



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 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.

Won't accept anything past signed charter

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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, Mosharrif 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.

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 over shared.

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 Jatiyatabadi Samonoma Jote, and other like-minded parties over seat-sharing.

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

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

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Jatiya Ganatantra 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 Andolok Secretary General Habibullah Mazi, Bangladesh Nizame Islam Party Amer Sarwar Kamal Azizi, and Bangladesh Development Party President Anwarul Islam Chan also addressed the rally.

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

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 Andolok 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."

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Surveillance at entries to Dhaka ramped up

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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.

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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

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

2 shooters held

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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 Lakshmpur 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 Lakshmpur 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

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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.

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

"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 Sajid Ali said a banned political party and its affiliates were plotting subversive acts.

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