



# expression

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The background of the cover is a composite image depicting a protest in Bangladesh. On the left, there is a large fire with thick black smoke rising from it. In the center, a group of people, including a woman in the foreground, are shown in a state of distress or protest. A Bangladeshi flag (green with a red circle) is visible. On the right, a man is seen shouting into a megaphone. The bottom of the image shows a street scene with cars and more smoke. Red splatters, resembling blood, are scattered across the lower half of the cover.

# BANGLADESH *in* PERIL



# Bangladesh drowning in extreme civil unrest

Krishti Paul, BA Sem 5

The 2024 Bangladesh quota reform movement was an anti-government and pro-democracy protest in Bangladesh, spearheaded primarily by the students of public and private universities. The movement initially targeted quota-based hiring in government jobs. However, it grew into a broader protest against the authoritarian government after security forces violently suppressed student-led demonstrations in July.

The movement began in June 2024, in response to the Supreme Court of Bangladesh reinstating a 30% quota for descendants of freedom fighters, reversing the government decision made in response to the 2018 Bangladesh quota reform movement. The movement expanded against what many perceive as an authoritarian government when hundreds of protesters and civilians, most



of whom were students, were killed. This infuriated students. But this did not stop them from protesting.

When faced with police action, students often organised rallies and demonstrations to express solidarity, used social media to mobilise support, shared information, and voice concerns; engaged in peaceful sit-ins, processions, or marches, form human chains or barricades to protest. The government's violent response resulted in a substantial number of fatalities

among both protesters and non-protesting civilians, with at least 45 non-protester civilians (including 32 children) and 4 journalists killed, and over 225 journalists injured. Police started firing at the protesters. Lakhs of bodies disappeared. And when they were being questioned on their abrupt firing they said it was teargas. From protest it became a war field. Everyone joined the protest from children to rickshaw pullers. It was no longer just a protest for students' rights; it had become a protest for the fundamen-

tal rights that every citizen deserves in a democratic country. When former prime minister Sheikh Hasina was questioned about these actions she questioned if the freedom fighters generation will not get jobs then who will get "rajakar"? This worked as putting salt on the wound. The government also shut down the internet and social media nationwide, isolating Bangladesh from the rest of the world. But a few days later the internet was back in service but not social media. All these destruction led to a march for DOFA 1 which says: "Dofa Ek, Dabi Ek, Sheikh Hasinar Podotyag [One point, one demand, the resignation of Sheikh Hasina]". The protesters in groups graffitied the streets, walls, and trees.

On 5th August 2024 Sheikh Hasina resigned from her position. In her resignation interview, she said that she did what the people wanted her to do, and now she's leaving for peace.

# History is seen repeating itself in Bangladesh

**Samriddho Sengupta,**  
BA Sem 5

On August 7, 2024, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fled Dhaka amid escalating protests driven by public discontent over alleged corruption, economic mismanagement, and a controversial election process. The protests, which began on August 1, saw thousands rallying against the government. Clashes resulted in injuries and arrests, prompting opposition parties, led by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), to call a nationwide strike.



No rest for civilians in protest in Bangladesh.

Source: Google File photo

On August 6, rumors of Hasi na's departure surfaced, which was initially denied by government officials. However, later that evening it was confirmed

that Sheikh Hasina had in fact fled the capital. The statement emphasized that she would continue to perform her duties and urged for calm and order.

The news of her departure further intensified the unrest. International media coverage increased, and the United Nations called for restraint and dialogue. Neighboring countries, including India and Myanmar, are closely monitoring the situation. Sheikh Hasina's departure has left a power vacuum, further heightening uncertainty about Bangladesh's political future. With ongoing protests and a high state of alert among security forces, Bangladesh faces a critical period as it seeks stability and democratic governance amidst this turmoil.

# Trajectory of Tragedy for a nation in mourning

**Mohul Sen, BA Sem 5**

On August 9, the walls of R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital witnessed the brutal rape and murder of a 31 year-old trainee doctor who stayed back to finish a 36-hour shift, and was later found dead inside the seminar room on the 3rd floor. The incident has sent shockwaves around the nation, raising questions about institutional negligence, possible evidence tampering, and law enforcement. The case has taken several dramatic turns, including the arrest of Sanjoy Roy, the



Medical professionals take to the streets demanding justice for the victim.

Source: Google File photo

accused, and the transfer of the investigation to the CBI. Dr. Sandip Ghosh, former Principal of R.G. Kar Medi

cal College resigned from his post, after 24 hours of which, he was reinstated as the Principal of Calcutta Med-

ical College and Hospital. However, he has now been arrested by the CBI on charges of corruption. Widespread protests by civilians and doctors alike have shaken the nation, including 'Reclaim the Night' which took place all over Kolkata on the night of August 14. Until now, two hearings regarding this case have taken place at the Supreme Court. The CBI's investigation has so far ruled out gang-rape. They continue their investigation while doctors all over India, and protesters are still awaiting justice.



## Presenting the ultimate “Mad Man” in SS Rajamouli

Aranika Chatterjee,  
BA Sem 5

The trailer for the upcoming documentary “Modern Masters: SS Rajamouli” was released. The documentary appeared on Netflix on August 2, 2024. It offered the audience a deep dive into the life and career of the acclaimed filmmaker SS Rajamouli. The trailer featured insights from the movie industry and showcased interviews with actors such as Jr. NTR, Ram Charan, Prabhas, and James Cameron. In it, they shared their experiences of working with Rajamouli and describe his uniqueness and the different approaches he adopts while making his films. The documentary also included commentary from internation-



SS Rajamouli

Source: Google File photo

al filmmakers like James Cameron and Joe Russo. Koduri Srisaila Sri Rajamouli, known professionally as SS Rajamouli was born on October 10, 1973, in Raichur, Karnataka. He is a prominent Indian filmmaker and screenwriter who has proven himself multiple times. He is known for his epic

storytelling and path-breaking visual effects. He primarily works in Telugu cinema and has gained international fame for his work. The most recent triumph of Rajamouli has to be “RRR” (2022). It was an epic action drama that gathered critical acclaim and commercial success worldwide.

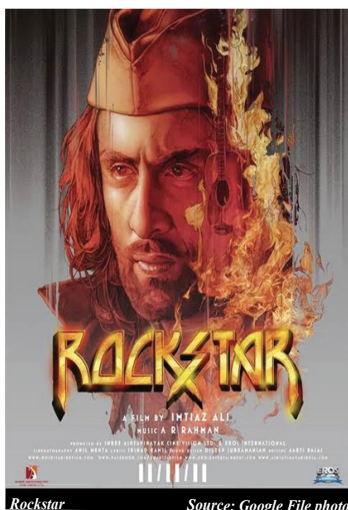
The films he has directed have always been like eye candy for the audience. His movies are also known for his meticulous attention to detail and his commitment to storytelling.

The trailer for the documentary features interviews with notable industry figures like Jr NTR, Ram Charan, Prabhas, James Cameron, and Joe Russo, who share their experiences and perspectives on working with Rajamouli. They highlight his relentless pursuit of perfection, his unique storytelling methods, his urge to shape the details, and his dedication to his craft.

Rajamouli himself appears on the screen providing insights into his inspirations and challenges.

## Rockstar’s never ending saga among the Indian youth

Shrabana Guha,  
BA Sem 5



Rockstar

Source: Google File photo

Imtiaz Ali’s ‘Rockstar’ starring Ranbir Kapoor and Nargiz Fakhri is an artistic ac-

cumulation of love, passion and emotional pandemonium faced by human soul. The film portrays Kapoor, as Janardhan Jakhar, and his transformative journey into Jordan, the rockstar through various encounters of love and rage. Even though this masterpiece by Ali has been considered a heartthrob for many, this film has also received many backlashes. Many fail to understand the thought process behind its raw and unconventional storytelling and end up terming it as ‘overambitious’. In spite of such criticism, this film has beautifully encapsulated

hearts of the nation through its soundtrack, composed by A R Rahman, sung by Mohit Chauhan. Songs like ‘Sadda Haq’ and ‘Nadaan Parindey’ have become anthems for youth, making the film a religion among the generation. Another element was Ranbir Kapoor’s portrayal of Jordan. Kapoor, through his ability to portray a wide range of emotions, has beautifully crafted the journey of a college boy, from a naïve musician to a troubled rockstar. Rockstar was re-released in theatres, in recent times and its reception revealed a vast shift in its perception.

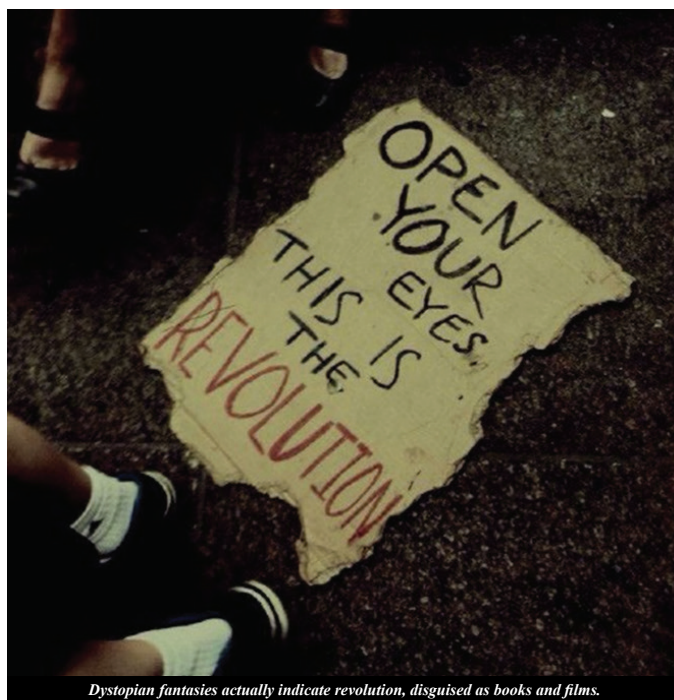
The film’s re-release created a fresh perspective in the audience’s mind, giving them an ability to appreciate the film’s strong themes and remarkable storytelling. Many viewers who had failed to comprehend such in-depth themes of the film during its initial run, experienced it afresh, generating an immense love for the film and its cast. In a nutshell, this film proves to be a timeless masterpiece in the hearts of its audience. Not only has it solidified its position as a cinematic gem in Bollywood, but has proved to be a continuing legacy in years to come.

## Mirror, mirror on the wall, apocalyptic prophecies or warnings for us all

Keerthi Binay Das,  
BA Sem 5

Human beings are creatures of stories. For as long as we have existed so did our stories. They are how we perceive and make sense of the world around us. For long our stories have been a way of communication with ourselves and people around us, a source of entertainment, and more often than not an escape or a respite for those seeking it. Legends, myths, lores, gods, and religions emerged as a consequence. An everyday boy turning hero, unexpected friendships, found families, armored knights on steeds slaying dragons, lands being conquered and freed, magic, kings, queens, and great battles. Our stories give us the artistry of imagining things collectively. They bring us together. What then are dystopi-

an stories? What makes bleak futures of apocalypse, death, and destruction a popular genre? Dystopian tales have long fascinated audiences, a window giving glimpses into imaginary dark, distorted versions of our world. A dehumanized society, devastated realities brought about by climate change, pandemics, nuclear or biowarfare, technology, totalitarian regimes, or most possibly an alien invasion. The dystopian storytelling finds its roots in early 20th-century literature. It was birthed in the brains of authors like Aldous (Brave New World), George Orwell (1984), and Bradbury (Fahrenheit 451) who envisioned worlds of oppressive governments, technological control, and societal decay. Some modern-day literary hits and Hollywood block



*Dystopian fantasies actually indicate revolution, disguised as books and films.*

busters include but are most --definitely not limited to The Mistborn series, V for Vendetta, Station Eleven, Ready Player One, Lord of the Flies, The Giver, Divergent, Blade Runner, Hunger Games, and The Maze Runner. This genre unlike others caters to all target demographics making them so popular. They are especially popular among teens. The complete breakdown of law and order, the unthinkable and worse nightmares coming true throughout the narrative perfectly captures the teenage angst. A well-written dystopian story, however, doesn't just narrate catastrophes, they help us examine societal problems and inequalities. Through the use of the catastrophic lens, they give us the power to understand human emotions at

the extreme, exploration of power, surveillance, and individual agency. These cautionary tales urge us to ponder our choices and force us to consider their impact on the future. They mirror societal flaws, fears, and hopes. They beckon us to value and safeguard our freedom, question authority, and fight injustice and inequality by striving to create a compassionate world. In the words of Caroline Zielinski, "Dystopian Fiction does not offer readers a prophetic look into the future. It exists, we should remember, to show us a way out." Despite the dystopian narratives being centered around catastrophic events, they show us the silver lining, the light at the end of the tunnel. Where there's life there's hope indeed.



*Dystopian fiction reveals issues to inspire change and does- not forecast the future.*



## Kumartuli's Idol Makers are at Peak Season; Where Tradition meets Modernity

**Swarnavo Mahanta,**  
BA Sem 5

With the Durga Puja festival approaching, the lanes of Kumartuli, Kolkata's famed potters' quarter, are buzzing with activity. Known for its exquisite clay idols, Kumartuli is in peak season as artisans work tirelessly to meet the high demand for Durga idols from across India and abroad. For over 300 years, Kumartuli has been the heart of idol-making, with around 150 families dedicated to this craft. The process, which starts months in advance, involves constructing basic frames with straw, layering them with clay from the Hooghly River, and meticulously sculpting and painting the idols. "This is our heritage," says veteran artisan Ramesh Pal. "Each idol reflects our culture and devotion." The lead-up to Durga Puja sees artisans working around the clock, surrounded by half-finished idols. Despite financial constraints, limited workspace, and tight deadlines, the artisans of Kumartuli continue to innovate. Growing environmental concerns have prompted a shift towards eco-friendly materials, while technological advancements have opened new markets through online orders and international shipments. "The demand from overseas has been increasing," says Shila Das, another artisan. "It's exciting to see our

work appreciated worldwide." Kumartuli's idols are cultural icons, each capturing the essence of goddess Durga. The attention to detail highlights the artisans' dedication and skill. As Kumartuli blends tradi-

tion with modernity, it remains a vital part of Kolkata's cultural landscape. This Durga Puja, as beautifully crafted idols make their way to pandals around the world, Kumartuli stands as a testament to enduring craftsmanship and cultural pride. With Durga Puja fast approaching, the narrow lanes of Kumartuli, Kolkata's famed

pottery quarter, are alive with activity. Artisans are hard at work, creating stunning clay idols of goddess Durga to meet the growing demand from both within India and overseas. Known for its centuries-old tradition of idol-making, Kumartuli details. "This is our heritage," says veteran artisan Ramesh Pal. "Every idol is a reflection of our culture, devotion, and deep-rooted traditions." As Durga Puja approaches, Kumartuli reaches its peak season, with artisans working tirelessly day and night amidst rows of half-completed idols. Despite the challenges of financial constraints, limited workspace, and demanding deadlines, the artisans remain resilient and innovative. In recent years, they have begun adapting to environmental concerns, using more eco-friendly materials for their idols. Technological advancements have also made it possible for Kumartuli's idol-makers to reach new global markets, with online orders and international shipments growing rapidly. "The demand from overseas has been increasing," says Shila Das, an experienced artisan. "It's a proud moment to see our work appreciated and admired worldwide." Kumartuli's idols are not just works of art, they are cultural symbols that embody the spirit and power of goddess Durga. Each idol is crafted with painstaking attention to detail, a testament to the skill and dedication of the artisans. As the festival nears, these beautifully crafted idols make their way to pandals across India and the world, with Kumartuli standing as a vital link between tradition and modernity. This Durga Puja, Kumartuli continues to be a symbol of Kolkata's enduring craftsmanship, cultural pride, and artistic innovation.



*A Kumartuli artisan performing the 'Chokkhudaan' ritual on the dawn of Mahalaya.*

## A delight as India brings home 6 medals in Paris Olympics 2024

**Debdyuti Sarkar,**  
BA Sem 5

Paris Olympics 2024 have come to an end with 6 medals to India's name, 5 of which are bronze and 1 silver. Names securing medals included Manu Bhaker, Sarabjot Singh, Swapnil Kusale in shooting, Neeraj Chopra in javelin throw, Aman Sehrawat in wrestling and the men's hockey team. India could not secure a gold this year. Potential Olympic medalists this season included Lakshya Sen and Mirabai Chanu alongside Manu Bhaker for her third.

The gold for India seems to shine only once in a lifetime. In spite of India's interest in 69 medal events across 16



Aman Sehrawat bagged a bronze medal for India at the Paris Olympics. Source: Google File photo

sports, India failed to secure the top position in any sports category. Former Olympic medalists like PV Sindhu and Mirabai Chanu failed to secure a spot at the podium. Vinesh Phogat's disqualification

and the deprivation of a guaranteed silver for the nation was a bigger distress. Not only was she and the nation disqualified, they were deprived of any medals.

India's last gold was brought

by Neeraj Chopra in Tokyo 2020 in javelin throw who made history by bagging a gold in India's first track and field and remaining the only Olympian with a gold after Abhinav Bindra at Beijing 2008. Tokyo 2020 marked 100 years of India competing in the Olympics with only 2 golds in its history. The representation of India in an international forum however remained outstanding with quality athletes, impressive performances and remarkable strengths. The most successful accounts came in Tokyo 2020 where India bagged 7 medals. This season saw the unwavering support of the people for the athletes.

## Imane Khelif's controversial victory at the Paris Olympics

**Mrittika Dutta,** BA Sem 5

During the 2024 Paris Olympics, a highly anticipated women's 66kg boxing match between Algeria's Imane Khelif and Italy's Angela Carini ended abruptly when Carini quit just 46 seconds into the match. After receiving two powerful punches from Khelif, she signaled to the referee that she wants to discontinue because of extreme pain in her nose.

Carini, shredding tears, did not shake Khelif's hand, which was quite an unusual gesture. She later expressed her heartbreak, explaining how she had to quit due to safety concerns. Khelif's victory came with controversies swirling around her eligibility to compete in women's boxing. Months earlier, Khelif



Imane Khelif in Paris Olympics

Source: Google File photo

had been disqualified from the World Championships in New Delhi for failing to meet the International Boxing Association's (IBA) gender eligibility criteria. The International Olympic Committee (IOC), however, permitted her to participate in the Olympics, ruling that all athletes in the women's cate-

gory are qualified to compete. Netizens on social media, including prominent author JK Rowling, have tweeted concerning how a woman has been defeated by a "biological male" posing a threat to the protection of female athletes.

The match has reignited discus-

sions on gender eligibility in sports. Amidst the heat, The International Olympic Committee (IOC) admitted to the fact that Imane Khelif has always been identified as a biological female in all her official documents. Many protests have been going on and the LGBTQIA community cited the remark of calling Imane Khelif a "man" as "transphobic." Italy's Family Minister, Eugenia Roccella, and others have called for more uniform international standards to ensure fairness in competitions. Despite the controversy, Khelif remains focused on securing a medal for Algeria. As the competition unfolds, the far-reaching consequences will undoubtedly shape the narrative on gender identity and its intersection with sports.



## Ethereal Moments



Photo by: Samanway Hazra, BA Sem 3

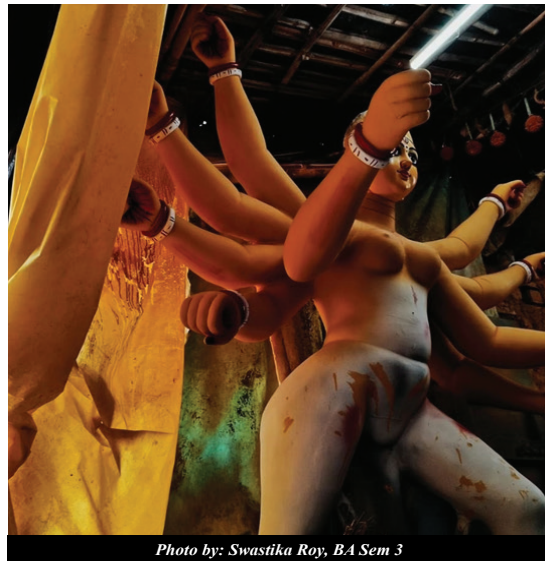


Photo by: Swastika Roy, BA Sem 3



Photo by: Sneha Ghosh, BA Sem 3

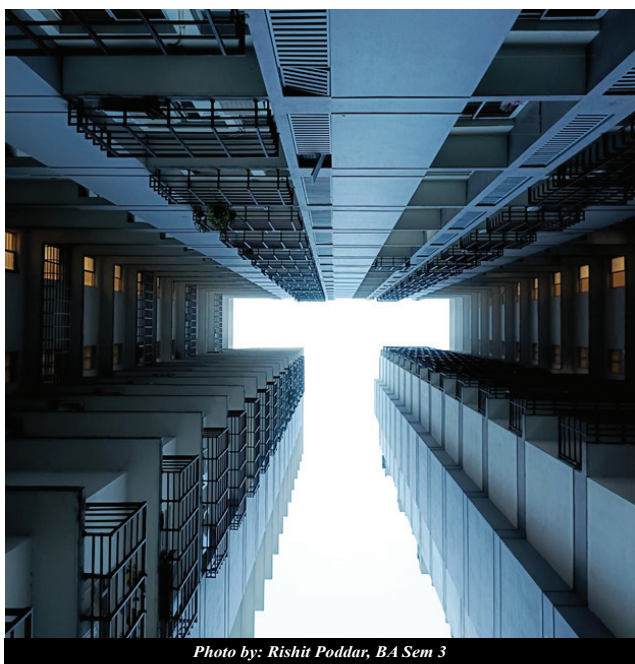


Photo by: Rishit Poddar, BA Sem 3

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