RIVER AND RIVERINE LIVES
Earth 360° Fest  
**Date:** 17-20 February, 2024  
**Venue:** Bishwo Shahitto Kendro, Banglamotor, Dhaka

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Foreword

We are very excited about the Earth 360° Festival 2024 where we aim to showcase the stories of our majestic rivers that bind the soul of Bangladesh, like the umbilical cord connects the mother and the child.

This year’s theme, “Rivers and Riverine Lives,” delves into the very essence of Bengali identity. The mighty Padma, Meghna, and Brahmaputra aren’t just geographical features; they are the umbilical cords that nourish, transport, and define lives. Fishers find sustenance in their currents, farmers rely on their life-giving waters, and children build memories on their sandy banks. The cultural fabric, from folklore to boatmanship, is intricately woven with the rhythm of the rivers.

But this tapestry faces threats. Pollution, climate change, and unsustainable practices cast shadows on the future of these vital ecosystems. Earth 360° doesn’t shy away from these challenges. Instead, it uses art as a catalyst, igniting conversations, inspiring action, and reminding us of our collective responsibility. The Earth 360° dialogues aim to breathe life into these visuals, inviting prominent artists, thinkers, and environmental activists, including artist Wakilur Rahman, political cartoonist Mehdi Haque, architect Marina Tabassum, architectural historian Kazi Khaleed Ashraf, environmental lawyer Syeda Rizwana Hasan, conservationist Mokhlesur Rahman, environmental activist Sharif Jamil and journalist Sheikh Rokon, and others for critical dialogue and understanding. The dialogues are meant to spark debate and discussion on the nuances and help share new narratives by connecting art to action, translating awareness to responsibility.

We have received over 1,200 submissions that illuminate the delicate dance between humans and their aquatic lifelines through evocative films, captivating photographs, and thought-provoking digital art and drawings. We are grateful to the jury members Abir Abdullah, Ahsan Habib, Catherina Masud, and Sabyasachi Mistry who adjudicated the best works for the Festival.

Welcome to the Earth 360° Festival 2024, where art meets action, and rivers whisper tales of hope. Enjoy the celebration of our rivers and riverine lives!

Shamir Shehab
Executive Director, BYEI
Bengal was known for its abundance of lush, green forests and rivers. The gigantic rivers with the multicolor sail of boats were the central themes of many poems and art in the region. The small villages that were inhabited along the banks of crisscrossing rivers were the picturesque epitome that defined Bengal.

Our culture, folklore and food habits are inextricably linked to our riverine culture. It is the river that brings precious silts from across the globe to make our land one of the most fertile lands in the world. But unfortunately, our economic and socio-political paradigms have devastated this paradise.

Even during independence in 1971, Bangladesh had about 1200 rivers and rivulets. But the sad reality is that most of these rivers have now fallen prey to industrial pollution, illegal encroachments, landfills, drying due to transboundary water issues, etc.

Even the 57 rivers with international transboundary are tottering particularly in the dry seasons. The gigantic rivers such as Turag, Shitalakshya, and Korotoa have turned into small lakes. Bangladesh has turned from “Abde Jannat” (Nation of Paradise) to “Durjog Probon Desh” (nation of calamities).

What is the situation of our rivers today? What is the condition of the people who were historically dependent on rivers?

As the situation of our rivers arouses our creative and intellectual energy to capture the ethereal beauty of our rivers and/or the man-made destruction to the culture, livelihoods, ecosystem due to the destruction of our rivers, this program brings a chance to exhibit our emotion about rivers through photography, animation, short films, and drawing and get recognized and awarded.
The Earth 360° is an annual festival of arts that brings both amateur and professional visual storytellers to present thought-provoking ideas on environmental issues. It aims to spread awareness and build consciousness among the wider population about the impending ‘Triple Planetary Crisis’ and inspire collective actions for a sustainable future.

**Competition**

- **Drawing**
  - Kids of age up to 15 years

- **Photography (Junior)**
  - Participants of age Up to 30 Years

- **Photography (Senior)**
  - Participants from age 31 years and above

- **Digital Art**
  - Open to all

- **Video Film**
  - Open to all
    - Short Fiction
    - Short Non-Fiction (Documentary)
    - VLOG

**1200+ Submissions Received**

- **Digital Art**
  - 156

- **Photography (Junior)**
  - 721

- **Photography (Senior)**
  - 215

- **Video Film**
  - 119
    - Fiction
    - 18
    - Documentary
    - 76
    - Vlog
    - 25
Ahsan Habib
Ahsan Habib, a prominent Bangladeshi cartoonist, writer, and editor of the satirical magazine Unmad. He embarked on his career as a cartoonist and writer, later becoming the editor of Unmad, a long-running satire magazine since the early 1980s. He also served as the editor of Bengali science fiction magazines, namely Moulik, Autoline, and Ghuddi. As an advisor to the Bangladesh Cartoonist Association, Habib has left a significant impact on the field.

Abir Abdullah
Abir Abdullah, a renowned Bangladeshi photographer and educator, coordinates photography workshops at Alliance Française de Dhaka. With a Master's degree in Marketing from Dhaka University, his journey into photography began with formal education. He has received accolades including the Mother Jones International Fund for Documentary Photography Awards and nominations from institutions like the Humanity Photo Award. His work has been showcased globally.

Catherine Masud
Catherine Masud, an acclaimed filmmaker and educator, has made a significant impact in addressing themes of justice and identity. Based in the US, she teaches at the University of Connecticut and explores visual storytelling through human rights archives. Her film “Matir Moina” won at Cannes and competed in the Oscars, while “A Double Life” earned accolades at the Mill Valley Film Festival.

Sabyasachi Mistry
Sabyasachi Mistry, a prominent figure in contemporary artistry and illustration, was born in 1980 and found his artistic calling at the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University. Graduating with distinction, Mistry’s journey unfolded into a prolific career marked by versatility and creative ingenuity. Widely regarded as one of the industry’s most gifted artists, Sabyasachi Mistry has made indelible contributions to cover design. His portfolio boasts an array of book covers, each a testament to his conceptual brilliance.

Rezwan Shahriar Sumit
Rezwan Shahriar Sumit, an acclaimed Bangladeshi filmmaker, garnered national recognition with his debut "Nonajoler Kabbo," winning Best Film and Best Director at the Bangladesh National Film Awards. A graduate of NYU Tisch, his film "The Salt in Our Waters" received global acclaim. Currently, he’s working on multiple documentary features and a sci-fi film.
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Date: 17-20 February, 2024
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**SCHEDULE**

**DAY 1**  Saturday  |  17 Feb, 2024
- 4:00 PM - 4:45 PM  |  Chitrashala (402) Delegate Registration
- 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM  |  Auditorium (103) Opening Ceremony
- 5:45 PM - 7:15 PM  |  Auditorium (103) Earth 360° Dialogue Artists with Conscience

**DAY 2**  Sunday  |  18 Feb, 2024
- 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM  |  Chitrashala (402) Art & Photography Exhibition
- 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM  |  Screening Hall (101) Film Screening
- 6:20 PM - 8:30 PM  |  Screening Hall (101) Earth 360° Dialogue Design with Nature: In Rhythm with River and Water

**DAY 3**  Monday  |  19 Feb, 2024
- 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM  |  Chitrashala (402) Art & Photography Exhibition
- 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM  |  Screening Hall (101) Special Film Screening Shunte Ki Pao! - Are you listening (2012)

**DAY 4**  Tuesday  |  20 Feb, 2024
- 9:00 AM - 10:45 AM  |  Screening Hall (101) Film Screening
- 11:05 AM - 1:00 PM  |  Screening Hall (101) Film Screening
- 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM  |  Chitrashala (402) Art & Photography Exhibition
- 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM  |  Auditorium (103) Earth 360° Dialogue Our Dying Rivers: Success or Failure of Our Economic Miracle, Politics and Governance?
- 6:20 PM - 8:30 PM  |  Auditorium (103) Closing and Award Reception
Ahsan Habib
Ahsan Habib, a prominent Bangladeshi cartoonist, writer, and editor of the satirical magazine Unmad, He embarked on his career as a cartoonist and writer, later becoming the editor of Unmad, a long-running satire magazine since the early 1980s. He also served as the editor of Bengali science fiction magazines, namely Moulik, Autoline, and Ghuddi. As an advisor to the Bangladesh Cartoonist Association, Habib has left a significant impact on the field.

Wakilur Rahman
Wakilur Rahman is a versatile artist, known for his proficiency in painting, printmaking, and sculpture. Since 1988, he has split his time between Dhaka and Berlin, addressing social issues through his artwork. Rahman holds a B.F.A from Dhaka Art College and an M.F.A from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, China. His talent has earned him numerous awards, including recognition at international exhibitions in Canada, Norway, and Germany.

Mehedi Haque
Mehedi Haque, a seasoned Bangladeshi cartoonist and founder of Dhaka Comics, has made significant contributions to the field since 1997. His passion for drawing cartoons ignited in 1997, leading him to join Unmad in 1998, where he now serves as the executive editor. He is renowned for his political cartoons in New Age and his efforts to promote comic culture in Bangladesh.

‘Artists with Conscience’, an illuminating discourse on the transformative power of art in championing social and environmental causes. This dialogue will shine a spotlight on the pivotal role of cartoonists and artists in shaping narratives, sparking conversations, and driving change toward a more just and sustainable world. The discussion will also include pathways available for young creatives to harness their talents in service of noble causes, forging new narratives, and inspiring collective action.

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Kazi Khaleed Ashraf, an architect, professor, and urbanist, is renowned for his contributions to architectural discourse in Bangladesh. As the Director-General of Bengal Institute, he’s dedicated to exploring the intersections of architecture, landscape, and the city.

Marina Tabassum, an award-winning architect from Bangladesh, founded Marina Tabassum Architects in 2005. Her firm focuses on environmentally conscious and culturally relevant architecture. Tabassum’s notable works include the Bait Ur Rouf Mosque, recognized with the Aga Khan Award for Architecture in 2016.

This dialogue will explore the harmonious dance between design and nature’s dynamic water systems. Hear renowned architects and landscape designers delve into innovative projects that celebrate rivers and water. Uncover how design can adapt to, enhance, and integrate seamlessly with our precious aquatic ecosystems. Dive into thought-provoking questions: Can architecture and design solutions mitigate rising water levels? Witness the power of collaboration in shaping a future where design flows in rhythm with nature.
This critical dialogue about the fate of our rivers will seek to delve into as economic development surges, are we witnessing the demise of these life-giving waterways? Renowned environmental layer, conservation practitioners, and civil society leaders engage in a frank discussion about pollution, encroachment, and the impact on river-dependent life and livelihoods. Explore the complex interplay of economic success, political choices, and governance failures in this crisis. Can we reconcile progress with environmental responsibility? Witness diverse perspectives collide as we seek solutions to restore our rivers – and our relationship with them.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan
Syeda Rizwana Hasan is a lawyer and CEO, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA). She tackled dangerous shipbreaking practices, winning landmark legal battles. A Goldman & Magsaysay laureate, she’s a tireless champion for environmental justice and workers’ rights.

Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman
Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman, the Executive Director at the Center for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS), spearheads one of Bangladesh’s foremost pro-environmental NGOs. With CNRS since its inception in 1994, Dr. Rahman has been instrumental in driving innovative approaches and tangible outcomes in environmental studies.

Sharif Jamil
Sharif Jamil, the Buriganga Riverkeeper and head of Waterkeepers Bangladesh, is one of Bangladesh’s most outspoken and impassioned environmental advocates, leading a country-wide campaign to avert an environmental catastrophe for the country’s 165 million people, who are already suffering the effects of climate change and sea-level rise more than any other people on earth.

Sheikh Rokon
Sheikh Rokon, the Founder and Secretary General of Riverine People, also serves as the Associate Editor at Daily Samakal. He brings his expertise as a former Adjunct Faculty member at Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Rokon’s multifaceted roles highlight his commitment to journalism, education, and environmental advocacy.
আমাদের নদী

সেই ছোট বৃন্দা থেকেই আমরা জানি আমাদের দেশটা একটা নদীমাত্র দেশ। দেশের মানচিত্রে দেখানো হয় যেখানে আমাদের তৃতীয় কবর্সের উপর বিভিন্ন আছে যে নদী আমাদের শাখা-এ একোনা উপনদী। নদীর কারণে পালি নির্ভর দেশের রক্তে পানি আমাদের দেশটাকে।

বিশেষজ্ঞা বলেন নদী যেখানেই নতুন নয় দেখানো নাকি একটা হলেও সংক্ষিপ্তি হলের। তালে মেঘে যাচ্ছে শত শত নদীর বাঁকের কারণে আমাদের দেশটা বৈতর্যমান সব সংক্ষিপ্তি অপসর, অপলো কিতৈ। নদীর উপকরণ মাত নদীর উপর দিয়ে যেতে বাধা দেয় একোনা যা আমাদের শেষ। আমরা যখন দেয়ার পাল উইড়িয়ে চলতে অর করে সে আরেক নির্দেশ এই নৌকাগুলো পালনাম করা যায়।

তবে নদীর আবার ভাঙার রূপ আছে যারা যখন পাল ভঙ্গে তারে গ্রামের পের ধীরে কথা করে দেয়। কিংবা বন্য কর হয়। নদী আদুর্ভেত কি কবুই। তারপরও এটাতে আমাদের দেশের নদী। এই নদীতেই ঘটিয়ে ১৯৭১ সালে মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধের সময় আপাতত জারিপত্রে মাত নির্ভর হয়ে যান। যা আমাদের মহান শান্তিতে ক্রমবর্ধমান করে।

আমই হলো, পাকি নদী নিয়ে তাকতে যাচ্ছে দুই নির্দিষ্ট নির্দিষ্ট নির্দিষ্ট নির্দিষ্ট। একটা আরোহন। বিশেষভাবে এই নদী নিয়ে বহন একুশে, বহন ভুলেও। নির্দিষ্ট এবং নির্দিষ্ট এবং নির্দিষ্ট। বিশাল এই একবার এঁকে আমাদের দেশের নদী। করকমের এর হিসাবে আমারা তা পালন নৌকায় হয়েছে। এক কথা কল্পনায় হয় আমি বেশ মুহুর্ত হয়েছে কিছু নিয়ে কথা।

একটা কথা আছে ইংরেজিতে ‘আমরা যা সাদ যেই ইজ লেন দিউ আইডিয়া’ অর্থ সুরে নীচে এই পুরোনায় গুলিনাটিতে মাত কোনো আইডিয়া নেই আর নেই। পুরোনো আইডিয়াই... তো কিন্তু কারণ মাথা তাকে অন্তত পানের নির্দিষ্ট তত্ত্ব-তত্ত্বের। এখানেই মূল্যবান। সেই মূল্যবান। আমাদের তত্ত্বাবলী দেখিয়েছে এই নির্দিষ্ট নদীমাত্রক। ত্রি নির্দিষ্ট দিনির্দিষ্ট নির্দিষ্ট।

আমরা মনে করে এই নির্দিষ্ট বা প্রাণকা যাই বলে না কোনো, আমারা নদী করে আমাদের দেশের নদীকে ছিল যা আমার করে দেখানোর কাজো করেছে এই নির্দিষ্ট প্রতিদিনগুলো অস্পষ্টতাকারী আমাদের বিশেষ-তত্ত্ব।

আমাদের হাতের
cার্পোনটি, লেখক।
Dialogue Between Land & River
A Cultural Dais for Nomads of Water

Concept
The gap between sedentary and nomadic communities can be minimized through proper interaction and dialogue. A cultural ground with proper amenities can enhance the relationship with appreciation and inspiration.

Design Idea
The design has 2 forms. Static on land and mobile on water, the Static part is located on the site where they used to gather for Mojma or annual gathering for 2 months. There are training, schooling, health, and recreational as well as exhibiting facilities for nomads, sedentary, and visitors who will come to know about their lifestyle and profession. These will help them to sustain the traditional living pattern as well as the gap between the mainstream sedentary and nomads will be minimized. As most of the cases are mobile, a mobile school cum training center will roam with each fleet to serve the needs they require.
Cultural dais for Nomads of Water (Bede community) is an open platform that confirms the leadership, livelihood skill development training, and preservation of their heritage as well as providing schooling facilities for children of the Bede community who are deprived of basic human needs. This is a hypothetical project and the site is proposed in Louhojong, Munshigonj as they have been living and gathering here for decades. There is an existing Bede Village adjacent to the site where they gather for 2 months and celebrate their marriages, funerals, and other festivals. Effort is given to draw the attention of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs Govt Republic of Bangladesh to ensure the preservation of the cultural heritage of such an ethnic nomadic community. Thus, a dais is proposed where a dialogue can be held between nomadic and mainstream sedentary communities and minimize the conflict of identity.

Nazmul Hoque Nayeem serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Architecture at Daffodil International University. His remarkable academic journey includes the selection of his final thesis project, ‘Dialogue between Land and River,’ by BUET for Archiprix International 2017 at CEPT University, India.
Ghaat

This is the river bank of jamuna in Sirajganj. Everyday a huge number of people gather at this place to cross the river. We called this place as ‘Ghaat’. I’ve captured the moment in my painting where people are being prepared for borat ride.

Bishal Kumar Das, aged 22, is a student enrolled in the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Dhaka. Alongside his studies, he dedicates himself full-time to his passion for art, actively pursuing his career as an artist.
The river and the family
নদী এবং পরিবার

To capture life along Bangladesh's rivers, where people of diverse ages, genders, and roles are intricately intertwined with the water. Daily, they venture into the river, forging a profound connection that binds their lives together. The river becomes an integral part of their everyday existence, uniting them in a shared experience of community and fluidity.

রাফিউজুমান রিথোম, একজন চিত্রশিল্পী যিনি ঢাকার দিকে থাকেন। তিনি বাংলাদেশের নদীতে তার জীবনের মূল অংশ হিসেবে কাজ করেন।

Rafiuzzaman Rhythom, a visual artist from Dhaka, Bangladesh, graduated from Charukola, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka. With a passion for drawing and painting, he has pursued a professional career as an artist for five years, continuously embracing learning and cherishing each moment.
This serene image captures the tranquil essence of rivers, juxtaposed with subtle hints of human-induced pollution. The interplay between the untouched beauty of nature and the visible impacts of human activity serves as a poignant reminder of our responsibility to preserve and protect our environment.

Ahmed Munawar Liman, a self-taught artist, specializes in digital illustrations, with additional interests in traditional watercolor painting and animation. He operates a Facebook page through which he frequently receives commissions for his artwork.
Life of River Bank

The vitality of a riverbank is greatly influenced by a variety of natural and human factors, creating a diverse and vibrant ecosystem. This combination of forces shapes a complex fabric of life, where biodiversity flourishes amidst the interaction of ecological dynamics and human actions.

Shoubhik Kumar Dey, a native of Khulna, is a graduate of Khulna University with a Bachelor of Architecture. In addition to his architectural pursuits, he exhibits remarkable talent in the field of art, showcasing his exceptional creativity and skill.
Floating Life

A sense of impermanence, flexibility, and adaptability in the way of living. Constantly moving, traveling, or living a nomadic lifestyle, could represent a state of mind that embraces change and uncertainty. Sometimes the beauty of life is in the freedom from control.

Shoubhik Kumar Dey, a native of Khulna, is a graduate of Khulna University with a Bachelor of Architecture. In addition to his architectural pursuits, he exhibits remarkable talent in the field of art, showcasing his exceptional creativity and skill.
An Alternate of Extremes
এপাড় - ওপাড়

Epar-Opar’s translation of the mystical alternate of extremes unfolds as a narrative that transcends the present into the afterlife, stretching from one bank of the river to the other. It exists in the duality of emotions, physical space, and time. The narrative unfolds through characters and events, capturing the essence of reality.

"এপাড় - ওপাড়" মানে এই জীবন এবং পরকাল। এই গল্পটি এই দুই জগতের মধ্যে সেতুবদ্ধ তৈরি করে। কিভাবে মানুষের চেয়ে এই দুই জগতের মধ্যে যাতায়াত করে এবং তাদের অভিজাততা কেমন হয়। গল্পটিতে বিভিন্ন চরিত্র এবং ঘটনার মাধ্যমে ব্যক্তিত্বের নির্দিষ্ট তুলে ধরা হয়েছে। অন্যদিকে, অক্ষরদি এবং এর বর্ণনার অনিবিষ্কৃত মাধ্যমে কল্পনার জগতের প্রতিনিধিত্ব করে।

Shamim Ahmed Chowdhury is a Bangladeshi artist & children’s storyteller who finds inspiration from global travels, infusing diverse cultures, heritages & folk art, etc.
Floating Scavenger

Floating in the polluted pool of a dump, an old man collects plastic garbage to make a living. This old man used to catch fish in the same water, probably 20 or 25 years ago. His grey hair bears the resemblance of his past youth and the dying river he relies upon to make a living.

 Tauqi Mahmood Faisal is an architecture student at SUST. He enjoys exploring art as a hobby alongside his studies.
Shifting Shadows

Under a cloudy sky, a river winds through a landscape marked by dull weather. People gather and work together to address climate change. Despite the grey atmosphere, their unity shines as a hopeful response to protecting our environment.

Siyana Chowdhury, an eighth-grade student at Royal School in Dhaka, harnesses creativity to communicate impactful messages. She champions causes like mental health, climate change, and art, finding solace in both drawing and music as her means of escape.
The river, viewed from a bird’s perspective, symbolizes nature’s enduring connection. Amidst life’s distractions, we overlook our intrinsic bond with nature. Rivers, steadfast in their flow towards the sea, nurture myriad life forms and elements, akin to the motherland’s veins. They embody life’s essence, indispensable to the fabric of our existence.

Papia Sarwar, an artist and architect from Dhaka, is fascinated by designing spaces with natural and recycled materials, she explores various mediums on canvas. Self-taught, she finds solace and inspiration in art, music, and poetry, using them to navigate the chaos of Dhaka and connect with nature.
The illustration portrays the struggles of those dwelling on the periphery of Dhaka city along the Burigonga River. Originally crafted for the Sri Lankan magazine Himal Southasia’s article, ‘Rethinking the urbanity puzzle: Dhaka through the experimental lens,’ it visually connects the themes explored in three short films, depicting the marginalized existence in the city’s outskirts.

Nasheen Jahan Nasir an architect and illustrator, operates as an independent professional. Her love for visual design and illustration, she employs these mediums to reflect her thoughts and feelings, transforming abstract ideas into compelling visual stories.
Casting a Net for the Catch of the Day

A fisherman casts his net in a tranquil river amid water lilies and birds. Boats drift in the distance as white clouds reflect on clear water. This serene scene, once abundant in Bangladesh, is now scarce due to pollution and river-filling, underscoring the loss of natural beauty and fishing joy.

Nowshin Nawar, a student at the University of Dhaka, is an avid enthusiast of digital art. Her journey has evolved from traditional to digital mediums. She has been delving into digital art for approximately 18 months, with a specific fondness for creating vector graphics.
River and way of life
নদী আর জীবনযা

The river of Bangladesh has profoundly shaped trade, locality, and cultural diversity in the delta region with its fertile alluvial soil. Our eating habits, livelihoods, and traditional festivals are all intertwined with its presence, reflecting a rich historical chapter where civilization has flourished for millennia, propelled by the river’s flow.

Madhobi Sarkar, currently undertaking a Master’s in Fine Arts at Jahangirnagar University, balances her studies with a career as a visualizer in a company. With a profound love for art, she specializes in digital illustration, finding immense fulfillment in creating and manipulating images digitally.
The above figure depicts the current status of polluted rivers in Bangladesh. Where the rivers are losing their beauty due to the ignorance of the people, and some people are engaged in trying to remedy it. But their existence is also being questioned due to their financial condition.

Himangshu Shekhar Roy, a student of Carmichael College, Rangpur, expresses a passion for art. As a class 11 student, he delights in crafting innovative artwork, showcasing his creativity and enthusiasm for artistic expression.
Abandonment
বিবর্জন

The river overflowed, engulfing the slum in suffering and want. Laden with sorrow, the deity descended, igniting a flame of hope before vanishing into the water. At the farewell assembly, I emphasized the profound reliance of Bengal’s inhabitants on the river, which both takes and bestows in equal measure.

তাড়ি পাশের নদী থেকে রাজ্য পানি উঠেছে। চারিদিকে রেগ-শোক, অভাব অন্টনে ভারী হয়ে উঠেছিলো এনে পোটা বঁকায়। দুঃখ ভারী হয়ে ওঠা বাতাসে নেমে আসেন দেবী। এক নির্মল আলোক শিখা ছড়িয়ে দিয়ে, বিবর্জনে বিলীন হলেন সেই নদীতে। এখানে সকালের সমবেত নিদানেবলয় তুলে ধরা হয়েছে এই বাংলার মানুষের নদীনির্ভর জীবন। নদী অনেক কিছু কেড়ে নিয়েও ফিরিয়ে দেয় সকল কিছু।

Atiqur Rahman Atique is currently pursuing architecture at KUET. He finds joy in observing people up close and capturing the small moments of happiness in life through his drawings. He is drawn to exploring human dreams and spirituality.
Md Farhan Labib is a student of BUET, who balances academic rigor with a fervent love for art. Embracing both digital and traditional mediums, they exude a passion for creativity, finding solace in the vibrant world of colors alongside their architectural pursuits.

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Ripples of Tranquility

'Ripples of Tranquility' is a captivating digital artwork portraying serene beauty. A woman, adorned in a saree, gracefully stands on a boat in a peaceful river. Holding her boat, she symbolizes a deep connection with nature. Surrounded by lush greenery and soaring birds, this art invites viewers to embrace the graceful dance of water and life.

Md. Abdur Rahman Fahim, a 3rd-year marketing student at BUP, excels in academia and professional development by merging theoretical learning with practical application, driven by a passion for real-world impact.
DIGITAL ART

Gangaburi
গঙ্গাবুড়ি

Focused on the ‘Buriganga’ of Bangladesh, the subject reflects a river integral to our city’s growth, serving as a vital water and drainage source. Sadly, human neglect has led to its severe pollution, transforming it from a life-sustaining force to the most contaminated river in Bangladesh, highlighting our failure to safeguard this precious natural gift.

বাংলাদেশের অগিণত নদীর মধ্যে, আমি বুড়িগঙ্গাকে আমার চিরকালের প্রতিপাদ হিসেবে দেখি নিয়েছি। ধার গড়ে ওঠার এবং বিপুলতা লাভ করার সাক্ষী এই নদীটি। বিপুল আমরা প্রকৃতির এই অনুশীলনকে অবহেলা করছি প্রতিনিয়ত। এই শহরবাসীর জীবনে নদীটি অসামান্য জীবনপূর্ণ জীবনের পালন করেছে, এটিই বর্তমানে সর্বোচ্চের দৃষ্টিত নদী হিসেবে গণ্য হয়।

Debadrita Haldar is an architecture student at BUET and loves to demonstrate her artistic versatility as a self-taught cartoonist. She finds joy in crafting illustrations and comic strips, showcasing her passion for visual storytelling through her unique style.
River: The source of life
নদী: জীবনের উৎস

This artwork represents how a river is a very important part of not only nature but also the animals of nature. It is the source of life.

জীবনের উৎস পানি ও নদী। তুলু প্রকৃতিই না, প্রকৃতিতে বসবাসরত প্রাণীই নদীর উপর একটাক্ক বা পরোক্ষভাবে নির্ভরশীল।

Zaina Alam Pia, a student at Viqarunnisa Noon School & College, showcases remarkable talent as a digital artist. Her creativity flourishes through intricate designs and captivating artworks, setting her apart within the digital art community.
Rivers, akin to the veins in our circulatory system, play a vital role on Earth. Analogous to a blood clot causing illness, the depletion and pollution of rivers pose a detrimental threat to the planet, jeopardizing its health and ecological balance.

Md Ekhasur Rahman Manik, a fourth-year student in Jahangirnagar University's Bachelor of Fine Arts program, holds a keen interest in photography and drawing. He eagerly anticipates expanding his skills in both fields, having cherished drawing and photography on his phone since childhood.
Riverless Bangladesh
নদীহীন বাংলাদেশ

Once abundant with rivers, Bangladesh grapples with a perilous transformation towards river depletion, fueled by industrial pollution, plastic waste, and oil spills. This crisis imperils not only communities dependent on rivers but also jeopardizes the delicate ecological equilibrium, risking the nation's essence and transforming it into a barren landscape.

Renaissance Zaman Oishi, a graduate architect and aspiring artist, infuses her artworks with playful doodles and vibrant colors. Specializing in cartoon portraits, cartoons, and mural designs, she derives immense joy from bringing her art to life, merging her passion for both art and architecture.
City’s Mirrored Hunger

Beneath the shimmering skyscrapers, a child’s reflection dances in the poisoned water. Gaunt fingers sift through plastic and oil slicks, searching for sustenance in the river’s toxic embrace. The city’s neon glow paints a cruel canvas – a stark contrast to the child’s desperate hunt for a scrap of dignity in the polluted mirror of urban progress.

Luxme Bhowmick, emerging from Dhaka University’s craft department, conjures enchantment through pixels. For half a decade, her mobile phone has served as a canvas, turning mundane screens into lively digital vistas. Fuelled by an unconventional spirit, she aspires to push creative limits continually.
Rivers, integral since ancient times, serve as lifelines, nurturing civilizations and livelihoods. They symbolize hope and renewal, offering opportunities and prosperity akin to the dawn of a new day.

Artina Mumtarin, an architecture student from Dhaka, Bangladesh, finds solace in drawing and painting. They enjoy expressing their feelings and thoughts through lines on paper, utilizing their artistic skills to communicate their innermost emotions.
Vimruli Floating Guava Market

Vimruli Floating Guava Bazar, nestled in Barishal, emerges as a dynamic river-based marketplace, fueling economic growth. Serving as a hub for guava trade, it showcases local farmers’ harvests, attracting buyers and bolstering Barishal’s economy. This unique floating market not only preserves cultural traditions but also fosters thriving agricultural commerce along the river.

Arifin Shumonto, a blend of art appreciation and engineering curiosity, explores creative realms while finding delight in giving life to colors and shapes. Despite his engineering interest, it’s his profound passion for art that illuminates his academic path.
Once Upon a time in Paharpur...

In this depiction of Somapura Mahavihara in Paharpur, Noagaon, I sought to reimagine the vibrant Buddhist heritage during its prime as an educational hub in Bengal. The serene image encapsulates the monastery’s historic significance, with a river beside it, symbolizing the vital communication channel of that bygone era.

Rafid Rahim, a Shahjalal University of Science and Technology graduate, is an architect by profession. Additionally, he pursues drawing as a self-taught hobby, showcasing his diverse talents beyond his academic background.
The life of the river is the life of the people
নদীর জীবন মানুষের জীবন

All kinds of animals and humans depend on rivers more than anything else. Rivers are more important to village people than city people because this is the only source of water for them, that is why the life of the river is the life of the people.

নদীর উপর মানুষ অন্য রষ্টোড়া কিছুক চেয়ে বেশি নির্ভরশীল। শহরের মানুষের চেয়ে গ্রামের মানুষের কাছে নদী বেশি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ কারণ এটাই তাদের পানির একমাত্র উৎস, তাই নদীর জীবনই মানুষের জীবন। নদীর পানি সবার জীবনের অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ অংশ।

Somota Arifa Prova, a student at Siddheswari Girls College, finds solace in art, viewing it as an escape from life’s challenges. As a teen artist, she channels her emotions and creativity onto the canvas, creating a sanctuary amidst the uncertainties of the world.
Waterway Harmony of Bangladesh
বাংলাদেশের জলপথ সুর

Brahmaputra's golden whispers, a lone sampan serenades evening's din. Emerald fields sway, the Himalayas blush and a Bangladeshi dream unfolds. Rhythmic oars murmur to water's gleam, a tranquil serenade in nature's canvas. Sunset hues ignite the sky, a lone figure fades into starlit night—a silhouette of peace.

Kazi Arifin Jamil, a final-year student studying Urban and Regional Planning, is fervently dedicated to shaping future cities. Engaging in extracurricular pursuits, he actively explores urban dynamics, contributing to community initiatives and seeking to make a positive impact through urban development intersections.
Rivers weave prosperity through our land, interconnected and vital. In this portrayal, the country stands with a figure embodying the river’s soul, recognizing the life-giving flow coursing through its essence. As the rivers meander slowly, they nurture the land, their unhurried journey essential for the flourishing vitality of the landscape.

Arindom Kundu is actively pursuing his aspirations of becoming an artist and storyteller while studying in the Drawing and Painting department at the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka. Additionally, he has been involved in various comic book and animation endeavors.
Colorful Life
রিঙন জীবন

As life is, colorful dreams exist everywhere. Life passes like a flowing river. Different levels of life are like the colors of the river. I have dreamed of such a colorful life in my pictures. May every child’s life become as bright as every color. Let their life develop like a river.

নদী হল জীবনের প্রাকৃতিক। যেমন হোক না আমাদের জীবন, তা নদীর মতো অতিবাহিত হতেই থাকে। আমি আমার জীবনের একটি রিঙন জীবনের স্পন্দন দেখিয়েছি। প্রতিটি পিঝর জীবন উজ্জ্বল হোক, নদীর মতো বিশ্বাস হয়। রিঙন স্পন্দন সবখানে বিলম্ব হোক, যায় যাওয়া নদীর মতো জীবন অতিবাহিত হোক।

Atiqur Rahman Atique is currently pursuing architecture at KUET. He finds joy in observing people up close and capturing the small moments of happiness in life through his drawings. He is drawn to exploring human dreams and spirituality.
In my depiction, I aimed to encapsulate a day in the lives of river-dwellers. The artwork captures the essence of ordinary moments as people navigate their daily routines on the river. From fishing endeavors to communal activities, it paints a vivid picture of the vibrant and integral river life.

Ahmed Munawar Liman, a self-taught artist, specializes in digital illustrations, with additional interests in traditional watercolor painting and animation. He operates a Facebook page through which he frequently receives commissions for his artwork.
Rippling Stories: Portrait of River Life in Bangladesh

This vibrant art captures Bangladesh's river life, intertwining scenes of fishing, bustling transport, and daily activities with the challenges of erosion and pollution. Acknowledging cultural elements like Noukabaich, the collage weaves a nuanced story, exploring contemporary river life's essence and impact, from sturdy homes to the significance of bridges.

Md Rifat Mahmud, a student at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET), studies in the Architecture Department. His interests encompass painting, digital art, photo collage, and other creative domains, where he delights in conveying his ideas and sense of duty through artistic expression.
PHOTOGRAPHY
JUNIOR SECTION • SENIOR SECTION
The Climate Migration

Climate-induced migration in Bangladesh sees fishermen’s families, like one from Satkhira to Narayanganj for brickmaking jobs, driven by environmental shifts. Riverbed silting, floods, and temperature changes diminish fish and farm prospects, pushing locals toward urban work. Migration and labor sales become coping mechanisms, but shrimp farming, while lucrative, faces threats from soil salinity and environmental degradation.

Mohammad Rakibul Hasan, Dhaka-based photographer and filmmaker, explores human rights, social, political, environmental, and spiritual themes. Award-winning with global exhibitions holds certifications from prestigious institutions. A visual journalist, consultant for NGOs, and renowned artist.
Fishing in Shallow River

Fishing in rivers is a key income source for northern Bangladesh's fishermen. Along the Brahmaputra, they cast Dupanti Zal nets in shallow waters. Groups of three often catch fish. Sometimes, their activity leaves a love symbol in the river mud. This image is from Gaibandha, Bangladesh.

Md Shafiu Islam, a Mass Communication & Journalism graduate, is a passionate photographer known for capturing invaluable moments and lifestyles. His work graces over 50 international newspapers like The Times and The Telegraph, garnering numerous national and international awards.
River Tales
নদীর গল্প

The Karnaphuli River, Chittagong’s lifeline, is depicted in this scene radiating energy and vibrancy. Against the backdrop of the setting sun, the river comes alive with a stunning array of colors, symbolizing its pivotal role in the city’s life and livelihood.

চট্টগ্রামের জীবনীশিক্ষা ও প্রাণবন্ত কর্ণফুলি নদীকে এই দৃশ্যে ফুটিয়ে তোলা হয়েছে। অক্ষুন্ন সূর্যের পটভূমিতে, নদীটি রঙের একটি অত্যন্ত বিদ্যমানের সাথে জীবন হওয়া ওঠে, যা শহরের জীবন ও জীবিকার ক্ষেত্রে তার প্রধান ভূমিকার প্রতীক।

Mohammad Shahriar Foisal, a Bangladeshi freelance photographer, captures the essence of places and people through his lens, driven by a passion for travel and exploration.
When the pandemic lockdown ended in late 2020, people slowly came out of their homes and Bangladesh experienced a surprise deluge. This lady was just glad to see the Padma fill up from the overflow. Probably it gave her a moment of relief after being trapped for months in her home.

Ranan Rahim, a self-employed photographer, skillfully crafts captivating imagery that speaks volumes. His lens paints a vivid narrative, revealing the essence of each moment with finesse and creativity.
Life in Mystic River With Hill

In the distance, clouds drape over mountains, resting in the sky. Before dawn, amidst the pouring monsoon rain, a sailor ventures out in his dinghy to fish. This river sustains him, his livelihood intertwined with its currents. With no other means to survive. The river’s survival ensures humanity’s and the world’s survival.

Asfak Hossain Sweet, a doctor and photographer based in Rajshahi, captures the essence of life through his lens. Balancing his medical profession with his artistic pursuit, he brings a unique perspective to his photography, blending science with creativity.
Suffering of the People on the Banks of the Karnaphuli River Due to the Effects of Climate Change

Climate change exacerbates suffering as the ferry connection road along the Karnaphuli riverbanks in Chittagong, Bangladesh, succumbs to rising tides. The Kalurghat area grapples with severe inundation, highlighting the dire consequences of environmental shifts on local communities.

Mohammed Shajahan, a Bangladeshi documentary photographer, excels in social and cultural photography. As a staff photojournalist, he has won prestigious international awards, including the Istanbul Photo Award and Siena International Creative Photo Awards. His work has been featured in prominent publications worldwide.
Suffering of the People on the Banks of the Karnaphuli River Due to the Effects of Climate Change

This photo was taken in Sunamganj, Bangladesh, and it shows a group of people happily traveling by boat to a wedding. The snapshot perfectly captures the lively spirit and strong communal bonds that are prevalent during festive occasions in Bangladeshi society.

Poyal Ahmed, a native of Sylhet, Bangladesh, specializes in documentary and travel photography, weaving compelling stories through his lens.
The increasing salinity of water in Bangladesh’s deltas imperils mangroves and women’s health. Climate change exacerbates reproductive health issues among coastal women like Selena Khatun, once a renowned swimmer. Facing medical debt and fearing loss of identity, she grapples with inflammation and scalp issues, highlighting the human toll of environmental degradation in the region.

Fabeha Monir is a powerful visual journalist whose impactful photography brings attention to migration, gender violence, and societal progress. She’s been featured by The New York Times, BBC News, and UNICEF. With degrees from Ateneo de Manila University and the International Centre of Photography, Fabeha’s storytelling sets her apart in visual journalism.
Desperate Urbanization and Death of Rivers

The capital Dhaka was built around the once mighty river Buriganga. Over time, rivers and connecting canals have become encroached and filled. Rivers are dying and polluted due to uncontrolled urbanization. The level of pollution is so high that many animal species are lost and the health of the city dwellers is also at risk.

Abdul Goni, a visionary photojournalist, captures the world’s essence through his lens. His evocative images transcend boundaries, offering profound insights into human experiences. Goni’s work, marked by authenticity and empathy, showcases the power of visual storytelling.
Shitakhya is Dying Due to Severe Pollution

**The Shitalakhya River in Narayanganj is severely polluted, rendering it unusable and emitting a foul stench due to dye washing and polythene disposal from nearby cotton factories. Numerous drains directly release contaminated water into the river, causing black water and unbearable odor, making it impossible for fish to survive, affecting livelihoods and the ecosystem.**

Rayhan Ahmed, a freelance photographer, finds his spiritual journey intertwined with unique tests, shaping his life’s evaluation. His passion for photography, a blend of skill, art, and practice, fuels his enduring career pursuit, driven by unwavering dedication and genuine enthusiasm.
Tree of Death

The floodplain, part of River Karatoya in Panchagarh district, sourced from the Himalayas, faces encroachment due to escalating sand extraction. Once vibrant with diverse fish species, it now suffers as mining activities expand annually. The trails left by mining tractors resemble a tightening grip, gradually suffocating the river and disrupting its natural rhythm.

Firoz Al Sabah, hailing from the Himalayas in Panchagarh, broke tradition to pursue photography professionally. His passion for animals and birds sparked his journey in capturing their essence through his lens.
River Erosion
নদী ভাঙন

About one-third of the Char Mukundia Government Primary School building of Harirampur Upazila, Manikganj, has collapsed due to erosion on the banks of the Padma River and a large area including 12 houses has been washed away in the river. Padma is a large-mouthed demon for the locals.

Syed Mahabubul Kader, a seasoned independent photojournalist based in Dhaka, Bangladesh, embarked on his photography journey in 2012. Born in 1985, he has since honed his craft, capturing compelling stories and documenting significant events across his homeland.
Kalabagi is a coastal village in the Khulna district of Bangladesh, located by the Shibsa River, close to the Sundarbans. This village was built around for fishing shrimps in the Shivsa River. Currently, more than 200 families are living a river-centered life here. The Shivsa River and Sundarbans have been the livelihood of this community.

Md Harun Or Rashid, a Khulna-based documentary photographer, focuses on critical issues like climate change, rootless children, women’s development, and human rights. He highlights coastal life’s beauty and complexity through his lens.
‘Fish, rice and Bengali’ is a metaphor closely associated with Bangladeshi people. The scene of fishermen catching fish in the late afternoon captures the folk culture, people, food habits, and traditions of this country beautifully.

Hasnat Islam, a dedicated freelancer and photographer, captures authentic moments with a keen eye for detail and storytelling. Passionate about his craft, he explores diverse subjects, continuously pushing creative boundaries to inspire his audience.
Rivers and Livelihoods

People living in the ‘Char’ or ‘Haor’ area depend on cattle, buffalo, and sheep rearing as well as river fishing and boat transport for their livelihood. These resilient people depend on the river for their daily activities. Their lives are deeply tangled with the waves of the river.

Badal Sarkar, a Bangladeshi photographer, excels in portraying his country’s diverse beauty, from bustling cities to rural villages. His lifelong passion for photography has evolved into an art form, as he continues to capture the many facets of Bangladesh, producing breathtaking photographs.
The Mighty River Gorai

Every morning, individuals gather here to bathe and commence their daily routines. The scenic beauty of the Gorai river takes to a new height each day. In winter, the fog transforms the scene into a mysterious frame.

Shikder Habibur Rahman, a dedicated freelance photographer, is currently pursuing his studies at Jahangirnagar University. With a keen eye for detail and a passion for capturing moments, he strives to convey stories through his lens, reflecting the beauty and complexity of life.
The Fishermen

In winter, as the river dwindles, groups of fishermen gather along its banks. Armed with patience and skill, they navigate the shallow waters, casting nets and lines in pursuit of elusive fish. The camaraderie of these winter expeditions transforms the dry riverbed into a temporary haven for dedicated anglers.

Saifullah Taif is a student, who is pursuing a BSS honors in photography at Pathshala South Asian Media Institute. Passionate about photography, he seeks to hone his skills and express his creativity through the lens.
The Unseen Beauty Of Brahmaputra River

In the serene embrace of a fog-laden winter morning, a lone figure strides along the Brahmaputra River’s edge. Draped in the ethereal mist, the man’s purpose becomes clear – fishing. Undeterred by the chill, he ventures into the tranquil waters, merging with the hazy ambiance for a solitary communion with nature.

Golam Kibria, a dedicated photographer, crafts emotive narratives through his lens, capturing beauty and compelling stories. His work graces exhibitions, reflecting his commitment to continual artistic refinement.
Numerous boats crowded the river as people, accompanied by boatmen, announced the upcoming Bengali competition, known as ‘Nouka Baich.’ The lively scene highlighted the anticipation and camaraderie among participants, setting the stage for a spirited riverboat contest.

Saria Tasnin Aboni, a 18-year-old aspiring photographer, wants to tell stories & capture nature's essence through her lens. She is currently a student of 12th grade at Viqarunnisa Noon School and College.
Climate Change Effect

This is a story of a flood-affected village in the Kushtia district. During the monsoon season, as the river rises, the village is flooded. Due to the rising waters, there is a shortage of food for the animals, who have to look elsewhere for it.

Solayman Hossain is an 18-year-old residing in the Kushtia district of Bangladesh. He is currently a graduate student at Kushtia Government College, pursuing studies in Geography and Environment.
River and Life
নদী ও জীবন

The cooling towers of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, an under-construction nuclear power plant rise against the skyline, their towering presence in stark contrast to the serene scene below. The plant is located alongside the Padma River, where small fishing boats drift by, their occupants seemingly unaware of the immense power being harnessed just a stone's throw away.

রুপপুর পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্রের কুলিং টাওয়ার, একটি নির্মাণাধীন পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র আকাশের বিপরীতে মাথা তুলে দাঁড়ায়। নীচের শান্ত দৃশ্যের সম্পূর্ণ বিপরীতে তাদের বিশাল উপস্থিতি। এটি পদ্ম নদীর পাশে অবস্থিত, যেখানে ছোট মাছ ধরার তৌলকা ভেঙে যায়, তাদের দখলকারীরা অপারেশনের অসীম শক্তি সম্পর্কে অজানু বলে মনে হচ্ছে একটি পাথরের দূরে।

Rizwan is a documentary photographer based in Dhaka. He captures socio-political issues, urbanization, and climate change through his lens. His work has been published and exhibited in various mediums.
Religion

A shot from Faridpur Durga Puja shows the idol immersed in water. Each image encapsulates moments that stir reflection on spirituality, perception, and life's transience.

Sheikh R Raafew is a student of journalism and a photographer. Besides his passion for cinematography and movies, he dreams of creating a path of creativity.
River erosion poses an ongoing threat in Bangladesh. Over the past five years, the Meghna River’s sudden breaks have devastated areas like Janata Ghat in Hatia, eroding 3 km in a year. Many face panic along the riverbanks, with homes, institutions, and thousands of hectares lost annually. The impact is profound, leaving families displaced and vital structures submerged.

Imran Parvez is a graduate of Public University. He is an amateur photographer who documenting Bangladesh’s climate impact on agriculture. Passionate about integrating economics, society, and culture with agriculture.
Bangladesh’s traditional wooden boats ‘Nouka Baich’ are vibrant symbols of cultural heritage. These colorful vessels gracefully ply the waterways, serving as crucial conduits for people and goods. Interwoven with local life, Nouka Bais connects communities and upholds a timeless maritime tradition, embodying the essence of Bangladesh’s cultural legacy on its rivers.

Ahmed Shafayet Mostafa, a finance master’s student at Islamic University, and a passionate photographer, blends academia with creativity and explores the intersection of finance and art.
Holy River

Sahera Banu performs ablution in this river daily for prayer. It’s a tradition passed down through generations; her grandfather, father, and mother all did the same. The river’s water is considered holy, offering a unique satisfaction during ablution. Sahera continues this practice, finding solace and connection in the ritual like her ancestors before her.

Bayezid Hasan is a final-year medical student at Patuakhali Medical College. Comilla native, passionate about photography, videography, and revealing untold stories from rural Bangladesh. Aspiring global traveler and storyteller.
Sadarghat, a river port in Dhaka, Bangladesh, birthed a trading hub in the 19th century. Situated on the Buriganga River, its significance endures into the 21st century. Adjacent to Old Dhaka, it hosts renowned sites like Bangla Bazar, Jagannath University, Baldha Gardens, and Ahsan Manzil. Notably, it’s a hub for river-borne products, particularly fish, sustaining its reputation as a vital trading center.

Md Shahriar Kobir Anik, a Dhaka College student, was born with a passion for photography. Award winner at the United Satkhira Photography Contest and Tarunner Torjoni Award in December 2021.
Fishing In Shibsha River
শিবসা নদীতে মাছ ধরা

A fleet of boats casts its vibrant blue nets, creating a tapestry of traditional fishing in the Shibsha River near Sundarbans, Bangladesh. The fishermen’s sustainable fishing practices symbolize a harmonious collaboration with nature, revealing a commitment to safeguarding both their way of life and the fragile ecosystem.

Joy Saha is a visual journalist focusing on human stories. Featured in 100+ major publications, documenting diverse aspects of human life. On an endless journey capturing untold stories.
The life of the riverside people is very much dependent on the river. When the water in the river dries up, char is created in the river resurfacing spiral muddy roads. The roads connect villages paving the way for cattle, bicycles, and people on foot to cross the river.

Ananto Biswas Utshow is a 23-year-old student at Daffodil International University, residing in a Bangladesh Upazila town. Committed to his academic journey in a vibrant university setting.
The Tales of River

Sun-kissed scales flash beneath, as a tug tests the old man's weathered hands. Mossy rocks line the jade river’s bend, where a lone line dances, Hope’s silent friend. Birch leaves whisper secrets in the breeze, while ripples whisper back- “The river always sees.”

Tazim is a resilient street and travel photographer from Bangladesh. Embarked on the photography journey in 2018 with mobile phones, overcoming struggles, and standing strong with personal beliefs since acquiring a camera in 2020.
Solving Crisis
সংকটের মোকাবেলা

In Kalabagi village, Dakop Upazilla, Khulna Division, Sundarbans vicinity, rising sea levels due to cyclones and erosion threaten its 2,000 residents. Land loss, saltwater inundation, and a lack of freshwater access exacerbate health and agricultural challenges. Protein deficiencies, waterborne illnesses, and inadequate sanitation underscore the urgent need for assistance.

Md. Musifur Rahman is a Bogura-based Documentary Photographer, driven by a lifelong passion for capturing life’s truths. With a BSc in Fashion and Technology and ongoing studies at Counter-Foto, he aims to make a positive impact through his work.
Horse Bathing In Padma River Water

Wahab Sardar, a carriage driver residing by the Padma River, relies on his horse for both transportation and farming. During low river levels, he guides passengers across the dry riverbed. In return, his horse aids in farming tasks, and Wahab diligently bathes the beloved animal in river water, underscoring their vital bond.

Bijoy Krishna Paul, a Titumir College student, channels his creativity into street photography, capturing the vibrant narratives of urban life.
Boat Race

নৌকা বাইচ

Boat racing is a cherished tradition in Bangladesh, involves teams of 25 to 100 members navigating without motor engines. Named for their speed, boats compete during monsoons, though climate change and river encroachment have diminished these events over time.

নৌকাবাইচ বাংলাদেশের অন্যতম ঐতিহাসিক খেলা। এই খেলায় মোটর ইঞ্জিন সহ নৌকা অনুমোদিত নয় বাংলাদেশের নদীতীরবর্তী এলাকায় বর্ষাকালে নৌকাবাইচ প্রতিযোগিতা অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন ও নদী দখলের কারণে বাংলাদেশের নদীগুলোর দৈর্ঘ্য কমেছে। সময়ের পরিবর্তনে নৌকা বাইচ প্রতিযোগিতা অনেক কমে গিয়েছে।

Md. Musifur Rahman is a Bogura-based Documentary Photographer, driven by a lifelong passion for capturing life's truths. With a BSc in Fashion and Technology and ongoing studies at Counter-Foto, he aims to make a positive impact through his work.
Climate change exacerbates natural challenges in Bangladesh, evident in rising sand beds and diminished river water capacity, particularly during November-December. Reduced river levels diminish arable land, impacting crop and fish yields, prompting shifts in professions and depleting cattle feed supply. River erosion threatens livelihoods and biodiversity, compounding food shortages and agricultural costs.

Md. Musfiqur Rahman is a Bogura-based Documentary Photographer, driven by a lifelong passion for capturing life's truths. With a BSc in Fashion and Technology and ongoing studies at Counter-Foto, he aims to make a positive impact through his work.
Jadukata

Jadukata River, situated north of Sunamganj, features numerous stones extracted daily by hundreds of boats. The scenic vista from nearby hills accentuates settlements, livelihoods, and employment opportunities thriving from stone quarrying activities in the area.

Adib Ashraf, doing an undergrad with a passion for travel, photography, and cinematography. Embracing creativity as hobbies, capturing moments through lens and storytelling.
Walk Through River Of Plastics

Bangladesh ranks among the highest in plastic pollution globally, primarily due to inadequate management of plastic waste in rivers. Dhaka alone collects approximately 646 tons of plastic waste daily, comprising 10 percent of the country's total waste. Merely 37.2 percent of plastic waste from Dhaka's rivers undergoes recycling.

Jahid Apu, a documentary photographer from Bangladesh, skillfully depicts the fundamental aspects of existence, unveiling labyrinthine narratives and articulating personal experiences.
Bangladesh is experiencing a rise in lightning-related fatalities, attributed to climate change. Warmer temperatures and increased water evaporation from land and sea are fueling the formation of cumulonimbus clouds, resulting in heightened lightning activity. A recent incident of pink lightning occurred during a river crossing on the Padma, highlighting the impact of changing weather patterns.

Jahid Apu, a documentary photographer from Bangladesh, skillfully depicts the fundamental aspects of existence, unveiling labyrinthine narratives and articulating personal experiences.
‘Guccha Gram’ community resides alongside and within the river, intimately connected to its rhythms and resources. Their livelihoods and daily activities are intricately woven with the ebb and flow of the water, reflecting a symbiotic relationship with the river that sustains and shapes their way of life.

Istiyak Ahammed Srabon, a student from Nilphamari, Bangladesh. Started photography as a hobby in 2018, inspired by artistic pictures on Facebook.
The Karnaphuli River, a vital water source in Bangladesh, is heavily relied upon by residents living along its banks. While its usage brings benefits, it also leads to pollution. With many Bangladeshis utilizing river water daily for bathing and household chores, it exposes them to various diseases, emphasizing the need for awareness and caution.

Aminul Islam, a 24-year-old student of Anowara Government College, Chattogram, lives in Patiya, Chattogram. He is an aspiring photographer who intends to capture meaningful stories through his camera lens.
Captured in Gabura, a southeastern village of Bangladesh near the Sundarbans, this photo depicts the scarcity of fresh water. With salty water and seasonal flooding in the rainy season and drought in summer, clean water is scarce, particularly challenging for village women and children. Despite a population of 31,000, there are few tubewells available.

Saleh Mohammad Asif is a textile Engineer and passionate photographer, blending technical expertise with a creative lens to capture moments and stories through photography.
Cattle Are Drinking Water In Padma River

In Rajshahi, along the banks of the Padma River, cattle gather to drink water. In the scorching heat of summer, the Char area becomes parched, causing a shortage of water and food for the animals. Herders now face increased difficulty in finding suitable spots for their cattle in the changing landscape of the Padma River.

Saone Sarkar Sujoy is passionate about photography, particularly captivated by nature and bird photography, finding joy in capturing the beauty of the natural world through the lens.
Photochemical Smog
আলোক রাসায়নিক বোয়ায়াশা

The somber impact of air pollution on the environment and possibly on people's livelihoods is spreading all over. The smog could be a result of photochemical reactions in the atmosphere involving pollutants from vehicle emissions and industrial activities that are reacting with sunlight.

নদীর পরিবেশের উপর বায়ু দূষণের ভয়াবহ প্রভাব আছে। বোয়ায়াশা বোয়ায়াশা আলোক রাসায়নিক বোয়ায়াশা হতে পারে যানবাহনের দূষণ এবং চালু কর্মকাণ্ডের প্রতি কিছু ফলে। দূষণকারী কারণগুলো সূচিত হয় পারে। এইসব প্রভাবের ফলে মানুষের জীবনযাত্রাও প্রভাবিত হতে পারে।

Nayem is a dedicated student with an unwavering passion for photography, capturing moments that unfold the beauty of life through a lens.
VIDEO FILMS

- Short Fiction
- Short Non-Fiction (Documentary)
- VLOG
On a sunny autumn day, two fishermen and their children arrive at a riverbank to fish. While children play, the men labor with their nets, eventually discovering something weighty. Upon retrieval, their catch alters their world profoundly.

Samarpan Biswas, an engineering student at BUET, dreamed of being a filmmaker after watching Satyajit Ray's films in his childhood. His first-ever production 'The River Circle' is a

Nazim dreams of captaining his own trawler at sea, with his loyal friend Sultan by his side. Saving from odd jobs, Sultan's departure to Dhaka dims Nazim's hope. Alone, he persists, but whether his sea-bound dream materializes amid life's tumult remains uncertain.

Fuaduzzaman Fuad, a Dhaka-based filmmaker, is known for his award-winning short 'Is It Good To Run Away?' (2018), continues garnering acclaim with 'Salvation of Tree' selected for the 'Best of Bangladesh' event in Amsterdam (2023).

Iqbal Hossain studies journalism at Daffodil International University. His skills include design and visual arts. This self-proclaimed dreamer fuels his creativity with podcasts and non-fiction like 'The Alchemist' and 'The Secret'.

The vitality of a riverbank is shaped by an array of natural processes and human endeavors, resulting in a dynamic and diverse ecosystem.
Disappear

In a future marked by food and environmental neglect, this animated film explores the consequences. Taking place in a submerged coastal area tainted by waste pollution, the narrative unfolds as a woman prepares to depart. Initially blaming others’ ignorance, she discovers the collective impact of everyone’s actions.

Md Nafis Fuad Auyon is a Dhaka-based professional animator. Through visionary storytelling expertise and a technical process, his characters come to life for a world of creative journeys in the animation landscape.

Blind River

An 8-year-old blind girl dreams of ‘seeing’ a river, this her grandfather leads her on a heartfelt journey. Yet the quest reveals more than just the river’s charm. How can he show her the river if she can’t see? Their journey unravels the true essence of ‘seeing’, challenging our perceptions of sight and experience.

Abir Rayhan is a passionate indie filmmaker. He crafts stories at 24 frames per second. For him, film is a powerful tool to connect, share, and

The Paper Boat

Playing with paper boats in the river was an unforgettable part of our childhood. ‘The Paper Boat’ captures that memory through a child’s eyes but this brings out the environmental issue of river degradation due to human pollution, causing our rivers and our childhood happiness to die.

Md. Utsab Ahamed Akash, an enthusiastic artist residing in Jaypurhat, attends Joypurhat Govt. College. Through his artistry, he encapsulates memories, and narratives, and addresses environmental concerns, demonstrating a deep-seated passion for his creations and societal issues.
Ripples of Renewal
নবায়েনর এঢউ
This poignant short film follows Lily, a spirited orphan, on her journey to revive a once-thriving river facing pollution. Lily rallies the village, weaving a narrative of unity and determination. Through clean-up efforts, educational initiatives, and heartfelt melodies, she transforms despair into hope, mending the river’s wounded heart.

Abdulla Al Noman is a tech enthusiast who expresses his creativity through dynamic videos that bring imaginative narratives to life with a unique blend of art and technology.

A tanery and A River
একটি নদী এবং একটি টানারি
The tannery industry along the banks of River Buriganga has been a significant polluter for years. Recently, the industry was shifted to Hemayetpur, near River Dhaleshwari. Despite the relocation, its pollution persists, raising concerns about the environmental impact in its new location.

Md. Masum is studying Urban Planning at Jahangirnagar University. His creative skills include design, video, and photography. He is an award-winning public speaker and debater. Masum is passionate about sustainable communities.

Life in the salt water
নোনা জলে জীবন
‘Life in the Salt Water’, a documentary from Shyamnagar upazila, Satkhira district, Bangladesh, depicts coastal women confronting climate change. Resilient against rising sea levels and diseases, they reveal their struggles with remarkable candor, showcasing their fortitude amidst adversity.

Saimur Rahman is a student at the University of Dhaka, Department of Television, Film and Photography. His focal interest is ‘Climate change impacts’ based documentary filmmaking to hold a light on the root level.
Buriganga: A dying river

In Bangladesh's river-rich region, economic and cultural prosperity intertwines with its waterways. Yet, due to neglect, many rivers languish. Human-induced factors like reduced flow, pollution, and encroachment have led to their decline. Even Dhaka’s major rivers face degradation, with the Buriganga’s fate lamented.

Sakib Pratyay, a Dhaka-based photojournalist and filmmaker, is known for his fascinating works in major cities and international photography events. He teaches advanced photographic methods in workshops and supervises a global competition jury.

Beloved Brahmaputra

At the Brahmaputra riverbanks, we engaged villagers to uncover their narratives. Despite mining and sand dumping impacting their cropland, they resiliently adapt. However, this alteration has halted flooding. ‘Beloved Brahmaputra’ captures the complexities of their lives, both triumphs and tribulations.

Gabriel Wahed was born in Dhaka. He excels in film, music, and photography. His short film “NIRBAN” garnered acclaim at festivals in Bangladesh and the USA.

Md. Safayet Hossain Shanto, an Amateur Photographer from Barishal, Bangladesh. He has been capturing moments since 2018. He adeptly uses mobile phones and cameras for photography, deriving constant joy from his childhood hobby.

The story of ‘Bede’ community living

The Bede community, known locally as Vaidya, leads a nomadic life. The community lives on boats, floating on rivers, for lacking homes or land. They face water challenges, they drink river water and bathe in it. This marginalized group embodies a unique, floating existence. This film highlights their struggle for necessities.
The revived rivers of Dhaka: Truth or Hoax?
পুনরজীবিত নদী: সত্য না গল্প?

Over the past decades, the authorities have made numerous promises and initiatives to rejuvenate the country’s rivers. However, eyewitnesses argue that these statements don’t meet the reality. This docu-film aims to uncover the true causes behind the persistent deterioration of the rivers.

Md Mahabubul Alam Antor is a student of ULAB and an enthusiastic filmmaker. Despite completing multiple filmmaking courses and working in Bangladesh Television and Gazi Television, he dreams of studying Film and Television abroad.

Eroding Horizons. A Village On The Move
ভাঙ্গন প্রশস্ত অঞ্চল, পরিবর্তনশীল গ্রামীণ জীবনযাত্রা

Will climate change inevitably lead to massive migration flows? A research team from ETH Zurich and different universities investigated this by visiting 36 different villages in Bangladesh. This documentary captures the experiences and perspectives of these local communities at the forefront of severe environmental changes, which raise a critical dilemma: to stay or to go?

Jan Freihardt is a postdoctoral researcher from Switzerland, now studying the environmental migration of the Jamuna River. Her research project contains stories of the communities along the Jamuna River.

River Erosion
নদী ভাঙ্গন

Bangladesh is an active delta. About 5 million people of the country’s total population live in the floodplains of major rivers, vulnerable to erosion. 1,200 km along the banks of rivers are at risk, resulting in approximately 10,000 hectares of land erosion every year, turning more than one lakh people’s lives into living hell.

Mohammad Sheikh is a student of Journalism at Daffodil University, and also a journalist, photographer, and storyteller. His natural cinematography and narration style bring up heart-touching lively stories on screen.
The lifeblood of the Bangladesh

বাংলাদেশের প্রাণ

The river is our origin, the very essence of our existence. It sustains us, nourishes our land, and shapes our identity. As stewards of this lifeline, it is our sacred duty to shield it from harm, ensuring its purity and vitality for generations to come.

Fahimur Rahman is a student of Journalism at Daffodil University, born in Chattagram and he is mostly known for his ability to capture ordinary but meaningful moments through a camera lens.

Video Films

SHORT NON-FICTION (DOCUMENTARY)

VIDEO FILMS
SHORT NON-FICTION (DOCUMENTARY)

VIDEO FILMS
SHORT NON-FICTION (DOCUMENTARY)

Life and livelihood

জীবন ও জীবিকা

‘Baleswar River’, grammatically designated as ‘Nad’ (masculine for river), yet our trust lies more in the river’s essence than its grammatical classification ‘Nad’.

Fahim Al Mahmud Rumi, a student at Adamjee Cantonment College, indulges in amateur photography, finding joy in freezing moments, memories, and the beauty of everyday life through his lens.

Hanging village of Kalabagi

কালাবাগীর ঝুলন্ত গ্রাম

Kalabagi, a coastal village in Bangladesh’s Khulna district, was founded around shrimp fishing in the Shibsa River near the Sundarbans. Currently, more than 200 families live there. The community grapples with persistent challenges like cyclones, floods, and erosion, forcing its resilient residents to adapt to extreme conditions imposed by natural calamities.

Md Harun Or Rashid is a documentary photographer and photojournalist based in Khulna. His work focuses on a range of important issues including climate impacts, women's & children's rights, development issues, politics, and much more.
The Brahmaputra, one of the largest rivers in Bengal is now almost dead. A 68-year-old man whose description will bring out the story of changing rivers, diverse riverine settlements, and lifestyles by converting agricultural practices. Situational political influence on the river drives the desire to preserve its heritage for future generations.

Soyeda Omama Jahan is a graduate of Rabindra Bharati University, with a background in film production and design. With proficiency in literature and theater, she dreams of pursuing a career in the media and entertainment industry.

Atrai, born in West Bengal, India, enters Dinajpur’s Chirirbandar Upazila in Bangladesh and circles back to India then interestingly re-enters Bangladesh in Naogaon. In the Mahabharata, Atrai is hailed and mentioned in the purification mantra of Devi Durga’s Puja. This film beautifully describes Atrai’s charming beauty and glory.

Safayat Alam, a freelance professional in EdTech, is a dedicated photographer and videographer. He captures fleeting moments and visual stories by blending technology and creativity and crafting impactful content, resonating across platforms.

Mahdin Kamal was born on February 24, 2004, in Bangladesh. He began filming documentaries in 2019 and had his films recognized at the Dhaka International Film Festival in 2023. He aims to elevate Bangladeshi cinema on a worldwide stage.

Buriganga River is the life of Dhaka, carrying the livelihood of thousands of people. At the Sadarghat, rows of boats with local people crossing the river can be seen. Though Sadarghat is a crowded dirty river port for others, this ghat is very special in the eyes of the local community.
Who goes to the river first? Even before ducks! Definitely Nira. Who is Nira? Nira is a fisherman who lives by the river Kaliganga. The film ‘NIRA’ is a poetic representation of the journey of Nira and his struggles.

Md. Joni Hossain is studying in the Department of Communication and Journalism at Chittagong University. After creating social media material, Mahbub Jony became a documentary filmmaker because he loved videography. He directed his debut documentary, ‘NIRA’.

Mohammad Ishrafi is a boatman who has lived in his boat under the open sky in the Buriganga River for the past 12 years. He barely earns 3-4$ per day and runs his family, very few he spends to eat to stay alive. Living on a boat is an unwilling choice for survival.

The beauty and slow death of a river are dancing together. The documentary tells a story showcasing ‘Karnafully’ the pride of Chattagram. This narrative-based story on River and riverine people compares visuals of the raw beauty and dying river, expressing the history, and culture that has been built by this once mighty river.

Sukanta Kumar, a professional documentary photographer and filmmaker, specializes in projects for NGOs, INGOs, and personal endeavors. His work aims to raise awareness about untold stories, fostering greater empathy and understanding.

Arpon Chowdhury, who is interested in becoming a filmmaker, uses his camera to capture situations that bring up feelings of empathy and provoke contemplation. He hopes to extend viewpoints through his work.
Matrirupeno
মাতৃরূপণ

‘Matrirupeno’ reflects the relationship between the Surma River and its communities. Despite years of siltation, pollution, and encroachment, the neglected river reclaim significance during the Keane Bridge reconstruction. Now the locals cross Surma by boat to conduct their daily activities. The enduring resilience of Surma seeks unwavering support, not human negligence.

Saniyad Turzo, a student at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College, seamlessly integrates medical studies with a passion for independent filmmaking. His debut docu-film is ‘Matrirupeno’ and secured runner-up status on ‘Ispahani Mirzapore Banglabid’ in 2017.

Shitalakshya : A River’s Tale
শীতলক্ষ্যা: একটি নদীর কথা

Narayanganj, known as ‘Dundee in the East’ is established on the Shitalakshya River, which has become a hub of pollution and untreated sewage. This resulted in declining fish populations, affecting livelihoods with also the intolerable foul smell. It is still up for debate whether the Shitalakshya River can be saved in its current condition.

Md Abid Mallick, part of Digital Shadow film production company, is a professional filmmaker and cinematographer. His documentaries, short films and other audiovisual creations won both national and international awards.

Buriganga : heart of civilization
বুড়গঙ্গা- সভয্তার হৃদয়

‘Buriganga: The Heart of River’ unveils the poetic tragedy of a once-vibrant lifeline now suffocating under pollution. As experts dissect the tale of environmental decay, this documentary captures silently dying Buriganga and people’s survival struggles through collective actions to revive the heart of Dhaka’s water. Join the movement – ‘Save Buriganga, Save Life.’

Rahat Karim is a student of Media and Journalism student at ULAB, also a freelance photographer and aspiring filmmaker. He captures detailed authentic moments through his lens and weaves compelling narratives in his films.
People’s dependency on the Buriganga river and its contribution to the development of Dhaka city is undeniable. Since the beginning of Dhaka, its residents have been intimately connected with this river. But, Buriganga is moribund today, shrunk by polluted waste, sewage, sand mining, and river encroachment which is killing the livelihoods around Buriganga.

Md Raihan Uddin is a graduate of motion graphics and cinematography at Pathshala and an experienced video editor based in Dhaka. He creates thoughtful unique stories and narrates with visual storytelling.

Iqbal Hasan Khan, a student of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University is known for his direction in short films like ‘Sophia’ (2017), ‘When Buddha Returns Home’ (2023), work for OTT platforms and national TV channels.

Iqbal Hasan Khan, a student of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University is known for his direction in short films like ‘Sophia’ (2017), ‘When Buddha Returns Home’ (2023), work for OTT platforms and national TV channels.

River gypsies are the most vulnerable to river kills and climate change. Their generational dependency on river has developed a unique lifestyle. But their home ‘rivers’ are dying. Unwillingly, they are changing their occupations and the new generation is mostly trying to escape that cursed life due to the death of their mother river.

Arman Ibn Shahjahan chases his aspirations despite his 9-5 corporate job. He enjoys photography, singing, painting, and traveling despite middle-class restraints. He hopes to direct Bangladesh’s first Oscar-winner.

Md Kaushik Ahamed Rabby, with a background in economics, brings a unique perspective to his filmmaking endeavors, aiming to create impactful and thought-provoking documentaries.

The Mahananda River in Tetulia Upazila is not just a water body; it’s a lifeline for many residents whose livelihoods depend on stone extraction from its banks. Their daily toil embodies a symbiotic relationship with the river, where its bounty sustains their families and communities, making it an indispensable blessing in their lives.