

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Photography Exhibition

Organiser: NSUPC
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy and Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi
Date: July 4-10
Time: 3pm-8pm



Theatre Festival

Organiser: Theatre Art Unit
Venue: National Theatre Hall & Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: July 9-14
Time: 7pm everyday
Today: "Circus Circus" (Prachyanat) & "Kotha 71" (Dhaka Padatik)



Solo Art Exhibition

Painter: Samiran Chowdhury
Title: Connecting with Nature
Venue: Galleri Kaya H-20, R-16, Sector-4, Uttara,
Date: July 2-15
Time: 10am-8pm



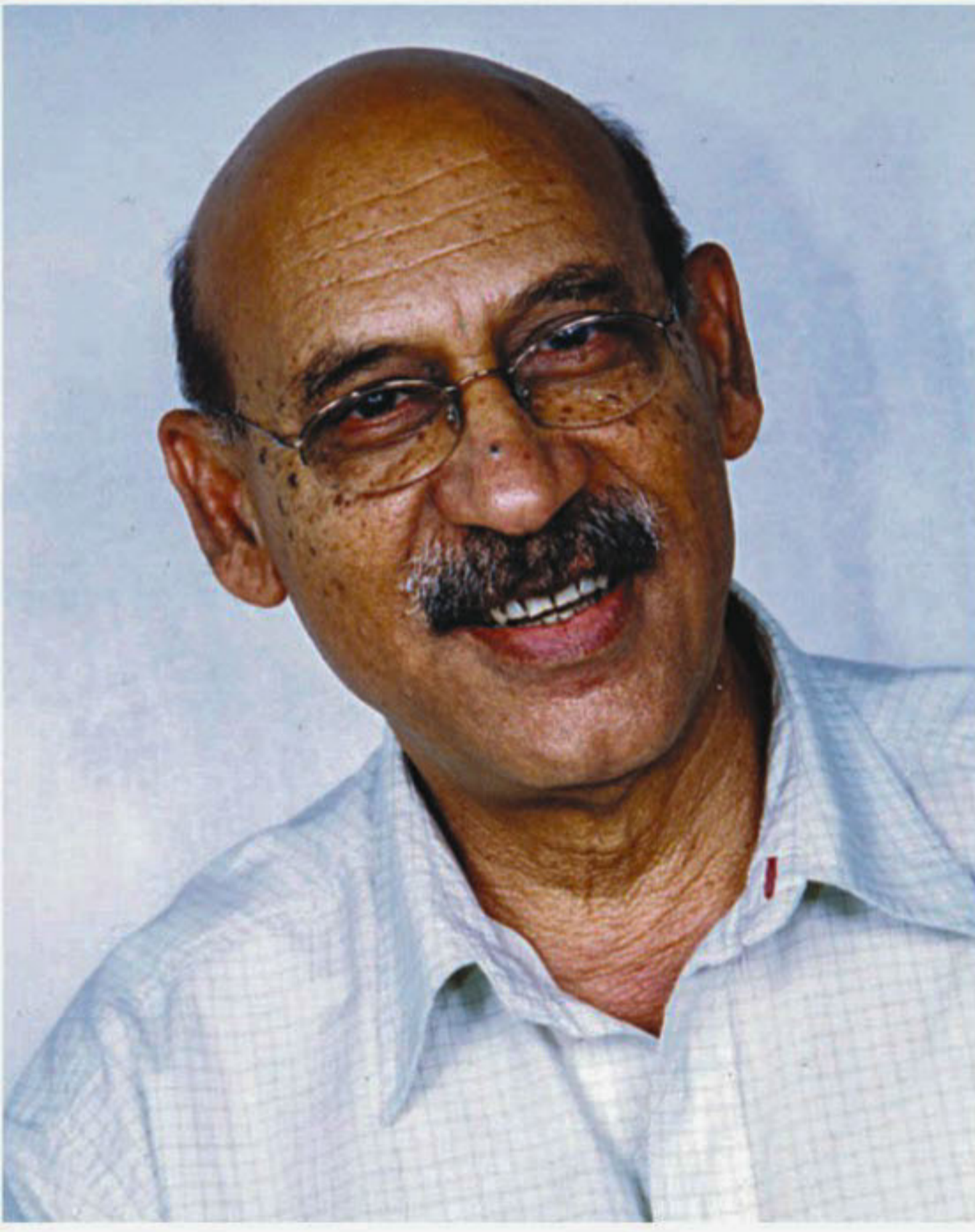
Group Art Exhibition

Title: Tone One One Six
Venue: Zainul Gallery 1, Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University
Date: July 8-14
Time: 11am-8pm



A happy childhood in Chittagong

Abul Hayat recalls



SHAH ALAM SHAJU

Abul Hayat was born on September 7, 1944 at his maternal grandparents' house. "It was a Friday when I was born. I was born after three sisters. My mother's maternal grandfather named me as Khandakar Mohammad Shamsul Arefin Abul Hayat Golam Mahub," he says.

After finishing primary and high school, his extended name was truncated by the headmaster to S.A. Abul Hayat, prior to his SSC examination. His father, however, would call him "Robi" at home.

"I was very reserved and shy as a child. I would run away whenever I saw women. Yet, at the age on 10, I took part in a stage play," Hayat reminisces.

"Tipu Sultan' was the name of the play. 'Jatra King' Amolendu Biswas was my inspiration back in the day," he adds.

"I would walk along the railroad track in Chittagong. My father worked there. Dohazari-Nazirhat railway line passed by our house. Collecting shiny stones and hunting

birds with *gulti* were my favourite pastimes. I bought an air gun with the money I saved in my little clay bank. There was a particular cause behind buying it. We had a mango tree at our house. Lots of crows would gather there. The cacophony of crows would irritate my mother. I used to shoot at least one crow everyday. However, this seemed to anger the crows and at times they would fly by right over my head," Hayat says.

Hayat passed SSC from Chittagong Pahartoli School. "I have another hobby, collecting live oysters. I did it when we were at Potenga beach," Hayat recalls.

"I grew up at Chittagong Tigerpass Railway Colony. Our house number was 37/B. We lived there for 22 years. Two of my sisters were born in that house. The hills and sea shore of Chittagong still make me nostalgic. I love that city," he says.

"When I was a child, I would go hunting with my father. My father would hunt different types of birds. How thrilling were those days! And where does time go!"

Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah Delving into the roots of Bangla

Popularly known as 'Gyantaposh,' or one ardently desirous of attaining knowledge, Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah was an internationally renowned educationist, writer and philologist. Today marks his 125th birth anniversary.

He was born at Peyara village of 24 Pargana in West Bengal on July 10, 1885. His father, Mafizuddin Ahmad, was a warden at the local shrine. Shahidullah was able to forsake this hereditary profession and devote himself to the study of language. He learnt Urdu, Persian and Arabic at home and Sanskrit at school.

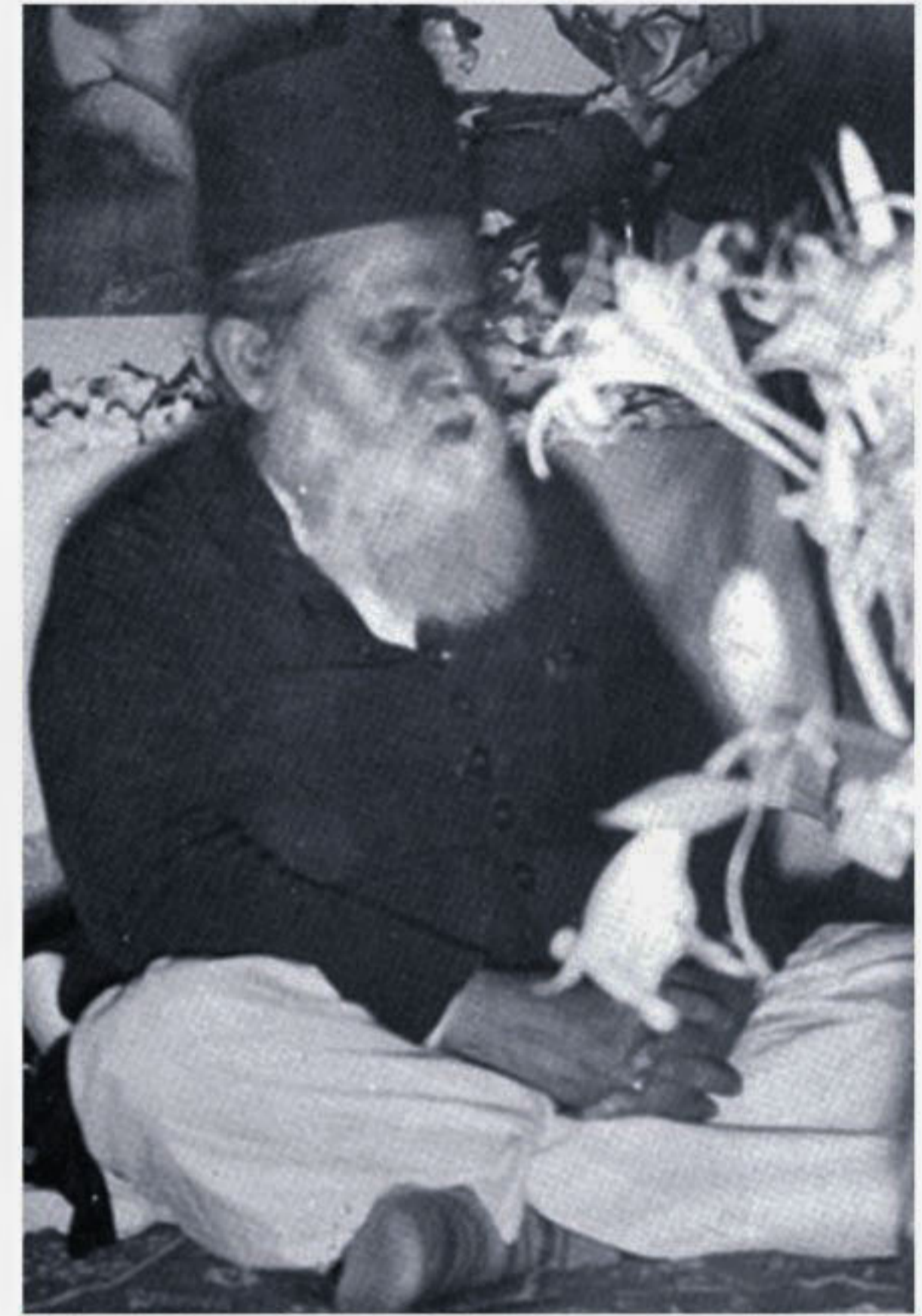
After a temporary break of study because of illness, he passed BA with Honours in Sanskrit (1910) from City College, Calcutta, and MA (1912) in comparative philology from the University of Calcutta. He also obtained his BL degree two years later.

After working as headmaster of Sitakunda High School for some time, he started to practise law at Bashirhat in 24 Pargana. Later, he worked as Sharatchandra Lahiri Research Fellow (1919-21) under Dinesh Chandra Sen at the University of Calcutta and joined the University of Dhaka (DU) as a lecturer (1921) in Sanskrit and Bangla.

His years at DU constituted the most important period of his life. While teaching there, he researched on the origins of the Bangla language. In 1925 he was able to prove that Bangla originated from Gaudi or Magadhi Prakrit.

Muhammad Shahidullah went to Europe for higher studies in 1926, and learnt Vedic Sanskrit, Buddhist Sanskrit, comparative philology, Tibetan and ancient Persian language at University of Paris. He studied ancient Khotni, ancient Vedic Sanskrit and Prakrit at Freiburg University in Germany.

He received his doctorate from the Sorbonne in Paris in 1928 for his research on the distiches of the "Charjapad," the earliest existing specimens of Bangla language. He was the first Indian Muslim to receive a doctorate degree. He also received a diploma for his fundamental research in phonetics from



the University of Paris the same year. After completing his doctorate, he returned home and started teaching at DU. He became head of the Bangla Department in 1937 and retired in 1944.

Dr. Shahidullah rejoined the Bangla Department, DU, as a supernumerary teacher and taught there for six years as departmental head and dean of the faculty of arts.

He also served as the chairman of the Bangla Academy Bangla Almanac Arrangement Committee. He was made permanent chairman of the Adamjee Literature Award and Daud Literature Award committees.

Muhammad Shahidullah played an important role in the Language Movement. He was the first to establish the reasons why Bangla, instead of Urdu, should be the state language of the then East Pakistan.

His writings on language, literature and culture were published in many magazines and newspapers; and he himself edited many such publications. He worked as an associate editor of Al Eslam and was joint editor of Bangiya Musalman Sahitya Patrika.

Dr. Shahidullah delved

deep into the history of Old and Middle Age Bangla literature, wrote books on these subjects, and gave pointers to solve many specificities of Bangla language and literature. He also took active interest in folk literature of Bengal. Noteworthy among his books are "Sindabad Saodagarer Galpo," "Bhasha O Shahitya," "Bangala Byakaran," "Diwan-i-Hafiz," "Padmaboti" (Volume I), "Bangla Shahityer Kotha" (Volumes I and II) and more. His "Buddhist Mystic Songs" (1960) is a translation and an edited version of the "Charjapad."

Dr. Shahidullah was a polyglot and an expert in philology. He knew many languages and thus had access to the treasures of many different literatures. He was a pious Muslim, and his books on religion reflect his deep faith in Islam. He was made Professor Emeritus by the University of Dhaka (1967) and awarded 'Knight of the Orders of Art and Letters' by the French government (1967) for his lifetime achievement in research on language and literature.

Dr. Shahidullah passed away in Dhaka on July 3, 1969.

Adrien Brody, an unlikely action star in the latest "Predators"

Adrien Brody's body of work is so studiously eclectic that the only surprising thing about his new bid for action hero status in "Predators" is that he didn't try it sooner. Brody, the youngest male to receive the award for Best Actor at the Oscars (at age 29, for "The Pianist"), is also one of only two Americans to win a César (the other was Johnny Depp, for "The Man Who Cried").

He's a hip-hop enthusiast who dreams of someday being a producer and is an intense method freak (he learned to play Chopin for "The Pianist" and became a plausible ventriloquist for "Dummy").

Mostly, though, Brody is a very good actor with sometimes dubious taste in scripts. His intellectually challenged schtick in "The Village" was painful, and some of his post-Oscar choices are puzzling (why "The Jacket"?). But he's delivered a surprising number of surprisingly solid performances in above average movies: "The Brothers Bloom," a part in "The Darjeeling Limited" that gave Wes Anderson's dialogue a non-Anderson feel (a tricky achievement), running around adroitly enough in "King Kong."

When it comes to playing an action lead, he understands exactly what the

problem is and doesn't tiptoe around it: "The comment is constantly like 'skinny actor.' I'm thin. I'm not skinny at all," he says. "At the end, I think I scared them because I had grown a lot and they were all pretty shocked at how I looked."

The evidence is reportedly on-screen, but it's not a bid for a permanent paycheck upgrade, a la Nicolas Cage. He had since shed much of the muscle mass he gained for the film. (Presumably he won't need it for his inevitable one-off Woody Allen appearance in "Midnight in Paris," as Allen continues working with every English-speaking actor of note.)

In light of Sylvester Stallone's clarion call for a return to muscle-bound men hitting each other without the help of CGI (he said when actors could "Velcro their muscles on, it was over"), it's heartening to see Brody taking on his own body as the ultimate method acting challenge -- one he's happy to discard when his role is over.

"It's different," he said. "It's something I haven't seen of myself." Brody's comfortable treating his body as just another acting tool rather than a goal in and of itself.

Compiled by Correspondent



Adrien Brody in "Predators".



Celebrity talk show "Otohpur Ami" will be aired tonight on ETV at 7:50 pm. Eminent cultural personality Mamunur Rashid is the guest on tonight's episode. Moshina Rahman is the producer and host of the programme.

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EXHIBITION/ SEMINAR

"WESTIN" Dhaka/Gulshan 2 exhibition/1 on 1 consultation

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
July 10th & 11th
10am - 6pm

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