



## A PIECE OF MYMENSINGH in Dhaka

The 4th Bangla Art Festival by Art Bangla Foundation took place in Mymensingh from December 22 to 25, 2022. With the aim of reminiscing the Mymensingh Art Fest, an art exhibition was organised in collaboration with the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka (DU), at the Zainul Gallery at DU on July 17, 2023.

AISHWARYA RAIHAN

KM Khalid, MP, State Minister of Cultural Affairs, inaugurated the exhibition as the chief guest. Prof Dr ASM Maksud Kamal, Pro-VC of DU, ATM Tahmiduzzaman, DMD of United Commercial Bank, and Luva Nahid Choudhury, Director General of Bengal Foundation, were present as special guests. Prof Nisar Hossain, Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts, DU presided over the event. After the cordial speeches from the guests, the exhibition was underway.

The art fest in Mymensingh last year was organised by Art Bangla Foundation, with artists of all ages participating along with some foreign artists, creating wonderful art pieces. The reflection of it is displayed on the walls of Zainul Gallery. The first painting that caught my eye belongs to Monjur Rashid. It is a portrait of a woman with large pink brushstrokes against a contrasting black background. Tatiana Svetkina's birdman portrays a human being's will to fly and be free. Kamruzzaman Sagar's storks with water



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED AND ARSHADUL HOQUE ROCKY

are surrealistic and thought-provoking. Jamal Ahmed has depicted the ever-familiar image of rural Bangladesh, with boats by a river and villagers. Azmeer Hossain's paintings contain vibrantly coloured geometric shapes. I understood very little, and

yet, they were able to fascinate me. Abstract expressionism in big, bold strokes made Trivedi Gupu's painting stand out. Another painting with bold strokes belongs to Dravid Saikat, showing a semi-abstract majestic image of an elephant.

Elizaveta Tarasova painted dusk, a dark blue sky-meets-horizon picture where the silhouette of a lone boatman can be seen. Intiaj Rasef's simplistic painting shows a gateway in sepia shades along with geographical boundaries. Hasura Akter Rumky's flying pigeons are beautifully painted in glittering gold colour. Rashed Sukhon's abstract painting with bright yellow left me in awe. The black bisons on a bright crimson backdrop, by Ziaur Rahman, took my mind back to the ancient murals of Altamira cave. The lovely water lilies belong to Lokman Hossain. There is a brilliant portrait of the legendary artist S M Sultan playing the flute with cats. This was done by Didarul Limon. Nazia has painted one of the most beautiful rickshaws I have ever seen. The children's paintings with eye-catching colours are displayed in panels of six.

The entire exhibition had a comfortable vibe where one can come close to art and artists through their visions. This open-for-all exhibition will run at the Faculty of Fine Arts until July 22, 2023.

## Lindsay Lohan and husband welcome baby boy

Lindsay Lohan and husband Bader Shammam have welcomed their first child, a beautiful baby called Luai.

The baby was born in Dubai and the exact date of birth of the son is yet to be revealed. Earlier on, Lindsay told a local media that she is super excited about becoming a mother.

In March, Lohan announced on social media that she and Shammam were expecting their first child by posting a photo of a onesie with the words "coming soon."

The couple secretly married five months after becoming engaged in November 2021. Lohan revealed the news in a birthday greeting to Shammam, referring to him as her "husband" on her Instagram post.



## 'MR-9: Do or Die' releasing in August

Asif Akbar's **MR-9: Do or Die** finally has a release date. The movie will be released worldwide on August 25. According to Deadline, the film has struck a North American Distribution deal with Swapna Scarecrow.

**MR-9: Do or Die** will be released on 150 screens in the US and Canada, and simultaneously in Bangladesh.

Based on the classic Bangladeshi spy novel series, **Masud Rana**, the film tells the story of agent MR-9, a skillful and seasoned spy with a complicated past.

It is jointly produced by Jaz Multimedia and Silver Nine. The film stars ABM Sumon, Frank Grillo, Sakshi Pradhan, Michael Jai White, Niko Foster, among others, in prominent roles.



## NEWS

### Family alleges

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be prescribed any antibiotics. Ferritin level in the blood serum must be tested before given any antibiotics. But no such test was done at the Central Hospital," Sufia claimed.

Asked, doctor Selim told The Daily Star, "The complete blood count report suggested a secondary bacterial infection in the blood of the child. So I started antibiotics maintaining protocol."

He claimed that he visited the patient in person several times and had received updates on her condition regularly through the attending medical officer.

He dismissed the allegation of his negligence. Mamunur Rashid Russel, manager of the Central Hospital, told The Daily Star, "The allegation of negligence is untrue. In fact, our paediatric department is well-equipped and has adequate manpower."

The health directorate last month suspended surgeries and the operations of the intensive care unit at the Central Hospital after the death of a mother and her baby following a "botched C-Section" on June 10.

### Tigresses eye historic series win

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the process. We will try to play our best as we will be playing at our home ground," Lata told the media yesterday.

According to Lata, the hosts will look to build on the momentum gathered from their wins in the final T20I and the first ODI.

"India are a very good side. Since we won the last T20I and also the first ODI, naturally we are doing things right and have been playing better cricket than them," she said.

Pacer Marufa Akter starred for the hosts in the first ODI, scalping four wickets to help Bangladesh bundle out India for 113. She is expected to play a crucial role once again today.

However, batting still remains an area of concern for the hosts and according to Lata, who did not feature in the first ODI, the Tigresses are working on their batting skills and hope to put up a better show today.

India, who whitewashed Sri Lanka and England in their recent most bilateral ODI series, will surely look to bounce back and try to keep the series alive.

### BB alerts banks of malware

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penetration tests to assess the vulnerabilities in sensitive systems, constant monitoring and storage backup.

The central bank also asked banks and NBFIs to notify of any recent incidents of malware attacks and the actions taken by July 13. It also sought a detailed account of the preventive and reactive measures from cyberattacks by July 20.

BB Spokesman Md Mezbaul Haque acknowledged sending the letter, which was part of the central bank's general housekeeping. "Banks are taking proactive measures," he added.

The letter from the central bank comes after Bangladesh Krishi Bank's server came under a malware attack last month. Notorious ransomware group ALPHV, also known as BlackCat, broke into the state bank's servers and made way with more than 170 GB of crucial information.

The break-in went undetected for 12

### 2 cops tortured

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Inside the car, the police officers told Arif, a cleaner, that he would be released if he handed his daughter over to them, Arif claimed.

As he protested, they tortured him, as the car drove towards Gazipur. When in Gazipur, they called his daughter and asked her to arrange Tk 50,000 for her father's release.

The police officers finally released him around 11:00pm, after his family gave them Tk 50,000, which they borrowed from friends and family in their village home.

Separately, the same two cops detained another man, tortured him for about five hours and threatened with implicating him in a drug case. The man was released after his family paid the cops Tk 74,000 in ransom.

Victim Nazmul Hossain Mollah, from Kathgara area of Ashulia, said the two cops detained him on July 11 in a drug case. He had Tk 24,000 with him at the time, and the cops took the money away.

They tortured him for more money, and finally released him around midnight, after his family gave them Tk 50,000 in ransom.

His brother Assaduzzaman Mollah, a businessman, told The Daily Star that SI Noman and ASI Badrul took his brother hostage for money.

"When I found my brother missing for four hours that night, I went to the police station and reported the matter to the inspector (operations) Jamal Sikder," Assaduzzaman said.

The two cops later apologised for

days, giving the hackers ample time to study internal documentation and steal valuable data with impunity.

In the same month, a security leak from the website of the Office of the Registrar General, Birth & Death Registration had left more than 5 crore citizens' personal information exposed on the internet.

Cyberattacks have become a persistent threat in Bangladesh due to a lack of awareness among individuals and businesses regarding cybersecurity practices, according to experts.

Since 2016, approximately 5,576 cyber incidents were registered by BGD e-GOV CIRT, the government agency responsible for maintaining the country's cybersecurity.

The cyberattacks targeted the government, start-ups and the financial, military, industrial, trade and commerce, healthcare and energy sectors.

the incident and ASI Badrul returned the ransom money in front of Jamal Shikder, he said.

Jamal Sikder said he is not aware of any such incident.

The third victim is Alamgir Hossain, also from Vadail area.

He said SI Noman Siddiqui was investigating a case over the death of a man named Tajibul Mir. According to Alamgir, Tajibul died from over drinking in February.

SI Noman threatened Alamgir with implicating him in the case if he did not give them Tk 1 lakh.

He finally settled the matter with Tk 30,000.

SI Noman said he had nothing to do with the May 28 incident where a father was tortured for refusing to entertain the cops' indecent proposal involving his daughter.

He also denied his involvement in the July 11 torture and extortion.

"But I know that the money taken from the man was returned and the matter was resolved," he told The Daily Star.

SI Noman also denied that he took any money from Alamgir, and asked this correspondent not to publish this report.

ASI Badrul Huda said he was not involved with any of the incidents.

Mohammad Mominul Islam, inspector (Investigation) of Ashulia police, and Md Asaduzzaman, Superintendent of Dhaka police, said they were not aware of the incidents.

"I will look into the matters," the SP said.

### Asian elephants to face existential threat

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the project. Elephant specialist H M Raihan, who was also a member of the IUCN's Elephant Route Identification Study for Single Line Metre Gauge Railway in 2014, told The Daily Star that in the study they found 16 crossing points of elephants along the 27-kilometre track and suggested building overpasses at 13 of them.

"Our recommendation was thorough. But the railway chose to reduce the number of overpasses. In fact, the reduction of passageways will increase elephant-train collisions and will pose an existential threat to the animal. The Asian elephant will disappear within ten years," said Raihan.

Echoing Raihan, Syed Mahmudur Rahman, mammologist of Bangladesh Forest Department, said the railway did not heed the suggestions they had made regarding the overpasses.

"The height of the underpasses they have built is not enough for large animals like elephants to pass through," he added.

In 2018, ADB's international consultant Noris I. Dodd and national consultant Asif Imran conducted a Baseline Biodiversity Assessment (BBA) which was aimed, among other goals, at assessing the project's impact on the forested areas' biodiversity and developing "a strategy to enhance Asian elephant habitat quality/connectivity and reduce human-elephant conflict as project mitigations and conservation offsets."

The final BBA report recommended

the construction of one overpass and two underpasses, which contradicts the suggestion made by elephant experts and forest department officials.

Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury, divisional forest officer (DFO) of Chattogram Wildlife and Nature Conservation Division, told The Daily Star that the railway officials did not bother to have any dialogue with them about the overpass and underpasses, and the construction of other passages.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Railway has changed the design of an overpass it built near the Sathgor area of Chhunati Wildlife Sanctuary. They built a rectangular box culvert instead of a large bridge structure which had been originally planned.

Asked about what role ADB played as the funding partner in monitoring whether the original design for the overpass was followed accordingly, an official from the ADB, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star that their role is not punitive, rather it is corrective.

"We review the project, identify problems and ask the government to correct things that we think are going wrong", he said.

ADB consultant Asif Imran claimed that the three passageways — one overpass and two underpasses — the ADB-commissioned BBA report recommended were enough to accommodate the movement of the Asian elephants that roam these forests.

"We suggested building two underpasses and one overpass only in Chhunati Wildlife Sanctuary, which are

active crossing points," he added.

Green fencing and sensors will be used to prevent the elephants from falling into the craters created by excavations carried out for laying down the tracks.

Elephant expert H M Raihan, however, said the only option to save the elephant was to build overpasses at every crossing point. He opined that the green fencing won't help much.

Mofidul Islam, project director of Dohazari-Cox's Bazar Rail Line, said the current design is much better than the previous one and that it cost them less and is more environment-friendly.

"We built one overpass and two underpasses based on the report of ADB. We did not decide on our own", he added.

### EU delegation

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two-week visit. They are in Bangladesh to assess pre-election conditions and prepare an analysis for EU high representative who will decide whether or not to send election observers for the next parliamentary polls.

The exploratory mission held a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda on July 11.

The EU did not send any election observers for the 2014 and 2018 national polls.

It cancelled a move to send election observers to Bangladesh in 2006 when the election was postponed.

### Indian tycoon Adani slams

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more than \$100 billion.

The shares have since recovered some of their losses, but the group's flagship subsidiary Adani Enterprises remains around 30 percent below its price level before the report.

Addressing shareholders at the Adani Enterprises annual general meeting, Adani called the document a "combination of targeted misinformation and discredited allegations".

"This report was a deliberate and malicious attempt aimed at damaging our reputation and generating profits through a short-term drive down of our stock prices," the media-shy billionaire said.

He was confident of the group's governance and disclosure standards after a panel set up by India's top court found no "regulatory failure", he added.

Short-sellers seek to profit by offloading shares in the hope that their prices will fall and they can buy them back cheaper, and Hindenburg's report accused the conglomerate of artificially inflating its market value using related-party transactions conducted through tax havens.

Soon after the report, the group abruptly cancelled a stock sale and refunded investors.

But Adani said yesterday: "It is worth noting that even during this crisis, not only did we raise several billions from international investors but also that no credit agency in India or abroad cut any of our ratings."

The group's income grew 85 percent in the last financial year, the tycoon added.

Political opponents accuse Prime Minister Narendra Modi of abetting Adani's rapid rise, allowing the

billionaire to unfairly win contracts and avoid proper regulatory oversight.

Both men come from the western state of Gujarat, and Adani praised the Indian government yesterday, without naming Modi.

There was "little doubt" India would become the world's third-largest economy by 2030, and its second-largest by 2050, he said.

"It is well understood that for any economy to implement policy and lay the foundation of growth, a stable government is critical," he said.

"We have seen this impact with the implementation of several structural reforms that are critical for strong, sustainable, and balanced growth."

Opposition lawmakers have demanded a probe into Modi's links to the tycoon, and public financial institutions' potential exposure to his firms.