

# A homage to women

Maksudul Ahsan's solo exhibition

FAYZA HAQ

**M**AKSUDUL Ahsan has been contemplating dedicating an exhibition entirely to women -- particularly Bengali female activists, along with Mother Teresa. He has accomplished this in his ongoing exhibition *Drohe nari, Nirbane nari* at Shilpangam.

Maksud, who is attracted to figurative work, hoped, though his portraits, to project and promote the overlooked individuals of our society who have suffered for the sake of others. This is a social commitment as an artist. Earlier on he had dealt with subjects like 'child marriage' that still prevails in the villages. "Our women in the subcontinent often suffer silently in their conjugal lives. At times the bonding is unequal and the husband is much older and unresponsive. I am also concerned about the elderly, who have

spent their years in toil, and are now neglected by their children. I have, in particular, focused on those who have devoted their lives for social and political causes," says Maksud.

In one of the paintings Maksud has portrayed Pritilata Waddedar, with bobbed hair, in a simple white sari with a red border; an image of Masterda Surjo Sen looming in the back. This harks back to the revolt against the British in the 1940s in Chittagong. There is the portrait of Kalpana Datta who was jailed and tortured following the same rebellion. There is then the delineation of Bonolata Das Gupta who was another martyr. Ila Mitra, who led the Santal Rebellion also becomes the subject of a painting.

There are several portraits of Mother Teresa, who for Maksud, is a symbol of dedication and sacrifice. "She had worked for many including the ailing, destitute and the children



Portraits of Mother Teresa (top) and Novera Ahmed by Maksudul Ahsan

born outside wedlock whom she took into her shelter in Kolkata," says Maksud. There is Begum Rokeya who contributed enormously to the education of women, stepping outside the "purdah" system. Sufia Kamal and Shamsur Nahar Mahmud, who followed her footsteps, along with Jahanara Imam of the 'Ghatot Dal Nirmul Committee' have been portrayed in his works too. "She lost her husband and son to the War of Liberation," reminded Maksud.

Novera Ahmed, the first Bangladeshi female sculptor, is a subject of Maksud's works on display.

Apart from these well-known icons, there are the everyday, toiling women of Bangladesh whom the artist has glorified in his paintings. These include the tea planta-

tions workers and the struggling women in the villages. Sex workers, waiting for their clients, have also been included in some of the painting, as have been child brides. "The women in our country are like its soil that tolerate the rain and heat to produce abundance," says Maksud.

The artist is influenced by his mother and grandmother who both lost their husbands early in life and yet managed to look after and guide their families.

Maksud has graduated from the Institute of Fine Arts, DU. He has had eight solo exhibitions at home and abroad, including Canada and India. He has taken part in 25 group exhibitions and has participated in ten art camps.

The exhibition ends on September 21.

**CULTURALFEAST**

## Discussion Programme on Nitun Kundu

**Venue:** Bengal Shilpalya, House 275/F, Road 27 (Old), Dhamondi  
**Date:** September 15  
**Time:** 3 pm

## Art Exhibition

**Organisers:** Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy & Shilpi Rashed Smriti Parshad  
**Venue:** National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
**Date:** September 9-18  
**Time:** 3 pm-8 pm

## Solo Art Exhibition

**Title:** Distant Skies  
**Artist:** Mohammad Iqbal  
**Venue:** Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpalya, House 275/F, Road 27, Dhamondi  
**Date:** September 4-18  
**Time:** 12 pm to 8 pm

## Songs of Three Poets at Chhayanat

### CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

At the Ramesh Chandra Dutta Conference Centre at Chhayanat, songs of the three poets -- Atul Prasad, Dwijendra Lal Roy and Rajanikant Sen -- were performed on September 13. Mita Haque, Elora Ahmed Shukla, Neelotpal Sadhya and Nilufar Jahan rendered songs at Chhayanat's monthly musical soiree, *Srotar Asar*.

The evening began with Nilufar Jahan's rendition of a Rajanikant classic, *Jodi tor hrid Jamuna*. Atul Prasad's *Aar kotokal thakbo* and a Dwijendra-geeti *Moloy ashia koye gechhey* performed by the same artiste followed. Nilufar Jahan is a teacher's assistant at Chhayanat.

Elora Ahmed Shukla rendered five songs at the programme. The artiste learnt 'songs of the three



Elora Ahmed Shukla sings at the programme

poets' from Sarbani Hom in Kolkata. Shukla is an active member of Anandadhamoni and is currently working as a teacher at Chhayanat. Her rendition of *E jogoyet ami boro aka*, a Dwijendra-geeti, performed without *tabla*, seemed to strike a chord with the audience.

Neelotpal Sadhya sang *Bhoy koriley jarey* and *Mon tomar e bhram*, written by Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Ram Prasad respectively.

Mita Haq, the last artiste at the programme, rendered Atul Prasad's *Amaye rakhite jodi*, *Daijendra Lal Roy's Ami badhini ton* and more.

The instrumentalists included Enamul Haque Omar on *tabla*, Almas Ali on violin, Pradip Kumar Roy on *mondora* and Tony and Mumu on *tanpura*.

The evening ended with a rendition of our National Anthem.

## Masud Ahmed's maiden novel brings in both sides of a war

### "Chaitrapaban O Digantarekha" launched

#### JAMIL MAHMUD

"Liberation War has been featured in our poetry, short stories and novels over the last three decades," said educationist Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui at the launching programme of Masud Ahmed's *Liberation War-based novel Chaitrapaban O Digantarekha*. The programme was held at Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum recently.

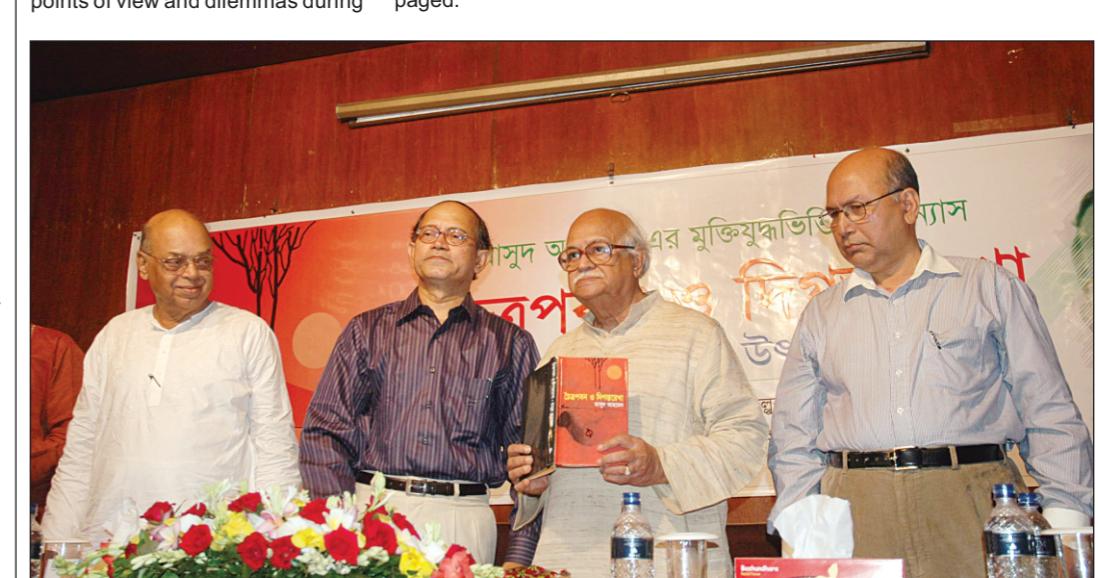
Professor Siddiqui was the chief guest at the programme. He also said, Masud Ahmed's novel stands out because of its humanist point of view. He has delved into both the Bengali and Pakistani psyche, points of view and dilemmas during

the war.

Among others, renowned researcher and music exponent Dr. Karunamaya Goswami; eminent journalist and editor of the weekly *Ekhon*, Ataus Samad; dramatist Shahidul Haq Khan; Dr. Mohammad Abdul Hyar and Masud Ahmed spoke at the programme.

Dr. Karunamaya Goswami remarked that, Masud Ahmed's novel is a fictional approach to a historic event. The Liberation War itself plays the dominating role throughout the book.

Ataus Samad said, usually war-based novels are quite extensive but the writer has effectively managed to make his point within limited pages.



(From left) Ataus Samad, Masud Ahmed, Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui and Dr. Karunamaya Goswami at the book launch

## ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY							
<b>ATN BANGLA</b>	<b>Channel 1</b>	<b>BANGLAVISION</b>	<b>STAR MOVIES</b>				
10:30 Musical Programme	12:00 Grameenphone Lead News	05:45 Ekusher Shondha	09:00 Enough				
11:05 Shath Din	09:30 Selected Programme	05:50 Shoptah Ghurey	09:30 Discovery Spotlight				
12:15 Bangla Feature Film	11:05 Selected Programme	06:25 Cooking Programme	02:00 V Trailers - Star Plus				
03:45 Talk Show	12:30 Citycell Taroka	08:25 Drama Serial: Shesh	02:30 Kasturi				
04:20 Khotomey Quran	Ma O Shishur Kotha	09:05 Odhay	04:30 V Trailers - Star Plus				
05:00 Gram Gonjir Khobor	Quiz Quiz	11:20 Raat Biraatey	05:00 Don				
06:20 Hamd Nath	Atul Prasad's Aar kotokal thakbo	02:40 Drama Serial: Bachelor Dompoli	08:30 Lucky				
08:00 Mega Serial: The New Sobuj Opera	10:00 Chhutey Jay	09:45 Reporter's File	09:30 Pritviraj Chauhan				
08:40 Mega Serial: Laal Neel Beguni	11:30 Drama Serial: Astey	09:00 Amar Nayokera	10:00 Baa Bahau Aur Baby				
09:20 Mega Serial: Ek Jonomey	10:30 Fusion for Baul	09:30 Shondhikhone	10:30 Star Voice of India				
11:30 Drama Serial: Doll's House	10:45 Shomoyer Swad	08:30 Phera	12:00 Kasturi				
	11:30 Drama Serial: Mon Chhutey Jay	09:30 Reporter's File	12:30 Bolly V - Star Plus				
	10:00 Drama Serial: Mon Chhutey Jay	10:45 Reporter's File					
	11:30 Drama Serial: Astey	09:00 Amar Nayokera					
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