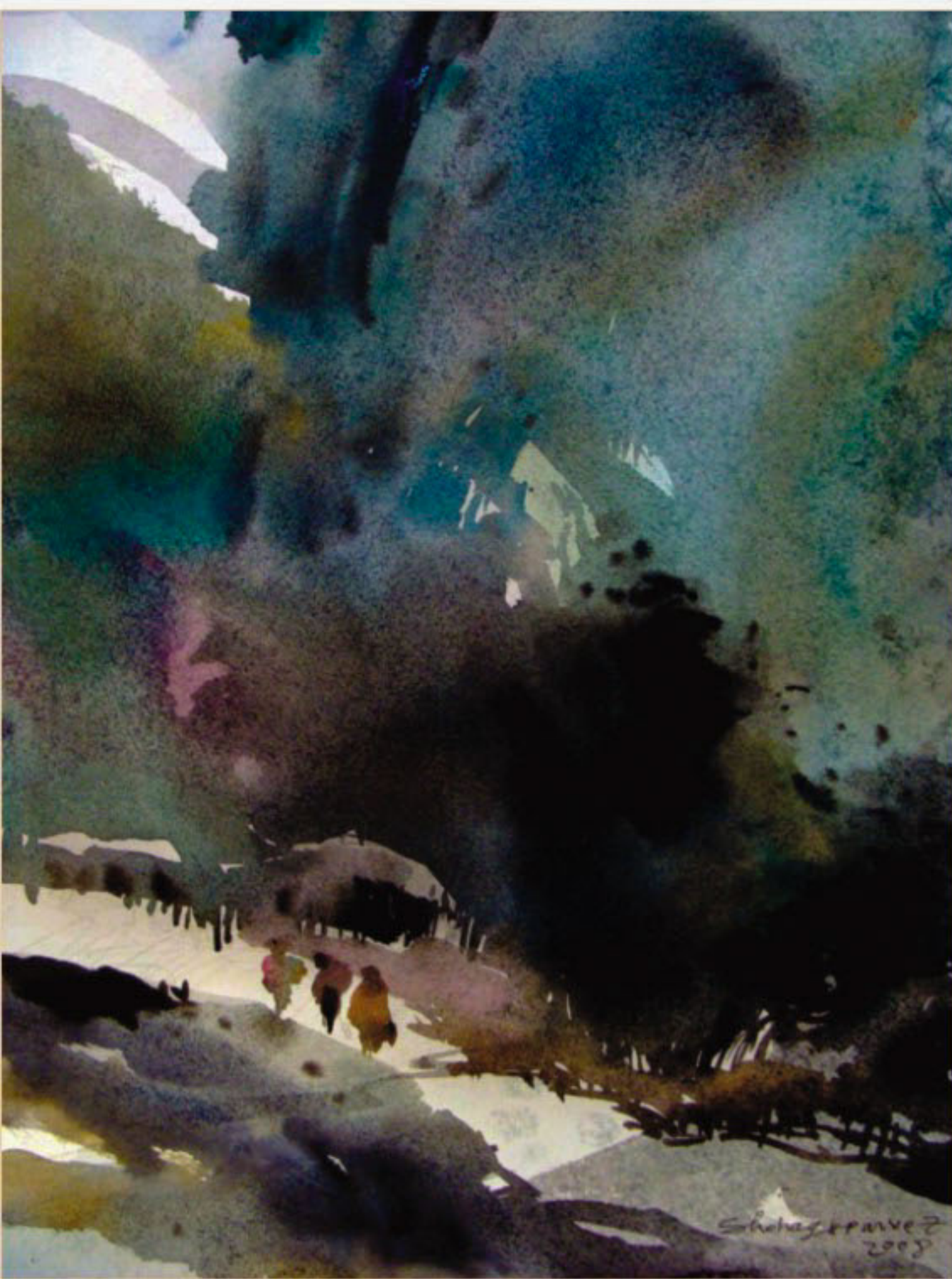


The fluid splendour of nature

Shohag Parvez's canvas epitomises Bangladesh



Shohag seeks to depict the sparkle and simplicity of nature.

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Shohag Parvez, considered one of the most dedicated among contemporary Bangladeshi painters, has a passion for portraying the splendour of natural, serene environment, riverine life, cloudy skies and hilly areas. He believes that we are all part of nature, but some of us closely observe nature with intense passion.

As a thoughtful painter, Shohag concentrates on the consistency of colours, rough textures and mind-boggling features. For their unique application on the canvas, the colours come across as vibrant and the forms as well as compositions seem beautifully adorned. The painter likes to work on big canvases. This orients him towards work that can simply be categorised as fervent and courageous.

Shohag is simultaneously a watercolourist and oil painter. His watercolours are superb in terms of his personal techniques and creating the effects of water. The artist's technique is particularly based on flat wash and thin colour. He seeks to depict the sparkle and simplicity of nature.

Shohag began his career as a naturalist painter, demonstrating the panoramic world with its rich abundance of colours, views, light, shade and calmness. He prefers seasonal changes, tranquil landscapes, ponds, lakes, mustard and green paddy fields in autumn, rainy days and blue skies. He portrays landscape in their essential harmony.

Solitude and serenity are two vital components in Shohag's works. The

subjects of his works are in a solemn mood and their characteristics are highlighted. Lighting is a prominent feature in the works and the artist generally prefers incandescent light and mystifying setting. At times, his figures (villagers and farmers) look immobile and help us think about their experiences. The painter feels propelled to demonstrate their everyday woes and bliss on his canvas.

Shohag has delved deep into the ambience of winter and foliage, the beauty of rivers and rustic culture. He was born in Kushtia and his village is close to the Gorai river, where he spent his leisure time in childhood. Most of his detailed and refined works are done in drawings where varied shades and tenors give a distinct look to his works.

Shohag's quiet and profoundly meditative landscape contains a symbolism that alludes to peace and hope in nature. He produces plain air watercolour and focuses his attention on impressive phenomena such as soft light and drizzle, which reflects his detailed study on landscape. His acrylic and poster colours have varied tonal effects, detailing the focus on the subject. Azure, emerald green, yellow, black and white are predominant aspects in his works. His lines are lyrical and spontaneous. Meticulous balancing of light and shade is another noticeable trait in his works. Most works of the painter have a pictorial space where boats, ships are navigating on the river and inland waterways.

Shohag's solo exhibition will start on December 10 at Shilpangan Contemporary Art Gallery in Dhaka.

IN FOCUS

Jatra costume-makers

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Despite unending hardship, costume-makers for jatra and theatre artistes continue working in a profession steeped in tradition.

"We are clinging to this profession despite relentless hardship. The golden days of jatra and indigenous performing art forms in small town and villages are over," said Md. Yusuf Ali, 50. "I started working in this profession some 30 years ago as a hobby and in the beginning we enjoyed this work. We used to make decent money and were busy round the year, especially in winter season," he added.

"We got hooked to this profession and could not think of leaving it," Yusuf told this correspondent at his shop 'Liza Shaj Ghar' near the Old Medical College gate, Krishtapur, in the town.

"Now we are hopeful for better days, as jatra performances seem to be picking up," said Yusuf. "After a series of bomb blasts at four movie theatres in Mymensingh town in 2002, we thought our profession was over," Yusuf said. Now the situation is slightly better, he added.

"We need a month to make a set of costumes for a historical jatra pala and they are sold at Tk 8000 to 15,000," said Yusuf, adding "the costumes can also be rented at Tk 800 to 1500 per show. In the past, during the peak season, we got 25 to 30 orders a month, but now the demand is less than half of that."

People from different parts of the greater Mymensingh region came to this town to get costumes but sometimes we had to refuse orders. Such was the demand," said Abdur Rahim, proprietor of 'Rahim Shaj Ghar' in

the town.

Ali Akbar Pathan, one of the pioneers in this profession, said that due to the changing taste of the masses, particularly the young, the popularity of the traditional art form jatra is now on the wane. Once there patrons in towns and villages who would commission jatra and plays, but now such benefactors are rare, said Pathan who has been involved with the profession for the last 40 years.

There are over 200 costume-makers in and outside the town. All are facing financial difficulties and contemplating leaving the profession.

Once costumes for jatra were supplied to different areas of Mymensingh region from the town. Both the costume-makers and artistes remained busy and with the reasonable income they could maintain their family, said Nizam Uddin Bhuiyan, proprietor of Nizam Shaj Ghar.

"We formed an organisation called 'Mymensingh Jatra-Natok Shilpi Bahumukhi Kalyan Samabay Samiti' and some 100 costume-makers and artistes are enlisted with the organisation," Bhuiyan, also president of the Samiti, said.

Since the British era, Mymensingh region was famed for traditional performances, including kobi gaan, jari, shari, bhatiali, marfati and murshidi songs and staging of jatra pala but due to lack of patronage and necessary support from the concerned authorities, these traditional art forms have almost lost their past glory, said Bhuiyan.

We've requested the local administration several times to take steps for easy permission of staging jatra, Bhuiyan informed. If getting permission in this regard becomes easy, this art form might see better days, he added.

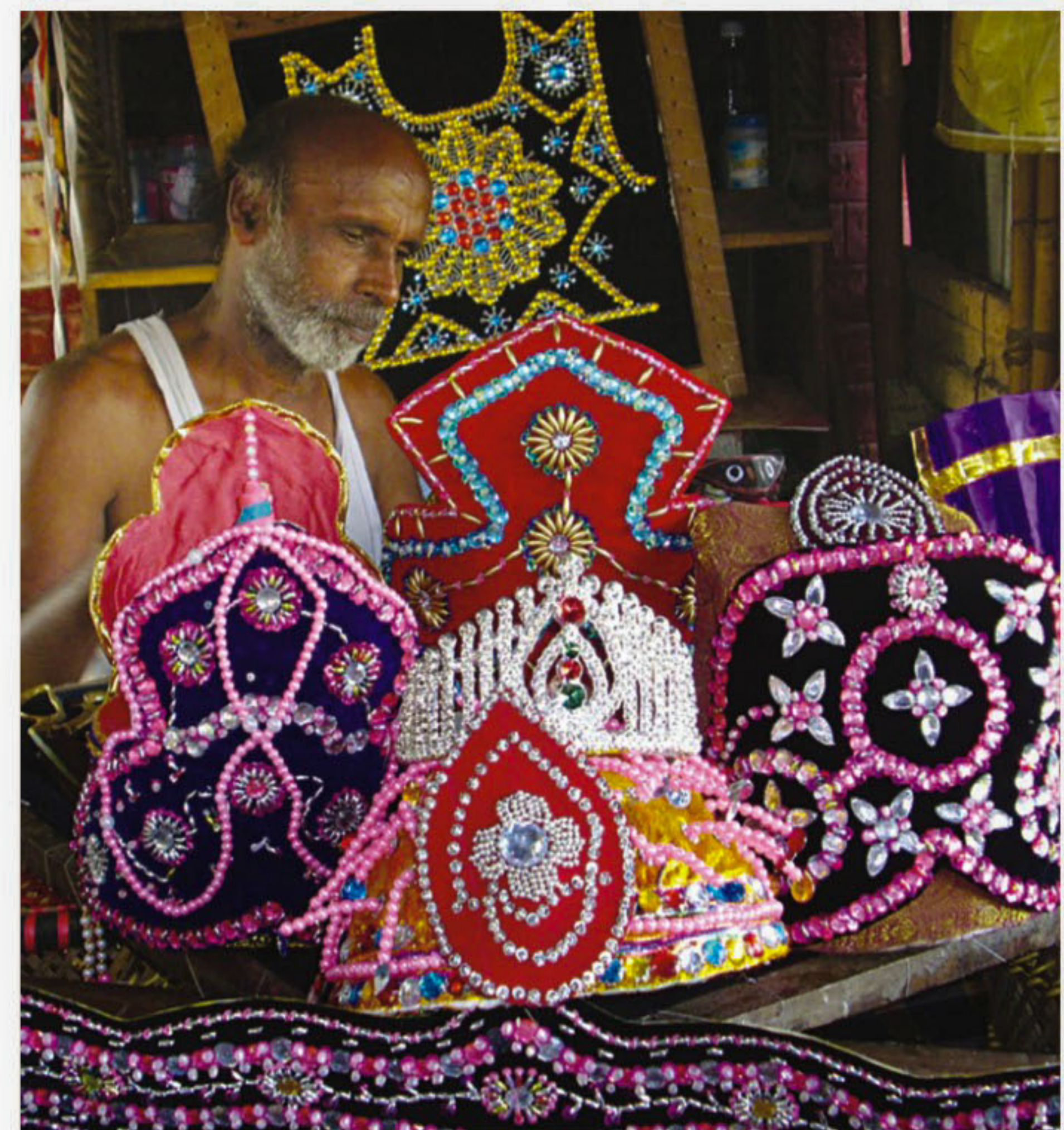


PHOTO: STAR

There are over 200 costume-makers in and outside Mymensingh town. All are facing financial difficulties and contemplating leaving the profession.



All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

ATN Bangla

10:30 Eider Khushi Matamati
11:15 Ek Hou Ek Praney
12:10 Shudhui Oder Jonno
12:45 Bangla Feature Film
04:30 Telefilm: Star Sunday in Darjeeling
07:45 Bokolom

08:50 Gharetey Bhromor Alo Gun Guniye

Channel i

09:45 Grameenphone Tritio
12:05 Telefilm: Prem Eshey Jacchey

03:30 Telefilm: Shomo Lota

O Shonkho Chil

07:50 Cha Athoba Coffee

09:35 Drama

ntv

10:05 Bangla Feature Film

02:30 Telefilm: Oporanher Golpo

05:30 Celebrity Show

08:15 Drama

11:30 Live Musical Show

ETV

10:02 Mamar Balish Kothae

11:00 Ekushey Sangbad

11:30 Swapna

12:30 Tomi Miah-r Recipe

01:30 Bangla Feature Film

05:25 Music Generation

07:30 Drama

Desh TV

10:30 Bangla Feature Film: Hothat Bristi

02:30 Telefilm

06:25 Fast Beat

07:30 Murti

Rtv

10:00 Bangla Feature Film

02:30 Telefilm: Tomakey Pawar Jonno

04:45 Special Eid Programme

09:00 The Shoes Story

11:30 Studio Eid Concert

Banglavisation

10:10 Bangla Feature Film

02:30 Bhutgari

05:15 Bhatiali Eid

06:05 Bappa-o-Amra

08:10 Anyo Aloy Manushgulo

Boishakhi TV

10:40 Bangla Feature Film

03:10 Telefilm: Bongsher Batti

05:20 Musical Show

06:20 Iccha Purno

07:50 Amra Duti Kemon Juti

08:30 Je Kothai Boltei Holo

10:35 Prattyabartan

ATN News

11:30 Sports Insight

02:15 Amader Katha

05:15 Pramanno Shomoy

07:30 Saat Rang (Live)

08:30 Ekin Protidin

09:00 News Hour

News Bulletin

BTV

News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00 am.

News (Bangla) at 8:00 am

2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.

News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm.

Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

CHANNEL-i

News (Bangla): 7:00 am,

9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am

ATN BANGLA

NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm,

10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am

News Every Hour:

7:00am, 11:00am, 12:00pm, 01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm

News (English): 9:00 am, 6:00 pm.

BANGLAVISION

News (Bangla) at 7:30am.

1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.

News (English) at 6:00pm

Rtv

News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am

ntv

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

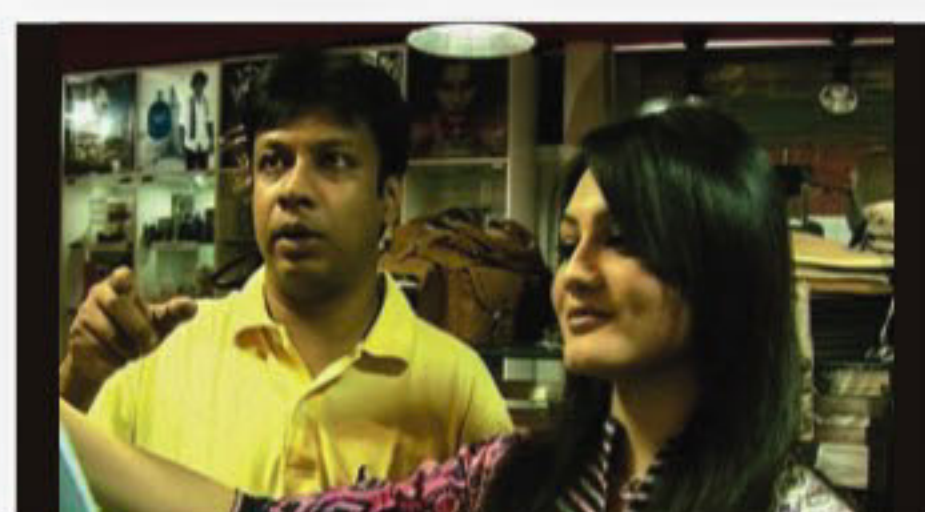
7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am

ETV

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

abc radio

News: 08:00 am, 12:00 pm, 03:00 pm, 06:00 pm, 09:00 pm, 12:00 am; English Bulletin: 1:30pm, 7:30pm



Cha Athoba Coffee

On Channel i at 07:50pm

Single Episode Play

Cast: Intekhab Dinar, Farhana Mili



Oporanher Golpo

On ntv at 02:30pm

Telefilm

Cast: Humaun Faridi, Riaz



Otiprakritik

On Banglavisation at 8:10

Single Episode Play

Cast: Raisul Islam Asad, Abul Hayat