



AN ARTISTIC HOMAGE TO THE MARTYRS

## Ceramics exposition 'Mrittikanjali' ongoing at Zainul Gallery

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Dr Azharul Islam Sheikh Chanchal, a Professor of the Department of Ceramics of the Faculty of Fine Art (FFA), University of Dhaka (DU), is showcasing an array of artworks in his third solo show titled *Mrittikanjali* at Zainul Gallery 1. Professor Emeritus Rafiqun Nabi along with renowned artists – Mohammad Eunos, also the Chairman of Art Bangla Foundation, and Professor Nisar Hossain, also the dean of FFA, DU, – graced the inaugural ceremony as distinguished guests on February 19. Prominent art critic and teacher Moynuddin Khaled has curated the exhibition.

The exhibition reminds us of the martyrs, who, selflessly laid down their lives for the sake of our country. Blending with the century-old opulent heritage with a brilliant touch of modernity, Dr Chanchal has portrayed exquisite paintings on the canvas of soil. The glaze, coupled with marvelous use of colours, unparallel textures and decorative motifs has made every piece of his works poetic. The artist serenades the soulful songs of the soil through lyrical lines and luminous landscapes on the body of pottery. He has used stoneware pottery as media of all his works on varied sizes.

The artist feels an inseparable bond with the soul of the soil. His nostalgia still revolves around the wheel of the potters. The artist's unrelenting quest for rendering his subtle aesthetic senses into

the purview of his artistic creations has so far made a hallmark of his own. Humans have struggled to survive since the dawn of civilisation. It has achieved excellence by struggling against various natural adversities.

The people of our country have fought wars at various stages. To establish our mother tongue 'Bangla', many people



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

sacrificed their lives in the language movement of 1952. In the portrayal of this struggling self-sacrificing man, he felt a man burning with treachery and an expression of intelligent, selfless and simple existence hidden in the representation of working hands.

On the night of March 25, the Pakistani Military Junta carried out rampages

and massacre in the entire city of Dhaka, including the Rajarbagh Police Line, the then EPR camp of Pilkhana, Dhaka University's Jagannath Hall, Ruqayyah Hall, and Sergeant Zahurul Huq Hall. Millions of people lost their lives, the March 25th massacre was not just a night of killings, it was essentially a shameful chapter in world civilisation.

embodied in numerous expressions in history and in my consciousness drive me to create art in a permanent medium like ceramics," said Chanchal.

The artist has used different clays, and glazes to give clarity to the spirit of the struggling people. "All these subject and medium studies are a relentless effort to express my artistic sense aesthetically," said Chanchal. The composition uses the raised hands as a symbol of justice, truth and possibility. Vertically arranged hands are overcoming hundreds of obstacles. Inspired by the historical consciousness, the active and struggling hands of Bengalis are associated with the self sacrificing faces. He has tried to arrange the collective talent and thousand of skills of the struggling people in a symbolic sense in the clay sculpture of my creative thoughts.

The artist roamed around entire Bengal and the world at large to accomplish his PhD dissertation *Ceramics of Bengal: Tradition to Contemporary*. He is also a co-founder of Vertical, an art and craft research studio. He has so far held over a hundred exhibitions held both at home and abroad, accomplished works on varied media including terracotta, sculpture, mosaic and tiles, mural portrait, wood-metal and fountains including one – 29 portraits (bronze) of Mujibnagar Muktiyoddha Smriti Kendra, Meherpur, Kustia. He also received many awards and grants.

The exhibition, running from 11 am to 8 pm daily, ends on February 28.

## Badhan selected as jury at Bengaluru International Film Festival



Azmeri Haque Badhan has been invited to serve on the official jury of the 15th Bengaluru International Film Festival organised by the Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy, Govt. of Karnataka.

The actress is scheduled to travel to Bengaluru on February 28 and will be back in Bangladesh on March 8.

The festival will be held from February 29 February to March 7 in Bangalore, India. Showcasing over 200 films from all over the world in more than 15 sections.

Badhan will be there along with Nina Kochelyaeva from Russia, Rosanna Alonso from Spain, Cary Sawhney from the UK, and Sitharam from India, as jury members. They will judge the best of the Asian cinema competition section of the festival.

## Mehazabien Chowdhury to make her silver screen debut with 'Saba'



Yesterday, Mehazabien Chowdhury announced her debut in silver-screen with Maksud Hossain debut directorial film *Saba* along with the poster.

Her post reads, "Ekushey February is a special day for me. Not only it is International Mother Language Day, but I started my acting career in television on this very day – 14 years ago. On this auspicious day, I would thus like to announce another milestone

of my acting career."

"Noted filmmaker Maksud Hossain's directorial film, *Saba* will be my first full-length feature movie. We concluded the production of the film in the beginning of 2023 and the project will be released soon," Mehazabien conveyed in her post.

## NEWS

### Dynastic parties set to rule Pakistan again

FROM PAGE 12

#### THE BHUTTO DYNASTY

The Bhuttos – hailing from the lineage of assassinated ex-prime minister Benazir Bhutto – have agreed their Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) will be junior coalition partners, alongside several smaller parties.

They have secured in return the largely ceremonial role of president for Asif Ali Zardari, Benazir's widow and an ex-president nicknamed "Mr 10 percent" – the alleged cut he took on government contracts.

The 68-year-old last came to power on a sympathy vote after Benazir's killing and was twice jailed on charges related to corruption, drug smuggling and murder – although he never faced trial.

His floppy-haired son Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, 35, is the PPP leader and was foreign minister in the coalition which ousted Khan two years ago.

But analysts predict Zardari will use it to steer the PPP, ostensibly helmed by his son, as it participates in a coalition facing a host of tough economic choices.

Ministerial roles for the new government have yet to be announced but the National Assembly must convene by February 29, when the coalition can be confirmed.

#### KHAN'S 'INDEPENDENTS'

Khan sat out the election in jail whilst his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party was barred from

campaigning, with leaders rounded up and candidates forced to run as independents.

Despite the crackdown at the hands of the military establishment Khan fell out with, candidates loyal to PTI took more seats than any other party – but not enough to form a government.

PTI claim the ballot was subject to widespread rigging denying them a majority government, with a cover-up managed by a mobile internet outage on polling day and a massive delay in results.

When former cricket star Khan, 71, was ousted in 2022 his lawmakers withdrew from parliament in protest over a no-confidence motion that he said was a US-backed conspiracy.

Russia lost it.

Russia's defence minister said Tuesday that Moscow's forces had retaken the village of Krynky, seized by Ukrainian troops last year.

Russia has stepped up its offensive ahead of Saturday's second anniversary of its invasion, retaking the symbolic town of Avdiivka last week.

Ukrainian troops have held positions at Krynky since November despite heavy Russian artillery fire.

"We officially inform that this information is not true," the command of the Ukrainian army on the southern front said of the Russian claims over the village.

"The defence forces of southern

Ukraine continue to hold their positions (in Krynky)," the command said on social media.

It claimed Russian forces launched an assault on Krynky but suffered "significant losses" and retreated. AFP was not able to verify the claims.

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu told President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday that Krynky had been "cleared" of Ukrainian forces.

The US-based Institute for the Study of War said yesterday that "available open-source visual evidence" as well as reports from both sides "suggests that Ukrainian forces maintain their limited bridgehead in the area."

It added that it had "not observed any visual evidence of recent notable Russian advances" in and around Krynky.

But this time independents loyal to PTI have allied with fringe party the Sunni Ittehad Council, which they hope will allow them to claim a quota of seats reserved for women and minorities.

If approved by the election commission, the party says it could attempt to form a government with chief organiser Omar Ayub Khan their candidate for prime minister.

But like the Sharifs and the Bhuttos, the real power of the party will remain with a man behind the scenes – in this case, Imran Khan who is serving several lengthy prison sentences.

### Ukraine downs 13 out of 19 Russian drones

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### Mention price, variety on sacks of rice

FROM PAGE 12

In the circular, the ministry also instructed local deputy commissioners, upazila nirbahi officers, regional and district food controllers, and local inspectors to ensure that the millers are following the directives.

"If the millers do not follow the government's decision, action will be taken under the 'Production, Storage, Transfer, Transportation, Supply, Distribution and Marketing of Food Products (Prevention of Prejudicial Activity) Bill, 2023'."

### Another child dies after general anaesthesia

FROM PAGE 1

His father Fakhru Alam told The Daily Star that they had requested the doctors to give his son a local anaesthesia but to no avail.

"Doctor Mukhtadir administered the anaesthesia. Both the hospital authorities and physicians are responsible for the death of my son," Fakhru said.

The Daily Star could not reach the diagnostic centre authorities for comments as the DGHS closed it on Tuesday night.

Abu Hussain Md Moynul Ahsan, DGHS director (hospitals), said the authorities of JS Diagnostic & Medical Checkup Centre and Hospital were directed to stop all activities until further notice.

The authorities did not have any approval to operate the hospital, he said, adding that they have the permission to run the diagnostic centre.

The DGHS will cancel the licence of the centre today, he added.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday sent two doctors – SM Mukhtadir and Mahbub Morshed – to jail in connection with a case filed over the death of Ahnaf.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury passed the order after investigation officer Ruhul Amin, a sub-inspector of Hatirjheel Police Station, produced the two before the court with a seven-day remand prayer, said court sources.

The court directed the investigator

to interrogate the doctors at the jail gate for two days.

Ahnaf's father Fakhru Alam filed the case against three doctors, the two arrestees and Ishiaque Azad, accusing them of causing Ahnaf's death by negligence.

Health Minister Samanta Lal Sen said that if proven guilty, stern measures will not only be taken against the hospital but also steps will be taken to ensure strict punishment to those found negligent.

"We noticed a similar incident a few days ago and took necessary steps. Even after such an incident, those who failed to be cautious, their negligence will not be tolerated," he said in a statement yesterday.

The minister said he would hold an urgent meeting with all relevant persons in the ministry in this regard on Sunday.

**REZA'S DEATH**  
Raahib Reza, an IT consultant and product manager at Star Tech, went to LabAid Hospital for an endoscopy on February 15 night, his wife Tasmia Afroz told this newspaper yesterday.

"Reza's prescription recommended that his endoscopy be conducted without anaesthesia as he was overweight. However, the medical personnel at the LabAid Hospital administered anaesthesia without having a look at the test results of Reza," Tasmia alleged.

"When his condition deteriorated, nobody took care of him until he was

moved to the ICU on Friday," Tasmia said.

Doctors declared Reza dead on Monday morning.

Tasmia alleged that before the endoscopy was conducted, some tests were done to know the condition of Reza. "The doctor, Mamun Al Mahtab, came late and Reza was given the anaesthesia in a hurry..."

This correspondent could not contact Prof Mahtab for comments. He did not answer his phone or replied to text messages.

In a video interview given to the media, Prof Mahtab said "No anaesthetic medication was used on the patient. The patient was put to sleep.

"We use injectable sedatives before endoscopy. Nowhere in the world is there a rule that says tests are needed before putting a patient to sleep for endoscopy. The patient's consent was taken for the procedure."

He added that he saw the patient's medical reports and there was no indication that he would not be able to undergo an endoscopy procedure.

In response to the matter, Chowdhury Meher E Khuda (Dip), public relations officer of LabAid Group, said Reza was administered anaesthesia by the physician's personal anaesthetist, who does not work at the hospital.

"We will investigate the incident and take necessary steps," he said, adding that they have got a written complaint from the family of Reza.