.



COUNTRYWIDE

TANGAIL TOWN

Death of the lone children’s park

MIRZA SHAKIL, *Tangail*

Townpeople’s demand for a separate children’s park has not been fulfilled for decades.

As a result, children of Tangail town are being deprived of healthy entertainment.

Tangail municipality, covering over 29 square kilometres area, was established during the British era in 1887.

The municipality, which is divided in 18 wards, has a population of nearly 2 lakhs. Of them, about one third are children.

In 1969, a year before Tangail upgraded to a district, the then municipal authorities set up a children’s park beside the Louhajang river, said Ismail Hossain Selim, president of Tangail Sangrahashala.

However, the town’s only children park lost its attraction after Chhoy Anil Bazar, then main kitchen market of the town, was shifted to the park premises in 1977, he said.

The kitchen market, which was supposed to be moved to its previous place after completion of its reformation work within six months, was made permanent there in 1989 and named Park Market, Selim said.

Rafiqul Islam, a resident of Purbo Adalatpara, said although a children’s park was established in Gharinda area during the 90s, within couple of years that park turned into a den for unethical activities.

Later, two more small parks for the children were setup in the town, but those too remained unusable due to lack of proper maintenance.

“The children of Tangail town badly need a separate park for healthy environment,” he added.

Hafizur Rahman Swapan, panel mayor of Tangail municipality, said they are aware of the matter and looking for a suitable place for the construction of a new park for the children.

Talas Khan, a children organiser, said the District Council had installed several ordinary rides on a ground beside the district lake for the local slum children, but all the rides got damaged within a few years.

The place has now turned into a parking spot for trucks, he added.

Contacted, Tangail Municipality Mayor SM Sirajul Haque Khan Alamgir said they have sought a piece of land from the district administration for construction of a new children’s park.



Tangail District Council installed some rides on a ground beside the district lake in the town for the entertainment of local slum children, but it has now become a parking spot for vehicles.

PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 2

He said some of the IMF reforms were long been suggested by the country’s economists, analysts, professionals, and entrepreneurs.

Debapriya said, “But, now, we have to do these tasks through the IMF programme. So, is the crisis the way for getting positive solutions?”

“See what happens now. What a paradoxical situation. We need to create a crisis to get reforms. What a sad situation.”

“Two honorable parliament members are present here [at the event]. Have you discussed the IMF programme before it was approved by the government and senior bureaucrat signed it? Was it discussed at all in the standing committees on finance? Was it discussed at cabinet at all?”

“There is an economic subcommittee of the cabinet, but they were not involved, a parliamentary standing committee was not involved... And now the prices of fertiliser and electricity are going up. Who will take this responsibility in an election year? A bureaucrat or political masters?”

He said the process was being dealt with in depoliticised way without the participation of people’s representatives and stakeholders.

There’ll be no

FROM PAGE 1

BNP leaders said the party will go tough on its leaders and activists who will run for councillor in the city polls and those who will patronise them.

Even though the councillor election is non-partisan in nature, some grassroots BNP leaders, especially incumbent councillors, want to run.

This is the first time the BNP is taking a hardline on councillor polls. It has already announced the decision to boycott the upcoming mayoral elections to five city corporations.

BNP sources said some leaders showed interest in running for councillor, “either under pressure or willingly”.

Insiders say the BNP standing committee, the highest policy-making body of the party, decided to persuade potential candidates not to run. The committee sat on Tuesday night to discuss the city polls when party’s acting chairman Tarique Rahman joined virtually from London.

Historian Ranajit Guha passes away

FROM PAGE 12

influential scholars in the Subaltern Studies group and was the editor of several of the group’s early anthologies. His book “Elementary Aspects of Peasant Insurgency in Colonial India” is considered a classic.

In her condolence message, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, said Ranajit’s numerous writings on Indian peasant uprisings not only became a trend-setter, but also inspired a group of powerful historians whose work on the subaltern had an impact across the world.

“The world of knowledge suffered a great loss in the death of Ranajit Guha,” she added.

He was born on May 23, 1923, at Siddhakati village of Bakerganj upazila of Barishal to a family of owners of talukas. His father shifted with his family to Calcutta (Kolkata) in 1934.

Ranjit completed his post-graduate studies in history from

Calcutta University, becoming deeply influenced by the teaching and scholarship of the legendary historian Susobhan Sarkar (1900-1982).

By the mid-1940s, Ranajit became a full-time political activist and as a representative of the Communist Party of India, he joined the World Federation of Democratic Youth which was established in London in 1945.

He returned to Calcutta (now Kolkata) in 1953 with an aim to concentrate on research.

Ranjit taught at Chandernagore College in West Bengal before joining what is now Maulana Azad College and the Jadavpur University in Kolkata. From 1960 to 1980, Ranjit taught at the University of Sussex before he migrated to Australian National University where he continued to mentor scholars until his retirement in 1988.

He wrote extensively on peasant uprisings and is best known for his

book, *Subaltern Studies VI*.

His other notable books are *A Rule of Property for Bengal* (1963), *Elementary Aspects of Peasant Insurgency in Colonial India* (1983) and *Dominance without Hegemony: History and Power in Colonial India* (1997).

Ranjit influenced famous scholars like Dipesh Chakrabarty, Partha Chatterjee, Gayatri Chakrabarty Spivak.

Binayak Sen said Ranajit introduced the study of history of subalterns. The main point Subaltern studies is that history should not be written on kings and their men, regime changes. Rather, similar importance should be given on the perspective and narratives of peasants and the working class.

He was pivotal in creating Subaltern historiography.

Prof Abdul Momin Chowdhury, a leading historian of the country, said that his biggest contribution is the creation of subaltern studies historians.

Economy top of the mind

FROM PAGE 1

Abdoulaye Seck, the WB’s country director for Bangladesh and Bhutan, will speak at the event.

Hasina will also hold a meeting with the WB board of directors.

On the day, Bangladesh will sign five loan agreements of \$2.25 billion, including a \$500 million budget support.

Ahead of the PM’s visit to Washington DC, the WB board endorsed the new Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for 2023-2027 that would equip Bangladesh to face the headwinds of graduation from the LDC country bracket.

That CPF would be presented to Hasina on the day.

The CPF will support Bangladesh’s goal to achieve upper-middle income country status by 2031 by helping the country address key barriers to higher and sustainable growth, Seck said.

It will help develop a diversified and competitive private sector to create more and better jobs; promote

socioeconomic inclusion to expand opportunities for all; and address climate and environmental vulnerabilities.

“As Bangladesh aims to be more prosperous, it will need stronger institutions and policies to serve the needs of an upper-middle-income country. This CPF will support the government’s reform

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Atul Keshap
The new president of USBBC

programmes to deliver jobs and support inclusion and resilience,” Seck added.

On May 2, Hasina will hold a meeting with the US Bangladesh Business Council (USBBC) centring on the theme of “US Bangladesh Economic Cooperation”. The

meeting will advance discussions on bilateral trade and smart growth.

“Bangladesh is one of the most exciting markets in the world right now and one of the most inspiring development stories of the past two decades,” said Atul Keshap, the new president of USBBC, in a statement.

Keshap is also the president of the US-India Business Council.

“Bangladesh’s anticipated graduation from LDC status in 2026 presents a potent moment for the American business community to expand their ambitions in the nation, and for the US and Bangladesh to shape a forward-looking trade vision geared towards a new and rising Bangladesh,” he added.

While in Washington DC, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva will pay a courtesy call on Hasina.

She will also sit for an interview with the eminent weekly magazine *The Economist* and address a community reception.