

# ‘SYNTHETIC REALITY’

## Javed Jalil’s artistic inquiry into mind’s mechanism

Reflecting on the exhibition, Javed told The Daily Star, “The exhibition seamlessly integrates into my daily existence. It provides a stage for my artistry while I stay immersed in the next phase.”

PHOTOS:  
THABIT AL BASHAR  
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FAHIN RAHMAN AUNGKITA

Javed Jalil’s second solo exhibition, *Synthetic Reality* provokes one to engage in an existential crisis with the reality of thoughts. With a series of 27 paintings made using oil and dry media on canvas, the exhibition is the first part of his project labeled “The RED”.

Lit up in a warm and soft hue of red, a journey through the gallery hall is a stimulating experience. In the same palette of red, white, and grey with accents of yellow and black, every piece of art unravels an eventful arena accompanied by short titles to give the viewer a headway to their train of thought.

Upon entering the gallery, one would be greeted with *Observer Being Observed*, then *Movement of Thought* followed by *Lonely Question*, *Touch of a Dragonfly*, *Unknown Acquaintance*, and more, in the journey through paintings. The exhibition revolves around the idea that thought is not

natural, it is inherently artificial hence the tag “synthetic” in the title.

Last Friday (July 12), a warm inauguration ceremony was held at Kalakendra with tea and snacks. The special guests included Mubin S Khan, deputy editor of The Business Standard, and Sohel Rahman, an I/O psychologist and managing director of Asian Tiger Capital Holdings. Javed Jalil, a regular of Kalakendra’s artistic ventures, was responsible for every detail of the exhibition, from selecting the pieces to arranging the lighting and placement. This is one exhibition where the artist took care of everything without a curator.

Mubin S Khan described the exhibition as the heart of Javed’s imagination, revealing his mind clearly. Sohel Rahman was pleasantly surprised by the techniques and composition of the artworks. He said, “His technique is extraordinary, making oil paintings look like

What defines a thought? Is it a solitary idea or several notions intertwined within themselves? Can a thought exist in isolation? Perhaps, thoughts are hardly innate, rather they are perceived uniquely in a continuous chaotic dialogue within the mind.

charcoal, pastels, and pencil drawings. Javed also achieves perfection in the deliberate distortion of the paintings.”

Distortion is evident in the paintings of *Synthetic Reality*, with crosshatching elements, animal figures, and exaggerated human features. The art gives thoughts a larger-than-life presence with bold lines, timid textures, and fluid shapes.

The artist said, “If you view something under a microscope, something mundane may suddenly seem monstrous to us yet nothing in it has changed except the view. My work is a projection of how we choose to define the monstrosity.”

The paintings, from *Mating of a Pen to Barb Wire Driving*, vary widely in focus. Complementing the paintings is a video installation reflecting the simultaneity of thought.

Though conceptually diverse, the artworks explore how the human mind works. Javed compares it to driving, where multiple thoughts merge, making it hard to separate one from another.

Reflecting on the exhibition, Javed told The Daily Star, “The exhibition seamlessly integrates into my daily existence. It provides a stage for my artistry while I stay immersed in the next phase. I envision *Synthetic Reality* as an ongoing exploration, with ‘The RED’ marking just its initial chapter.”

The exhibition is set to run from July 12 to 27 at Kalakendra, Lalmatia, from 4pm to 8pm daily.

## Rahat Fateh Ali to grace Bangladeshi stage this July



Pakistani musician Rahat Fateh Ali Khan is all set to perform in Dhaka on July 20 at the United Convention Center. He announced the concert on Facebook on July 11. The event is organised by Buy Here Now (BHN).

Tickets for Rahat Fateh Ali Khan’s concert are priced at Tk 10,000 each, with sales starting tonight at 8pm. BHN’s Assistant Manager Touhidul Islam, told The Daily Prothom Alo that only one ticket category is available.

Rahat Fateh Ali Khan is renowned for his Qawwali, Ghazals, and Bollywood playback singing.

## Ferdous meets Nachiketa for the first time in Dhaka



Renowned West Bengal musician Nachiketa Chakraborty enchanted the audience at the *Dhaka Melancholy* concert held at Hatirjheel Amphitheatre on Friday (July 12), leaving them spellbound.

In a special moment, actor and MP Ferdous Ahmed joined Nachiketa on stage for the first time at a concert. He shared photos on social media, and captioned, “Finally shared the stage with my dear Nachiketa *da* in Dhaka.”

Ferdous concluded the post with, “This meeting feels like sudden rain! Nachiketa *da* is an incredible musician. *Hothat Brishti* was his debut film. Forever grateful to you, *da*.”

The post was admired by fans of both stars.

# COUNTRYWIDE

## Akhalia facing pollution, grabbing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Mindless dumping of waste into the Akhalia river in Mymensingh’s Phulbaria municipality has been going on unabated for years.

Though local residents urged the authority concerned on several occasions to take proper step to stop the menace, nothing has been done so far.

Locals said the municipal authorities itself have been dumping garbage into the Akhalia river for the last 10 years as proper management of tonnes of garbage is still a far cry.

Phulbaria Municipality was established in 2001, but the municipality authorities are yet to select a designated spot for waste dumping since its establishment 23 years ago.

Moreover, as there is no dustbin in the municipality area people throw away waste materials to the river according to their will.

Several rivers including Akhalia, Khiru, Banar and Bajua flow through Phulbaria upazila and these rivers are considered as lifeline of agriculture and ecological balance of the locality.

Among the rivers, Akhalia that facing serious pollution and grabbing is flowing through Phulbaria municipality, locals lamented, adding that a section of people even cultivate Boro paddy in the river bed during the dry season, obstructing the flow of the river at different points.



Disposal of waste materials and illegal encroachment is choking the Akhalia river in Mymensingh’s Phulbaria Municipality. The photo was taken from Bhalukjaan area recently.

PHOTO: STAR

During a recent visit to the municipality this correspondent saw huge garbage are being piled up along the riverbank in Bhalukjaan area.

One of the local residents, preferring not to be named, said the municipality staff themselves have been dumping household garbage in the area for the last couple of months.

On the other hand, the piles of garbage often washed away into the river even after a slight rain, polluting the river that falls into the Brahmaputra river after crossing adjacent Trishal upazila.

Shahjahan Sikder, a former councillor of the municipality, said once the river was a great source of water for irrigation and native fishes as well, but now the river has turn into a narrow canal.

AB Siddique, an incumbent councillor, said if the river is not protected from pollution and grabbing right now, local environment and ecological balance will surely deteriorate in near future.

Ibrahim Khalil, conservancy inspector at the municipality office, said the municipality authorities disposes nearly 25 tonnes of garbage every day, but the number of cleaning staff is too scanty to handle the job.

Only two trucks and five rickshaws carry the garbage, he said. The municipality authorities have selected a designated waste dumping spot at Kushmail Chander Bazar and it will start functioning soon, Khalil added.

## Krejcikova wins Wimbledon title

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Paolini had to save two break points in the third game but she cracked under the strain again as the composed Czech stormed into a double-break ahead for 4-1.

Krejcikova moved to three set points in the eighth game and only needed one as Paolini dumped a backhand return into the net.

## INDIA bloc wins 10 out

FROM PAGE 12

BJP’s Kalyan Choubey in Manikatala.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu’s wife and Congress candidate Kamlesh Thakur defeated BJP’s Hoshiyar Singh to win the Dehra assembly seat.

In Nalagarh, Congress’ Hardeep Singh Bawa won against BJP’s K L Thakur. The BJP won the

The nerve-wracked Italian managed to claim just four points on the Czech’s serve in the 35-minute opener. Krejcikova hit 10 winners to the Italian’s five.

Paolini dashed off Centre Court for a bathroom break and returned re-energised.

She had also dropped the first set in her marathon semi-final triumph over Donna Vekic and on Saturday

she launched another second set fightback.

Breaks in the second and eighth games levelled the final after a set in which Krejcikova made 14 unforced errors to seven for her opponent and take her double-fault count to a tournament-high of 33.

The Czech managed just four winners in the set as she went spectacularly off the boil.

Shah won the Amarwara assembly seat, while in Bihar, Independent candidate Shankar Singh won the Rupauli seat.

Results were declared for the Assembly bypolls held in 13 constituencies across seven states on July 10. The bypolls were held in Bihar, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh.

## Imran Khan to remain in jail

FROM PAGE 12

against the military and other state installations that erupted following his brief arrest in May 2023.

An anti-terrorism court last week cancelled his bail in one of the May 9 cases registered against him and thousands of his supporters.

The party called it a “gimmick” aimed at prolonging his imprisonment. Bibi is on bail in a land corruption case in which she is also co-accused with

Khan, who is a free person after the latest acquittal, the party added.

All four jail sentences Khan received ahead of a February national election have now been overturned or suspended.

Jailed since last August, he was acquitted last month of charges of leaking state secrets. Two other corruption sentences have been suspended.

The PTI has warned that keeping Khan in jail

despite yesterday’s decision will deepen a political crisis which has crippled the country of 240 million people since he was ousted in a parliament vote of confidence in 2022.

Khan blames his ouster on the country’s powerful military generals. No prime minister of Pakistan has completed a full five-year constitutional term since the country gained its independence in 1947.

## Leave 10km inside border line

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The full text of the HC verdict, released on July 11, said the 8km land from the border line will remain empty so that every inch of this land is clearly visible from 8km away.

The land between 8km and 10km from the border line should be kept reserved

for all establishments and activities of the BGB, the HC said.

Once the area is declared as BGB property, the authorities should assess the losses of the private property owners and provide them with Khas land of equivalent value, it said.

“Jatiya Sangsad should

consider this suggestions with due importance,” reads the verdict.

The HC directed the Supreme Court registrar general to send a copy of the judgement and order to all MPs, lower court judges, the director general of BGB, and the home secretary through e-mails.

## Euro, Copa finals promise pure thrills

FROM PAGE 12

Turning to Europe, not just because they are closer to our time zone but also because many star footballers from top European leagues, which have massive followings worldwide, appeared in Euro 2024.

While it was difficult witnessing holders Italy and perennial underachievers Croatia making embarrassing early exits, and the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo and Luka Modric exiting in tears, the emergence of youngsters like Lamine Yamal and Nico Williams of Spain, Arda Guler of Turkey, Kobe Mainoo of England, Jamal Musiala and Florian Wirtz of Germany, and many more, more than made up for the disappointment from those old warhorses.

What started with a German blitz against the Scots at the Allianz Arena in Munich a month ago, with promises of the revival of the once-all-conquering Die Mannschaft, will culminate in a blockbuster final tonight when Spain square off against England.

There will be many who scoff at not having their favourite teams in the final but will not begrudge the presence of two of the best teams in this tournament.

Spain, the preeminent force in global football a decade ago, seem to have reengineered their football and blasted their way through to the final with an all-win record, riding on youth and guile, while England, one of the most consistent teams in major tournaments under Gareth Southgate, have vindicated the hype with never-say-die performances in the knockout phases.

Whoever wins the final

could signal a paradigm shift in football. For England, it could mark the beginning of many accolades, while Spain could usher in a new era of global dominance with this European crown.

The same, unfortunately, cannot be said about the Copa America. Fielding 16 teams with six invited from Concacaf, the event offered more diversity in terms of playing styles and personnel, but the tournament caught more attention for its physical football than the beautiful aspects usually associated with South American football.

Brazil have fallen well short of expectations in recent times, and their meek exit from the quarterfinals despite boasting mercurial talents like Vinicius Junior and Endrick, left more questions than answers regarding the future of the world’s most storied footballing nation.

World champions Argentina, meanwhile, have made it to the final yet have been less than convincing at times with an aging side led by their inspirational leader Lionel Messi, who has looked like a pale shadow of his former self.

Gunning for a record 16th title, Argentina will hope that their captain rolls back the years to deny Colombia, led by a reenergized James Rodriguez, their second continental triumph.

As the curtains draw on these continental extravaganzas, football fans will reflect on the highs and lows of an exhilarating, action-packed month, leaving them eagerly awaiting the next chapter in this beautiful game.