

A homage to women

Maksudul Ahsan's solo exhibition

FAYZA HAQ

MAKSUDUL 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 Shilpangan.

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 Mahmood, who followed her footsteps, along with Jahanra Imam of the 'Ghatok Dalal 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-

tion 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.

Theatre “Pragoitihashik”: Highlighting primitive human instincts

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

THE premiere show of theatre troupe Nagorik Nattyangon's latest production *Pragoitihashik* was staged at Mahila Samity on September 13. *Pragoitihashik* is the 15th production of Nagorik Nattyangon. Its first production was *Kholoshi* in 1995.

The play directed by Lucky Enam, is an adaptation of a short story by Manik Bandyopadhyay with the same title.

Set in a rural area, the protagonist of the play is not a man of noble character. Bhikhu (played by Mahmudul Islam Selim) is a notorious bandit, who has earned quite a reputation. During a raid, his entire gang is captured. Bhikhu makes a narrow escape with a severe injury and takes refuge at his friend Pehlads' (Sajjad Reza) home. As he starts to recover the animal instincts in him start to take over. In the absence of his friend, Bhikhu tries to rape Pehlads' wife but fails. A furious Pehlads beats him out of the house.

Bhikhu becomes a drifter and one day comes across Pachi (Hridi Haque). Bhikhu takes a liking to



Hridi Haque in *Pragoitihashik*

Pachi but Bashir (Arbatuzzaman Proloy), another beggar, stands in his way. One night Bhikhu kills Bashir, and taking Pachi with him, sets off for the city.

Depicting rural life, the play addresses the primeval human instincts of lust, rage and desire to possess.

Anisul Haq Borun did the choreography and art direction. Light design was done by Mohammad Jasimuddin.

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 Hye 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.

Chaitrapaban O Digantarekha is Masud Ahmed's first novel and has been published by Mowla Brothers. His other works include *Neel Shaluker Jhiley*, *Aheer Bhairo* and *Gauri O Ekush Degree Uttar Okhangsho* -- all three, collections of short stories.

Masud Ahmed was born in Sarishabari, Jamalpur district in 1955. He did his Bachelors and Masters in English Language and Literature from Dhaka University. At present, Ahmed is the managing director of Bangladesh Freedom-fighter Welfare Trust. Ahmed is a recipient of the 'Sreshtha Shangskriti Shebi-2005' award given by Natya Shabha.

CULTURALFEAST

Discussion Programme on Nitun Kundu
Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, House 275/F, Road 27 (Old), Dhanmondi
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
Artiste: Mohammad Iqbal
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpalaya, House 275/F, Road 27, Dhanmondi
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 Chhyaanat'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 Anandadhoni and is currently working as a teacher at Chhayanat. Her rendition of *E jogotey 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 bhran*, written by Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Ram Prasad respectively.

Mita Haq, the last artiste at the programme, rendered Atul Prasad's *Amaye rakhte jodi*, Daijendra Lal Roy's *Ami badhinu tori* and more.

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

The evening ended with a rendition of our National Anthem.



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

ON AIR

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) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

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

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

CHANNEL 1
News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm, 12:30am

BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 2:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.
News Headlines (English) at 8:05pm

Rtv
News (Bangla) at 10:15pm, and 12:15am

ntv
News (Bangla) 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am

ETV
News (Bangla): 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

BTV
08:45 *Esho Gaan Shikhi*
11:15 Documentary
Programme/ *Nobo Digonto*
11:30 *Shukhi Poribar*
12:05 *Agun Jhora Shondha*
12:30 *Ma O Shishur Kotha*
01:00 Quiz Quiz
01:30 *Mati O Manush*
02:15 *Sisimpur*
02:40 Bangla Feature Film
05:30 Documentary
Programme
Mahe Ramjan
07:05 *Amader Muktijudho*
07:30 Drama Serial: *Baul Mon*
08:30 *Amar Bangladesh*
10:30 *Amader Kotha*
11:00 *Adi O Okritim*

ATN BANGLA
10:30 Musical Programme
Shath Din
11:05 Bangla Feature Film
03:45 Talk Show
04:20 Khotomoy Quran
05:00 *Gram Gonj Khobor*
06:20 *Hamd Nath*
08:00 Mega Serial: *The New Sobuj Opera*
08:40 Mega Serial: *Lal Neel Beguni*
09:20 Mega Serial: *Ek Jonomey*
11:30 Drama Serial: Doll's House

12:00 Grameenphone Lead News
Channel i
09:30 Selected Programme
11:05 Selected Programme
12:30 *Citycell Taroka Kathan*
01:05 Tax Helpline
01:15 *Ebang Cinemar Gaan*
01:30 Selected Programme
02:40 Selected Programme
04:05 Drama Serial: *Swapnil Agami*
04:30 *Muktijudho Protidin*
05:20 *Sroshtar Shikhhor*
05:30 Islamic Programme
06:15 Cooking Programme
07:50 Mega Serial: *Bhober Haat*
09:35 *Hridoye Mati O Manush*
10:00 Drama Serial: *Mon Chhutey Jay*
11:30 Drama Serial: *Astey Astey*

Channel 1
10:30 Fusion for Baul
11:00 Drama
12:05 Tele Film
02:00 Cooking Programme
03:30 Drama: *Ghor Nai*
04:30 Music Music
05:15 Musical Programme
06:00 *Saaj Bela*
06:45 *Itihasher Path*

Amar Ami
On Banglavisation at 9:05pm
Talk Show
Tonight's guests: Selina Hossain, Dr Zafar Iqbal

07:00 Cooking Programme: *Shomoyer Swad*
08:15 Drama Serial: *Ghor Phera*
09:00 *Amar Nayokera*
09:30 *Shondhikhoney*
10:50 *Rupantoror Golpo*
11:30 *Gaoner Kotha Kothar Gaan*

ETV
08:00 *Ekusher Shokal*
08:30 *Desh Jurey*
01:30 *Drishti*
02:00 Bangla Feature Film
05:30 *Ei Shoptaher Bishwa*

05:45 *Ekusher Shondha*
07:30 *Shoptah Ghurey Deshjurey*
08:30 Musical Programme
09:30 Drama
11:45 Reporter's File
BANGLAVISION
11:40 *Media Bhupon*
01:00 X-Crime
02:30 *Vokab*
02:40 Drama Serial: *Kachhey Durey*
03:15 *Banglavisation Cafe*
04:15 *Citycell Din-er Sheshey*
04:30 *Ebang Classer*

Day Break
On Star World at 10:30pm
TV Series
Cast: Taye Diggs, Victoria Pratt

05:30 Islamic Programme
06:25 Cooking Programme
08:25 Drama Serial: *Shesh Odhny*
09:05 *Amar Ami*
09:45 Drama Serial: *Bachelor Dompoti*
11:20 *Raat Biraatey*

STAR MOVIES
09:15 *Ice Princess*
11:00 *Yours, Mine & Ours*
12:30 *Glory Road*
02:30 *Cinderella Man*
05:05 *Into The Blue*
07:00 *She's The Man*

09:00 *Enough*
11:00 *Just Friends*
12:35 *The Spy Who Loved Me*
02:40 *The Innocent*
STAR PLUS
09:30 *Saans*
10:00 *V Trailers - Star Plus*
10:30 *Ducktales*
11:00 *Timon And Pumbaa*
11:25 *Bolly V - Star Plus*
11:30 *Sonpari*
12:00 *Karishma Ka Karishma*
12:30 *V Trailers - Star Plus*
01:00 *Shaka Laka Boom*

01:55 *Bolly V - Star Plus*
02:00 *V Trailers - Star Plus*
02:30 *Kasturi*
04:30 *V Trailers - Star Plus*
04:55 *Bolly V - Star Plus*
05:00 *Don*
08:30 *Lucky*
09:30 *Prithviraj Chauhan*
10:00 *Baa Bahoo Aur Baby*
10:30 *Star Voice Of India*
12:00 *Kasturi*
12:30 *Bolly V - Star Plus*

STAR WORLD
08:30 *Brothers & Sisters*
09:30 *Ncis*
10:30 *The Bold And The Beautiful*
12:30 *The Simpsons*
01:00 *Travel Asia*
01:30 *That '70s Show*
02:00 *According To Jim*
02:30 *The Jane Show*
03:00 *Criss Angel Mindfreak*
03:30 *Malcolm In The Middle*
04:00 *My Name Is Earl*
04:30 *Yes Dear*
05:00 *Monk*
06:00 *30 Rock*
06:30 *Ghost Whisperer*
07:30 *Tna Xplosion*
08:30 *Kyle Xy*
09:30 *Ugly Betty*
10:30 *Day Break*
11:30 *Brothers & Sisters*
12:30 *Kyle Xy*

DISCOVERY

CHANNEL
09:30 *Discovery Spotlight*
11:30 *Mythbusters*
12:30 *Extreme Engineering*
01:30 *Predator on the Move*
02:30 *Discovery's Biggest Shows*
04:30 *Wild South America*
05:30 *Mythbusters*
06:30 *I Shouldn't Be Alive*
07:30 *Wild South America*
08:30 *Discover India*
09:30 *Asia Rising*
10:30 *How Do They Do It?*
11:00 *Million 2 One: Episode 1*
11:30 *Equator*

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
08:30 *Mating Game*
09:30 *Striker!*
10:30 *Greece*
11:30 *Turkey*
12:30 *Italy*
01:30 *La Loire Atlantique*
02:30 *Steam, Heavenly Angel, Mike*
03:00 *Salt Water Crocodiles*
03:30 *Moon Mysteries*
04:30 *I Didn't Know That*
05:00 *Steam, Heavenly Angel, Mike*
05:30 *Big Bang*
06:00 *Large Sharks*
06:30 *Eruption On Montserrat*
07:30 *Greece*
08:30 *Monsoon Railway*

Radio Foorti
07:00am Hello Dhaka (Apu)
11:00am Amar 98.4 (Nusrat)
03:00pm Dhaka Calling (Sakib)
07:00pm Fuad Live (Fuad)
11:30am Back to Back music

10:30 *Revolutionary Rhythms*
11:00 *Hot Salsa : Cuba*
11:30 *Reign Of Terror*
12:30 *The Living Edens*

HISTORY CHANNEL
08:30 *Sauna Belt*
09:15 *Global Pendant*
09:30 *War against Al Qaeda*
10:30 *Guts & Bolts*
11:30 *Yes Prime Minister S1*
12:00 *Racehorse Kidnapped!*
12:30 *Affair With Married Woman*
01:30 *Guam*
02:30 *Mysteries Freemasons*
03:30 *Ice*
04:30 *Becoming a Nation*
05:30 *Hercules*
06:30 *Double F*
08:30 *Sadat*
10:30 *Lawrence of Arabia*
11:30 *Leo Tolstoy*
12:30 *Double F*