

# SM Sultan’s 100th birth anniv being celebrated in Jashore



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A celebration of the master artist SM Sultan’s 100th birth anniversary is being held on the premises of Charupith Art Research Institute situated in Jashore Municipal Park.

The festival commenced on January 13 and will continue till February 8. Artists from different generations, as well as art connoisseurs and enthusiasts are attending the event, jointly organised by Charupith Art Research Institute and Terracotta Creatives, says a media release issued yesterday.

The festival has been curated by Mrityika Kamal, secretary of Charupith’s Dhaka wing and also director of Terracotta Creatives.

The events include an exhibition consisting of 46 artworks inspired by Sultan, which was inaugurated at Charupith Art Gallery on Thursday and will continue till February 2.

Earlier, an exhibition of selected artworks from a children’s drawing festival was held from January 18 till January 20, followed by an indoor screening of Tareque Masud’s film on Sultan, “Adam Surat: The Inner Strength” (1989).

SM Sultan was born on August 10, 1923 and died on October 10, 1994.



Bangladesh Indigenous Artist Unity held a cultural gathering at TSC on the Dhaka University campus yesterday, demanding constitutional recognition of the indigenous people, punishment for those attacked the community groups and rights activists, and reinstatement of the word “adivasi” along with the graffiti in textbooks.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Teachers stage

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Farhad Hossain, a teacher from Baruihati Government Primary School in Sunamganj, echoed these sentiments, saying, “We are part of the teaching community; why should we be in the third class? It is not possible to build a country by keeping teachers in the third class.”

No official response was made by government representatives in this regard till the filing of this report.

The situation at Shahbagh remained tense, with teachers vowing to continue their agitation until their demands are met.

## 72 constitution

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reform process or the trial of those responsible for the July massacre would face a fate similar to that of Sheikh Hasina.

“Our co-fighters from private universities, the hills, and the plains – let us unite. Let us move away from the one-party constitution of Mujibism and march towards a constitution that accommodates multiple parties,” Nasir said.

## Don’t create

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potential 1/11-like scenario in a Facebook post.

Abbas dismissed allegations that BNP was envious of a new political party emerging from the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, saying, “If a new party is formed, we’ll welcome it.”

He urged all quarters to prioritise unity and peace over division, saying, “Our leaders and workers are vigilant guards of the country’s independence and sovereignty.”

## Man beaten

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Miran was a former joint secretary of the Jubo Dal’s ward 2 unit in Aliabad union, claimed his brother Iran Khan.

Contacted, Jahangir Hossain, secretary of Faridpur district Jubo Dal unit, said there are no union-level Jubo Dal committees in Faridpur.

“I have no information about Miran holding any position in the organisation,” he added.

Abir Hossain, an on-duty doctor of the hospital, said, “The body bore multiple injury marks, including in the eyes.”

Confirming the matter, Shailen Chakma, additional superintendent of police in Faridpur, said, “Miran was accused in five cases, including charges of murder, abduction, and extortion.”

**Legal Notice**

This is to inform all that, my Client Ms. Sayma Ahmed Onney, daughter of Most Ahmed and Seenu Ahmed of Holding no. 6, Village-Charakpasha, Shipur, Post Office-Charakpasha, P.S.O-1209, Hazaribagh, Dhaka South City Corporation, Dhaka, N.I.D. No.9563001354, has entered into oral agreement with Mr. Shaifuddin, son of Naeem Uddin and Sakina Begum, of Village-Mohampur, Post Office-Agla-1523, Newajgoni, Dhaka, NID No.957597536, to buy his schedule mentioned 80.00 decimal of land out of total 105.50 decimal of lands. In such situation, if any particular person has any claim and objection to the property mentioned in the schedule below, is requested to contact in Mobile No. 0171236916, 0171943579 within 15 (fifteen) days of publication of this notice. Otherwise, no claim and objection shall be admissible in law after the expiry of this period.

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# HABIGANJ TOWN

## Illegal constructions rampant on RHD lands



MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Numerous establishments, including markets, shops, and clinics, are allegedly being constructed illegally on land owned by the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in various areas of Habiganj town.

The RHD lands in Kaligachhtala, Anwarpur Point, and near the stadium along the town’s bypass road are reportedly being filled to construct structures, often ignoring RHD’s notices to halt such activities.

One such case involves Nuruddin, a resident of the Sabujbagh area, who is allegedly constructing a clinic named “Queen Mary” by filling up around a 200-foot stretch of a government-owned canal near the stadium.

Although the district administration issued a ban on the construction work and the former deputy commissioner ordered the removal of soil from the canal, the

activities were only temporarily halted, locals said.

Nuruddin later resumed filling up the canal to facilitate the construction.

Similarly, US expatriate Sunil Banik and his associates are accused of filling up approximately a 100-foot stretch of the canal in the Kaligachhtala area to build a market.

Residents alleged that RHD sent letters instructing Sunil Banik to remove the soil from the canal. However, Sunil and his associates reportedly continued filling up the canal at night, ignoring the orders.

Additionally, numerous shops are being constructed illegally on RHD land in Anwarpur and other areas. While the RHD occasionally conducts eviction drives against these structures, the buildings are often rebuilt shortly afterward, said Ajay Das, a resident of Kaligachhtala.

The canal along the bypass road, which flows through Kaligachhtala and the stadium areas, is crucial

for draining water from the town during the monsoon, said Tofazzal Soheli, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon’s Habiganj unit.

Attempts to contact Sunil Banik, who is currently in the US, were unsuccessful. His relative, Debabrata Chowdhury, claimed they had dumped soil on their own land next to the canal.

Contacted, Nuruddin claimed he had received permission from the RHD and other relevant authorities to fill up the canal for constructing the clinic. However, they failed to provide any evidence to support their claims.

Zakir Hossain, executive engineer of RHD in Habiganj, said all illegal structures on RHD land along the bypass road have been evicted, but some floating structures were later reinstalled.

“Allegations regarding the filling of the canal for illegal constructions will be investigated, and necessary actions will be taken,” he added.

## Honouring the heroes of July

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by government forces to suppress the uprising, such as bullet casings, pellet cartridges, grenade pins, and tear gas canisters.

Speaking at the inauguration, Rizwana said such an exhibition was crucial in preserving the evidence of the uprising in a country where history is often distorted. This exhibition ensures the events of the movement are accurately remembered.

Sharmeen S Murshid suggested that similar

initiatives should be replicated and called for the creation of a permanent space for the exhibition. “We must consider transforming this temporary exhibition into a permanent institution, such as a museum or archive,” she said.

She emphasised the importance of recognising the women who participated in the uprising, urging that they not be forgotten, as female fighters in 1971 often were.

Sarah Cooke described

the exhibition as a powerful, emotional, and moving record of last year’s events.

The exhibition, curated by artist Anisuzzaman Shohel, will remain open until January 31.

On January 26, a book launch and discussion featuring four books on the mass uprising will be held.

Another discussion with the families of the martyrs will take place the following day. A special video on the August 5 massacre in Savar will premiere on January 29.

## 33m schoolchildren affected

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“The increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events is having a knock-on effect on children’s education,” said Rana Flowers, Unicef representative to Bangladesh.

“Extreme temperatures and other climate hazards don’t only damage schools, they affect students’ concentration, memory, and mental and physical health. Prolonged school closures increase the chance of children dropping out and being married off by families to cope with economic stress,” he added.

Girl children are mostly impacted, with many of them married off instead of being supported to continue education.

Bangladesh ranks among the top 10 countries in the world with the highest percentage of child marriage.

Children in Bangladesh are among the most exposed and vulnerable to

climate and environmental hazards according to the Unicef Children’s Climate Risk Index. These disasters often exacerbate the country’s “learning poverty”, where one in two children cannot read at their grade level and two-thirds are unable to do basic counting after completing primary education.

Moreover, some of the brightest children have to give up on their education due to the numerous climate induced disasters.

The report noted that schools and education systems in Bangladesh are largely ill-equipped to protect students from these impacts, while financial investments in education centring climate events remain alarmingly low.

Unicef called on international climate financing institutions and donors, the private sector and the interim government to engage in policy-making and planning in this regard, prioritising the needs of children.

Several recommendations were made including accelerating financing to improve climate resilience in the education sector, ensuring children are engaged in climate decision-making, ensuring proper national climate plans – including Nationally Determined Contribution 3.0 and the National Adaptation Plan – strengthening child-critical social services like education to be more climate-smart and disaster-resilient.

“Children in Bangladesh are at the forefront of two interconnected crises – climate change and deepening learning poverty that threatens their survival and future. As children continue to speak up and call for urgent action on the devastating impacts of the climate crisis, decision-makers must heed their calls and place their needs at the centre of climate policies and financing plans,” said Flowers.

## 4,813 bodies of migrant

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of which arrived from the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries: Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain.

Of the corpses, 5,666 arrived from Saudi Arabia followed by 1,913 from the UAE and 1,893 from Oman.

The six GCC countries together have hired 76.3 percent of Bangladesh’s total 1.6 crore outbound workers between 1976 and 2023, according to the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training.

The 2022 report “The Deaths of Migrants in the Gulf” by the Vital Signs Partnership (VSP) highlights several risks faced by low-paid migrant workers in the Gulf. These include poor working conditions, exposure to heat and humidity, air pollution, and abusive treatment. Workers also face health risks such as psychosocial stress,

hypertension, and chronic kidney disease.

However, the deaths of migrants in the Gulf region in many cases remain “effectively unexplained” even though corpses continue to pile up, it said.

An official of WEWB, wishing anonymity, said while they work to ensure welfare of migrant workers, they also make workers aware of health issues before their migration abroad.

One reason behind the rise in the number of dead bodies received could be that the outflow of migrant workers increased in recent years, the official added.

PRAYER TIMING						
JANUARY 25						
	Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN	5:35	12:45	4:15	5:46	7:15	
JAMAAT	6:10	1:15	4:30	5:50	7:45	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION						

## A step forward for elephant

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All they get is a uniform, pair of shoes and whistle.

“We are working to save elephants from poachers. We also protect residents and their properties from elephant attacks,” Hashem said.

“We face risks, from potential elephant attacks to the dangers of navigating the dense jungle,” Hashem adds, “yet we received no financial support from the government.”

Without a formal framework or any form of supervision, the teams operated with limited accountability, sometimes leading to unforeseen incidents.

However, this may change soon. The government has recently allocated Tk 45 lakh for 50 ERTs in Anwara and Karnaphuli upazila of Chattogram.

“It will allow us to pay the ERT members, ensuring their commitment and

enabling us to hold them accountable for their duties,” said Abu Naser Md Yasin Newaz, divisional forest officer.

Imran Ahmed, conservator of the Wildlife and Nature Conservation Region, said, “While the initial allocation may not be substantial, it symbolises a significant shift in government policy and paves the way for increased support in the future.”

**HUMAN-ELEPHANT COEXISTENCE UNDER THREAT**

The country has 268 critically endangered Asian elephants. Most of them live in Chattogram, Cox’s Bazar, and the Chittagong Hill Tracts, according to 2016 Forest Department data.

The destruction of habitats, corridors, and food sources is fueling elephant invasions and increasing human-wildlife conflicts across the country.

Due to this conflict, 248 people died in elephant attacks between 2013-14 and 2022-23, while poachers killed at least 50 elephants in the last five years, according to the Forest Department.

Wildlife experts urged the government to develop a sustainable solution to reduce the conflict.

Mohammad Abdul Aziz, professor of Zoology at Jahangirnagar University and a member of the Elephant Specialist Group of South Asia, described the recent government allowance as a temporary solution.

He said elephants enter human settlements when they feel disturbed or experience a loss of food sources.

People then attempt to chase them away, which exacerbates the conflict.

“Therefore, we need to conserve elephant habitats, corridors, and their food sources for a sustainable solution,” he added.