



# Celebrating Jamal Ahmed’s life and art at Galleri Kaya

**RBR**

Artist Jamal Uddin Ahmed's stylish confidence, tilting towards a definite hippie swagger, is what makes the art world of Dhaka love him. He dons a devil-may-care attitude, yet has the most amiable personality, making him a pleasant person to interact with.

His towering persona is accentuated by his trademark open shirt buttons, upturned collars, thick gold chains, and a nonchalant poise. The 70-year-old recently celebrated his birthday at Galleri Kaya, a contemporary art gallery in Uttara.

Dressed in an all-white ensemble, and his glasses on top of his forehead, the artist deliberately displayed a Tamil superstar vibe, looking mysteriously stylish.

The Ekushey Padak recipient of 2019, Ahmed is a professor at the Department of Drawing & Painting of the University of Dhaka, under the Faculty of Fine Arts.

His popularity surpasses that of any superstar, and because of his emotional intelligence, conscientiousness, and a friendly, easily approachable demeanour, the artist is sought after personality in Dhaka's art community. Ahmed is highly valued in his social and professional settings as well.

Galleri Kaya, with its strong commitment to professionalism and keeping the gallery purely on an intellectual and creative plateau, is holding an exclusive exhibition, "Celebrating Jamal Ahmed." Exhibits are from his most recent works.

His works reflect his non-conformist attitude, and a powerful philosophical



stance that is almost psychedelic. His bold strokes bring out the subtlety in the pose of his subject, be it a girl bathing or a pigeon in flight. He can capture the true essence of a fleeting expression to perfection, which draws us to his art.

His style does not stem from any artsy perspective of his surroundings; rather, it shows his skill in capturing the exact emotion of how any normal person would view a girl braiding her

hair, or the old lady contemplating life sitting on a chair on the porch.

"His strength lies in realism. He has mastered the art of capturing light and shadow. It is quite apparent that the artist possesses a profound comprehension of landscapes. Several of his figurative works express a significant feeling of joy. His drawings and sketches are vibrant and exhibit the appropriate level of restraint. He understands precisely when to cease,

which is a fundamental element of his artistic expression," says Goutam Chakraborty, director, Galleri Kaya.

Jamal's themes are almost kaleidoscopic; from the picturesque beauty of Bengal, its peaceful landscapes and riverine communities, to urban life, bauls, mendicants, and the working class. But it is his aesthetic portrayal of the alluring forms of young women, gypsy women, oarsmen, boatmen, and fishermen that are a smash hit with contemporary collectors of Dhaka. However, his most sought-after artworks feature his pigeons, horses, and raging bull.

For art enthusiasts, collectors, and regular people, Jamal's paintings bring about a profound sense of exhilaration.

The most striking canvas exhibited at Galleri Kaya is the 2025 acrylic work on canvas called Beauty in the river, 72x72 inches in size. Then there is Winter in the same medium on a canvas of 42x66 inches.

There is a total of 22 artworks of watercolour on paper, charcoal on paper, and mixed media on paper. These are works done between '24 and '25 and will be on exhibition at Galleri Kaya till November 21.

Galleri Kaya started its journey on 28 May, 2004, and has a successful portfolio of exhibitions, art trips, art camps, and art workshops both at home and abroad, gradually building a bond of trust with artists, art connoisseurs, and the media.

Celebrating Jamal Ahmed is a must-visit exhibition, because it fills you with cheerfulness and takes your mind off the chaos.

## 2 shooters held

**FROM PAGE 1**

commit the murder have also been recovered, added the official, while speaking to this newspaper last night on condition of anonymity.

Monday's shooting took place just outside the hospital gate around 11:00am.

Two masked gunmen emerged from the crowd, raised their pistols, and opened fire on Mamun in front of hundreds of witnesses.

Mamun had gone to court that morning for a hearing in a 29-year-old murder case and was returning home to Aftabnagar when the attack occurred.

The gunmen opened fire from a short distance, killing him on the spot, before calmly walking away.

Witnesses described their movements as "brazen", saying they ensured the victim's death before leaving the scene.

While two men carried out the killing -- an operation lasting less than three minutes -- at least two backup teams were positioned nearby in case the plan faltered, a senior DMP official, who is involved with the investigation, told this newspaper.

"They were wearing masks and hats to conceal their identities, but we managed to identify them with the help of surveillance tools," said the senior official, requesting anonymity.

Meanwhile, a case is yet to be filed in connection with the killing, as police say the victim's family had gone to Lakshmipur for funeral rites.

Another official involved with the investigation said they suspect Sanjidul Hassan

Emon, a prominent figure in the criminal underworld, to be the mastermind behind the "contract hit".

The officer, requesting anonymity, said Mamun had a long criminal history and was once a close aide of Emon. The two had jointly controlled extortion and contract killings in the Hazaribagh, Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur, and Tejgaon areas under the banner of the "Emon-Mamun Group", said the officer.

The gang was linked to several high-profile killings, including those of film actor Sohel Chowdhury and Saeed Ahmed Tipu. Mamun served 24 years in jail before his release in 2023.

After his return, Mamun reportedly tried to reclaim control over his old territories, angering Emon, who is believed to be in Malaysia but remains active in the underworld.

Mamun had been using connections with some influential political figures in Lakshmipur to expand his activities and regain dominance in Old Dhaka's extortion rackets.

An investigator said Mamun was moving around in a rented car and no longer had gunmen or bodyguards, indicating his weakened position in the criminal hierarchy.

Family members also alleged that the killing was carried out by Emon's associates.

After the killing, Mamun's wife, Dipa, also said, "No one other than Emon could have done this. A few days ago, Emon had hired people to attack Mamun."

This was not the first murder attempt on Mamun.

## Govt to clarify

**FROM PAGE 1**

working independently. Within the next three to four days, it will become clear what steps we have taken regarding the implementation of the charter," Nazrul told reporters.

He said the matter is being discussed at various levels of the Advisory Council. "We are coordinating with all parties' expectations to ensure that actions taken serve the country's and people's interests."

Meanwhile, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam yesterday said the Awami League is trying to disrupt the upcoming

national election and is carrying out arson attacks across the country.

"The fascist AL is indulged in arson attacks across the country, aiming to thwart the election, but the national parliamentary election will be held in the first half of February and no domestic or foreign force will be able to foil it," he said.

Mentioning that there might be differences of opinions among political parties, the press secretary said everyone is preparing for the election. "Despite differences, all parties want a festive and participatory election," he said.

## Won't accept anything past signed charter

**FROM PAGE 1**

government urged political parties to resolve their differences and reach a unified decision within a week.

After the deadline passed, the BNP held a press conference to formally state its position.

Reading from a written statement, Mosharraf said some government advisers had recently made remarks about announcing certain decisions outside the framework of the July charter.

"Such statements are misleading and amount to ignoring the consensus-based decisions adopted earlier," he said.

Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed said the charter was signed through a historic event and includes some notes of dissent from different

political parties on certain points.

"It was stated in the charter that if any party reflects its notes of dissent in its election manifesto and receives the people's mandate, it may implement those points accordingly. We are one hundred percent in agreement on this. We still stand by that position and have not deviated from the signed charter," he said.

He added that if any political party goes beyond the signed charter and launches movements over unreasonable or newly created issues in the name of implementing the July charter, "they may make statements on that."

On the president's order regarding the July charter, he said the BNP had not made any specific proposal on who should issue such an order.

He added that the country is now being run under the constitution and that the interim government has taken oath under it, so everything is proceeding according to law.

"According to the constitution, it is the president who has the power to issue any ordinance. But if any order is to be issued, there is currently no constitutional provision in Bangladesh that would give such an order legal validity," he said.

Asked whether there was any scope for talks on the referendum issue, he said if the government invited discussions, there could be an opportunity for dialogue.

Earlier, at a meeting in Thakurgaon, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said the government would be entirely responsible if anything beyond the consensus on reforms was

imposed by force.

Meanwhile, on the same day, Jamaat and seven like-minded parties held a rally pressing their five-point demand, which includes giving a legal basis to the July charter and holding the next election under the proportional representation system.

A Standing Committee member, seeking anonymity, said: "Over the July charter, Jamaat has taken to the streets, which is not the right way. If the BNP wanted to, it could do the same, but we won't. We want a peaceful transition through discussions."

The party will hold talks with several parties and alliances, including Ganatantra Mancha, the 12-Party Alliance, the Jatiyatahadi Samomona Jote, and other like-minded parties over seat-sharing.

## Surveillance at entries to Dhaka ramped up

**FROM PAGE 1**

surveillance to prevent the movement of arms and suspects. Border Guard Bangladesh has been ordered to increase patrols along crossing points, particularly in the west and southeast.

Law enforcers have been instructed to take immediate action against anyone attempting to block roads or incite violence, officials said.

Several English-medium schools have switched to online classes over safety concerns, sources said.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh has issued directives to restrict public movement around airports, and intensify searches, and patrols.

Over the last few days, Dhaka and some other parts of the country have witnessed a spate of flash processions, crude bomb and arson attacks.

In two days until the filing of this report at 1:00am today, at least 19 crude bombs went off, and 11 vehicles were set ablaze, leaving city residents on edge.

The last bomb blasts took place in front of the International Crimes Tribunal's (ICT) investigation agency office in Dhanmondi at 8:04pm, and in front of the Government Post Office (GPO) near Gulistan's Zero Point around 9:25pm.

The ICT is set to announce the date of a verdict in a case against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina on charges of crimes against humanity committed during the July uprising.

In both incidents of crude bomb blasts last night, two assailants on a motorcycle hurled the bombs and fled the scene, police said. No casualties or arrests were reported.

Two buses were also torched in Dhaka and Gazipur last night.

The fire broke out on a bus near Turag City on the Mirpur Beribadh road, an area under Shah Ali Police Station, around 10:00pm. Another

bus was set on fire in the Chakrabarti area of Gazipur's Kashimpur around 9:50pm.

Police said they did not have information on who started the fires. No casualties or arrests were reported in either incident.

Meanwhile, tragedy struck early yesterday when a bus driver was burnt to death and two passengers injured after unidentified assailants torched a parked bus in Mymensingh's Phulbaria upazila around 3:15am.

The victim, Julhas Mia, 35, a driver for Alam Asia Paribahan, was asleep inside the bus when three men arrived and set it ablaze, CCTV footage showed. The fire spread rapidly, burning him alive.

Passengers Sharmin Sultana Rumki, 40, and her

units of the police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) are closely monitoring online activity to identify those responsible.

Intelligence officials said the pattern of violence suggests a coordinated effort to destabilise Dhaka and challenge state authority ahead of the coming election season.

A senior officer involved in counter-sabotage operations told The Daily Star that several groups have been identified as working under the direction of exiled political figures.

"Their main target is to create a sense of fear among city residents before the so-called lockdown," the officer said, requesting anonymity.

To finalise security plans for November 13, the Advisory Council Committee on Law

"Security has been intensified around metro rail stations, courts, railway terminals, and tribunals. Additional forces have been deployed in potential trouble spots," he said, adding that law enforcement had been instructed to act immediately on any threat intelligence.

"The government will not allow anyone to create panic or disrupt normal life in the name of politics."

At a separate briefing, DMP Commissioner Sheikh Md Sajjat Ali said a banned political party and its affiliates were plotting subversive acts.

"In the past 24 hours, police filed 17 cases and detained 50 suspects; most of them brought into the capital from neighbouring districts with promises of payment," he said.

"These individuals were hired to join processions, detonate crude bombs, or torch vehicles before disappearing. We are identifying their handlers."

He urged Dhaka residents not to shelter strangers and advised hotel and mess owners to verify guests' identities before renting rooms.

"Motorcycle owners should avoid lending or renting out their vehicles to unknown persons. If you see any suspicious activity, inform the nearest police station or call 999," he said.

Police have also launched drives, checking guest records at hotels and messes to ensure no one with ill intent takes shelter in the capital.

Transport workers have also been told to remain alert if any bus carries unusually few passengers -- a tactic often used by arsonists to avoid detection.

"Dhaka is under tight security coverage. Every major route, terminal, and installation is being monitored," said a deputy commissioner of DMP.

"We are confident that any attempt to destabilise the city will be foiled."

## No polls unless charter granted legal status

**FROM PAGE 1**

Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman said, "Our demand is simple: the July uprising must be recognised. Those who don't accept July will not see an election in 2026. To hold that election, the uprising must first receive legal recognition. Without it, no polls can take place. The freedom-loving people of this country have one demand -- a referendum before the election."

The rally, which began around 2:05pm, was part of the eight-party alliance's ongoing demonstrations over its five-point demand. The demands include holding the next election under the proportional representation system and retaining the amended Representation of the People Order without further changes.

The rally was conducted by Jamaat assistant general secretaries Hamidur Rahman Azad and Rafiqul Islam Khan, the party's Dhaka South Secretary Shafiqul Islam Masud, Islami Andolon

Joint Secretary Ahmad Abdul Kaiyum, and Assistant Publicity Secretary KM Shariyatullah.

The Jamaat ameer said, "We speak politely, but on our demands, we are as firm as the Himalayas. People will not bow to fascism. The movement will continue until the people's demands are fulfilled. The government should understand this and hold the referendum before the election."

Also calling for the referendum to be held before the polls, Islami Andolon Bangladesh Ameer Syed Muhammad Rezaul Karim said, "If legal recognition [of the charter] is not given, the election will be illegal."

Addressing the government, he added, "If you don't act, we'll launch a movement strong enough to compel you to hold the referendum before the polls."

Hamidur Rahman Azad said, "The fascist regime amended the constitution to remove the provision for

a referendum. Those now claiming the constitution doesn't allow it are actually echoing Hasina's tone."

He added that if the constitution is to be followed, the election should be held in 2029 since the last one was in 2024. "By invoking the 1972 constitution, you're trying to build [a new era of] fascism."

Warning the government, Azad said, "We don't want to march from here to the Jamuna for a siege. Implement the July charter without delay and announce the referendum schedule."

He claimed that through the referendum and the election, "the patriotic and Islamic forces that triumphed in Ducusu, Cucsu, Jucusu, and Rucusu will show their strength again at the national level."

Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish Ameer Mamunul Haque said, "The July charter was written on national consensus. People don't want it to remain on paper only; they want it to

be the roadmap for a new Bangladesh. Those opposing the referendum want to revive fascism. We earned this country with blood, and we'll save it with blood."

Jamaat Secretary General Golam Porwar also said the election would be "invalid" if the charter and referendum were not implemented.

Khelafat Majlish Ameer Maulana Abdul Basit Azad said, "Our demand must be met. In future, we will not tolerate any rule that goes against the Holy Quran."

Jatiya Ganatantrik Party Spokesperson Rashed Pradhan said, "We won't let the uprising be questioned through a question base referendum on the day of the symbol-based election."

Bangladesh Khelafat Andolon Secretary General Habibullah Miazi, Bangladesh Nizame Islam Party Ameer Sarwar Kamal Azizi, and Bangladesh Development Party President Anwarul Islam Chan also addressed the rally.

INCIDENTS IN DHAKA

17 crude bombs exploded, 9 vehicles torched in two days

50 suspects arrested over the 24 hours

14 flash processions intercepted over one and half months

552 people held over one and half months

son Shahid Islam Badsha, 20 were also inside. Shahid managed to escape, but his mother sustained serious burns and was later transferred to a private hospital in Dhaka.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police said that over the past six weeks, law enforcers have intercepted at least 14 flash processions and arrested 552 suspects allegedly involved in subversive acts.

Investigators believe some of these incidents were carried out by hired groups brought into the city from outside in exchange for money.

Officials warned that certain quarters are using social media to spread panic and incite violence ahead of the AL's programme. Cyber

and Order met at the home ministry yesterday.

The meeting, chaired by Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, was attended by the inspector general of police, DMP commissioner, Rab director general, and other senior officials.

After the meeting, Jahangir said there was "no cause for concern."

"All agencies are on full alert. No criminals or instigators will be spared. The situation on November 13 will remain normal," he told reporters.

He added that coordinated action plans involving police, Rab, BGB, and intelligence agencies were already in place.