

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Victory Day Celebration

Organiser: Liberation War Museum
Venue: Liberation War Museum, Segunbagicha
Date: December 14-16
Time: 4pm



Discussion, Cultural Show

Organiser: Liberation War Museum
Venue: Liberation War Museum, Segunbagicha
Date: December 14
Time: 4pm



Recitation, Gono Sangeet

Organiser: Liberation War Museum
Venue: Liberation War Museum, Segunbagicha
Date: December 15
Time: 4pm



Recitation and Dance

Organiser: Liberation War Museum
Venue: Liberation War Museum, Segunbagicha
Date: December 16
Time: 10am



"I read the last news announcing the victory on the eve of December 16, 1971"

--Aly Zaker

ERSHAD KAMOL

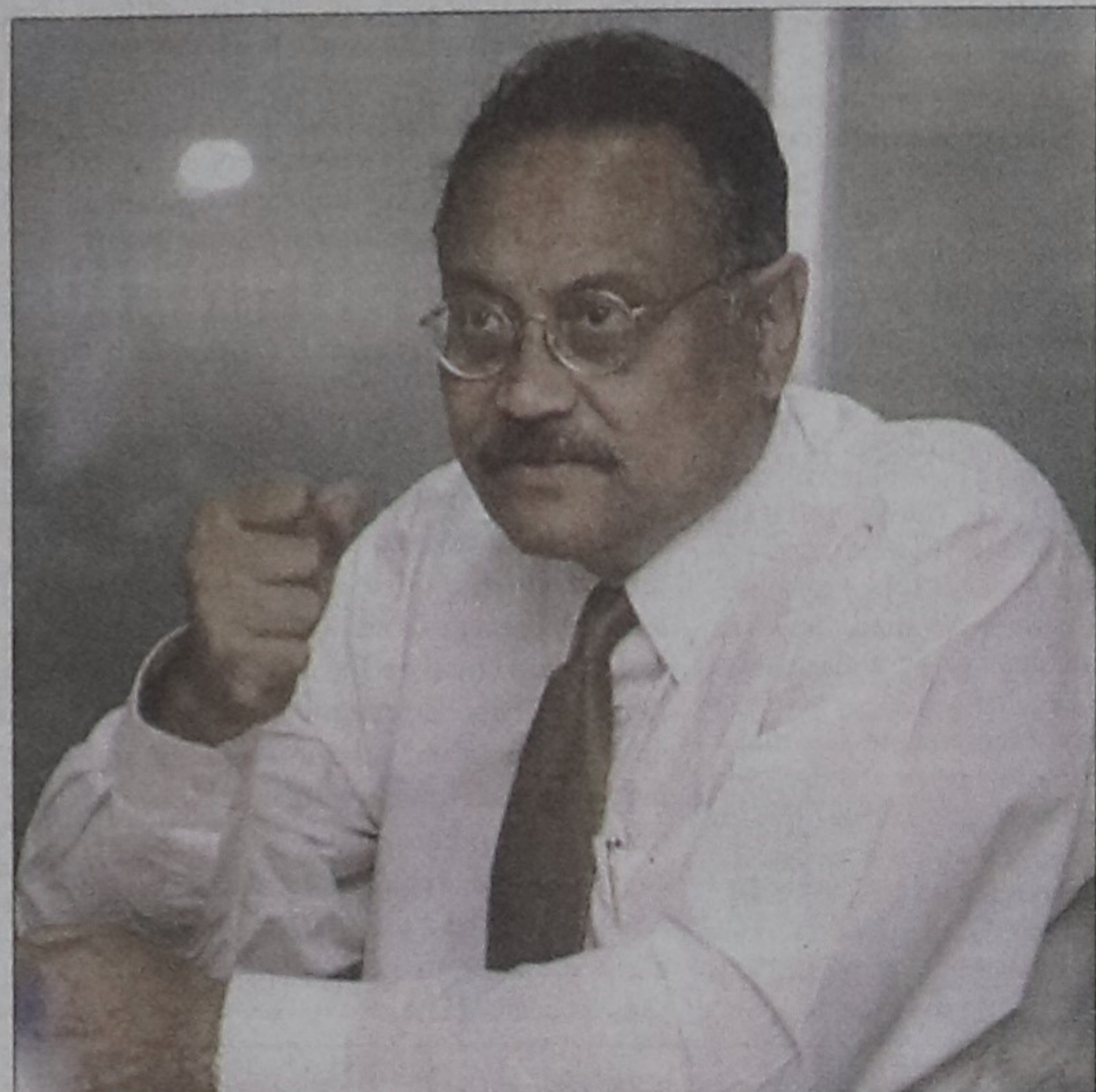
Renowned theatre actor-director and a familiar face on TV, Aly Zaker, had made significant contributions to our Liberation War. In the war he served not as a cultural activist, but as a war correspondent of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, the radio station that worked as the mouthpiece of the freedom struggle of Bangladesh in 1971.

Going back to those days, Zaker said, "In my student life, I was an activist of East Pakistan Students' Union and was involved with movements against the Ayub Khan regime. To me the independence of Bangladesh was urgent as I thought it is very important to defend our cultural identity. That's why I strongly believed that the country would be liberated sooner or later. I couldn't live in a colonised country."

After completing his studies Zaker took on a lucrative job. Neither was he purely a cultural activist nor a political figure. He was involved with the organisational works of Chhayanat. However, the resistance of the Bengalis from every sector of society against the 'crack down' on March 25 night by the Pakistan Army inspired him to give up his job, and he actively participated in the war.

"On March 25 night I lived opposite the Rajarbag Police line, where the Pakistani Army carried out a massacre. I also observed the resistance of Bengali policemen against the oppressors. This incident had a great impact on me and I decided to join in the war effort."

"Seeing the genocide at the hands of



the Pakistani Army, my family and I left Dhaka at the end of March 1971," recalls Zaker. On April 12, Zaker crossed the border. "Going to India I first decided to be a Freedom Fighter. However I was not recruited because of my poor eyesight. On being rejected, I became frustrated. Then I came across a wonderful opportunity. Out of the blue I met filmmaker Alamgir Kabir on

a footpath in Calcutta (now Kolkata). He suggested that I should join Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra. At the radio station Zaker served as a reporter-producer of an English news programme, which aired reports on the war. He was a correspondent and political commentator. In addition, he used to translate and read speeches by the then Prime Minister Tajuddin

Ahmed and the then acting president Nazrul Islam. Alamgir Kabir was the programme co-ordinator. And the hour-long programme used to go on air daily at 8:30 pm.

Zaker said, "Our aim was to unveil the truth of the war to the outer world as well as to protest the cover ups by the Pakistani media. We used to read the excerpts of the comments published on the foreign journals on our Liberation War to let the world know about different interpretations of the war."

As a reporter carrying a simple recorder, Aly Zaker wandered around camps and bunkers of the Freedom Fighters at the Northeast and Southeast region of the country and returned to the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra to air it on the radio. Recalling this golden moment of his life, Zaker said, "That experience makes me proud. I consider myself fortunate that I could interview sector commanders, sub-sector commanders and even I covered news from the bunkers while firing was on."

"I read the last news announcing the victory on the eve of December 16, 1971," he said. To quote him, "When I heard the news that the Pakistani Army had surrendered, I could not control my emotion. That was a dramatic moment of my life. I fell on the ground and burst into tears."

Zaker believes that his activities during the Liberation War have shaped his personality as an individual.

The article is a reprint from an earlier version.

Krishno Gahobar

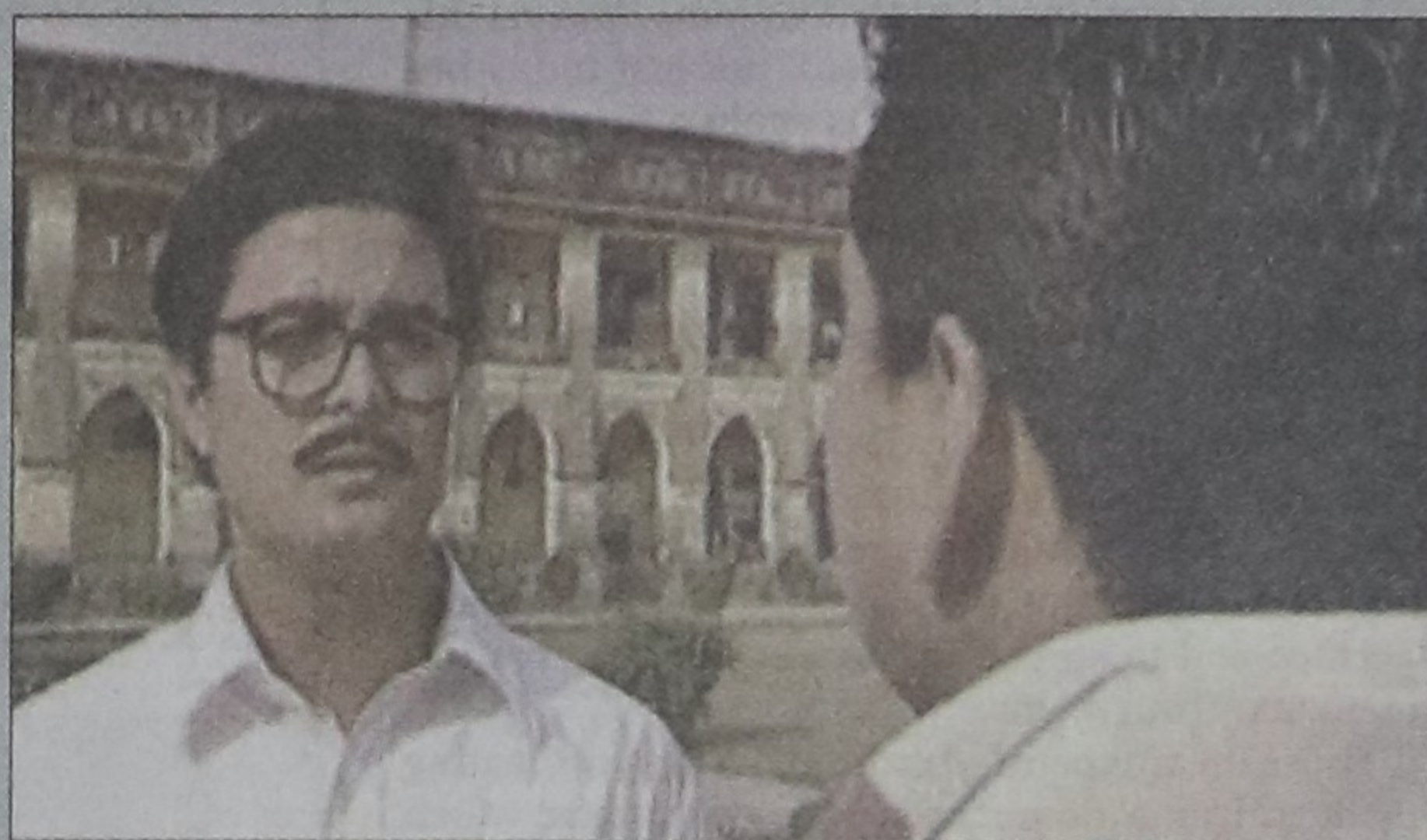
A documentary on Shaheed Munier Chowdhury on ntv

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To mark Martyred Intellectuals Day, ntv will air a unique documentary, "Krishno Gahobar" based on the life and work of Shaheed Munier Chowdhury. Scripted by Manik Manabik and directed by Golam Sohrab Dodul, the documentary will be aired on December 14 at 12:30 pm.

The documentary goes back in time to December 14, 1971, when the Bengali Free-

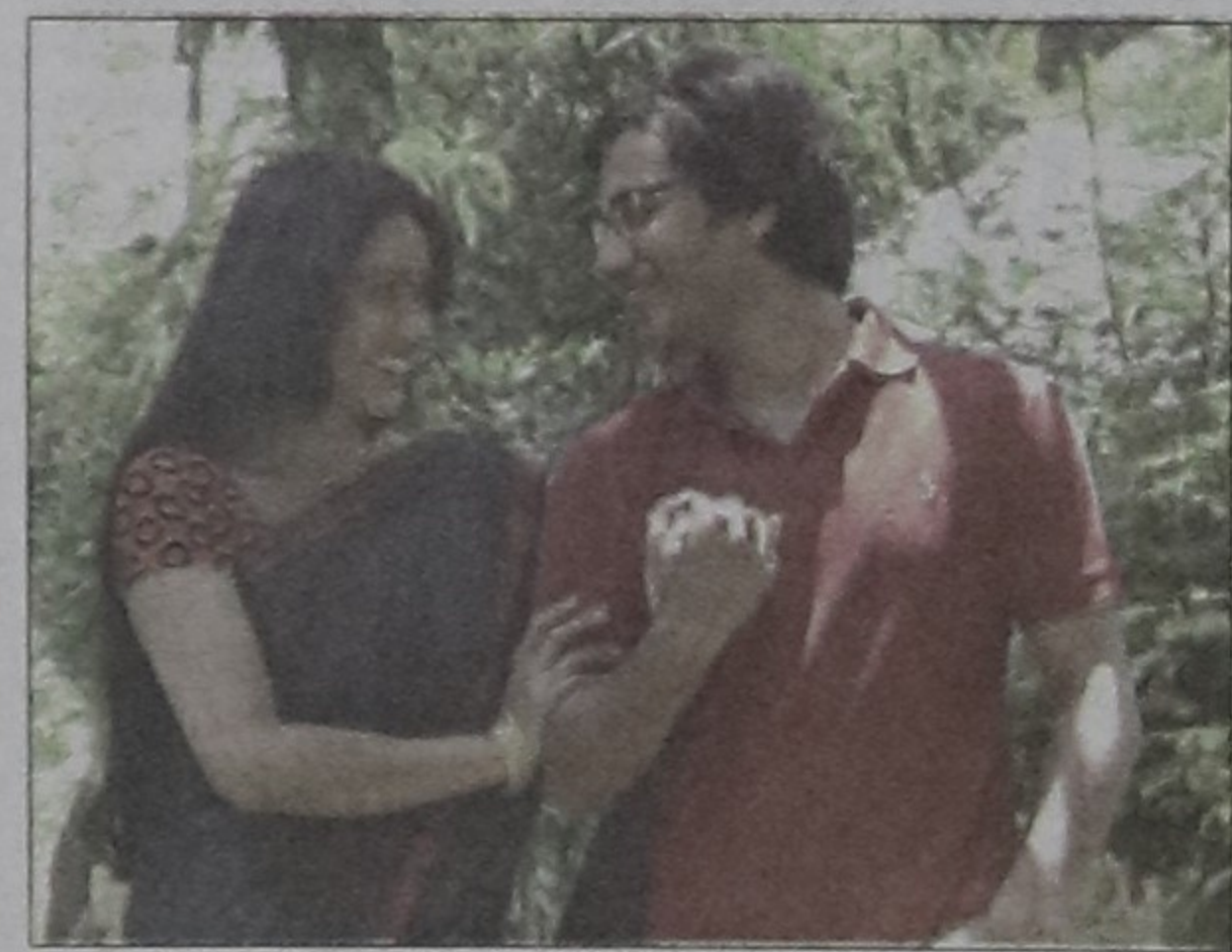
dom Fighters are on the verge of winning the War of Independence. Apprehending a clear defeat, the Pakistani military and the local collaborators take the radical step of destroying the country of its intellectual capital. From December 14, they ruthlessly kill renowned litterateurs, teachers, artists, playwright, and musicians of the country. Eminent playwright and Professor Munier Chowdhury, a prominent figure in the cultural scene, is in the ranks of these dedicated men and women.



A scene from the documentary.

Tomar Katha Amar Katha

A relationship gone sour



Shojol and Momo in the TV play.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

"Tomar Katha Amar Katha" zooms in on newly married couple, Reshmi and Shagor. Having tied the knot after a whirlwind romance of two

years, they share a happy home. However, friction begins as soon as the honeymoon fever wears off. Beginning with trivial arguments, the relationship snowballs into a bitter fight, after which Shagor orders Reshmi to

leave. A shattered Reshmi leaves the house without telling her husband. Shagor refuses to bring her back or even call her. After a few weeks, Reshmi learns that Shagor is leaving town for a new job abroad. Reshmi rushes back, but can she stop Shagor? Does Shagor realise his mistake?

Though a typical story, the play unravels twice over first from Reshmi's perspective and then Shagor's point of view. Thus it is left to the audience to decide which of the duo is justified in their hard decisions. It shows how two people drift apart and analyse the situation in different ways-- making it almost impossible to resolve a crisis.

Starring Shojol, Momo, Kumkum Hasan and others, the play, written and directed by Kaushik Shankar Das, will be aired on Channel i at 9.30pm tonight.

Joe Satriani sues Coldplay

Grammy nominees Coldplay have been sued by rock guitarist Joe Satriani, who claims the band's song "Viva La Vida" uses one of his riffs.

In court papers filed in Los Angeles last week, he said the song used "substantial original portions" of his 2004 instrumental "If I Could Fly."

Satriani, 52, wants a jury trial and is seeking damages and "any and all profits" for the alleged plagiarism.

Coldplay are shortlisted for seven Grammys, including song of the year.

"Viva La Vida" is credited to the band's four members -- singer Chris Martin, bass



player Guy Berryman, guitarist Johnny Buckland and drummer Will Champion.

The song's title was inspired by Mexican artist Frida Kahlo.

It appeared on the album "Viva La Vida or Death and All His Friends," which was released in June and went to number one in 36 countries, and was also one of their hit singles.

Satriani's track appears on his album "Is There Love in Space?"

Source: BBC



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