



Annual Sculpture Exhibition 2024 opens at Dhaka University

FAIZA RAMIM

The Department of Sculpture, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka, inaugurated its Annual Sculpture Exhibition 2024 on November 2. This year's exhibition carried special significance as the awards were dedicated to the memory of sculptor Abdur Razzaque, whose legacy continues to inspire generations of Bangladeshi artists. The exhibition featured works from students across all departments and classes, with two rooms of Zainul Gallery filled with sculptures and artworks in diverse media.

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Department of Sculpture, for his animation *Croyance Trompeuse*. He calls it an "Animation based on my own delusions". Presented in a first-person perspective, it explores the intersection between personal experience and imaginative distortion. The piece was created on a fifth-generation iPad using a stylus pen, consisting of 234 separate drawings that together form a two-minute, four-second film.

Saha's second work, *Untitled*, further



PHOTOS: RATUL CHOWDHURY

demonstrated his narrative sensibility. Executed in 2D animation using Blender and consisting of 190 frames, it began as a monochrome experiment that translated loss and memory into visual form. In the words of Prottoy, the project gained deeper resonance following the death of his grandmother, Dida, on October 24. Only eight days later, he received the award for his animation, a work he dedicated to both grandparents, who had encouraged his pursuit of fine arts. Most of the works displayed came from second-year students, with a focus on sculpture, while first-year students presented paintings and basic design projects.

The Experimental Best Award went to Suprio Kumar Ghosh, an MFA student of the 2023-24 session, for his terracotta sculpture of a middle-aged man. The earthen

medium emphasised a tactile realism and an expression of fatigue, contemplation, and resignation with remarkable subtlety.

The Media Best Award was given to Sumit Roy, a fourth-year undergraduate student, for his wooden piece *Ek*, depicting two halves of a broken whole. The diversity of materials was what stood out in the exhibition, with works ranging from Sabrina Zawad Ritu's *Distortedfish* in resin to Alok Kumar Sarkar's *Naval Rest* in iron, and Fatema Tuz Nishat Fawzia's *Women* made out of X-ray films.

Works by women artists, in particular, left a strong impression. Even before looking at the names, it was often possible to identify which pieces were created by female students. Among them, Faiza Fairuz's *Discomfort* particularly caught my eye. Made from paper-mâché, it depicted a slouched silhouette in oversized high heels, an image depicting exactly what the title says: Discomfort.

The Professor Abdur Razzaque Award was awarded to Chinmoy Ghosh for his sculpture *Inexplicable*, portraying a newborn's body wrapped in a blanket, limbs extended outward while the head remained concealed.

On November 5, a feature film was screened to commemorate Professor Abdur Razzaque's 93rd birth anniversary, honouring his role as one of the founding professors of the Department of Sculpture. The exhibiton, open daily from 11am to 7pm, will continue through November 8.

Shironamhin lights up Toronto with captivating performance



Shironamhin captivated audiences at the Toronto Pavilion with a spellbinding performance that blended rock and classical sounds. Organised by Mixtape, the concert drew members of the Bangladeshi diaspora eager to witness one of Bangladesh's most celebrated bands live.

Opening with *Jahaji*, the group delivered a 16-song set that kept the crowd enthralled throughout the night. A standout moment came when drummer-composer Kazy Ahmad Shafin performed on the sarod, while young local drummer Nishorgo joined onstage—symbolising a bridge between generations and cultures.

Before leaving Canada on November 4, Shironamhin announced that *Ei Obelay 2* will be released in December, a project that reflects their enduring vision and social commitment through music.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

‘Hirak Rajar Deshe’

Scholastica's Drama, Art, Dance, and Music Club revives Satyajit Ray's timeless satire *Hirak Rajar Deshe*, directed by Kazi Toufikul Islam Emon. Through music, wit, and rebellion, Gupi and Bagha confront tyranny in the Kingdom of Diamonds—where truth, courage, and melody rise against greed and ignorance.

Date: Thursday–Friday | November 6–7, 2025

Time: 4pm and 6pm onwards

Venue: Scholastica Senior Campus, Uttara



NEWS

Jamaat, NCP

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Also yesterday, nine parties – NCP, Amar Bangladesh (AB) Party, Gono Odhikar Parishad, and six from the Ganotantra Mancha – met to discuss the situation and work out ways to break the deadlock.

When approached, Hasnat Quaiyum, coordinator of the Ganotantra Mancha and president of Rastro Sangskar Andolan, told this newspaper that they have plans to sit with all parties, including BNP and Jamaat, to move the process forward.

He, however, said the government has acted “irresponsibly”.

“What we’re saying is that the government cannot evade its responsibilities. But at the same time, as a political party, we can’t shirk our responsibilities either. We’re still trying to see how close we can get to a resolution,” he said.

Amid the raging dispute over the referendum and the July charter implementation order, the interim government on Monday called on political parties to settle their differences and reach a unified decision as soon as possible, preferably within a week.

Asked what would happen if the political parties fail to come to an understanding, Asif Nazrul had said, “We have not issued any ultimatum. We will wait. After that, the government will act as necessary.”

Major political parties remain entrenched in their positions on the mechanisms to implement the July charter, the fate of the dissenting notes, and timing of the referendum.

BNP opposes issuing a constitutional order for implementation of the charter and has also registered its objections over the omission of the notes of dissent from the final implementation draft.

On the other hand, Jamaat and NCP support such an order to give the charter a legal force. The NCP specifically wants the chief adviser, not the president, to issue it.

Both Jamaat and NCP preferred non-inclusion of notes of dissent in the implementation proposals.

On the referendum timing, the BNP insists it should be held on the same day as the national election, while Jamaat is demanding that it be held before the polls.

Jamaat along with several like-minded parties has already launched street protests calling for the

referendum to be held in November.

During the consensus talks, political parties including Jamaat and NCP agreed to have an upper house through proportional representation (PR) based on votes. BNP, on the other hand, issued a note of dissent, saying it prefers that upper house members be allotted in proportion to seats in the lower house.

When contacted, BNP Standing Committee Member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said: “Look, we’re busy with nomination-related matters. We haven’t had the opportunity yet to discuss what steps can be taken regarding these issues.”

Asked if the party would take any initiative on its own, he said, “The matter will be discussed at a party forum, and we’ll inform you accordingly.”

Seeking anonymity, a standing committee member said the party has not yet budged on its stance on the disputed issues.

Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar said that the day before the government made its announcement, the party had already called for dialogue. “That call still stands.”

When asked who should take the initiative to begin discussions, he said, “We need a referee to facilitate the talks – every game has a referee.”

About their party’s position, he added, “Our position remains unchanged. We will make decisions when we sit for talks and during the negotiation process.”

NCP Member Secretary Akhter Hossen said the government has not clarified who will take the initiative to hold discussions. “We believe it is the government’s responsibility”.

He said political parties have held extensive discussions among themselves, and based on those discussions, the commission submitted a set of recommendations to the government. And now the government is skirting its responsibility and shifting the burden onto political parties.

“Our position is clear – we have not deviated from our stance ...” he said.

Chief Adviser’s Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday said it’s only been two days since the announcement, and the parties were given at least seven days. The deadline has not passed yet.

The crash occurred

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at the Foreign Service Academy in the afternoon.

He said the investigation found that a pilot’s mistake during flight training led to loss of control.

The probe committee, formed on July 29, interviewed around 150 people – including experts, eyewitnesses, and victims’ families – and collected 168 pieces of evidence. Based on its findings, it placed 33 recommendations to the government, Shafiqul said.

Among the key suggestions, the report recommended that all initial Air Force training be shifted outside Dhaka for public safety.

It also found that the school building had not been constructed in line with the Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC) of Rajuk, having only one staircase instead of the required three – a lapse the committee said could have greatly reduced casualties.

After receiving the report, Prof Yunus instructed the expansion of runways at Barishal and Bogura airports, Shafiqul said.

He added that the chief adviser observed that several areas under Rajuk’s jurisdiction – including Savar, Kanchan, and Tarabo municipalities – were issuing building permits without following BNBC rules. Prof Yunus directed strict enforcement of the code across these areas to ensure construction safety.

Mamdani

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Mamdani hailed in his victory speech.

Viewers in the restaurant clapped and cheered in that moment. “We’ve been saying Mamdani Mubarak!” said Shahrukh Ali, the owner of Kabab King.

“He’s a people’s person for sure. He reminds me what New York City is all about,” said 21-year-old Mamdani voter Sameha Jamal. “It’s nice to embrace that again.”

Jamal’s father, who also voted for Mamdani, said most of the democratic socialist’s proposals appealed to him, but as a homeowner, he wanted to see more specifics about Mamdani’s plan to freeze hikes on rent-stabilized apartments.

He rents out part of his multi-storey family home and hopes that the rent freeze does not affect small homeowners like him. Otherwise, he said he won’t vote for Mamdani in the next election.

Fair polls to pave way for our return

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election and beyond, it will disrupt our training.

“The army has faced difficult situations during this time – situations Bangladesh had not faced before. Therefore, rest and refit are also necessary. We too want a credible election so we can return to our bases.”

At the briefing, Brig Gen Dewan Mohammad Monzur Hossain, director of the Military Operations Directorate, said they have received the government directive about the temporary withdrawal of half the army personnel deployed nationwide and will act accordingly, considering overall law and order.

He added that the army, under the direction of the chief of army staff, will extend all-out support to the Election Commission to ensure a free, fair, and festive national election.

Regarding social media propaganda, Lt Gen Mainur said some vested quarters are spreading fabricated and malicious campaigns to malign the army and its leadership.

“It is unfortunate. I assure you that every member of the army is loyal to the chief of army staff and the senior leadership. The army is now

more united than ever before, and our sense of brotherhood has grown stronger.

“The army does not need to react to false campaigns. We have our official website where we share our activities. Falsehood can only be defeated by truth, and we prove that through our actions.”

He urged all to avoid such propaganda and move forward with unity.

Regarding the lack of improvement of law and order despite the deployment of army personnel, the army officer said soldiers had to carry out a wide range of tasks over the past 15 months, from flood relief in Cumilla and Noakhali to protecting police stations, managing traffic, and supporting civil administration.

“If we had not been there, the situation could have worsened. We have done our utmost within limited manpower.”

Asked about reports of arms and ammunition recovered from a train in Dhaka and the Chattogram Hill Tracts region, the GOC said such recoveries are both concerning and a sign of operational success. “Weapons being seized before reaching their destination shows our vigilance. We

will intensify drives and strengthen surveillance.

“Other agencies are also working on this, and we must remain prepared so that no arms consignment reaches Dhaka. If any do, we must be ready to deal with it.”

Responding to a question about the Indian Air Force military exercise in the northeastern region near the Bangladesh border, Lt Gen Mainur said it is an internal matter of a sovereign state.

“Such drills are normal and not a cause for concern. Every country conducts exercises for preparedness. We also carry out drills when necessary. It should be viewed in that light.”

At the beginning of the brief, Brig Gen Monzur also highlighted the army’s recent operations and activities.

He said that over the past 15 months, the army has been assisting the civil administration in maintaining law and order. So far, the army has recovered 81 percent of missing weapons and 73 percent of missing ammunition, and arrested more than 19,000 suspects, including members of teenage gangs, robbers, and extortionists.

BNP fields new faces

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Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Muhammad Taher is likely to run from Cumilla-11. Taher fought the race from this seat in the 9th and 11th national polls, and he was twice elected MP from Cumilla-12 in earlier polls.

BNP’s Kamrul Huda, joint general secretary of Cumilla south district BNP and president of Chaudhagram upazila unit of the party, is a first-time candidate in Cumilla-11.

In Khulna-5, Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar, a former lawmaker, is likely to contest in the polls. He ran from there in 1991, 2008, and 2018 polls and won in 2001 general election.

The BNP last time nominated its candidate in this seat in 1996 national election. But after the formation of the BNP-led four-party alliance ahead of the 2001 polls, Khulna-5 seat was allotted to Jamaat.

The BNP has chosen Ali Asgar (Lobi) in this seat. He did not run there before.

Mir Ahmad Bin Quasem Arman, son of former Jamaat central executive committee member Mir

Quasem Ali, is likely to contest from Dhaka-14 against BNP nominee Sanjida Islam Tuli. Both are new faces.

Shamim Sayeedi, son of Jamaat leader and former lawmaker Delwar Hossain Sayeedi, is likely to run from Pirojpur-2, where the BNP has chosen Soheli Manjur, president of Bhandaria upazila unit BNP and son of former BNP lawmaker Nurul Islam Manjur. The two are also fresh nominees.

In Satkhira-2, a Jamaat stronghold, Jamaat leader Muhaddis Abdul Khaleq, who ran in 2018 polls under the BNP-led alliance, may face BNP’s first-time nominee Abdur Rauf.

In Dinajpur-6, another first-time nominee, BNP Standing Committee member Prof AZM Zahid Hossain, is likely to run against Jamaat candidate Anwarul Islam, former district ameer of the party. Anwarul has the experience of contesting polls.

VACANT SEATS

Jamaat has chosen its nominees in at least seven constituencies where the BNP is yet to announce its candidates, as the party struggles to finalise nominations or prepares to leave them for its alliance partners.

In Thakurgaon-2, Abdul Hakim, Jamaat’s candidate in every election since 1991, is likely to run this time too.

The BNP has not yet announced any candidate for the seat. Mirza Faisal Amin, younger brother of BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, and Abdus Salam, former DAB secretary general, are seeking nomination from there.

Jamaat Assistant Secretary General AHM Hamidur Rahman Azad, who contested from Cox’s Bazar-2 in the 9th and 11th national elections, is likely to run again. Nazibur Rahman, son of former Jamaat ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, is expected to contest from Pabna-1; Dhaka South Jamaat Secretary Shafiqul Islam Masud from Patuakhali-2; Masood Sayeedi, son of Jamaat leader and former lawmaker Delwar Hossain Sayeedi, from Pirojpur-1; lawyer and former Shibir leader Shishir Monir from Sunamganj-2; and Jamaat leader Shahjahan Chowdhury from Chattogram-15.

The BNP has not nominated candidates in the seats.