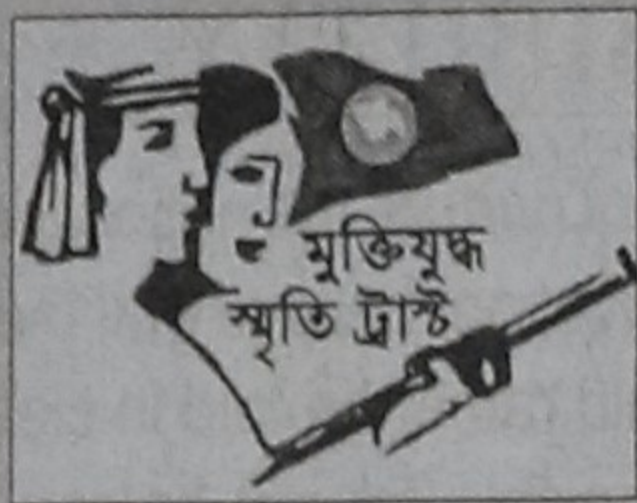


## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Centenary of Khudiram's Execution

Organiser: Bangladesh Liberation War Museum  
Venue: Bangladesh Liberation War Museum premises, Shegunbagicha  
Date: November 27, Time: 4pm onwards



### Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Walking the Painted Pavé  
Artist: Sunil Kumar  
Venue: Alliance Francaise 26, Mirpur Road, Dharmoad  
Date: Nov 21-Dec 4  
Time: 9am-12pm and 5-8pm (Saturdays 5-8pm)



### Experimental Theatre Festival

Organiser: Palakar  
Venue: Palakar Studio, 133, Natak Swarni  
Date: November 21-30  
Time: 6:30pm everyday  
Today: Rifle (Palakar)



### Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Tales of a city  
Artist: Nazib Mohammad  
Venue: Gallery of Fine Art, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Nimtoli, Ramna  
Date: Nov 24-Dec 2  
Time: 12-6pm



## In Memoriam

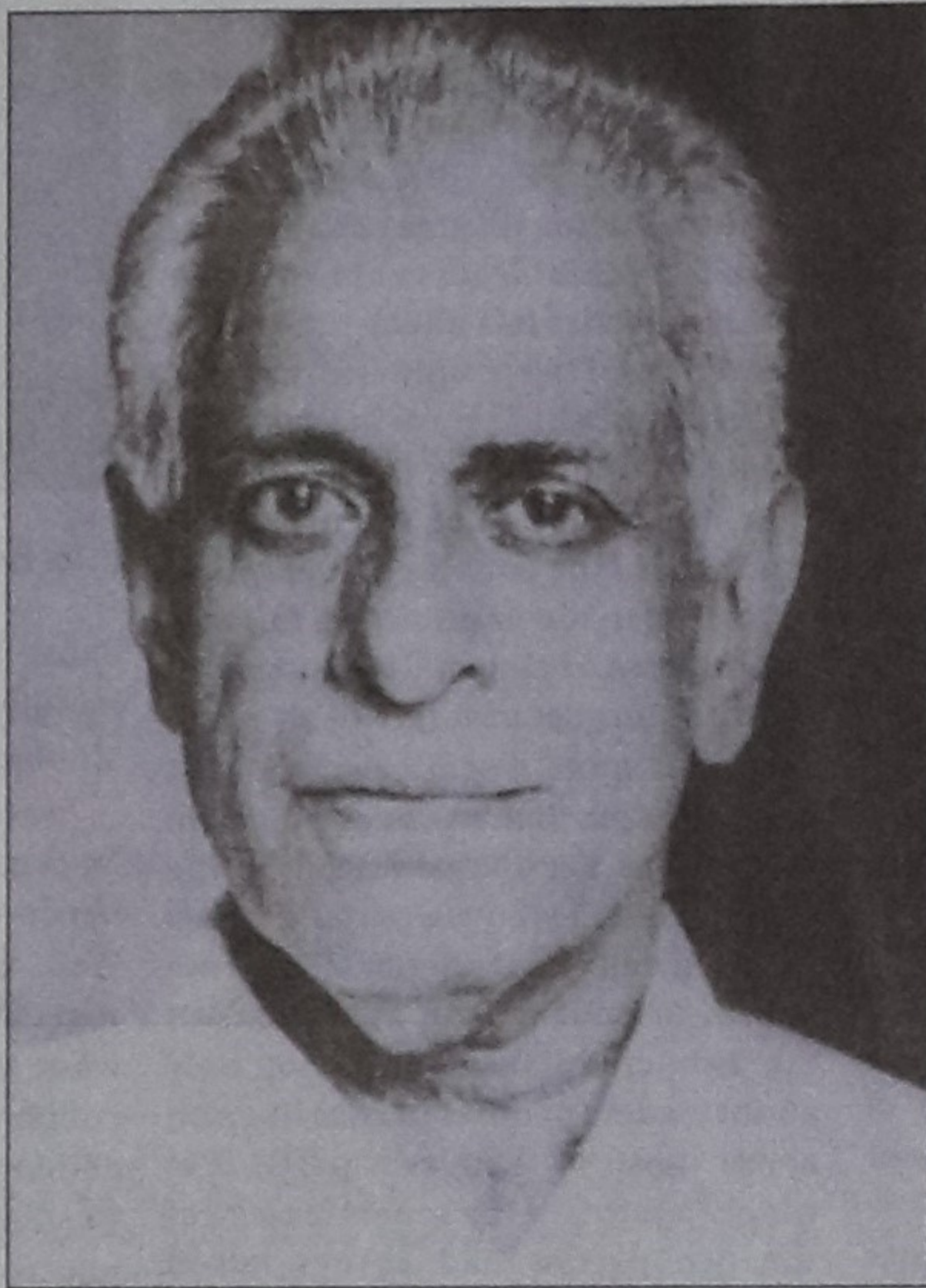
# 102nd birth anniversary of Natyaguru Nurul Momen

DR. FAISAL MAHMUD

Today marks the 102nd birth anniversary of pioneering theatre personality 'Natyaguru' Nurul Momen. Eminent critics from home and abroad including Malcolm Muggeridge, Mohitlal Mojumdar, Sajani Kanto Das and Ashutosh Bhattacharya have hailed Nurul Momen as the "father of modern Bangla drama." His acclaimed single-character play "Nemesis" is considered to be of world class.

Nurul Momen's contribution in popularising satire in Bangladeshi theatre is incomparable. He was born into an aristocratic family of Alphonso, in the then Jessore district (Alphonso is now part of Faridpur) on November 25, 1906. He breathed his last at his Gulshan residence in Dhaka on February 16, 1990.

In the early 1920s, Nurul Momen, as a student of Dhaka University, stepped into the world of theatre and became a trailblazer among Bengali Muslims. That pioneering role reached its apex when in the '30s and early '40s his plays "Rupantor" (Transformation) and "Nem-



Nurul Momen

esis" took the theatre circuit by storm. Nurul Momen also initiated the trend of satire in our theatre. His plays and personal Essays in English, as well as Bangla, remain

unmatched. He was also renowned as a broadcaster from the onset of BBC, local radio and television. From the onset of the '40s he was a teacher at the

Department of Law, Dhaka University. Among his students was Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Nurul Momen took up the major task of writing and directing plays in this country -- a move that created much uproar in both West Bengal and Bangladesh. It was a big challenge in the conservative Muslim society. In 1971, when Bangladesh was on its way to independence, Nurul Momen formed a drama academy to imbibe that spirit in the cultural field. Nurul Momen was the chairman and Zainul Abedin was the secretary of the academy.

It should be mentioned that Nurul Momen wrote of the first law book in Bengali in Bangladesh. He was a prominent intellectual, acclaimed actor, knowledgeable editor, a recognised orator, accomplished columnist and skilled translator. He received the Bangla Academy award in 1961, Sitara-e-Imtiaz in 1967 (he renounced it in 1971) and Ekushey Padak in 1977. The Tenashinas Award, given by theatre and TV artistes, was conferred on him in 1989. Throughout his career, Nurul Momen travelled widely throughout Europe, Asia, America and others parts of the world.

## Bengali literature still has bright prospects -- Sunil Gangopadhyay

BSS, Madaripur

Eminent Indian poet and litterateur Sunil Gangopadhyay said that Bengali literature still has bright prospects, as the readership in West Bengal and Bangladesh is sizeable and growing.

He made the remark while talking to a BSS correspondent on the concluding day of the three-day 'Sunil Mela' that ended on November 23.

Sunil literature Practice and Research Centre organised the 'mela' (fair) marking the 75th birth anniversary of the poet at his ancestral home at Purba Majipara village under Kalkini Upazila.

Sunil was accompanied by his wife Swati Gangopadhyay, elder brother Anil Gangopadhyay and daughter Konika Gangopadhyay.

A total of 20 stalls displaying books written by Sunil at the fair, turned into a festival with the presence of poets, litterateurs, artistes and bookworms, among others. Other attractions of the fair included live performances of 'jari' and 'shari' songs.

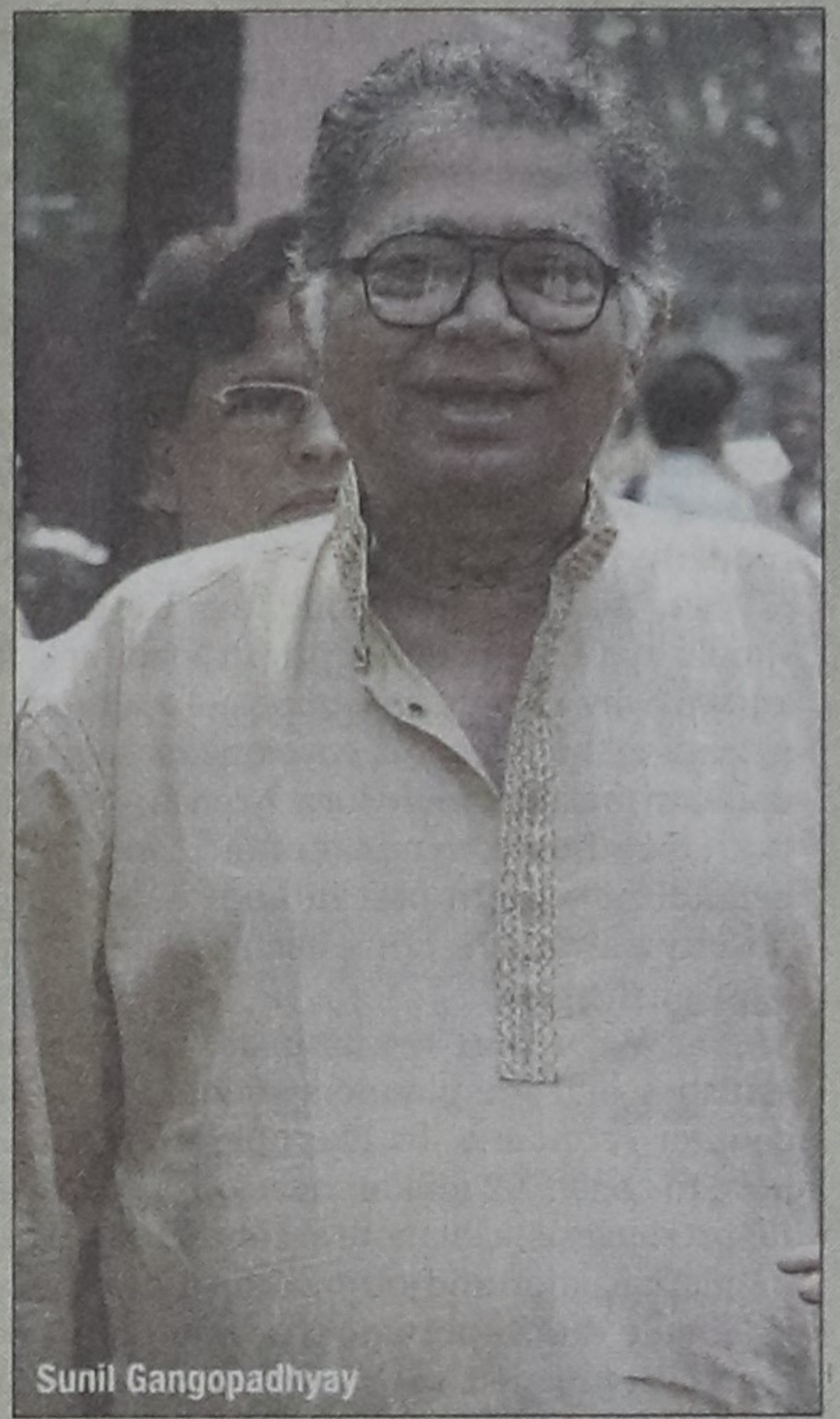
A library and a healthcare centre, named after him, are being set up at Sunil's ancestral home.

Sunil Gangopadhyay was born on September 7, 1934 in Faridpur. He obtained his Master's degree in Bengali from the University of Calcutta in 1954.

He was associated with the Ananda Bazar group, a major newspaper-publishing house in Kolkata, for many years. He is now the president of Sahitya Academy after serving as its vice-president for five years.

An author of more than 200 books, Sunil is widely regarded as one of the most prolific writers having excelled in different genres, but he proudly declares that poetry is his "first love."

He was the founder-editor of "Krittibas," a poetry magazine that became a platform for the new generation of poets, experimenting with many new forms in poetic themes, rhythms, and words.



Sunil Gangopadhyay

"Tomosha," a play by theatre troupe 'Natukay', was staged at National Music and Dance Centre, Shilpakala Academy on November 23. Directed and edited by Asim Das, the play is a compilation of poems by Rabindranath Tagore and articles by Professor Momtazuddin Ahmed, Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury, Humayun Azad, Muntasir Mamun, Abed Khan, Shariar Kabir, A.B.M. Musa, Wahidul Haque and Shaheen Reza. The play addresses the values of Liberation War, democracy and political instability in our country.



PHOTO: MUMIT M

## Tribeca Festival expands to Doha

The Tribeca Film Festival has joined the growing number of Western cultural institutions seeking to establish satellite projects in Middle Eastern nations. Last Sunday the festival announced that it was forming a partnership with the Qatar Museums Authority to create the Tribeca Film Festival Doha, a celebration of Arab cinema and culture that will take place in Doha, Qatar's capital city.

The event is expected to be modelled on the Tribeca Film Festival, founded by Robert De Niro, Jane Rosenthal and Craig Hatkoff after 9/11 and will feature about 40 films a year. The three founders were in Doha on Sunday to sign an agreement with Qatar officials. The first Tribeca Film Festival Doha is scheduled for November 10 to 14, 2009, at the Museum of Islamic Art and theatres around the city.

Source: Internet



PHOTO: MUMIT M

As part of the ongoing Bangladesh Theatre Festival, Dhaka Theatre staged its production "Nimojjon" on November 23 at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Written by the late theatre icon Selim Al Deen, the play highlights a virtual place where humanity is devastated by genocides. Noted theatre personality and President of Dhaka Theatre Nasiruddin Yousuff has directed the play.

## Contemplation on Graphical Art

### Sunny's solo exhibition at Drik



TAKIR HOSSAIN

Graphical art is a technique-oriented medium, which creates a visual representation of ideas and thoughts. Composition is one of the most important features of graphic art, especially when using diverse elements and various forms and shapes. The medium became popular in the last decade of the 20th century. In Bangladesh, there are a few painters working with the medium besides maintaining their individual hallmark. The medium is not yet popular here but it is much acclaimed in other parts of the world. Graphical art has a singular language and different look, which makes it unparalleled and unique.

Sunnyur Rahman is a young Bangladeshi expatriate who lives in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). As an outlet of his creativity and imagination, he chose graphical art. For the last five years, he has been experimenting with the medium. A background in computer engineering propelled him to work in this medium, which calls for prolonged labour, and dedication. Sunny has been practicing with the medium since he was seven years old, when he could not get any institutional training in art in



Artworks by Sunnyur Rahman

KSA. However, his indomitable spirit and enthusiasm helped him to cross all barriers in his aesthetic journey. His aim is and was to be an artist.

Sunny visualises nature deeply in terms of people, life and socio-political and economical conditions, and then enlivens his feelings with colours and lines in a hi-tech language. He snapped photos and then adorned or distorted the images with his personal technique (computer programming). In his works he

has sought to incorporate various symbols and signs of his expressions, denoting realism, semi-realism, abstraction, cubism, expressionism and neo-expressionism. He blends many traits and the output is unconventional. An artist should have an individual language and personal character. Sunny should hold on to a certain path, which will identify him as an artist with a distinct touch.

Sunny's solo exhibition ended recently at Drik Gallery.

## Jackson settles High Court case

Michael Jackson has made a settlement in principle in a legal dispute over claims he breached a music contract with an Arab sheikh.

He had been due to travel to the UK to give evidence at the High Court. A spokesman said his legal team told him to postpone the trip as the parties had made an agreement in principle.

The King of Bahrain's son, Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa, was suing Jackson for £4.7 million, claiming he reneged on a music contract.

Jackson contested the claim, saying there was no valid agreement.

BBC was told Jackson was about to board a flight to the UK when he was told to postpone the trip.

Sheikh Abdullah said he paid all the singer's living, travel and other expenses until his departure from Bahrain in 2006, and advanced funds to retain legal and financial advisers.

Jackson claimed the payments were "gifts". The "Thriller" star was invited with his children and entourage to Bahrain, shortly after he was acquitted of child molestation charges in California.

While there, the sheikh lavished money on him.

Sheikh Abdullah also built a recording studio, which he believed would be used to record albums using material he had helped to write. However Jackson apparently pulled out of the deal in May 2006 after 11 months and has not seen the sheikh since.

Now Sheikh Abdullah says he wants nothing



Michael Jackson

more to do with him and is suing to get his money back.

At the start of the hearing which began last week, Jackson's lawyer, Robert Englehart QC, applied for the star to give his evidence by video link from Los Angeles because of concerns about his health.

But the application was withdrawn after medical experts said Jackson was fit enough to travel.

Source: BBC