

WHAT'S ON

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Monirul Islam  
Venue: Gallery Chitrah, Dhanmondi  
Date: May 27-June 15  
Time: 10am-8pm

**Solo Musical Soiree**  
Artist: Shahnam Mustari  
Venue: IGC, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1  
Date: June 10  
Time: 6:30pm

**Theatre Festival**  
Organiser: Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation  
Venue: Shilpakala Academy  
Date: June 3-17  
Time: 7pm everyday

**19th National Art Exhibition**  
Organiser: Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: May 28-June 17

**Recitation & Musical Soiree**  
Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 10  
Time: 7pm

**Srotar Aashor**  
Organiser: Chhayanaut  
Venue: Rameshchandra Dutta Memorial Auditorium, Chhayanaut, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 10

**Solo Photography Exhibition**  
Title: In Search 2  
Photographer: Naymuzzaman Pince  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 3-14; Time: 12-8pm

**Solo Musical Soiree**  
Artist: Mizanur Rahman Taslim  
Organiser: Pancham  
Venue: National Music & Dance Centre Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy

Mahfuz Ahmed @DS Café

Mahfuz Ahmed is one of the most popular actors in the Bangladeshi TV media. He has personified diverse characters throughout his extended acting career. The deft actor has gone behind the camera and directed TV plays and serials as well. He has acted in films too and won a National Film Award for his performance in "Lal Sabuj". "Choita Pagol", a serial directed by him, has become very popular among the audiences; Mahfuz plays the protagonist in it. Recently, this busy actor-director was the featured guest at DS Café, and spoke to his fans over the phone and Star Arts & Entertainment.

**The Daily Star (TDS): How is the serial "Choita Pagol" progressing?**  
**Mahfuz:** We are at the final stage of the serial. The plot is thickening over a relationship. The story focuses on the struggles and hardships a young widow faces in a rural setting.

**TDS: What makes this serial different from your other plays?**  
**Mahfuz:** Usually most of the plays/serials with a rural storyline are set in the same area. They always have Shaal and Gojari trees, and it seems like the entire country looks like that. Majority of these plays are shot in Pubail. "Choita Pagol" has been shot in Munshiganj, Bikrampur and the banks of Padma. I grew up in a village and know what a real village looks like.

Another feature that sets the serial apart is the use of Noakhali dialect -- moving away from the usual Pabna and Kushtia lingo that is widely used in TV plays. We also didn't cast actors who are originally from the Noakhali region. So, the language the actors are using on the serial is not hardcore Noakhali dialect; it's uncomplicated enough for everyone to understand. I didn't compromise on quality.

**A Journalist, London: Which is your dream role? Acting opposite which actress gave you the most satisfaction?**

**Mahfuz:** My dream role -- which will probably remain a dream -- is Amit from Rabindranath Tagore's "Sheshor Kobita". Several attempts were taken to film the story. Shomi Kaiser and I were cast as Labanyo and Amit for a Bangladeshi production. We rehearsed for two months. The more we rehearsed, the more the role seemed elusive. That project was scrapped. Later, producers in Kolkata made another attempt, but I lacked the courage. The more I read "Sheshor Kobita",



the role [Amit] seems harder to portray. I feel that I may do injustice to Amit's character.

As for your second question, Aupi Karim, Tarin and Joya Ahsan are very talented actresses who I love working with. I have done many plays with these three actresses. I acted opposite Joya in an Arun Chowdhury production called "Kagojer Phul" this was way before she became the "Joya Ahsan". I also had many acting opportunities opposite Aupi and Tarin, on both single-episode plays and serials. Also, one of my most memorable experiences has been working with Rupa Ganguly. I worked with her on an India-Bangladesh joint production, which was aired on Ekushey Television.

**TDS: Who is your favourite director?**

**Mahfuz:** Giasuddin Selim tops that list. He has the ability to bring out the character from inside an actor. He is a director who helps the actors see things from other perspectives. I admire Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's work too. I acted in some of his earlier works like "Shoro Borno Theatre", "Ekannoborti", "Balok Balika". Farooki also has the ability to interpret a character and convey his ideas to the actor.

**Sagar Chowdhury, Syhlet: You used to be a journalist. How did you get into the world of acting?**

**Mahfuz:** Everyone has to begin somewhere. I chose journalism. And no, I never had any aspiration about acting.

It just happened.

**TDS: Did you find any difference between acting in a TV play and acting for the silver screen?**

**Mahfuz:** When doing a movie, we try to maintain some of the same techniques applied in TV productions. On stage, a lot of expressions are needed. We need to tone it down a bit for the TV and further lessen it for films, as over-acting during a close shot of the face may ruin the scene. So the approaches are different.

**Himel, Narayanganj: How many episodes will "Choita Pagol" have?**  
**Mahfuz:** The serial will run 130 episodes.

**TDS: Do you think the recent daily**

**soap trend is an imitation of what's become popular in our neighbouring country?**

**Mahfuz:** Sadly, we are easily influenced by foreign trends, whether it is clothes or culture. Daily soaps have gained popularity on Indian channels, but it won't survive on our TV, as this doesn't really represent our culture or us.

**TDS: But "Shokal Shondha" followed this trend and was a huge success...**

**Mahfuz:** Yes, because "Shokal Shondha" incorporated true Bangladeshi elements into that format and was not a blind imitation. It takes skills to produce something like that.

**Mehedi, Rajshahi: It's very exciting to be speaking to you. I'm a huge fan. Mahfuz: I'm also glad to be talking to you. Take care of yourself.**

**TDS: Why did you decide to take up direction?**

**Mahfuz:** I did it to take some time off from acting. Actor Mahfuz Ahmed and the individual Mahfuz have both benefited from it. If acting remained my only source of income, I would have been forced to take up any offer. But the director Mahfuz Ahmed will add longevity and value to my acting résumé.

**Mahmud Manzur, Eskaton, Dhaka: When do you plan to direct a movie? "Choita Pagol", "Nurul Huda" and other plays directed by you have revealed your directorial talents.**

**Mahfuz:** Your words are very encouraging. However making something for the TV and for the silver screen are two very different things. So far I've done well with TV plays, but that might not be the same case for movies. However, like everyone else I have a dream of directing a film. But I want to make it for the masses, and not just for film festivals.

**Tarek, Jamalpur: I'm a huge fan. I watch all of your plays regularly, along with "Choita Pagol".**

**Mahfuz:** Thank you for calling from Jamalpur. Keep watching "Choita Pagol".

**Shonali, Uttara, Dhaka: Can you sing a song from the film "Lal Sabuj"?**

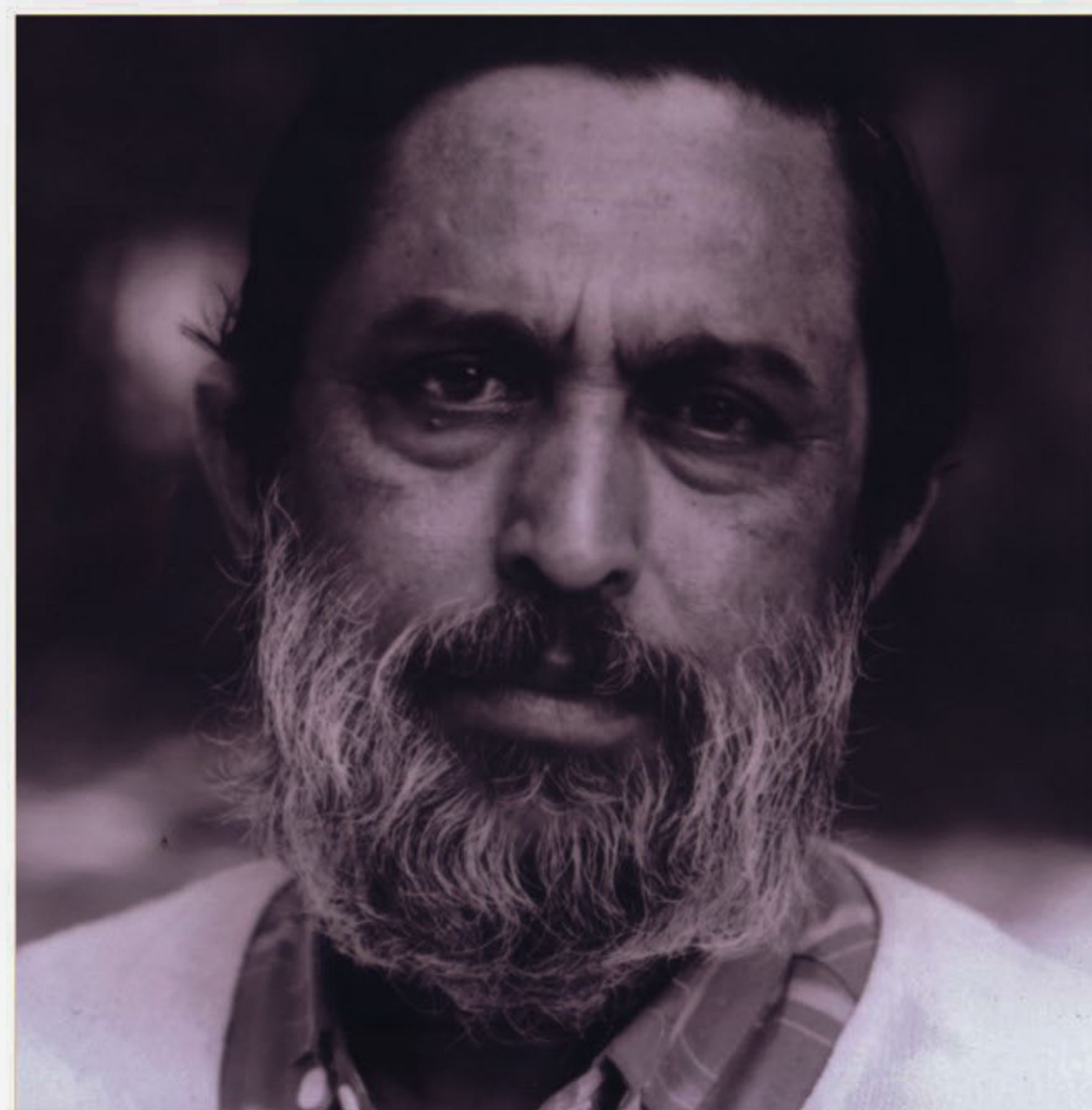
**Mahfuz:** I wish I could, but I can't sing. Thank you for calling.

**Lonny, Banani, Dhaka: Which district are you originally from?**  
**Mahfuz:** Kokhali.

**Nazmul, Singapore: I love your acting. Mahfuz: Thank you for calling. I hope you do well on foreign soil.**

**Transcribed by Shah Alam Shazu**

Documentary on Badal Rahman



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted filmmaker Badal Rahman passed away on June 11, last year. Tomorrow marks his first death anniversary. On the occasion, a documentary, titled "Pathkirit", on the life of Rahman will be screened tomorrow at TSC, Dhaka University.

Young filmmakers Saiful Islam and Belayet Hossain have jointly directed the documentary.

The screening of the documentary is part of a commemorative programme by Federation of Film Societies of Bangladesh (FFSB). Rahman served as its president till his last breath.

The documentary will shed light on different aspects of Rahman's life and works. Movieana Film Society has produced the documentary.

Badal Rahman was a "first" in many aspects of Bangladeshi cinema. He was the first Bangladeshi filmmaker to direct a full-length feature film ("Emil-er Goenda Bahini") for children. He was also the co-coordinator of the first film appreciation course in Bangladesh.

He was amongst the first Bangladeshis to earn a film-related degree. After returning to Bangladesh, he, along with Syed Salahuddin Zaki, made his first film "Protashar Shurjo" in 1974.

Rahman was actively involved with the film society movement in Bangladesh from its beginning. He was the convener of the current movement to form a national film policy. "Self Portrait" and "Shilpir Shilpo" are amongst his other notable films.

"Shyama" staged in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A performance of the Tagore dance-drama "Shyama" at the local Shilpakala Academy auditorium drew a huge audience recently. Bahurupi Natya Sangstha staged the dance-drama.

Directed jointly by Manash Talukder and Biswajit Kumar Sarker, it was the fourth show of "Shyama" by Bahurupi, according to sources.

The cast included Biswajit Sarker, Palash Sarker, Kobita, Kotha, Monisha, Kohinoor Akhtar and others.

The dance-drama, featuring popular Tagore songs, was appreciated by the local cultural enthusiasts, said Ziauddin Ahmed, a veteran journalist.

Through such programmes, people, especially the youngsters, can learn more about the Nobel laureate poet's repertoire, said Swapan Sarker, a cultural activist.

Prior to the show, a discussion was held with A.K.M. Helalul Islam, executive director of Bahurupi Natya Sangstha, in the chair. Shahadat Hossain Khan, secretary of



PHOTO: STAR

**A scene from the dance-drama.**

Bahurupi, was the chief guest. Noted Tagore artiste Professor Sumita Naha was the main discussant.

The speakers were of the view that Rabindranath Tagore made immense contri-

bution to virtually all spheres of Bengali life. The literary works, including plays, of Tagore have been embraced by the readers, and his dance-dramas have become an inseparable part of our culture, they added.

Museum on Liberation War in Tangail opens



MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

A museum on Liberation War has opened its doors in Tangail.

Freedom Fighter and former diplomat Anwarul Alam Shaheed has recently founded the museum on the Mymensingh Road in the town. The museum contains Liberation War memorabilia, including hundreds of rare documents and photographs from that period.

Shaheed took part in all major movements in the country since 1962. He actively participated in the Liberation War (in 1971). In the independent Bangladesh, he held several important positions. He also served as the Bangladeshi Ambassador to Bahrain and Spain. He wanted to establish a museum at his home district, Tangail, featuring documents, photographs and memorabilia from 1971. Shaheed said that the museum's collection can educate people on the real history of the war.

"I'll start a special programme at the museum for school and college students of the district," he said. The headmasters and principals of local schools and colleges can contact the museum authority for more information on this.

Saheed said that his next plan is to install a library with a good collection of books on the war, and a gallery, at the museum.

Jhenidah Udichi observes Rabindra-Nazrul anniversaries

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi's Sailkupa unit (in Jhenidah) recently celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore and 112th birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam. As part of the celebration, a discussion and cultural programme were held at the central Shaheed Minar premises.

The discussion was presided over by Udichi's Sailkupa unit president Sher Ali Mantu. Assistant Professor of the English

Department, Islamic University, Dr. Mia Mohammad Rashiduzzaman was the chief guest. Poet Ranak Muhammad Rafique; S.M. Rafique; Alamgir Aranya; Sarwar Reza Sabuj and Sailkupa Public Library secretary Swapan Bagchi, among others, spoke at the discussion.

Conducted by Radio and TV personality Babul Biswas, the cultural programme featured performances by local artistes Sangita, Ritu, Meem, Ananya, Bristy, Ipti, Ishita, Nishita, Swarna and Qamran Siddiquee.

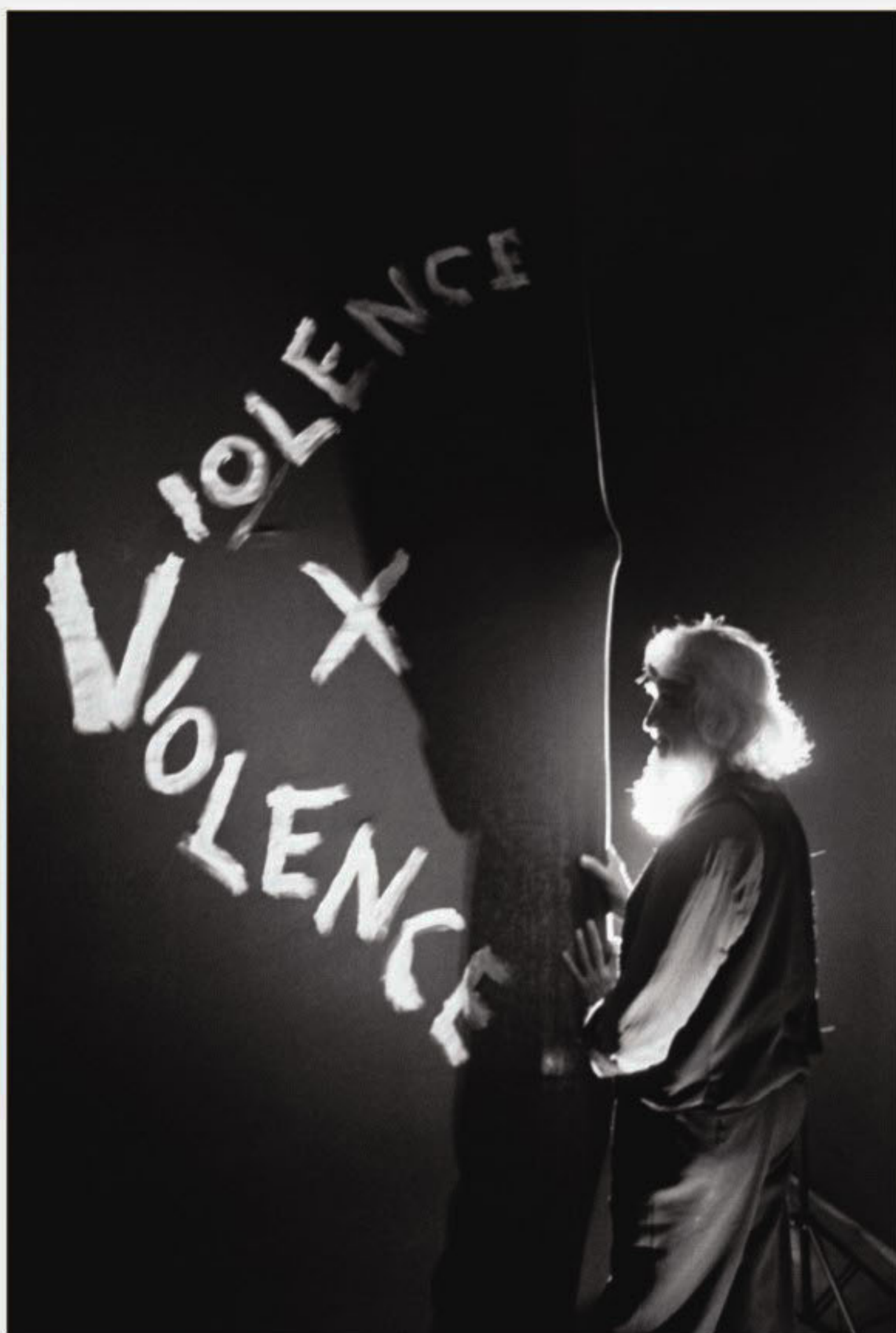


PHOTO COURTESY: PARTHIV SHAH

This may mark the end of an era, an era that was defined by the greatness of intellect and exquisite artistic abilities. Maqbool Fida Husain is no more. He passed away early yesterday. CNN-IBN TV channel quoted a friend, Arun Vadehra, as saying that Husain, often described as India's Picasso, died at the Royal Brompton hospital in London. His lawyer, Akhil Sibal, confirmed the death to The Associated Press. He was 95.

A self-taught artist, Husain lived an adventurous life.

The stupor of persona merged with controversial brush strokes. Yet tragically, India's most sought-after painter died in foreign territory. Husain had lived in Dubai since 2006 after receiving death threats from Hindu hard-liners in India for a nude painting of a woman shaped like India's map, often depicted as "Mother India" in popular arts, folklore and literature.

Husain's romance with art did not start in a romantic way. An often told story, he used to paint film posters and hoardings to make a living. Every time he managed to save some dough, the young artist used to paint landscapes. And thus, began one of the greatest artistic voyages. Husain's artwork may be categorised as Modern Progressive and Contemporary. He joined the Progressive Artists' Group in 1947. In 1952, his first solo exhibition was held at Zurich and over the next few years, his work gained prominence in Europe and the U.S. The painter was honoured with the prestigious Padma Shree, awarded by the Government of India.

"Art is never chaste. It ought to be forbidden to ignorant innocents, never allowed into contact with those not sufficiently prepared. Yes, art is dangerous. Where it is chaste, it is not art," said Pablo Picasso.

Always under the controversial light, Husain first came under the scanner after his first controversial artwork was published in 1996. The artwork, which depicted Hindu deities in the nude, was painted in the '70s. After it was published, the debate over freedom of expression versus hurting Hindu sentiments took an ugly turn and fanatics threatened Husain.

Yet again, in 2006 he was charged with hurting sentiments of people because of his controversial painting "Bharatmata", and Husain went in to exile.

After numerous incidents of his paintings being taken down from exhibitions, Husain was left with no choice but to leave the country. Later, he was honoured with a Qatar citizenship.

His first film, "Through the Eyes of a Painter", was shown at the Berlin Festival (1967) and won a Golden Bear. He later made a Bollywood film called "Gaja Gaminini" in 2000, featuring his muse Madhuri Dixit in the lead roles. His last film was "Meenaxi: Tale of Two Cities" featuring Tabu. Husain's list of muses is endless. The painter saw beauty in the leading ladies of Bollywood. His most famous muse has to be Madhuri Dixit. Interestingly, his latest muse is Mamata Banerjee.

Husain spoke of a desire to return home during several interviews in recent years.

Actress Shabana Azmi, a close family friend of the artist, said that she was "deeply, deeply saddened," to learn of Husain's death. She described him as an "iconoclastic painter, a wonderful human being and a very good friend."

Compiled by Correspondent



Paintings by Husain

BTV	09:35 Cartoon: Tom and Jerry	04:15 Shorashori Doctor
	10:30 Theatre	05:15 Boishakhi-CNN
	01:00 Bangla Feature Film	06:20 Star Award Nomini Adda
	06:55 Chhaya Rang	08:45 Drama: Shopner Koek Ghanta
	08:40 Hatim	
	09:00 Drama Serial	11:30 Boishakhi Bindon O Sanskriti Sangbadh
ATN BANGLA	10:30 Ramna Ghar	
	02:50 Bangla Feature Film	
	06:15 Amra Korbo Joy	
	08:00 Meghe Dhaka Tara	
	10:45 Bihango Kotha	
	11:00 Gaane Gaane Galpo	
CHANNEL i	11:05 Teleshomoy	
	01:30 Hindoyer Gaan	
	02:40 Tele-film	
	06:00 Campus Hero	
	07:50 Khude Gaanraj	
	11:30 Fun Club Tournament	

abc radio FM 90.2	06:00	08:00
06:00	Bhorer Janatali	Adalait
09:00	Mukhorito Jhoney	Boier Paka
12:00	Duran Diguprey	Forti Unlimited
03:00	Duranta Bikeloy	06:00 Bumper to Bumper
05:00	Shomobhara	10:00 Club Forti
07:00	Shage Mera	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
09:00	Rak-er Akashay	06:00 Good Morning Dhaka
11:00	Gulper Shech Nei	11:00 Flash Back
RADIO FOORTI	12:30	Islamic Program
	02:15	Rugali Gaan

**Tula Rashi**  
On Desh TV at 09:45pm  
Single Episode TV Play  
Cast: Dr. Enamul Haque, Bidya Sinha Mim

**An American Werewolf in London**  
On HBO at 11:45pm  
Genre: Horror  
Cast: David Naughton, Jenny Agutter

**Rumali**  
On ntv at 08:15pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Subarna Mustafa, Jeny

ntv	10:30 Aponar Jiggasha	07:50 Baby Naznin Life in Dhaka
	02:30 Tele-film	09:40 Drama
	05:30 Tiffin-er Fake	12:05 Phone O Live Studio Concert
	06:10 Shubho Shontdyo	
	06:45 Rupmadhuri	
	11:30 Hip Hip Hurray (Live)	
Rtv	10:10 Career Today	
	03:10 Cinema R Gaan	
	05:00 Music R Music	
	06:00 Star and Sports	
	07:40 Drama: Advocate Belayet Hossen	
	11:30 Ghure Darao Bangladesh	
BANGLAVISION	10:10 Bhalo Thakun	
	11:05 Amader Rannaghar	
	04:05 Music Together	
	06:10 Gaan O Fun	
	11:25 Ami Ekhon Ki Korbo	
Desh TV	11:00 Desh Amar	
	03:00 Bangla Feature Film	
	04:00 Desh Jangpad	
	07:45 Ja Kichu Prothom	
	09:45 Drama: Tula Rashi	
	11:45 Call-er Gaan	

ATN BANGLA	09:05pm	Oloshpur
	09:20pm	Haat-er Reikha Kotha
		Boley
CHANNEL i	09:35pm	Phanush
ntv	08:15pm	Rumali
	09:45pm	Qana Gantabho
Rtv		
ATN BANGLA	09:05pm	Oloshpur
	09:20pm	Haat-er Reikha Kotha
		Boley
CHANNEL i	09:35pm	Phanush
ntv	08:15pm	Rumali
	09:45pm	Qana Gantabho
Rtv		

BTV	News (Bangla) at 8:00 am	BANGLAVISION	News (Bangla) at 7:30am
	2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm		1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.
	News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:50 pm.		News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.
	Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).		News (English) at 6:00pm
CHANNEL-i	News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am		News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am
CHANNEL-i	News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am		News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am
ATN BANGLA	NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 am, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am		News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:50 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 6:00 pm.

ATN BANGLA	10:40am	Tankatop
	08:30am	Islam Ki Bole Amra
		Ki Kon
	12:30am	Lead News
CHANNEL i	09:45am	Trito Matra
	12:05pm	Kara Alaap
	05:30pm	Shamoyiki
Rtv		
BANGLAVISION	12:05pm	Maha Shatta Al-Quran
	05:25pm	Bayet Protidin
CHANNEL i	09:45am	Trito Matra
	12:05pm	Sat kahon
	05:30pm	Shamoyiki
Rtv		