

WHAT'S ON

Film Screening
 Film: Kalpana
 Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan 1
 Date: Aug 29
 Time: 6:30pm



Documentary Launch and Screening
 Title: Kochuripana
 Venue: Bangladesh Film Institute Auditorium, Kalabagan
 Date: Aug 28; Time: 6pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
 Artist: Rahima Afroz
 Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, R-7/A, Dhanmondi
 Date: Aug 22-29
 Time: 3-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
 Artist: Ganesh Haloi
 Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H-42, R-16, Dhanmondi
 Date: Aug 28-Sep 8
 Time: 12-8pm



Solo Water-colour Exhibition
 Artist: Shahnoor Mamun
 Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi
 Date: Aug 23-Sep 6
 Time: 3-9pm

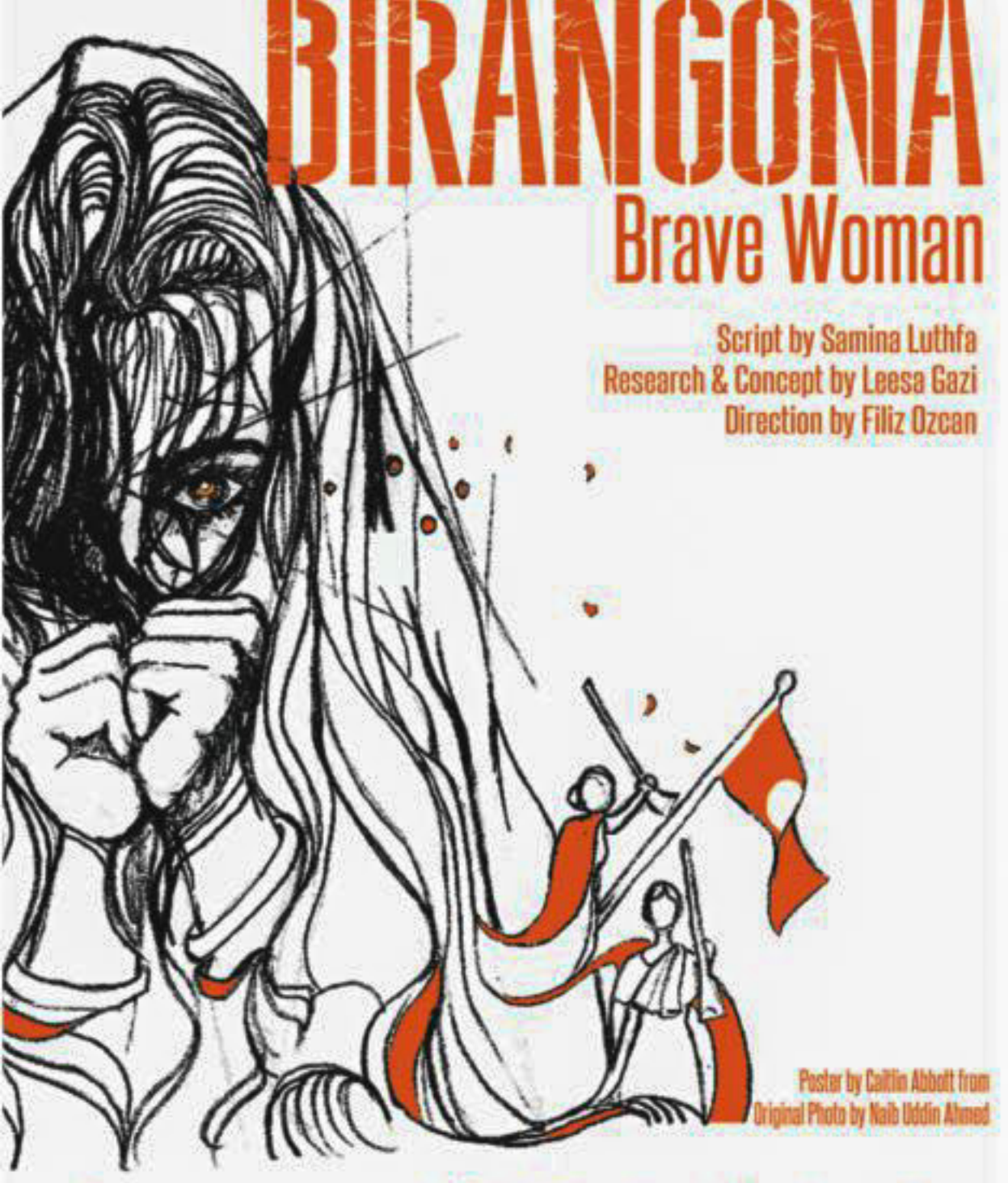


BIRANGONA
 Brave Woman

Komola Collective Presents

Script by Samina Luthfa
 Research & Concept by Leesa Gazi
 Direction by Filiz Ozean

Poster by Caitlin Abbott from Original Photo by Nabil Moina Ahmed



Bringing Forth Unsung Tales of Birangonas

In conversation with Leesa Gazi

SAURAV DEY

With every minute detail about the Liberation War filled with the praise of male participation, the women who spent nine nightmarish months during the war remain unsung. We say tens of thousands of women were subjected to rape, torture and abuse by the Pakistan army and their local collaborators, but how many of us know the agonies of the war heroines? The history of the war simply deprives the women of their due credit; it is misconstrued and ignored. The stories of women being tied and gang-raped in Pakistani camps, piles of dead bodies of raped women being dumped in some unknown mass graves-- simply remained out of sight. Since rape is a taboo and raped women are the subjects of hatred in the conservative social structure, the horror has never been dug up; marked with dishonour they remained silent and ostracised.

Komola Collective, a London-based theatre and arts company, dedicated to narrating the stories of women from the women's perspec-

tive came up and initiated a project to bring forth the stories of war heroines through a theatrical production-- "Birangona: Brave Women."

In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, Leesa Gazi, actor, writer and founding member of Komola Collective, shared the journey and experiences of bringing these unheard stories to people.

The Background: Stories about Birangonas were pretty familiar to Leesa, and in 2010, she had the chance of meeting a number of war heroines at a women's organisation in Sirajganj. Since we categorise these women as Birangonas and treat them differently, she felt an urge to document the stories from their point of view. They also have personal lives, families, childhood, loved ones, husbands -- as a whole they are individuals like us, and Leesa is working to bring forth their life sketches as individuals. "When a Birangona dies, she takes her story along, so I felt that it was necessary to document the tales," she said.

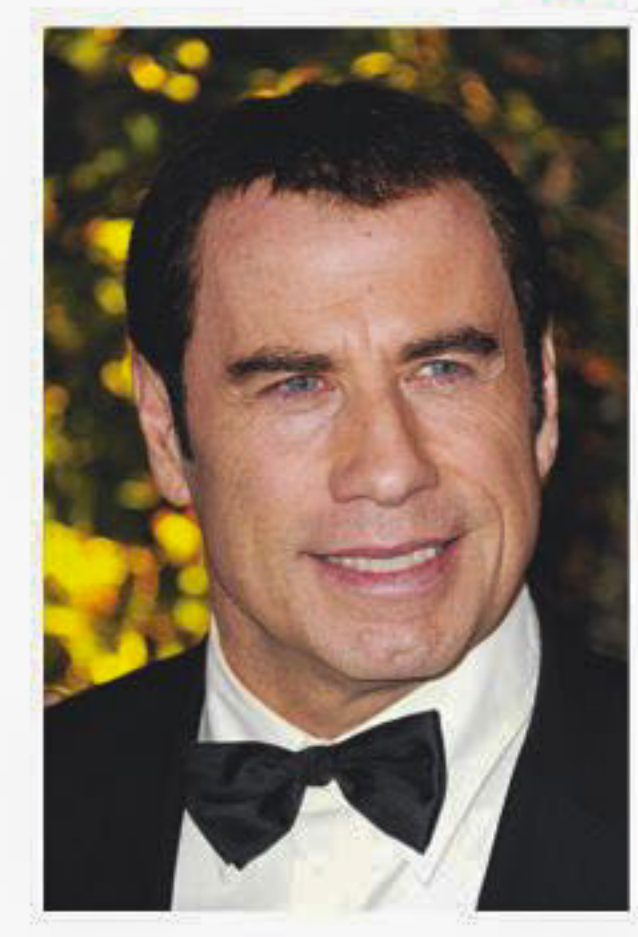
The Production: The production is all

about the stories of Birangonas, their subjective expressions of inner experiences. Their experiences during war, and post war period will become vivid through the production. Leesa Gazi will come on the stage as the solo character, while in the background -- shadow work and a multimedia production will depict stories. After the research and development show of "Birangona: Brave Women," at the end of this month, the production will open in the UK, and other countries.

The relevance of this project in the present context: The production is extremely relevant to contemporary times; throughout history, women have been the worst victim of war strategies. In addition, the new generation is growing up without even knowing history, so it is a must that we properly document the tales and present them to the youngsters so that these can be passed along the generations.

The experimental staging will help Komola Collective to develop the story; and the aim of Leesa is to spread their stories so that the roles and agony of women do not go unsung.

IT'S TRUE!



Tom Cruise, Brad Pitt, John Travolta, Johnny Depp, Leonardo DiCaprio and Harrison Ford have never won Oscars.

Writers Foundation Bangladesh observes Nazrul death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking the 37th death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Writers Foundation Bangladesh organised a discussion along with a cultural programme at Poet Sufia Kamal auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum on August 27.

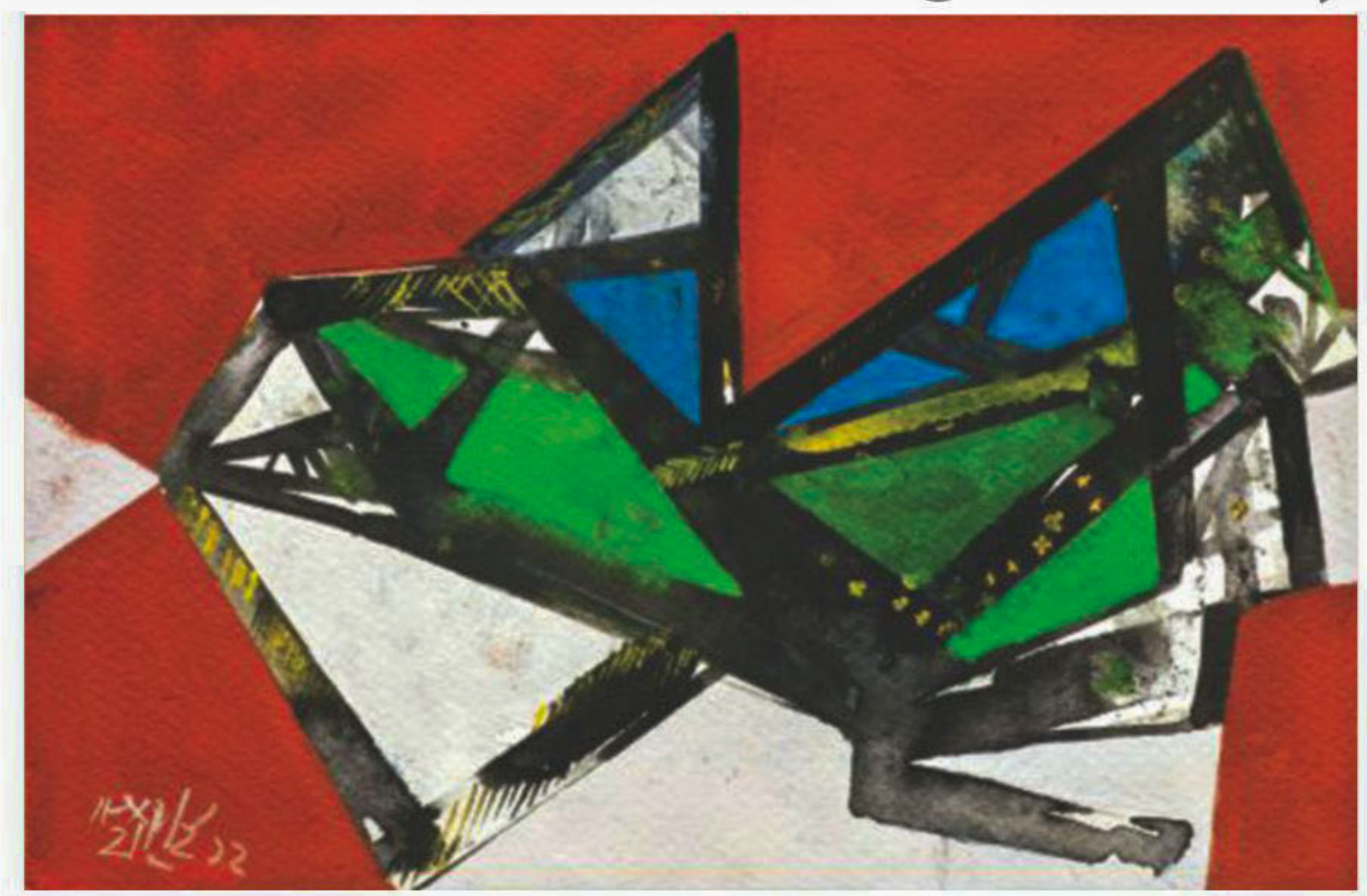
National Professor Mustafa Nurul Islam was chief guest at event. He also unveiled a book titled "Nazrul-er Islami Gaan O Bhoktigateeti", written by Mostari Parveen Tina.

Ganosangeet artiste Fakir Alamgir, vice president of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote Golam Kuddus and Professor Khaled Hossain were present as special guests. Dr. Anu Mahmud delivered a memorial speech titled "Ashamprodayik Nazrul: Prekhhit O Ganosangeet" at the event. Among others Dr. Rashidunnabi and Dr. Pradip Kumar Nandi took part in the discussion. Nazrul researcher and chairman of the organisation Dr. Abul Azad presided over the discussion.

The organisers awarded the Nazrul Sammanona Padak to singer Bulbul Mahalanobish and Torun Nazrul Gobeshok-Swapna Roy Smriti Padak to Mostari Parveen Tina.

Artistes of Wrishij Shilpi Goshthi set off the programme with a rendition of the National Anthem. Later, artistes Bulbul Mahalanobish, Sharif Ashrafuzzaman and Mostari Parveen Tina presented Nazrul songs.

Ganesh Haloi's solo exhibition at Bengal Gallery

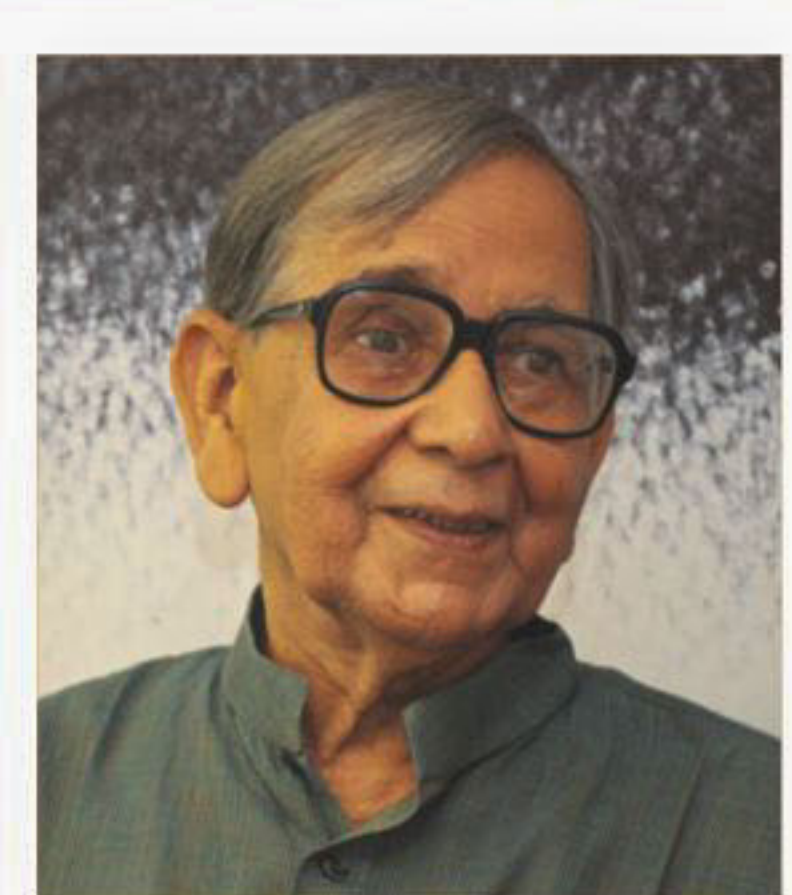


STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in collaboration with Akar Prakar Gallery, Kolkata will organise a solo painting exhibition titled "Rhythm of Reality", featuring the works of noted Indian painter Ganesh Haloi. The exhibition begins today at Bengal Gallery in Dhanmondi and will run till September 8.

Cultural Minister Abul Kalam Azad will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest. Pankaj Saran, High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh and eminent artist Rafiqun Nabi will be present as special guests at the inauguration.

Ganesh Haloi is one of the prominent abstract artists of India.



He was born in Jamalpur (Bangladesh) in 1936. He moved to Kolkata after Partition in 1950. He graduated from Government College of Art and Craft in Kolkata in 1956. The next year he joined

the Archaeological Survey of India to replicate the Ajanta murals. He taught at the Government College of Art and Craft since 1963 till his retirement. Since 1971, he has been a member of the Society of Contemporary Artists. He has held 19 solo exhibitions and group exhibitions in different parts of the world, and is the recipient of several prestigious awards.

On the occasion of the exhibition, a press conference was held at Bengal Café yesterday. Ganesh Haloi, Reena Lath, director of the Akar Prakar Gallery and Subir Chowdhury, director of Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts were present at the press conference. Sarwar Jahan, manager of Bengal Foundation, gave a profile of the featured artist.

ALL TIME GREATS

Ustad Zakir Hussain Hands that speak

KAVITA, New Delhi

"Encyclopedia of the Tabla", world renowned Ustad Zakir Hussain was initiated into the intricacies of rhythm when he was two days old. "Ta ta ki ta di ta ta ki di," whispered his father legendary master of the tabla Ustad Alla Rakha into the new born baby's ear, when asked to sing a spiritual mantra for his son. These primary "lessons" continued till Hussain was two years old.

And so a child prodigy appeared on the music scene. At the age of seven, Hussain gave his first public performance, started touring at 12 years and went on to become one of the world's greatest tabla artistes, world renowned Grammy award winning percussionist and world musician. On his home turf he was the youngest percussionist to win civilian awards Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri from the Indian Government.

Fame didn't come easy. As a young boy of seven in Mumbai, tabla practice with his father Ustad Alla Rakha meant gruelling lessons from two at night to six in the morning. The sleepy young boy would then make his way to school. The best reward was when he would get thrown out of class for practicing on the benches, recalled Hussain in an interview with a leading publication.

Hussain completed his schooling and graduation in Mumbai. At the age of 19, he went to the United States.



The year was 1970. His first concert at the Fillmore East in New York was with Pandit Ravi Shankar. It was by coincidence that Hussain was accompanying the great sitarist. His father was supposed to do but when he fell ill, the organisers were confident that his son could replace him.

In the US, Hussain's talent touched new heights. Widely acknowledged as an architect of the contemporary world music movement, he has many historic collaborations, including Shakti which he formed with John McLaughlin and L. Shankar, Remember Shakti, the Diga Rhythm Band, Making Music, Planet Drum with Micky Hart (famous drummer of the legendary Grateful Dead), Tabla Beat Science, among others. He won the coveted Grammy Award twice over: Best World Music Album for "Planet Drum" in 1992 and for "Global Drum Project" as Contemporary World Music Album, 2009.

Hussain has also done recordings and performances with names as diverse as George Harrison, YoYoMa, Joe Henderson, Van Morrison, Mark Morris and the Kodo drummers.

Hussain has even dabbled in films. His played a role in "Heat and Dust" for which he was associate music director as well. He has composed music for several films such as "In Custody" by Ismail Merchant and has played the tabla for the soundtracks of "Apocalypse", "Little Buddha" and other films.

Hart and he put the music together for "The Godfather". He takes pride in solely having done the music for the last 12 dramatic minutes of the film--when Marlon Brando gets killed.

Hussain is constantly on the learning curve. "Never stop being a student--be a better student," he once said to an interviewer.

TV WATCH

"1971: Sheishob Dingulo" on Channel i



Saju Khadem and Tisha in the telefilm.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Based on a concept by Dr. Enamul Huq, actor-director Hridi Huq has written and directed a film serial for Channel i titled "1971: Sheishob Dingulo", to portray the country during the Liberation War, and narrate stories of the lives of the masses through that struggle.

The research-based docu-fiction will feature footage and documents from the Liberation War, set off by a fictional script. At the end of every even-numbered episode will be an interview of a Freedom Fighter or witness of war, conducted by Subarna Mustafa. The episodes were shot in Thakurgaon, Panchagar, Rangpur and Gazipur.

The illustrious cast of the show includes Ataur Rahman, Jhuna Chowdhury, Mosharraf Karim, Litu Anam, Tisha, Sajal, Romana, Tanzika Amin, Shaju Khadem, Sajjad Reza, Samia, Proshun Azad, Nilufar Banu Lily, Parveen Lopa and Zakir Rony

The series, produced under the banner of Ticket production house, will air on Channel i at 7:50pm every Wednesday from August 28.

Eid Ananda Mela held in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Uccharan Academy of Bogra arranged an exciting programme for children at Romena Afaj stage of Shaheed Titu Milonayatan in Bogra town last Friday evening.

A short discussion was followed by a cultural programme that included poetry recitation, dance performances and rendition of the songs of Tagore, Nazrul as well as modern and traditional songs.

The discussants were noted cultural activists Akram Hossain, Rezaul Hasan Ranu, Toufique Hasan Moyna, Monowarul Islam,



Anowarul Islam, Abdur Rahim Bogra, Shahabuddin Saikat among others. The programme was presided over by the director of Uccharan Academy, Bogra.

Clad in new Eid attire, the children sang "Eid manei ananda", "Eid manei Khushi" and "Amar Bangali mon-e eider ananda", among others.

In a rare move, the Bangladeshi community in Auckland, New Zealand, recently organised a Bangla musical charity show titled "Barnali Shondha", says a press release. The expatriate Bangali community (from both Bangladesh and India's West Bengal) in Auckland gathered to enjoy this exceptional musical evening at the Playhouse Theatre in Auckland. The musical evening was a wonderful combination of Tagore and Nazrul songs. Expatriate noted Bangladeshi singers in Auckland Sabiha Mahbub and Rani Aklima performed songs at the hour long musical evening.



ERRATUM

It has been brought to our attention by Bengal Foundation on the article "The Musical Dance of Alamel Valli", written by Lubna Mariam and published on August 25, 2013, that the information that Alamel Valli was in Bangladesh on invitation from Bengal Foundation when the interview was conducted -- was inadvertently missing from the article.