

‘TRIBONDHON’

Three young artists, distinct visual worlds



The title ‘Tribondhon’, meaning “three connections”, refers to the distinct subjects explored in their works – nature through Niharika’s perspective, human faces through Surovi’s portraiture, and the bustle of urban life through Fariaz’s drawings and paintings.

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The institution has also played an important role in supporting emerging artists by providing them with opportunities to establish themselves in the world of visual art and craft. Continuing that tradition, AFD inaugurated *Tribondhon* on June 12, 2026, following a gentle summer afternoon shower. The exhibition brings together the works of three promising visual artists – Surovi Akter, Md Fariaz Emran, and Niharika Awhona Barsaat. According to curator Fareha Zeba, the title *Tribondhon*, meaning “three connections”, refers not only to the bond shared by the three artists but also to the distinct subjects explored in their works – nature through Niharika’s perspective, human faces through Surovi’s portraiture, and the bustle of urban life through Fariaz’s drawings and paintings. A few months ago, Bangladeshi fine arts students Niharika and Fariaz received the prestigious Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarship and participated

in an exhibition titled *Transition: Dhaka to Banaras*, held at Bharat Kala Bhavan Museum of Banaras Hindu University. The exhibition paid tribute to legendary Bangladeshi artist SM Sultan and reflected the environmental and socio-political realities of contemporary Bangladesh and India. According to Suresh K Nair, Professor of Art at Banaras Hindu University, both artists have been deeply influenced by the spiritual teachings of Jalal al-Din Rumi, Lalon Fakir, and Rabindranath Tagore. He noted that



their works embody themes of love, struggle, resilience, and collective trauma shaped by the pandemic experience. Niharika finds solace in depicting women, birds, and fish. Her work draws heavily from folk colours, motifs, and traditional South Asian art and textiles. Bright, saturated hues dominate her canvases, while her themes often explore femininity within a patriarchal society.

During her time in Banaras, Fariaz sketched people in search of familiarity within an unfamiliar environment. Yet his longing for Dhaka remained evident, leading him to paint the city’s busy streets, people, and vehicles. Joining them is Surovi Akter, whose strength lies in portraiture. Working with handmade paper, brown paper, pens, pencils, and charcoal, she creates striking portraits of renowned Bangladeshi artists, including Zainul Abedin, Novera Ahmed, SM Sultan, and Sahiuddin Ahmed. For Surovi, portraiture is



PHOTOS: ABRAR FAIYAZ NILOY

not merely a visual exercise but a spiritual one, allowing her to connect with the individuals she portrays. *Tribondhon* offers a platform for three young artists to present their visual vocabulary to a wider audience. It also reflects the diversity and versatility of contemporary artistic practices in Bangladesh. The exhibition remains open to visitors until today at AFD.

‘Master’ set for UK premiere at LIFF



Filmmaker Rezwan Shahriar Sumit is bringing his second feature film, *Master*, to the United Kingdom for its premiere at the 17th London Indian Film Festival (LIFF), running from July 9–19. The screening will take place at two major cultural venues: the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) in London and the Midlands Arts Centre in Birmingham. Fresh from its acclaimed international run—including a Big Screen Award win at the International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) and a well-received Australian premiere at the 73rd Sydney Film Festival—the film continues to build strong global momentum. The film also stars Azmeri Haque Badhan, Zakia Bari Mamo, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Sharif Siraj, Tasnova Tamanna, Aminur Rahman Mukul, and Mahmud Alam.

‘No Dorai’ director Taneem Rahman Angshu announces new film



Acclaimed filmmaker Taneem Rahman Angshu, who won the Best Director award at the National Film Awards for his 2019 feature *No Dorai*, has officially announced his next directorial venture, titled *Limbo*. The director told The Daily Star, “It’s a space drama and cosmic romance. It is going to be the first film of its kind in Bangladesh in terms of visual effects and story context. I am planning to shoot the film in three different countries. I expect to begin discussions with the prospective cast in August and plan to showcase the film on the festival circuit before its commercial release in Bangladesh.” *Limbo* is expected to release in 2027. The cast has not yet been revealed.

Footballer Jamal Bhuyan makes acting debut



Bangladesh national football team captain Jamal Bhuyan is stepping in front of the camera for the first time as an actor. The football star is playing the central character in *Brazentina*, an eight-episode series directed by Tarique Muhammad Hasan, inspired by the passion surrounding the FIFA World Cup. According to a report by Prothom Alo, filming of the project began on June 15, at a football ground in Kalabagan, Dhaka—a venue that holds special significance for Jamal. “I started my career on this ground, and now I’m shooting here,” he said. The series also stars Tasnuva Tisha, Lamima Lam, Sharaf Ahmed Zibon, Shahid Un Nabi, and Ishtiaq Ahmed. *Brazentina* is scheduled to premiere on OTT platform iScreen on June 30.

NEWS

‘Loud and clear’ Iran won’t have nukes

FROM PAGE 12 nuclear programme and on other issues,” foreign ministry spokesman Majed Al Ansari told reporters at a regular press briefing. The deal will be signed at Switzerland’s mountainside Burgenstock resort on Friday, the Swiss foreign ministry confirmed to AFP. The site, located near Lucerne in central Switzerland, is difficult to access and therefore easily secured. It “was proposed by the Pakistani and Qatari mediators, as well as by the US and Iran”, Switzerland’s foreign ministry said. Two other issues that Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu used to justify the war - ending Iran’s support for regional armed proxies and curbing its missile programme - are not thought to be on

the agenda for those negotiations. “Iran wants to get it done,” Trump told reporters about the next phase of negotiations with Iran. “They have to get back to business, and the relationship is now normalised, so I think it’s going to go pretty quickly.” Earlier he described the deal as “a wall to a nuclear weapon” for Iran. Vice President JD Vance and Iran’s top negotiator Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf are expected to attend Friday’s formal signing. Oil prices dropped below \$80 a barrel yesterday on optimism over the promised reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, easing inflation pressures on global economies even though traders are eyeing the risk of Iranian “service fees” on ships transiting the strait.

Earlier in the day at the G7 summit, Trump appeared critical of Israel’s strategy in Lebanon and also suggested that neighbouring Syria - which under President Ahmed al Sharaa is struggling to stabilise the country after years of civil war - could be best placed to intervene. “I suggested to Israel to let Syria take care of Hezbollah because to be honest, I think they do a better job of doing it,” he said. Lebanon’s president and prime minister yesterday discussed preparations for a new round of talks with Israel next week. Lebanon and Israel have been holding direct talks in Washington since April, seeking to end hostilities and separate the Israel-Hezbollah conflict from the wider regional war.

4 sued over death of a physician

FROM PAGE 12 persons were also named as accused, said Forhad Hossain Nion, a lawyer for the complainant. After recording the complainant’s statement, the magistrate directed the CID to investigate the case and submit a report before the court by July 16, he added. According to the case documents, Dhipra married her classmate Siyam after they had been in a relationship, and the couple have a two-year-old child. The complaint alleges that Dhipra was subjected to physical and mental abuse by the accused after marriage and that the prolonged abuse led to severe depression. After giving birth, she also suffered from postpartum depression, high blood pressure, and diabetes. The case further states that despite being doctors, Siyam and Abdur Rashid, allegedly acting in collusion with Siddika, failed to ensure Dhipra received proper medical treatment and refused to cover the cost of her care, thereby contributing to her death. It adds that the three sought to undermine Dhipra’s mental well-being by obstructing her preparation for the FCPS examination.

Shortly before her death, Dhipra reportedly raised the issue in a post in the Facebook group “Female Doctors in Bangladesh”, where she wrote about the abuse she was facing within her family. The case further alleges that Siyam and his parents deliberately put Dhipra’s life at risk. Despite knowing about her physical condition, they allegedly locked her in a room at their Dhanmondi residence for three consecutive days from June 2, denying her food and preventing her from seeing her child. On June 4, after learning of the situation, Dhipra’s mother went to the house and found her daughter locked in a room. She asked Siyam to open the door. Upon seeing her mother, Dhipra hugged her and said, “Mother, I want to eat rice,” before collapsing, according to a Prothom Alo report. The case also alleges that when Dhipra’s mother urged Siyam and his mother to take her to a hospital, they consulted Siyam’s father, Abdur Rashid, over the phone and delayed seeking medical care. Despite several hospitals being nearby, they took her to BIRDEM Hospital, where Rashid allegedly

had influence. Dhipra died before reaching the hospital, the complainant alleged, adding that Siyam and his parents then conspired with BIRDEM authorities to conceal evidence and obscure the circumstances surrounding her death. The complaint described the death as a premeditated killing and further alleged that the accused knowingly obtained a false death certificate and arranged Dhipra’s burial without a post-mortem examination to suppress evidence of her alleged unnatural death and prevent its use in future legal proceedings. The Daily Star could not reach Abdur Rashid for comments over phone despite repeated attempts.

Two killed, 40 hurt

FROM PAGE 12 Critically injured, Helal died on the way to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. Several of the seriously wounded have been moved to that hospital for advanced treatment. No case was lodged till the filing of this report around 9:00pm yesterday, the OC added.

Tunisia coach joins unwanted list

FROM PAGE 12 in France, after losing to England and Colombia. Ali Selmi took charge of their last game, where they held Romania to a 1-1 draw in Paris. At the same tournament in 1998, Carlos Alberto Parreira was fired by Saudi Arabia and Cha Bum-kun by South Korea. Brazilian Parreira also sits on the most illustrious lists of World Cup achievements. He holds the record for coaching at the most World Cups and only four years before the Saudis sent him packing after two games at the 1998 finals, he had led Brazil to the title in the 1994 tournament in the United States. In 1954, Scotland’s manager Andy Beattie resigned after their opening match of the tournament

in Switzerland, where they lost to Austria, while France coach Raymond Domenech effectively played no part in his team’s final game at the 2010 finals, where they lost to South Africa in Bloemfontein. It had been preceded by a player mutiny that left Domenech a lame duck on the touchline. Ahead of the 2018 finals in Russia, Spain fired Julen Lopetegui some 48 hours before their opening game when it emerged he had negotiated to take over at Real Madrid after the tournament. Lopetegui is at the 2026 World Cup as coach of Qatar. Tunisia have a long tradition of knee-jerk firing and did the same when they hosted the 1994 Cup of Nations finals, losing the opener in a shock 2-0 setback against Mali. Youssef Zouaoui was gone

the next day and replaced by Faouzi Benzarti, who proved unable to help them into the next round. Perhaps football’s most famous mid-tournament firing came at the Africa Cup of Nations in the Ivory Coast in early 2024 when Jean-Louis Gasset departed after a horror first round for the host nation, who only scraped through to the knockout stage as the last of the four best third placed group finishers and suffered a shock 4-0 loss at the hands of tiny Equatorial Guinea. His assistant Emerse Fae led an Ivorian revival that saw them go on and win the trophy in a fairytale-style comeback. Tunisia’s new coach for the current World Cup is fellow Frenchman Herve Renard.

OC, SI hacked by suspected robbers

FROM PAGE 12 mobile financial service agent. The attackers fled after hacking Shafiqu and taking his mobile phone and cash. Acting on a tip-off, a police team led by OC Jahidul launched a drive in the Beribadh area to arrest the suspects. Sensing the police presence, members of the alleged “Kabjikata Anwar Group” attacked law enforcers with sharp weapons, injuring the OC and the SI, according to locals and police sources. Police then opened fire, injuring two suspects. Two other suspects were injured during a scuffle with police. The others fled the scene.

Those shot were taken to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital. Victim Shafiqu was earlier taken to the same hospital and later transferred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Speaking to reporters, his relative Md Muslim said Shafiqu took Tk 3 lakh from home to his shop. “Just after opening the shop, four to five men armed with machetes entered. Before he could understand anything, they hacked his right hand and took the cash and the mobile phone used for transactions.” “Kabjikata Anwar Group” is a Mohammadpur-based juvenile gang, previously led by a man named Anwar. Its activities reportedly declined after

his arrest during the tenure of the interim government. Following the election in February, Anwar’s associate Sayeed took over the gang, after which it became active again, police sources said. Before yesterday’s attack, members of the same group allegedly carried out a mugging on Road-17 in Adabor on Monday night. Contacted, Adabor Police Station Inspector (Operations) Apurba Das said the gang members were involved in criminal activities almost every night. “They are behind various incidents of mugging, extortion, and violence in the area. We are conducting continuous drives against them,” he said.

Dist admin halts soil excavation

FROM PAGE 12 remains suspended for now,” he said. Talking to this correspondent, Abu Yusuf Mohammad Shamim, additional chief engineer (Track and Works) of the rail link project, said the area was originally low-lying. “The contractor had previously filled the land with soil and sand at its own expense during project work. According to the contract, the site must be restored to its original condition. This excavation is part of that restoration process, and safety is being ensured.” He added that the Bangladesh Army, acting as a consultant, is overseeing the work to ensure it complies with project specifications. The contractor for the project is China Railway Group Limited. In this regard, Shaikh Rabul Alam, road transport and bridges minister, told reporters at the Secretariat yesterday, “The soil was not excavated

in that way. When a bridge is constructed there, some obstructions are put in place ... small barriers are created.” He said, “This is part of the construction work...” It has been decided that trees will be planted there, the minister added. However, some locals alleged that the excavated soil is being sold to nearby brick kilns. They further claimed that local BNP leaders are involved. Contacted, Fatullah thana BNP President Shahidul Islam Titu denied the allegations, stating that the work is being carried out by the contractor as part of the project and that party members have no involvement. Site visits over the last two days found that soil had been removed from near pillars No-84 to -91, creating deep pits. The surrounding land remains level with the adjacent Dhaka-Narayanganj (Panchabati-Postogola) old road.

Talking to this newspaper, Aminur, a worker at a nearby cement factory, said he has been witnessing the digging up of the soil for over a month. Seeking anonymity, a local trader said, “Excavating soil beneath the bridge pillars will weaken the structure. That’s why people protested. Before Eid-ul-Azha, when work resumed, locals resisted again. At that time, the army and railway police detained a local man named Imran, who was later released on bond.” Contacted, Imran declined to speak to the media on the matter. After visiting the site yesterday, Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer SM Foyez Uddin told reporters that they first learned about the issue from social media and took steps. “The contractor showed some documents, but we are not satisfied. We have informed the ministry, and a decision will be made soon.”