

'Glimpses' into contemporary art: Galleri Kaya's group exhibition features 12 prominent names



PHOTOS: COURTESY

Galleri Kaya has inaugurated its latest group exhibition, *Glimpses*, marking 54 years of Bangladesh's Independence through the works of 12 prominent contemporary and modern Bangladeshi artists.

The exhibition opened on December 2 at 4 pm at the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (BACC), 3rd floor, and will remain on display until December 14.

Organised by the Embassy of Bangladesh in Bangkok in collaboration with Dhaka-based Galleri Kaya, along with the Honorary Consulates in Chon Buri and Chiang Mai, the showcase brings together artworks that reflect the evolving cultural identity of Bangladesh. The initiative also highlights Bangladesh's efforts to deepen cultural diplomacy and foster stronger people-to-people ties with Thailand.

The exhibition features works by renowned artists including Abdus Shakoor Shah, Ashraful Hasan, Chandra Shekhar

Dey, Hamiduzzaman Khan, Ivy Zaman, Jamal Ahmed, Kanak Chanpa Chakma, Maksudha Iqbal Nipa, Mohammad Iqbal, Ranjit Das, Shambhu Acharya, and Sheikh Alzal Hossain.

Distinguished guests, including the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Thailand, H E Mr Faiyaz Murshid Kazi, attended the opening ceremony. The Honorary Consul of Bangladesh in Thailand and the director of Galleri Kaya also delivered speeches at the event.

This second edition of the Bangladesh Art Exhibition at BACC also pays tribute to the spirit of the July 2024 Mass Uprising, driven by youth demanding their right to vote, freedom of expression, and equal employment opportunities. The movement's vibrant graffiti art, which transformed public spaces during the protest, is acknowledged as a powerful example of art intersecting with Bangladesh's socio-political landscape.

WHAT'S THE HAPS?

'Raga Odyssey'

Raga Odyssey-Eastern Classical Festival unfolds over two radiant evenings, uniting *sarod*, *sitar*, *esraj*, *saranggi*, *bansuri*, *khayal*, *dhrupad*, and *kathak* in one sweeping celebration. Twenty-five artistes—emerging voices and revered maestros—converge to honour a living heritage, inviting audiences into a rare, contemplative journey through South Asia's deepest classical currents.

DATE: FRIDAY-SATURDAY | DEC 5-6, 2025
TIME: 5 PM-11 PM
VENUE: BANANI BLOCK A, BANANI



'Boro Chele' fame director Aryan ties the knot

Popular small-screen director Mizanur Rahman Aryan – best known for *Boro Chele* and *Networker Baire* – has announced his marriage, marking a rare public appearance after stepping back from directing to focus on business. He shared several wedding photos on social media on Tuesday, December 2, though he did not reveal the date of the ceremony. In his caption, Aryan wrote, "The person who wishes good things for your life is the best thing to happen in your life."



According to sources, the bride, Tahsin Tamanna, graduated from the University of Dhaka. Aryan added that the couple has known each other for seven years and plans to hold a formal celebration with family, friends and colleagues after Eid-ul-Fitr.

'Stranger Things 5' becomes Netflix's biggest English-language TV debut

Stranger Things Season 5 has become Netflix's biggest English-language TV series premiere ever, earning 59.6 million views in its first five days of streaming.

It now ranks as the platform's third-best overall debut, behind *Squid Game* Seasons 2 and 3. The launch marks a huge jump from Season 4's 22 million views over three days—a 171% increase. All four previous seasons

also entered the Netflix Top 10 simultaneously, and five seasons charted together from November 24–30.

Netflix has released four episodes so far, with three more arriving on Christmas Day and the finale on New Year's Eve. Season 5 is now on track to join Season 4 on Netflix's list of all-time most popular English-language shows.



NEWS

Telecom white paper exposes

FROM PAGE 12 enterprises like Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited and Teletalk, where boards became instruments of "governance capture and politicised board-level decision-making".

The report details "ad hoc contractual hiring, repeated contract renewals treated as de facto permanent employment, politicised extensions of acting leadership [and] appointments of under-qualified candidates" including instances where fake credentials were accepted.

The committee underscores that "high autonomy without accompanying accountability often translates into favouritism and circumvention of rules".

The licensing regime between 2009 and 2024 is described as a period of "systemic weaknesses" that "facilitated rent-seeking behaviour".

The shift to a liberalised policy in 2010 was executed "without credible baseline studies or impact analysis", creating instant regulatory instability that was exploited by the well-connected.

"Licences and approvals often advantaged politically connected firms, while similarly positioned applicants without patronage faced obstruction."

The report called the IGW Operators Forum a cartel that centralised funds and enabled "opaque fund flows with alleged revenue leakage".

Furthermore, cross-ownership rules allowed a few conglomerates – specifically naming Summit and Fiber@Home – to establish an oligopoly over national fibre, leading to "high leasing costs and transfer of government-built assets under unfavourable revenue-sharing arrangements".

The consequence was a "fragmented, high-friction market" where "discretionary approvals, ad hoc exemptions and inconsistent enforcement were pervasive".

The committee found that the BTRC's autonomy was severely curtailed by political interference, making impartial oversight impossible. "Regulatory credibility suffers when the principal regulator exhibits the same irregularities it is tasked with policing," the report said.

After reviewing 42 PTD projects worth Tk 20,009.82 crore, the white paper committee found nearly half were deficient.

The Social Obligation Fund, designed to bridge the digital divide, is presented as an emblem of failure, marked by "dormant funds, irregular procurement, weak evaluation and minimal industry engagement".

Procurement rules were blatantly violated. The white paper committee identified the state-owned Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS) as a "recurring bypass mechanism" used to award contracts non-competitively to favoured parties.

Direct procurement method and tailored tender language were repeatedly used to enable single-source awards, contract splitting and circumvent competitive processes, the report said.

Meanwhile, the Bangabandhu Satellite-1, now renamed the Bangladesh Satellite 1 project, is highlighted as a case study in technical and financial failure, approved without proper feasibility, leading to massive underutilisation and unresolved audit objections.

Field inspections by white paper committee members found

BTCL Wi-Fi hotspots and Teletalk towers "physically present but not operational", a symbol of investments turning into worthless liabilities.

"The white paper demonstrates that the transformation of Bangladesh's post and telecommunications ecosystem has been constrained not by technological limitations, but by systemic governance, institutional and operational weaknesses."

The committee recommends immediate action to digitise HR systems, reform autonomy and accountability structures, establish a national telecom master plan, strengthen procurement oversight, introduce an independent appeals mechanism and rebuild consumer protection architecture.

Govt vehicle runs over 2-yr-old kid

FROM PAGE 12 The bereaved father has demanded maximum punishment for the driver.

Local residents held a protest in the upazila administration premises, echoing the father's demands.

The driver, Taibur Hossain, has gone into hiding since the accident, with his mobile phone switched off.

"We have not yet received any written complaint. Once we do, we will take the necessary legal steps," said Morshedul Alam Chowdhury, the officer-in-charge of Homna Police Station.

Woman sent to jail

FROM PAGE 2 Speaking to journalists after the incident, Nishi denied killing the puppies, claiming she had only "removed them" for the safety of her children.

Meanwhile, the mother dog was handed over to the livestock department for treatment and recovery. Yesterday, officials said she had begun to stabilise after two foster puppies were introduced to her on Wednesday afternoon. The puppies, provided by local animal lover and businessman Shahriar Ami, were accepted by the grieving mother soon after they were placed with her on the Upazila Parishad compound. According to livestock officials, caring for the foster puppies is helping the mother dog heal, and she is expected to nurse them for the next month.

CA urges armed forces to play 'historic role'

FROM PAGE 12 in the capital's Mirpur Cantonment.

Prof Yunus also appreciated the armed forces for their continuous efforts during national crises such as natural disasters, political unrest, and pandemics, which demonstrated their readiness to respond and unwavering dedication to the well-being of the people.

"Moreover, your contributions to global peace through participation in United Nations peacekeeping missions have enhanced Bangladesh's global image."

"Still, we must play a very historic role in our national election and referendum in February to make it not only a landmark occasion but also peaceful and festive."

At the beginning of his speech, the chief adviser recalled the martyrs of the 1971 Liberation War with due respect, saying, "This is a very special month – the month of our historical victory in the War of Liberation. We all

recall with great pride all the heroes who laid down their lives.... We also remember the sacrifices made by people of all walks of life during the struggle."

He also paid tribute to the people who made the July uprising possible, saying, "My deepest homage to all students and the people who sacrificed their lives and were wounded to make the July Revolution possible with the dream to create a new Bangladesh."

Yunus also urged the nation to pray for the speedy recovery of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia. "On this happy occasion of graduation, let us pray to Allah along with all the people of Bangladesh for the speedy recovery of former prime minister and our national leader Khaleda Zia, who is struggling for her life."

To the graduating officers, he said, "Today, the graduation day marks a remarkable milestone in your lives. Successful completion of the National

Defence Course and the Armed Forces War Course is a great achievement.

"It's a great moment to remember for the rest of your life. Your achievement represents years-long hard work, dedication, and perseverance. You are now ready to undertake higher responsibilities, equipped with an enhanced understanding of national security, statecraft, policymaking, strategy formulation, and the intricacies of national development."

"The [National Defence] college was established to cultivate leaders who can dedicate themselves to the complex and ever-evolving geopolitical landscape."

In an era where the economic centre of gravity is shifting towards Asia, Bangladesh occupies a strategic position that offers immense opportunities, he said, adding, "As future leaders, you are tasked with leveraging this unique geostrategic advantage to foster sustainable growth and development for our nation."

Deputy Registrars

FROM PAGE 12 personal appearance. "He has to appear and explain."

The tribunal chairman added, "Earlier he was so interested, but now he is not. Just writing a letter is not enough."

The court then examined Panna's letter. Minutes later, the chairman asked the bench officer to call Panna, saying, "We will compel his attendance." When the officer returned, two deputy registrars were sent to Panna's chamber.

Panna eventually arrived in a wheelchair.

Justice Mortuza reminded him, "You showed interest in defending Sheikh Hasina, and we appointed you."

Panna replied, "The tribunal ordered verbally, and I accepted verbally." He said he was too unwell to appear earlier.

The tribunal noted that the charge hearing would now have to be re-heard once a new defence counsel is appointed. "You could have sent a representative," the chairman said.

Referring to a video clip submitted to the tribunal, Justice Shofikul said Panna was heard saying, "My client, my leader, does not accept this trial,

then how could I go?" He questioned why Panna sought appointment if his client has "no faith" in the tribunal.

Panna said he was "sandwiched" between pressure from both sides. Smiling, the chairman responded, "You are about to suffer a heart attack due to the pressure."

Justice Mortuza said the tribunal issued multiple notices, but none had appeared, prompting them to appoint a senior lawyer. "We did not expect such behaviour from you."

Panna offered an unconditional apology.

The tribunal then indicated that it intended to appoint lawyer Md Amir Hossain, who was present in the court, as the new defence counsel.

Amir, who previously served as state defence counsel for Hasina and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal in another case, said he would follow the tribunal's direction. The tribunal also asked other senior lawyers present whether they were interested.

At one stage, referring to Panna's comment "my client does not accept the trial", Tajul said it was contemptuous. He pointed out that although Panna withdrew from Hasina's case, he continued

representing BNP leader Fazlur Rahman in contempt proceedings. "It appears he considers the tribunal when he likes."

Justice Shofikul responded that Panna had long been regarded as an "idol", adding, "You cannot say: 'My client does not recognise this tribunal, so I cannot go.'"

Justice Mortuza reminded him: "Once appointed, you cannot withdraw without the tribunal's permission. You may criticise a judge or judgment, but you cannot disobey the tribunal."

When Panna said his client demanded restoration of the 1972 constitution, the tribunal replied, "The constitution is there. No other constitution was formulated in 1990 or any other times."

As Tajul rose to speak again, Panna asked why the prosecution was "jumping up". "Mind your language," Tajul shot back before the chairman intervened.

Tajul again referred to Panna's recent social media remarks, and the tribunal chairman said, "We are ignoring whatever you have said. In future, don't make such comments. People listen to the words of senior lawyers like you."

YouTube attacks Australia's world-first social media ban

AFP, Sydney YouTube yesterday attacked Australia's looming social media ban for under 16s as rushed, but the government called the policy a shield to protect children from "predatory" algorithms.

From December 10, Australia will require a raft of major social media

platforms and websites, including Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube, to remove underage accounts or face a hefty fine.

There is keen interest in whether the sweeping world-first restrictions can work, as regulators around the globe wrestle with the potential harmful effects for young people.