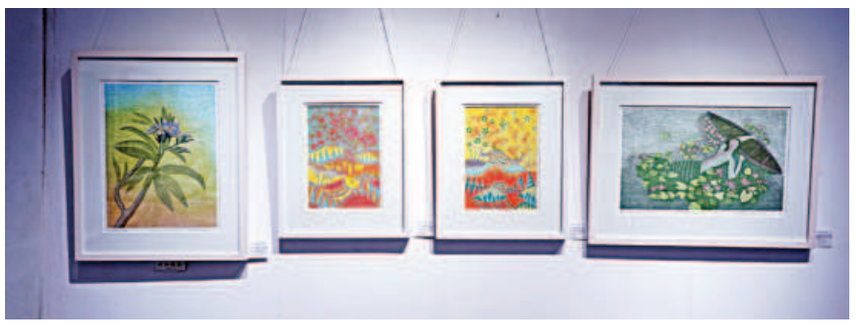




PHOTOS: **ABRAR FAIYAZ NILOY**

# 'AKASH MATI JOL' celebrates the ever-changing beauty of Bangladesh







**AISHWARYA RAIHAN**

The beauty of Bangladesh in the six seasons is unpredictable and forever-changing. Over time, due to seasonal and man-made changes in the environment, nature takes on its own forms, changing with the hours, days, and months of the year. And there is no end to painting these wonderful sceneries for artists and creative individuals because the hues change every second. Thus, each painting is a unique piece. Therefore, seven women artists of Bangladesh have come together at Bhumi Gallery to exhibit each of their special portrayals of nature in Bangladesh.

Bhumi Gallery inaugurated ***Akash Mati Jol*** – a group art exhibition featuring artists Jyoutsna Mahbuba, Hosna Banu Chotna, Zemrina Haque, Monidipa Dasgupta, Mukti Bhowmik, Fahmida Enam Kakoli, Nargis Akter Punam, and guest artist Kanak Chanpa Chakma. Art critic Moinuddin Khaled, eminent artist Kanak Chanpa Chakma, and the Trustee of Liberation War Museum, Gitanka Debdip Datta, attended the ceremony as guests. Hosted by the CEO of Bhumi, Saifur Rahman Lenin, the exhibition opened on October 2.

Bhumi Gallery is adorned with artwork from women artists, each with their distinctive art styles. The first line of work that caught my eyes belongs to Hosna Banu Chotna. She loves to paint old walls, creepers, leaves, vines, etc. She uses textures and mostly muted, earthy colours, which soothe the eyes, and her work looks like it is straight out of fairy tales. Nargis Akter Punam has filled her canvases with countless shades of blue in skies and waters, where she has shown some forms of human activities too. But her ***Pran Prokriti- 3*** is the most ethereal work she has ever produced. It looks like it descended from the heavens.

**Bhumi Gallery is adorned with artwork from women artists, each with their distinctive art styles. The first line of work that caught my eyes belongs to Hosna Banu Chotna. She loves to paint old walls, creepers, leaves, vines, etc.**

Zemrina Haque, along with her other pieces, painted a tiny, adorable image with breathing roots. But she also exhibits two large abstract paintings, one of which is filled with green and yellow. This particular piece represents the cycle of life, just like tree leaves turning yellow from green and going back to earth. As a person in love with life, she says that the colour of love should be green, as it is universal and represents our life force. Speaking of life, Mukti Bhowmik reminisces about her life as a little girl that still resides in her heart. Her attachment towards nature is depicted through her sculptures, where she is under a leaf-umbrella enjoying the rain, running with her neighbour's goats, or simply relaxing.

Monidipa Dasgupta, a former student of Graphic Design, worked with lines and shapes that resulted in a unique portrayal of nature. Her colours are bright and her lines are crisp. She painted stars as flowers in the sky. Fahmida Enam Kakoli too loves to use vibrant colours to depict emotions and innermost thoughts of people. But she has also applied similar hues and painted nature in her own unconventional way.

Kanak Chanpa Chakma's painting of an indigenous girl in her usual style is amplifying the beauty of the gallery space. The senior-most artist in this exhibition, Jyoutsna Mahbuba, worked with flowers, leaves, and birds. She explained her complicated printmaking process and how she enjoyed it. One of her loveliest pieces reminded me of our national Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's song ***Bhore Jhiler Jole Shaluk Padma Tole*** (who picks waterlilies and lotus in wetlands at dawn).

In short, calling this exhibition magical would not be an exaggeration. Bhumi Gallery will run this till tomorrow, from 3:00pm to 8:00pm.

## Emmy Awards to leave television for Prime Video from 2027

The Emmy Awards will move exclusively to Prime Video from 2027 under a six-year agreement with the Television Academy. The move will mark the first time in the awards' 79-year history that the ceremony will not air on traditional television.

The Emmys will be available globally on Prime Video and free to watch, including for viewers without a Prime subscription. Television Academy Chair Cris Abrego told The Hollywood Reporter that the agreement offered an opportunity to "rethink the model", adding that continuity was a key factor in the decision.

The ceremony previously rotated among ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC. The 2026 Primetime Emmy Awards aired on NBC on September 14, with Peacock serving as its streaming partner.



## EVENTS

### 'Moonlit Melodies featuring Bappa Mazumder'




The acclaimed musician returns to the spotlight for a rare solo concert, showcasing the enduring melodies that defined a generation. The evening offers an immersive musical journey through the singer-composer's three-decade career, featuring his most cherished pop-rock classics and intimate compositions.

**Date:** Friday | October 09, 2026
**Time:** 4:30pm onwards
**Venue:** KIB Auditorium, Khamarbari

# NEWS

## BNP leader held for 'forcing RMU VC to resign'

**OUR CORRESPONDENT,** *Rajshahi*

A BNP leader was arrested yesterday in a case filed over the storming of Rajshahi Medical University (RMU) Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Jawadul Haque's office and forcing him to sign a resignation letter.

The arrestee was identified as Abdus Salam, 56, said Gaziur Rahman, spokesperson for Rajshahi Metropolitan Police.

Mizanur Rahman, president of Rajpara Thana BNP, confirmed to The Daily Star yesterday that Salam is the vice-president of the thana BNP unit.

He confirmed that Salam was present at the scene, along with some other BNP men, adding that their actions had now created trouble for the party.

The arrest came after Nazmul Hossain, personal secretary to the RMU vice-chancellor, filed a case with Rajpara Police Station on Tuesday night, against 50 to 60 unidentified persons. Police said the case was recorded the same night.

A group of 20 to 50 people allegedly stormed the VC's office around Thursday noon, while Prof Jawadul Haque was attending a virtual meeting with health ministry officials on ongoing construction projects.

RMU Deputy Registrar Md Mofakkharul Islam said the group ordered the VC to sign a resignation letter "without reading it". When the VC's personal secretary, Nazmul Hossain, intervened, he was assaulted and later allegedly forced to sign a separate resignation letter, despite telling the group he was a regular employee.

The group allegedly took both resignation letters, along with the VC's mobile phone and laptop. University officials later found that CCTV equipment had been removed, electricity, internet and other communication services disconnected, and several rooms locked, disrupting regular university activities.

Prof Jawadul Haque told The Daily Star that some of those who entered his office appeared linked to local contractors, while others were outsiders allegedly backed by political groups. He said they accused him of awarding university contracts to Dhaka-based firms instead of local contractors, and chanted slogans branding him an "Awami League collaborator".

## Talks with IMF

FROM PAGE 1

In May, eight months before the expiry of its tenure, the new BNP-led government decided to exit the $4.7 billion loan programme signed by the previous Awami League government in January 2023 and later topped up to $5.5 billion by the interim government.

Bangladesh has so far received $3.8 billion in five tranches, with the sixth tranche delayed after the IMF suspended talks in November last year and decided to resume discussions with the new government following the election.

The government instead applied for a fresh package, according to a June 3 statement from Ivo Krznar, the IMF mission chief for Bangladesh.

"The authorities' request for a successor arrangement provides an opportunity for the Fund and the authorities to agree on a potential programme that both reflects the current challenges and incorporates the new authorities' objectives and priorities."

Any new arrangement would need to be based on Bangladesh's balance-of-payments needs and strong policy commitments anchored by a credible reform agenda, and would be subject to the IMF's policies and executive board approval, the statement added.

Subsequently, an IMF staff team visited Dhaka in July on a fact-finding mission.

## 15yr NCT deal with DP World to be signed today

FROM PAGE 12

operator will reduce vessel turnaround and container dwell times and lower logistics costs for importers and exporters, particularly benefiting sectors such as garment, agricultural products, processed goods and light engineering.

Asked about concerns over possible labour unrest following the deal, Zakaria said the government expected the agreement to bring positive changes to the port and the wider economy.

No existing worker would be laid off: they would be integrated into the new system and their wages and benefits would see no change, according to a summary of the agreement seen by The Daily Star.

The government also expects local workers to receive training in modern terminal management and technology, potentially creating new employment opportunities.

The deal was done on a government-to-government arrangement. DP World is wholly owned by the Dubai government.

The World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation was the transaction adviser for the deal.

The deal will follow a landlord-port model, with Chattogram Port Authority (CPA) retaining ownership and control of NCT while DP World operates it for 15 years and will be responsible for maintenance and repairs of equipment.

At the end of the deal, the terminal will be handed back to CPA along with technology and technical knowledge needed for continued operation.

While the feasibility study estimated the project cost at $205 million, the agreement provides for around $150 million in investment by the operator during the concession period, including terminal modernisation, equipment upgrades and technological improvements.

CPA will receive 40 to 67 percent of royalty or revenue per TEU, with the amount linked to the terminal's average income, according to the summary.

The Chattogram Bandar Rokkha Sangram Parishad has claimed that NCT generated around Tk 4,500 crore in revenue and Tk 2,500 crore in net income in fiscal 2025-26.

The agreement summary sets performance indicators, including gradually reducing truck turnaround time to 90 minutes, improving crane productivity from the second year and introducing paperless operations through automation.

The process to bring an international operator into NCT began in 2019.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave in-principle approval in March 2023 for appointing an international private operator under the public-private partnership framework.

The interim government revived the move and opted for DP World. But the process was stalled after strong opposition and a workers' strike earlier this year.

The new government later revived negotiations.

## School textbooks to get new content on history

FROM PAGE 12

However, experts cautioned against allowing textbook accounts of history to change with governments, stressing that historical content should be based on evidence rather than political considerations.

**CHANGES FOR 2027**

A significant addition is what the document calls "Ziaur Rahman's 'We Revolt' rebellion and declaration of independence", which will be covered briefly in Classes 3-7 and in greater detail in Classes 8-10.

Biographies of Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia will be added to the Class 5 Bangladesh and Global Studies textbook under "Our Memorable Leaders", while Zia's essay, "Memories of the War of Independence", will be included in the Bangla textbook for Classes 9-10.

Other Liberation War-related additions include a brief text on the seven Bir Sreshthos for Class 6 and another on the "Liberation War Brigade Forces" for Class 8. Classes 9-10 will cover the organisational phase of the war, including the Teliapara Meeting on April 4, 1971.

Several texts on Bangladesh's post-independence history will also be added.

Books for Class 6 and above will include progressively detailed accounts of the "Sipahi-Janata Revolution" of November 7, 1975, while "Khaleda Zia's contribution to the 1990 mass uprising" will feature in books for Class 8 and Classes 9-10.

Texts on the 2024 uprising, including "The Story of Martyr Anas" and "July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum", will be included in books for Class 4 and Classes 9-10.

**REVISIONS THROUGH THE YEARS**

Accounts of the Liberation War in school textbooks have repeatedly changed with governments.

After the Awami League came to power in 1996, new Liberation War material was added, including content on Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the four national leaders.

The BNP-led government revised the books after taking office in 2001, removing or reducing references to Sheikh Mujib and his March 7 speech while giving Ziaur Rahman greater prominence in accounts of the declaration of independence.

After the AL returned to power in 2009, an expert committee reviewed textbook accounts of the Liberation War. The revised books reinstated Sheikh Mujib's biography and his role in the declaration of independence, while Zia's name was removed.

After August 2024, the interim government discontinued the 2022 national curriculum and returned secondary education to the 2012 framework, changing accounts of the declaration of independence yet again.

The 2025 textbooks state that Zia declared independence on March 26, 1971, and made a second declaration on behalf of Sheikh Mujib the following day. Material on the July Uprising was also added during the interim government's tenure, while content on Sheikh Mujib and his family was revised or removed.

**2028 CURRICULUM**

Prof Mawla said the NCTB's Curriculum Development and Revision Core Committee would begin work on the 2028 curriculum this month.

"A curriculum cannot be changed in a day. It develops gradually," he said.

Before that, four new books will be introduced in 2027, two each for Classes 4 and 6. Class 4 students will get books on sports and Bangladeshi culture, while Class 6 students will receive one on technical education and another titled "Learning with Happiness".

Asked whether the additional books could increase students' academic burden, Prof Mawla said they were designed not to, adding that the subjects would not be assessed through conventional grading.

A new text titled "Third Language" will also be added to the Class 6 Bangla textbook, while ICT textbooks will be updated with material on artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.

**THE PRINTING RACE**

The NCTB plans to print around 31 crore textbooks for roughly four crore students at pre-primary, secondary and equivalent levels for 2027.

Production and delivery of primary-level books are comparatively well advanced, but secondary-level books lag far behind.

According to the latest figures from NCTB Member (Textbook) Prof Mohammad Abu Naser, 84 percent of pre-primary books had been printed and delivered, compared with 64 percent for Class 1, 63 percent for Class 2, 51 percent for Class 3, 26 percent for Class 4 and 21 percent for Class 5.

By contrast, only around 13 percent of secondary-level books had been delivered.

The figure stood at 41 percent for the ibtedayi level, 18 percent for Class 6, 17 percent for Class 7 and just 2 percent for Class 8, while none for Classes 9-10 had yet been delivered.

The four new books for Classes 4 and 6 have yet to enter the printing process as regular work orders have not been issued, Prof Naser said.

He said primary books were expected to reach the field by October 15-20.

"There is no concern over the primary books," he added.

For secondary books, the board is working to meet a November 30 deadline for delivery to every upazila across the country, he said.

'HISTORY SHOULDN'T CHANGE WITH GOVTS'

Prof Siddiqur Rahman, a curriculum specialist and former director and retired professor of Dhaka University's Institute of Education and Research, said textbook accounts of history should not change with the party in power.

"Today one party will come to power, tomorrow another, and they will arrange history in their own way. That cannot be history.... Whoever comes to power, we want the correct history presented to the new generation."

He said individual contributions to the Liberation War and subsequent political events should be presented based on evidence, without diminishing or exaggerating anyone's role.

"Distorting events people witnessed themselves would raise questions about the credibility of textbooks," he added.

Prof Siddiqur said neutral, qualified experts should write historical content based on documented evidence and, where relevant, accounts from those who directly witnessed the events.

He also opposed using a government's electoral pledge as the basis for determining historical content.

"The present generation does not belong to any one political party. They are citizens of Bangladesh who will take part in building the country in the future," he said, warning that deliberately presenting falsehoods as truth would be harmful.

Prof Siddiqur called for permanent NCTB rules ensuring that textbook and curriculum preparation follows the same principles regardless of which party is in power.

Drawing on his experience as an NCTB consultant and curriculum committee head, he said writers should be selected based on their subject expertise, with safeguards against lobbying that could allow unsuitable people into the process.