



A homage to Bangla cinema's golden era, with HAND-PAINTED ART

Artist Shoab hand-draws Hridi Huq's '1971 Shei Shob Din'

"From Razzak-Kabori to Farooque-Babita, I have drawn banners for all superstars throughout the years. All of them told me that they loved it. However, sadly no one hand paints posters or banners anymore. Everybody looks for a faster way to get their poster, through digital print. Nobody cares about the love and dedication, which we put into our work,"

Mohammad Shoab, Artist



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Amidst the digital era of posters, cinema goers have almost forgotten the larger-than-life acrylic posters of yesteryears, which used to grace Dhaka city, especially adorning cinema halls. Artists used to work day and night to make this unique South-Asian artstyle for films stars like Kabori, Nayak Razzak, spanning to even Jashim and Manna.

Late Enamul Haque and Lucky Enam's daughter, Hridi Huq is bringing back the age-old tradition by bringing in artist Mohammed Shoab for her directorial venture, **1971 Shei Shob Din**. Mohammad Shoab is working tirelessly to paint the 20-foot banner which will be unveiled on Dr Enamul Haque's birthday, May 29.

Mohammed Shoab never imagined in his wildest dreams that he will be bringing up his brushes again to draw a film's banner, after two decades. Currently, he is busy painting the large landscape, alongside two assistants. Shoab started his painting career at the age of 15 in 1965, his passion soon transformed into a career, which led to the creation of many film posters.



The cast of the film.

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSEHD

"We came up with this idea while having a friendly conversation, and started searching for an artist who is adept at this near-extinct craft," said Hridi Huq. The movie casts the likes of Lucky Enam, Shajal, Sazu Khadem, Sanjida Preeti, who were present during the making of the poster.

"I was speechless when I saw the work for the first time. We took this initiative to bring the audience back to the golden age of cinema," said Sazu Khadem.

"It felt like we were back in the black-and-white era, through this banner. The poster looks really good," said an

ecstatic Shajal.

"From Razzak-Kabori to Farooque-Babita, I have drawn banners for all superstars throughout the years. All of them told me that they loved it. However, sadly no one hand paints posters or banners anymore. Everybody looks for a faster way to get their poster, through digital print. Nobody cares about the love and dedication, which we put into our work," said the artist.

When asked about whether he has any expectations from the government regarding the extinction of posters, the artist sighs, "Nothing! I don't want anything or desire anything from anyone."

The members of Enamul Haque and Lucky Enam's theatre troupe started arriving at their Adabor residence, where they were mesmerised by the colourful posters.

"I never thought I would start painting again. I am really lucky that I got this project," the artist smiled and then went back to his drawing. The enthusiastic crowd watched as he went on to smear colours on the large landscape with the pristine stroke of his tired old brush.

COUNTRYWIDE

MOGHRA RIVER

A lifeline under threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The Moghra river, once regarded as the lifeline of Netrakona town, has been shrinking alarmingly due to encroachment and dumping of waste on the riverbank.

Local people said the menace has been continuing for years due to indifference of the authorities concerned.

The river, which divided the town into two parts and falls into the Dhanu river in Netrakona's Khaliyajury upazila, was also a great source of fish resources and agriculture only a few years ago, said Joba Rani Das, one of the elderly residents of the town.

But illegal encroachment and mindless waste dumping has continued to choke the river due to lack of proper monitoring by the authorities concerned, locals alleged.

Mohammad Abdullah of Muktarpara area said the river is freed from the encroachers in a planned way, it would be a blessing for the townspeople and local environment.

Veteran journalist Shyamolendu Pal, also convener of a citizens' forum in Netrakona, said though they have been conducting different campaigns to keep the river alive, people are killing it slowly, ignoring the serious consequences of environment and health hazards.



The Moghra river, a lifeline for Netrakona town, has shrunk up noticeably, thanks to indiscriminate waste dumping and rampant encroachment. PHOTO: STAR

Locals said despite repeated appeals to the authorities concerned, no proper step has been taken yet to bring back the river's glorious past.

They also said that once there were some 20 spots along the riverbank for bathing, but due to pollution and grabbing now there are only a few spots.

Netrakona Civil Surgeon Dr Mohammad Selim Miah said due to the dirty environment people can be affected with different waterborne diseases like diarrhoea, cholera, jaundice, typhoid and skin diseases.

Netrakona Water development Board (WDB) Executive Engineer Sarwar Jahan said they have already taken up a project to dredge the Moghra river in order to bring back its previous beauty.

While talking to this correspondent, Netrakona Municipality Mayor Nazrul Islam Khan said they have been conducting various awareness campaigns to save the river, but none has been paying heed.

Contacted, Netrakona Deputy Commissioner Anjana Khan Majlish said there were some 316 illegal establishments along the riverbank.

Of those, a total of 293 had been removed in recent years, but the rest 23 establishments could not be evicted as there are several cases pending with the court, the DC added.

Ilisha declared

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field is Tk 6,744 crore if we calculate the price according to local rate and Tk 26,750 crore if international LNG price is considered," said Nasrul Hamid at his briefing.

"We have done the pre-feasibility study to build a pipeline from Bhola to Khulna through Barishal. After conducting the feasibility study, we will start the commercial production."

Currently, Bhola island has three gas fields—Shahbazzpur, Bhola North, and Ilisha. Only Shahbazzpur produces gas of around 90 mmcf/d to feed the local

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However, many renowned geologists argue against the status of Bhola North as a separate gas field. They believe it is a part of the Shahbazzpur field, which is only about three km away.

Ilisha is at least 35km away from Shahbazzpur, and its reserve is separated by a seismogenic fault from the other gas fields.

The last gas field discovered in Bangladesh was at Zakiganj, Sylhet, in June 2021.

He died waiting to get back

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Asaduzzaman, who has other health issues, told The Daily Star on the Supreme Court premises yesterday, "I cannot speak properly due to physical disabilities. I'm now so helpless as my father became paralysed in 2014 and died in 2021 and my mother died in 2006."

"Now I'm studying BA at Khulna City College. I have no source of income. My two sisters help me continue my studies. I hope I will win the legal battle."

Kajal Rashid Biswas, who is providing Asaduzzaman with legal assistance pro bono, told this correspondent that Razzak was the manager of Rupali Bank's Barodal branch in Satkhira.

AL stages demos across country

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disclosed by their Rajshahi district unit convener," Mahmud, also joint general secretary of AL, said at a programme in Dhaka, reports BSS.

Mahbul Alam Hanif, another AL joint general secretary, at a separate programme in Dhaka, said AL men will resist the conspirators with strong hands.

Besides, Jubo League central leaders and activists held a protest rally at Shaheed Minar in Dhaka.

There, they said the BNP leader issued the death threat to Sheikh Hasina as part of the party's anti-state conspiracy, adding that, such conspiracies would be politically resisted on the streets.

Leaders and activists of

A case was filed with Ashashuni Police Station in Satkhira on July 13, 2002, against three people, including Razzak, in connection with financial irregularities involving Tk 9 lakh. Razzak was accused being involved in irregularities over Tk 1.58 lakh.

Before the case was lodged, Razzak was suspended on June 2, 2002. He was dismissed on September 25, 2006.

The divisional special judge court of Khulna delivered a verdict in the case on September 27, 2010. The court acquitted Razzak and but sentenced two others — Abul Kalam and Bimal Sarkar — to

different terms in prison.

On October 18, 2010, Razzak submitted an application to the Rupali Bank chairman seeking his job back and arrears, but did not get any response.

He died on August 15, 2021, after suffering from various diseases.

His son Asaduzzaman applied to the bank chairman on November 6 last year seeking his father's arrears and posthumous benefits.

On the same day, Abdullah Al-Mamun, principal officer and manager of Rupali Bank's Goraikhalihat branch in Khulna, wrote to the deputy general manager

Swchhashebak League and Krishok League held a protest in front of the AL's central party office in Dhaka.

Bangladesh Chhatra League held a rally near the Raju Memorial sculpture at Dhaka University and Mohila Awami League held a programme in front of the National Press Club.

Dhaka University Teachers' Association formed a human chain at the foot of the Aparajeyo Bangla sculpture.

Meanwhile, outside Dhaka, protests were held in Savar, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Nilphamari, Gopalganj, Lalmonirhat, Bogura, Sunamganj, Rangamati, Narshingdi and Lakshimpur, reports BSS.

In Netrokona, AL men brought out a protest procession around noon and marched different streets in the town. A few agitating protesters from the procession attacked the district BNP office and vandalised it. On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control, reports our correspondent. Furthermore, 23 eminent citizens in a statement yesterday strongly condemned Chand's remark and demanded his immediate arrest. The signatories include Abed Khan, Nasir Uddin Yusuf, Golam Quddus, Kamal Pasha Chowdhury and Rokeya Prachi. [Our correspondent from Netrakona contribute to the report.]

Two cases filed

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Chand said the BNP has no other demand except to ensure that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina goes to her grave, the OC said, quoting the case statement.

"The police are trying to arrest Chand," the OC told The Daily Star yesterday evening.

As of 10:00pm yesterday, Chand was not arrested.

The OC added that Chand was accused in a similar case in Rajshahi city for threatening the premier at another public rally once before.

Meanwhile, the other case was filed with Netrokona Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Court in the afternoon.

In the case, AL's district unit General Secretary Shamsur Rahman Liton brought sedition charges against Chand.

Later, the court directed Netrokona Sadar Police Station to register the case, said Zafar Iqbal, Inspector of Netrokona Court Police.

Furthermore, the High Court yesterday asked authorities concerned to inform it about the steps taken against Chand for issuing a death threat to PM Hasina, reports BSS.

A HC division bench comprising Justice Md Kamrul Hossain Mollah and Justice Khandaker Dilruzzaman passed the order as Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Emran Ahmed Bhuiyan brought the matter to court's attention.

"I brought the matter to court's attention and the court then wanted to know what kind of action the police had taken against him. A case was filed over the matter and it is now the duty of police to arrest the accused," the DAG told BSS.

[Our correspondents from Rajshahi and Mymensingh contributed to the report.]