

Drik reopens its doors to ‘Bangladesh Press Photo Contest 2024’

The exhibition is currently open for visitors from 3pm to 8pm until August 16 on the second floor of the capital's DrikPath Bhubon.

PHOTOS: ARSHADUL HOQUE ROCKY

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

In the wake of two triumphant editions, the third edition of the exhibition of the principal local event celebrating the practice of photojournalism in the country, the *Bangladesh Press Photo Contest 2024*, lifted its curtains on July 5. The exhibition ran until July 26 on the second floor of DrikPath Bhubon in the capital city. Neatly curated by veteran ASM Rezaur Rahman, even without a single line of caption on the gallery walls, one could effortlessly relate to the silent yet atmospheric reverberation of the photographs. These images adorning the gallery's walls capture snippets of life in Bangladesh, from recaps of resilience to the messes we've created, depicting lives that go on but also leave questions. "An important aspect of this event is the wide participation of photojournalism practitioners from all over the country, bursting the Dhaka-based bubble that most of us get to typically see. As a curator, it is a refreshing experience



to witness more local stories through their eyes," said Rezaur Rahman to The Daily Star at the inaugural event. Another important aspect that perfectly captures the spirit of this event is the Indigenous Community Grant, where the grant winner will receive funding and mentorship to develop a photographic work, and this year's winner is Denim Chakma from Rangamati. On that note, the exhibition is also showcasing last year's winner Paddmini Chakma's work, *Do You Really See Me?* and her photo story is arguably the highlight of this year's exhibition. "This grant should be continued and is very important for those who come from difficult societal situations... If I hadn't received this grant, I wouldn't even have started this project! And I am immensely grateful to my mentor, Jannatul Mawa," said the shy yet brave-eyed Paddmini Chakma to The Daily Star. The exhibition is currently open for visitors from 3pm to 8pm until August 16 on the second floor of the capital's DrikPath Bhubon.



Meanwhile, another exhibition titled *Rebellion in Cartoons* will kick off on August 16 at 5pm at Drik Gallery. The event aims to showcase a remarkable collection of artworks that emerged from recent anti-discrimination student movement. The exhibition brings together a diverse array of cartoons and graffiti that played a crucial role in the recent anti-discrimination protests. These visual works, which spread like wildfire across both digital and physical spaces, reflect the courage and defiance of a generation that refused to be silenced. "As fear was imposed, it was met with an equally fierce resistance. Cartoonists, both



seasoned and novice, used their art to voice their opinions and ignite public discourse. Some of these artworks were shared widely on social media, while others adorned the pages of newspapers. In an unprecedented move, many artists chose to remain anonymous, allowing their work to speak for itself and resonate with a broader audience," wrote Mehedi Haque, cartoonist and Dhaka Comics' publisher, on his official Facebook handle while announcing the exhibition. Organised by the Bangladesh Cartoonist Association in collaboration with Drik and Earki, the exhibition will run daily from 3pm to 8pm until August 23.

Gaan Bangla resumes operation



On August 4, Gaan Bangla, the country's sole music-focused channel, was vandalised and looted, leading to a halt in broadcasting. Its managing director Kaushik Hossain Taposh shared the news and photos of the damage on his Facebook page. Now, Gaan Bangla has officially resumed operations and is again offering its content, including soothing music from *Wind of Change* and international music videos. Taposh shared the news on his social media account via a video still from Gaan Bangla with the caption, "Welcome Back! Let's keep spreading the magic of music."

Jayanta Chattopadhyay starrer 'Darkak' selected in 3 int'l film festivals

Bangladeshi director Zayed Siddiki's short film *Darkak* (Raven) has been selected for three notable film festivals in three different countries. The short film stars the Ekushey Padak-winning Jayanta Chattopadhyay, along with Aminur Rahman Mukul, Iqbal Hossain, Tuntuni Sobhan, Fazlul Haque, Tahua Labib Tura, and ABM Saeedul Haque. It will be screened at the 15th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne in Australia in August and September, the 10th Shimla International Film Festival in India, and the 13th DC South Asian Film Festival in the United States. The director confirmed via press note and social media that his film *Raven* was selected for three notable diaspora festivals, despite recent challenges. He expressed gratitude to the cast and crew.



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Adani
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week after longtime Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fled Bangladesh after deadly protests, could also benefit future projects where all output is locked into export contracts. An Adani Group spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request seeking comment. A senior industry official said the move is intended to protect Indian interests, including energy security. "If a plant has idling capacity and the country needs power, why should you stop it supplying to the local grid? It is also Indian banks who paid for it," said the official, who declined to be identified as he was not authorised to speak on the issue.

UN urges
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we are alarmed at the reports of attacks that have taken place," he said. He made the comment when asked about the UN's position on the killings of three journalists and the injuries of many during the student movement. Even after the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, the media and many journalists were attacked. The rooms of the president and secretary of the National Press Club in Dhaka have been ransacked. He was also asked if the UN has any information on how long the interim government of Bangladesh will remain in place.

"We are in touch with the current transitional body, and we hope that there will continue to be an open, inclusive process of government formation and that there can be a quick timetable for the restoration of democratic rule," Haq said.

BNP to hold
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"We also urged the interim government to seek an UN investigation," he added. Besides, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told a rally in Saidpur, Nilphamari, that the Awami League was attacking Hindu people and their properties to tarnish Bangladesh's image. He urged the general public to be vigilant against such conspiracies. "They are trying to create chaos by falsely accusing others of attacking the Hindu community, Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, and Christians -- we all are free citizens of this independent country," he added.

Students put forward

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3. Immediate removal and prosecution of those in the administration and judiciary who legitimised attacks and cases against students and the general public, and those who repeatedly attempted to establish a fascist regime. 4. Equal opportunities must be ensured soon for those who have been victims of discrimination within the administration and judiciary until now. As part of the "Resistance Week" programme, there will be a road march today on the points where students were killed during the quota reform movement and subsequent anti-government protests across the country. After gathering at specific points during the road march, the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement will observe a one-minute silence and pray for the students and people who were killed during the movement. **34 STUDENT BODIES MEET** Thirty-four student organisations, except Chhatra League, in a meeting on Monday night arrived at the opinion that the National Mourning Day on August 15 should not be observed at the state level. Nahid Islam and Asif Mahmud, the youngest advisers to the interim government, were present at the

Ahsan H Mansur

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July 2020 to accommodate the re-appointment of then-governor Fazle Kabir. The law ministry has issued a notification eliminating the age limit provision, clearing the way for Mansur's appointment. Mansur, also the executive director of the Policy Research Institute, has been appointed for four years, according to a notification issued by the Financial Institutions Division of the finance ministry yesterday. "Inflation containment is one of my major priorities," he told The Daily Star after being confirmed as the new BB governor. Last month, inflation hit a 13-year high of 11.66 percent, according to data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. "We have to bring back discipline in the banking sector immediately," said Mansur, a former economist of the International Monetary Fund. At the end of March, defaulted loans hit a record Tk 182,259 crore, which is 11.11 percent of total

meeting held at the TSC auditorium at Dhaka University. The organisations also reached a consensus about remaining "united" with the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement to thwart any "conspiracy" against the interim government formed through the student movement. Apart from Nahid and Asif, two key coordinators of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, the platform that spearheaded the recent quota reform protest, members of its liaison committee also participated in the meeting. Leaders of student organisations including Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Chhatra Federation, Chhatra Union, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Gnotantrik Chhatra Shakti, Islami Chhatra Shibir, Islami Chhatra Andolon, Khilafat Chhatra Majlis took part in the meeting. After the meeting, several student leaders told The Daily Star that the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement pledged that it would be dissolved as soon as the purpose of the movement was fulfilled. They also discussed how the student movement would be conducted in the coming days, with most leaders opining against banning student politics on university campus.

outstanding loans, according to data from the BB. Another priority will be to reduce pressure on the external account and boost forex reserves. As of July 31, gross foreign reserves stood at \$20.5 billion, enough to meet about four months' imports. "We will prepare a strategy to boost forex reserves. We will identify reform priorities for the financial sector and start implementation," said Mansur, who is expected to join the central bank today. A former chairman of Brac Bank, Mansur has been critical of the authorities' decision to impose and maintain a 9 percent cap on the interest rate for loans and BB's intervention control over the foreign exchange market and exchange rates. He has an undergraduate degree in economics from the University of Dhaka and a PhD in economics (on general equilibrium analysis) from the University of Western Ontario. He joined the IMF in 1981 and served as the mission chief for Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Oman.

Bank accounts

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"The BFIU ordered a freeze on the accounts after getting reports of suspicious transactions in their name," the official said. In a letter, the intelligence unit asked the banks to block all types of withdrawals through individual or business accounts in their names. In the last three days, BFIU instructed all banks to take similar steps against former foreign minister Hasan Mahmud, his wife Nuran Fatema, and their daughter Nafisa Jumyina Mahmud; Mohammad Ali Arafat, former state minister for information and broadcasting, and his wife Sharmin Mustary; Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed, former land minister, and his wife Rukhmila Zaman, who is also the chairman of United Commercial Bank PLC.

Shayan F Rahman

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appointment at the 47th annual general meeting. The central bank rejected the request as per Section 15 of the Bank Company Act 1991. Rahman holds 3.86 percent stakes at IFIC while his father, who was the private industry and investment adviser to the former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with the status of a cabinet minister, held 3.66 percent stakes. He was the vice-chairman of the bank while his father was the chairman.

Hasina

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for the victims, including students, teachers, police, journalists, cultural activists and a pregnant policewoman, members of the Awami League and its associate bodies, pedestrians, and various professionals." She conveyed sympathy to the bereaved families. In her statement, Hasina also recalled the massacre of August 15, 1975, when Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members were assassinated. Hasina, the eldest daughter of Bangabandhu, also expressed grief over the vandalism and arson at the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi 32 and sought justice from the country's people. She urged all to observe the National Mourning Day on August 15 in a befitting manner by placing floral wreaths at Bangabandhu Bhaban and offering prayers.

Gave shelter to AL leaders

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place in 20 districts." He said they do not want any such incidents to take place. "We are looking into the incidents. We will bring the criminals to book." Speaking about the situation in Rahshahi division, Waker-Uz Zaman said, "Nothing like this [attacks on minority community] happened in the eight districts of Rajshahi division. Such congenial atmosphere should always be maintained. We will all work together and take the country towards development." The army chief said, "The situation has become normal. But the police are still in trauma. Once it's over, the police will be able to perform their duties properly again. "Police have already started working in different police stations. We are giving protection to the police.

Rights offices in Yemen stormed by Houthi rebels: UN

AFP, Geneva

The United Nations said yesterday their human rights offices in Sanaa had been stormed by Yemen's Houthi rebels, with the UN's rights chief demanding they leave immediately and return all seized assets. On August 3, the Iran-backed Houthis sent a delegation to the UN Human Rights Office's premises in Sanaa and forced staff to hand over the keys. They are still in control of the premises, the Geneva-based office said. "Entering a UN office without permission and seizing documents and property by force are wholly inconsistent with the privileges and immunities of the United Nations," UN rights chief Volker Turk said in a statement. "This is also a serious attack on the ability of the UN to perform its mandate, including with respect to the promotion and protection of human rights, which my office is there to defend. "Ansar Allah forces must leave the premises and return all assets and belongings immediately." The Houthis are engaged in a

Once they start functioning fully, the situation will become normal. Then we will return to the cantonment," he added. He said the army will provide all-out support to the government. "The government wants some reform, and to hold a free and fair election. We will provide all sorts of assistance in this regard." The army chief said many looted arms of police have already been recovered and more will be recovered soon. Regarding the recent attack on army men in Gopalganj, Waker-Uz Zaman said it was nothing but a misunderstanding. "The situation is calm there. We have talked with them. But the crime they have committed must be investigated, and those who were involved will be brought to justice." long-running civil war that has triggered one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. More than half of the population is dependent on aid in the Arabian Peninsula's poorest country. The rebels seized control of the capital Sanaa in September 2014, prompting a Saudi-led military intervention on behalf of the government the following March. In June this year, the Houthis detained 13 UN staff, including six employees of the Human Rights Office, plus more than 50 staff from non-governmental organisations, plus an embassy staff member. The Houthis claimed they had arrested "an American-Israeli spy network" operating under the cover of humanitarian organisations -- allegations emphatically rejected by the UN Human Rights Office. Two other UN Human Rights staff had already been detained since November 2021 and August 2023 respectively. They are all being held incommunicado. "I appeal again, with a heavy heart, for their immediate and unconditional release," said Turk.