

Mini Quadir

Leaving footprints on the sand of time

KARIM WAHEED

MINI Quadir is known as an accomplished Tagore artiste. Mini is also adept in the genre of *gono sangeet* (songs of the masses). She has been an active member of the cultural organisation Kranti since 1967. According to Mini, "Kamal Lohani, Altaf Mahmood and Sheikh Luthfur Rahman were some of the prominent members of Kranti. We had the opportunity to learn songs from these noted composers."

However, singing is not the only trait that makes Mini stand apart. Mini has several feats to be proud of. The first flag of Bangladesh to be hoisted was made by Mini and she is one of the very few women who worked as 'transporters' for the freedom fighters in Dhaka during the Liberation War. She used to move ammo from Dhaka to a camp of freedom fighters in Savar.

In a cabin in Sikdar Medical College, where she is being treated for gall bladder stones, Mini reminisces on incidents and experiences during 1971:

"My cousin Manirul Haq, who was the president of 'Dhaka Chhatra League' then, asked me to make a flag. I was good in needlework. I was told that the flag should be bottle-green with a red sphere in it. I started working on it; I can still recall how excited I was. However, I had to make modifications twice. I was almost done with the flag when I was told that a white map of our country has to be in the centre of the red sphere. Later I was told, that map has to be golden, not white. I borrowed some *absaan* (glitter) from my cousins and made the map golden. That was the first flag of our country, as far as I know."

"On the eve of March 25, I performed two songs -- a *gono sangeet* for a programme of Kranti and a Tagore song for another show, both aired live from DIT building (the then TV Station). A colleague showed me huge objects covered in *trepol* (tarpaulin). I was told these were tanks. While performing, we



Mini Quadir, one of the few women who worked as 'transporters' for the freedom fighters

apprehensively watched paratroopers marching into the building. However, they left after a while. I contemplated what was going on. That all became clear a few hours later. The co-worker who dropped me off in his car was stopped on his way home by the Pakistani military and the car was burnt.

"We all moved to our village home in Darikandi, Comilla. On our way we came across stacks of dead bodies; vultures had started feasting. I was just a teenager. I can still see images of the scavengers pecking on eyes of the deceased."

"My uncle had a launch and we figured it'd be safer to live on the boat. I still remember the launch getting stuck at times in piles of

bodies thrown in water; their hands tied at the back. How would you feel if you see your parents, brothers, sisters, friends, namely your fellow countrymen slaughtered like that? I wanted to kill the butchers who were committing these massacres in the same method applied by them."

"We returned to our home in Rokonpur, Old Dhaka in June, 1971. People were crossing the border but my family didn't want to leave the country. One day, my brothers asked me if I'd like to assist them in moving some ammo (guns, grenades, bullets and other explosives) to a camp in Savar. There were several check posts, where the military would thoroughly inspect men for arms. Apparently, they

didn't check women. The plan was: I'd be in a car packed with arms, which will go through all the check posts. After crossing all the points, I'd get off the car and return home."

"Of course there was the possibility of getting blown up to pieces or getting caught. I knew if the latter was about to happen, my brothers would kill me first and then kill themselves. We were aware of the 'ingenious' ways Pakistani military tortured women."

"I remember accompanying my brothers and their friends in a procession celebrating victory on December 17. We were in a rural area just outside Dhaka. Villagers offered us water and *muri* (rice flakes) though we were not parched or starving. Some greeted us with leis that had one or two flowers in them. That was all those poor villagers could pull together. How many kings or queens received a heartfelt ovation like that?"

"However, I do feel dejected sometimes when I see undeserving people labeling themselves as *Muktijoddha* (freedom fighters). I know quite a few, who were in a rush to flee to India during the War. I'm not trying to deride whatever contribution they had made to the Liberation War, living in the safety of another country but it makes me livid when people comment, 'What have you done living in Dhaka during the war?'"

"In 2004, 33 years after the war, I was honoured by the Council of Urban Guerilla Dhaka '71 with a crest and medal for my contributions. Apparently, I couldn't be located when I was previously considered by other organisations for the honour. I remember once at a family gathering, my young nephews and nieces asked me about the war. I was narrating what I'd seen during the war and was interrupted by a relative who pulled her children away saying, 'my naive kids believe everything people cook up.'"

"Whom do I blame? Whom can I blame?"

In Conversation

Hashem Khan's River of Blood

FAYZA HAQ

In 1971 Hashem Khan was a 28-year old teacher at the Institute of Fine Arts. In the non-cooperation movement, students, teachers artists and the intelligentsia as a whole were involved. Khan recounts those momentous days: "People realised that they would have to fight for their freedom. The inspiration for the guerilla war came from Bangobondhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's speech on March 7. The artists took out a procession and the preparation for this took us 10 days."

"There were many posters and festoons and 500 artistes took part in the procession under the leadership of Zainul Abedin. This was called *Shadheenatar Michhil*. The four words of the alphabets of freedom were hung around the necks of four young women. The war began on March 26. I had a brother who was a doctor and the two of us went to the village. There we were attacked and while my elder brother was killed, I was wounded. Along with my mother and niece, I was at the hospital for two weeks. When I came back I found that all my friends had left for the war including my close friend Shahadat Chowdhury."

Since he was wounded, Hashem Khan decided to stay back in Dhaka, and help those who were going to the war, by distributing food, clothes and medicines. Thus for nine months he had, in his own way, joined the freedom struggle. During that time he did a few drawings and sketching. Later on relying on these sketches he made many paintings and had an exhibition in 2000 in the National Museum where he had dwelt on the subject of the River of '71.

He went to Meghna, Sitalakhya and Buriganga and felt that the colour



Fascinating artwork by Hashem Khan on Liberation War

had changed over the last 35 years. He felt that the blood and bodies of lakhs of people were immersed in the river waters. This stirred him so much that he did six large paintings on that subject. He says that he is still strongly influenced by the Liberation War and goes back to that theme again and again in his paintings."

Sometimes these works were figurative and at times abstract. Every March he is reminded of the subject and does sketches and paintings on that theme."

The Liberation War, according to Hashem Khan, has given a lot of courage and strength to the people. "We had fought against the well trained Pak army but because we were motivated we won," he says. In his paintings of the period he drew

attention to the fact that in '71 the colour of our rivers had changed, mixing with the blood of the sacrificed people. "It was as if the river was crying". In the painting dedicated to the war there is the inclusion of the mother handing over the rifle to the son to go to war and in the backdrop are the ploughs of the ordinary people who have gone to the war. The sky is awash with red and black. *Rokto jokhon diyechhi aro dibo* and *Joy Bangla* are the lettering on the canvas. Hashem Khan says that he was aware of the struggle for freedom since 1952 when he was a school-boy. He was linked with the famous poster *Shonar Bangla shoshan keno?* He had also done the logo, monogram and poster on the 'Six Points'.

National Rabindra Sangeet festival ends



Artists of Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha perform at the festival

PHOTO STAR

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A three-day *Grameen Phone 17th National Rabindra Sangeet Festival*, organised by Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha (RSSS) ended yesterday. The programme featured a musical soiree and poetry recita-

tion at the Shishu Academy Auditorium.

National professor Kabir Choudhury inaugurated the festival, followed by a group song *Hingshaye unmotto prithi* by the members of the RSSS. Veteran cultural personality Kalim Sharafi presided over the programme.

On the second day a musical soiree on selected songs of Tagore was held. A discussion on the evolution of the style of Tagore songs was held in the evening.

On the third day, Language Movement veteran, artist Imdad Hossain was accorded a reception followed by a musical soiree.

Grand finale of DRockstars held

KHALID-BIN-HABIB

The much-awaited grand finale of DRockstars featured a live performance at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Centre. The outcome of the neck to neck competition, based on the public and judges' votes, was also revealed during the three-and-a-half-hour finale on March 24. After over seven months of tireless scouting, Shuvo from Dhaka became Bangladesh's first DRockstar, a winner all the way.

Managing Director of Grameen Phone Limited (GP), Erik Ass delivered a speech through a video clip on the giant screen. He said, "Djuice is not only the name of a GP's mobile brand, it also the brand name of the Bangladeshi youngsters. The DRockstars show by Djuice on Channel i gave viewers a glimpse of the life, struggle, hopes and aspirations of young rock singers. I hope, the finalists will capture the hearts of millions of Bangladeshis by their spectacular performance and stardom success."

The colourful prize giving ceremony featured a rock show by the DRockstars 10 finalists. Ayub Bachchu, Azam Khan, Partho and Agun also rocked with the finalists in a medley of Bangladesh's favourite songs. Eminent media personality, Faridur Reza Shagor, acting head of marketing of GP, Rubaba Dowla Matin, rock icon Ayub Bachchu and singer Hasan Habibur Rahman Reza Jewel attended the prize giving ceremony.



Finalist Shuvo receives the award from Faridur Reza Shagor

In the course of the show, Ayub Bachchu sought to encourage the participants and put them at ease. Talking about Shuvo, Ayub Bachchu said, "I think there is no difference in the performance of the 10 finalists. DRockstars fans had absolutely loved their performance and I am sure that they will make waves in rock music across the nation."

The DRockstar Shuvo was handed over a cheque of Taka 3 lakhs along with contracts for music shows and albums and many other prizes. The nine other finalists won Taka 50, 000 as prize money as well as a music contract from Djuice. In addition, there

were special awards: Amin won the prestigious DRockstars best Critics Award.

One of the invitee, Jahidur Rahman commented on the positive feature of this show and termed it as a platform for laypersons to exhibit their talents. "The show is also well hosted. No doubt the judges need to be more decisive," he said. One viewer went so far as to say, "I seriously feel that the programme was not up to the mark; the participants still have a long way to go."

The show will be aired on March 27 on Channel-i at 7:50pm.

Special programmes on ATN Bangla

To mark Independence Day, ATN BANGLA will air special programmes today. The special children's programme, hosted by Fardeen Dighighe, is titled *Chhonde Anonde Sadhinota*. The programme featuring solo and group performances--will be telecast at 11:30 am. Mala Khuram of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra will join the children in a discussion. *Abaar Tora Manush* Ho, a film on post Liberation War of Bangladesh, directed by Khan Ataur Rahman, will be telecast at 2:30 pm. A documentary, featuring the huge global support to our freedom movement, *Muktijuddhey Bishwo Bibek*, will be telecast at 5:10 pm.



Fardeen to host a children's programme



A scene from the TV play *Char Girisher Bishonnota*, starring Tazin and Sohel Arman, to be telecast on Channel i tonight at 7:50pm

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTV

News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.

News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.

News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.

Late Night News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:15 am.

Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11 pm.

News (English) 8:20 am, 7:00 pm.

Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA

News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.

Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.

Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD

Every hour on the hour

BTV

08:45 March past from Parade Square
12:30 Shashito Tathya
01:00 Kheladhula
01:30 Prottyasha Alo online
02:15 Bangla Feature Film
02:40 Special programme on Independence Day for children's
05:30

06:10 Kobita path
07:00 Musical Programme
08:45 Drama: Parichoy
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Trito Matra
11:05 Tele Prescription
11:30 Hridoye Mati O Manush

01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shangbadpotrey Bangladesh
02:40 Public Reaction
02:40 Boshundhara Amader Gaan

03:05 Sa re ga ma
03:30 Rong tuli to Muktiyoddho
06:00 Music Plus
07:50 Special Drama: Chor Gerisher Bishonnota

01:00 Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

ntv News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.

News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.

Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA

11:30 Special Children's Programme: chhonde Anonde Sadhinota

12:15 Special Children's Drama- Shopner Sadhinota

12:50 Sorrali Shadakalo

01:30 Shri Theke Sadhinota

02:30 Bangla Feature Film: Abar Tora Manush Ho

04:45 Ispahani Pure Snax Quiz Time

05:10 Documentary Programme: Muktiyoddhe Bishwo Bibek

05:45 Islami Sawal O Jobab

06:20 Shure Gane Shadinota

08:00 Amader Shadinota

08:30 Documentary Programme: Ami Shadinota Enechi

08:50 Special Drama: Poddor

ntv 08:35 Aajker Shokal

10:05 Parade

11:00 Amader Poteka

11:30 Drubotara

12:05 Akatturer Elihashe Nari

12:30 Magazine

Programme: Sopner

Sobuj Shimana

01:05 Apnar Jigyasha

02:35 Shubho Shondhya

03:15 Docudrama:

04:25 Krishnogobor

05:20 Drama Serial:

06:20 Romizer Aaina

07:30 Mahtab Alir Golpo

08:20 Special Drama:

09:10 Hridoye Shur Ashey

11:25 Shukhi Thakun Deho

07:45 Mon-e

09:30 Pinix

10:30 Telefilm

01:00 Sedin er Patrika

02:30 Islamic Program

03:30 Aiker Bangladesh

04:00 Special Programme on the Independence



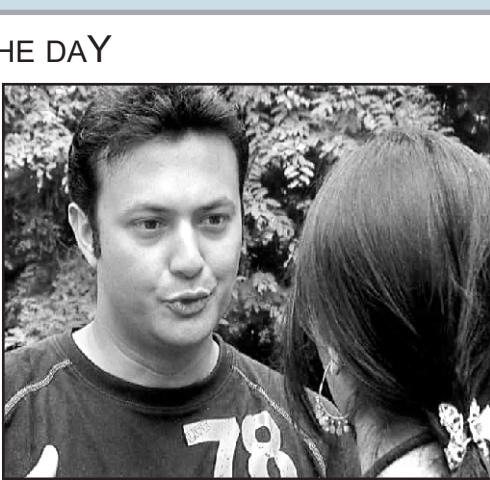
Mohor

On Channel-i at 8:30 pm

Genre: TV drama

Cast: Mamunur Rashid, Bijori, Fazlur Rahman Babu

04:40	Day Sadhin Bangla Betar Kendro	01:15	Unforgiven
05:30	Shisu Kishor onusthan	10:30	STAR MOVIES
06:30	Rtv Exclusive	12:15	Avp: Alien Vs Predator
08:50	Special Drama: Station Ektattur	12:15	Almost Famous
10:40	Magazine	02:20	Father Of The Bride Part II
10:50	Programme: Bishwa Toronne Boijoyanti	04:05	Man On Fire
		06:30	Opening Night
		07:00	Mr. 3000
		08:45	City Slickers
		10:40	Dangerous Waters: Shark Attack
		12:15	Different Loyalty A
		08:30	STAR PLUS
		09:30	Dharam Aur Hum
		11:00	Krishna Kathaiyen
		11:30	Yatra
		11:00	Chalo Ya Na Mano
		11:30	Mani Ka Naam



Mahtab Alir Golpo

On ntv at 9:00 pm

Genre: TV drama

Cast: Humayun Faridee, Auppee Karim, Shahed

12:25	Antakshiri	08:30	Todi Naz
12:30	Bolly V - Star Plus	09:30	Billboard Us Countdown
01:00	Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Dhoom	09:30	Hogan's Heroes
01:30	Musafir Hoon Yaaron	10:00	Get Smart
02:30	Mirch Masala	10:30	The Bold & The Beautiful
03:00	Shanno Ki Shaadi	12:30	Desperate Housewives
03:30	Pardey Ke Peechey	01:30	Lost
04:00	Maal Hai To Taal Hai	02:30	The O.C
05:00	Loc- Life Out Of Control	03:30	Monk
05:25	V Trailers - Star Plus	04:30	Less Than Perfect
	Starlu	05:00	The Drew Carey Show
05:30	The Proud Family	05:30	Hollywood Shootouts
06:00	Goof Troop	06:00	Travel Asia
06:25	Bolly V - Star Plus	06:30	Baywatch Hawaii
06:30	Khiladi 420	07:30	Malcolm In The Middle
09:30	Saibaba	08:00	Parkinson
10:30	Baa Bahoo Aur Baby	09:30	Oprah Winfrey Show
11:00	Shanno Ki Shaadi	10:00	Rendezvous With Simi
11:30	Shararat - Thoda Jadu		

PICK OF THE DAY

Garewal Desperate Housewives

DISCOVERY

08:30 Wild Discovery
09:30 Discovery India
10:30 Discovery India People
11:30 Discovery Wings
12:30 Lifestyle Showcase
01:30 Wild Discovery
02:30 Zero Hour
03:30 War Zone
04:30 Wild Discovery
05:30 Discovery India
06:30 Discovery Wings
7:30 Wild Discovery
08:30 Discovery's Biggest Shows

10:30 Night Safari

11:30 Journey of Life

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

08:00 Telebrands
08:30 Air Crash Investigation
09:30 Dogs With Jobs
10:30 Backyard Science
10:45 Doc Eureka
11:00 Serious: Arctic
11:30 Backyard Science
11:45 Doc Eureka
12:00 Serious: Arctic
12:30 Animal Olympians
01:00 Croc Chronicles
01:30 Seconds From Disaster
02:30 Air Crash Investigation S2
03:30 Interpol Investigates
05:30 Monkey Prince
06:30 Microkillers
07:30 Megacities
08:30 Amazing Moments

10:30 Seconds From Disaster

STAR SPORTS

10:00 Australia Tour Of South Africa Standard Bank One Day International Series Johannesburg

South Afri Ca South Africa Vs Australia 5th Odi Highlights(T)

11:30 Football Extra Malaysia Airlines Football Extra (S)

12:30 Ace (R)

01:00 Asian Tour Magazine Show Asian Tour Weekly 2006 (R)

01:30 Icc Cricket World (R)

02:00 Football Extra Malaysia Airlines Football Extra (R)

03:00 Fim World Motorcycle Championship Motogp World Championship 2006 Jerez De La Frontera Spain Gran Premio De Espana(L)

07:00 English Premier Football League English Premier Football League 2005/06

07:25 English Premier Football League English Premier Football League 2005/06

10:00 Hitz (T)

10:30 West Indies Tour Of New Zealand The National Bank Series 2006 Auckland New Zealand New Zealand Vs West Indies 5th Odi Highlights(T)

12:00 Sri Lanka Tour Of Bangladesh Chittagong Bangladesh Bangladesh Vs Sri Lanka 3rd Odi Highlights(R)

ESPN 11:30 The Football Quiz Kick-Off Round 1(R)

12:00 The Football Quiz Kick-Off Round 1(R)

12:30 Nba Action (R)

01:00 Australia Tour Of South Africa Castle Lager/Mtn Test Series 2006