


WHAT'S ON

Photography Exhibition  
Life and works of Tajuddin Ahmed  
Venue: Gallery 21, Dhanmondi  
Date: July 19-September 8  
Time: 12pm-8pm



Photography Exhibition  
Simple Pleasures of Life  
Organiser: Eastern Bank Limited  
Venue: Drik Gallery  
Date: August 14-16



Solo Watercolour Exhibition  
Title: "Jol Chobi" by Shahanoor Mamun  
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Française De Dhaka



Solo Painting Exhibition  
Title: "Momentary History" by Niamul Bari  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts  
Date: August 12-30



Album Launch  
Album: Koto Chameli Britha Jaye by Dia  
Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum  
Date: August 22  
Time: 6:30pm



## NEWS bytes

### Bieber pleads guilty to reckless driving



Justin Bieber's agreed to take anger management classes after pleading guilty to careless driving and resisting arrest in Miami. The singer was held by police in Florida in January with singer Khalil Amir Sharieff after a street drag race.

Prosecutors agreed to drop a charge of driving under the influence in exchange for the guilty pleas. Bieber's also agreed to pay court fees and give \$50,000 to charity. He wasn't in court for the hearing.

He was also charged with resisting arrest and driving on an expired license. Last month Bieber pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor vandalism charge for throwing eggs at a neighbour's house in LA. He agreed to pay more than \$80,000 in damages. The 20-year-old is also charged with assaulting a limousine driver in Toronto. He is being sued in Miami by a photographer who says he was attacked while taking pictures of the singer outside of a recording studio.

Source: BBC

### IT'S TRUE!



American record producer, conductor, arranger, composer, Quincy Delight Jones, Jr. -- known better as Quincy Jones -- holds the record for most Grammy nominations -- 79, along with 27 wins, including a Grammy Legend Award in 1991. He was the first African-American to be nominated twice within the same year (1968) for an Academy Award for Best Original Score, and be named as the musical director/conductor of the Academy Awards ceremony (1971). He is tied with sound designer Willie D. Burton as the African-American who has been nominated for the most Oscars; each has received seven nominations. He produced albums like "Off the Wall", "Thriller" and "Bad" with Michael Jackson.

# THROUGH THE EYES OF A POET

## Poetry time with Syed Shamsul Haq

ZAHANGIR ALAM

Rabindranath Tagore once described Jibanananda Das' poems as "Chitraroopomoy" (painting-like imagery). Eminent poet and ambidextrous litterateur Syed Shamsul Haq recently recited his poetry at the Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct amidst the evocative ambience of paintings by master painter SM Sultan of whom the poet cherishes many fond memories. This writer caught up with the poet prior to his performance, and talked to him about Bengali poetry, the relation between poetry and painting and other subjects.

"Imagery lies both in poetry and painting; while poetry predominantly revolves around images, painting generates newer imageries. Emergence of new words in poetry might be scarce, but the visuals around us are in constant flux. Sometimes poets reshape old ideas and use age-old words in a newer fashion. Yet, there are poets who discovered images and incorporated those in their works. Say for example, 'Pakhir Nirer Moto Chokh Tuley Natore Bonolata Sen' is Jibanananda's invention. Again, in the line 'Banglar Mukh Ami Dekhiachhi, Tai Ami Prithibir Roop Khujitey Jai Na Aar', here 'Bangla' and 'Prithibi' are not images, but when they reflect into each other, they form a beautiful image that Das discovered...the beauty of eternal Bengal in the earth and vice versa!

"Today I am here to recite poetry. I had a longtime association with Sultan Bhai (SM Sultan). My wife knew him from her childhood. Whenever he visited Jessore, he would have food prepared by my mother-in law. I have many sweet memories of the master. Time and again we sat by the river Chitra and puffed mahatamak (super tobacco) together. He would share his artistic vision with me. I saw him doing a canvas by pouring river ebony or velvet apple juice (locally known as gaab) on jute sacks. He had a close affinity with nature and its elements including animals, birds and even reptiles.

Syed Haq recited some of his lesser-known poems depicting images of idyllic and nostalgic Bengal that is on the wane; mostly to those living in the cities. Besides, he recited several compositions of other poets, including Rabindranath. "I regard Rabindranath Thakur not as a Sonar Thakur (Golden Thakur) but rather as one of my greatest predecessors. He is the best poet of Bengali literature. Unlike others, I remember him differently because I have learnt my craft from him.

In response to my inception of a Tagore excerpt, "Debo Ar Nebo Melabo Milibo...", Syed Haq said that though Tagore nurtured almost all the genres of literature, art, music and culture, we, the craftsmen or creators, evaluate him prioritising his angik (view-

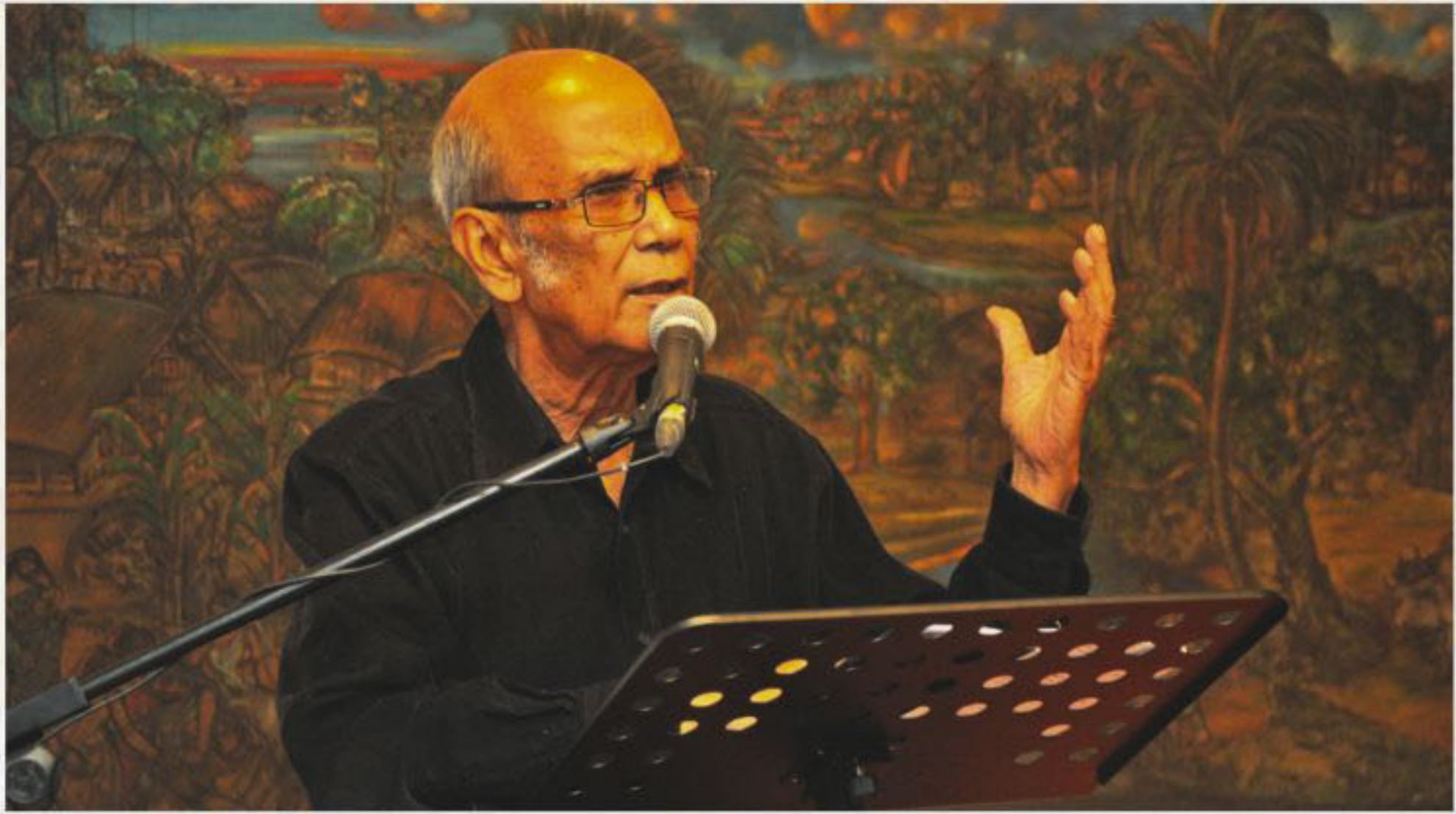


PHOTO: STAR

point) rather than his speech. His creation of stance is innovative with regard to his speech. We cannot reach him in these times; because the time we witnessed, such as the country's partition, shedding blood for language, military rule, genocide and Liberation War of which Tagore experienced nothing. These happenings have greatly influenced my whole perception."

About his famous poem "Amar Porichoy", Syed Haq commented "I wrote 'Amar Porichoy' at a point when I was inspired to write a short history of Bangladesh for young readers. It was to enable them to learn the history and backdrop of our identity. Later, I changed my mind to express my feelings through the most antique form of literature -- poetry. Thus an interesting and well-received poem emerged in 1993. It was also published. But, for some reason, I do not know for about 15 years, it was not noticed. But suddenly, it has surfaced and everybody recites and quotes from it and I am very happy that it gives you a patriotic passion revisiting the roots of our identity. I have tried to include the four pillars--nationalism, secularism, socialism and democracy -- the essence of the Liberation War. I have tried to assimilate that through my poetic effort...say for example, excerpts like, 'Ami To Eshechhi Barendrabhum-e Sona Masjid Theke, Ami To Eshechhi Matir Deul Aaul Baul Thekey' or 'Ami To Eshechhi Zainul Ar Aban Thakur Theke, Ami Tho Eshechhi Geetanjali O Agniveena 'r Theke' evokes that essence. The poem has been included in the textbook of class nine. An official of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board called me and said that, 'Sir, we are to give a long list of annotations at the end of the poem. It's true indeed!'"

"The most antique work of poetry is to represent a feeling into a memorable sound pattern. The technique is thousands of years old that I have used in the poem."

"Poetry is a kind of performance. Like W.H. Auden I believe that 'poetry is inspired dialogue.' And the way I hear it in my cranium, I try to reproduce that. Many tell me that I perform my poetry beautifully. In reply, I say that I simply transmit it -- just as I receive it."

The French literary critic and theorist Roland Barthes believes that the death of an author makes readers more responsible towards the creations of the author. He concludes his essay, Death of the Author thus: "The birth of the reader must be at the cost of the death of the author."

Here judgment or the birth of a reader takes a prominent place. How will he judge his poetry as a reader? I asked. In reply Syed Haq said, "In one of my plays 'Irsha', I said, that a creative person... if you believe me to be a creative person, a poet, which I am not always. The moment I am involved in a creative endeavour, an elevation takes place within me. Later, when the job is finished, I am an ordinary man like others. I am no more the poet who wrote it. And I always view my writings as a reader, as a man outside them, and not as a poet who wrote them. If I am to ask for evaluating my poetry, I must say it is still miles to go; many things to do. Say, for example, I am not at all happy to see the trend of Bengali poetry, especially in Bangladesh. I don't really come across a good metaphor; a good image, even most of the poems I come across are not even complete and seem unfinished, repetitive and loud. Being loud is not a fault. Nazrul was loud! In poetry, there are two voices -- the private voice and public voice. Nazrul was perhaps the first public voice in our whole milieu of Bengali poetry! But when it seems contrived and doesn't come from within, it generates confusion and appears as if you are trying to attract an audience by being loud," he concludes.

## "My Scotland tour was mind-blowing" -- Amin Khan

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Popular film hero Amin Khan has appeared in over 200 films over a long career span. While active on the celluloid circuit, he is also busy with roles in TV plays. Though his shooting schedule is packed, the actor manages to squeeze in a little leisure time. Khan spoke to The Daily Star about how he likes to sit back and relax.

**How would you define a holiday?**  
Amin Khan: For me, it is a day when there is no work stress or tension. Weekends for me are as much fun as school holidays.

**What is usually on your vacation agenda?**

Amin Khan: I spend the day with my family, and sometimes travel to wonderful locations at home and abroad.

**What are your favourite travel destinations within the country?**

Amin Khan: Cox's Bazar and Sylhet's tea gardens.

**Any place you've traveled recently?**  
Amin Khan: Bangkok, which I enjoyed

greatly.  
**Do long periods of work tire you?**  
Amin Khan: I get really bored without a break. I enjoy working no more than 15 days a month.  
**Do you watch movies during weekends?**  
Amin Khan: Not only on weekends; I enjoy watching movies everyday.  
**Do you enjoy a good gossip on weekends?**  
Amin Khan: I love hanging out with my friends and family.  
**Where and how was your most memorable vacation?**  
Amin Khan: I distinctly remember a tour to Scotland. We decided to go up a two-storied house with a wooden exterior. There was just one manger in the hotel and no mobile network within a 50-kilometre radius. When we were getting to the first floor there was a frightening sound like out of a horror movie. No wonder, we spent a sleepless night, but in the morning we looked through the window and saw a stream, which was really a mind-blowing sight.

## Photography exhibition on Bangabandhu at BAU History through the lens

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A four-day photography exhibition on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman began at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Central Library on Tuesday.

The exhibition, titled "Bangabandhu, the father of the nation", marks the 39th death anniversary of the great leader and National Mourning Day, and concludes today.

Over 200 photographs on Bangabandhu and the Liberation War are on display at the exhibition.

Vice-chancellor of BAU Prof. Dr. Md. Rafiqul Hoque inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest.

BAU students affairs advisor Prof. Dr. Johirul Haque Khandaker, proctor Professor Harun-or-Rashid, deans of all six faculties, heads of different departments and director of public relations and publications Dr. Aminur Rahman Chowdhury were present, among others.

As part of the programmes, Shishu-Kishore Council of the university organise a painting competition for children and distribute prizes among the winners on the campus yesterday.

Discussions, a mourning procession and special prayers will also be offered today.



Visitors at the exhibition.

PHOTO: STAR

## Children's painting competition to mark August 15

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

A painting competition for school children was held in Tangail yesterday to mark the 39th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the architect of independent Bangladesh.

District Administrations and Zila Shishu Academy in Tangail jointly organised the event at Shishu Academy premises.

Over 100 students from the third to tenth grade from different schools in the town took part in the competition in four categories.

The junior-most group was asked to draw the National Flag of Bangladesh, the next group did Shaheed Minar, the third group had the theme Liberation War, while the senior-most students were assigned Bangabandh's March 7 address.

In the afternoon, an easy writing competition among the students of different schools and colleges was also held at the same venue.

Mahbub Hossain, Deputy Commissioner of Tangail, will distribute prizes among the winners of both the competitions at Bhasani Hall today, said Shofiqul Islam, district organiser of Bangladesh Shishu Academy in Tangail.



Children at the painting competition.

PHOTO: STAR

## TV WATCH

### Chithi Dio Protidin on Maasranga

A CORRESPONDENT

Single episode TV play "Chithi Dio Protidin" will air on Maasranga television tonight at two minutes past midnight. Ashrafal Chanchal has written the play directed by Yousuf Hasan Akbar.

The plot revolves around stationmaster Ali Akbar who has locked up his daughter Sima when she falls in love with a vagabond. One day, assistant stationmaster Anowar gives him a khawabnama so that he can get an interpretation of his dreams. But his daughter Sima finds a letter inside the book. Anowar has written the letter.

Mosharraf Karim, Brishti, Rashid Harun and others are in the cast.



Celebrated dance troupe Gaudiya Nritya Bharati hosted their annual dance programme featuring two productions -- "Rabir Gaan-e Astanayika" and "Meghnad Vadh Kavya" at Madhusudan Mancha in Kolkata, India on August 9. Artistes of the troupe -- including Professor Mahua Mukherjee, Rachel Perris, Ranjima Chatterjee, Ayan Mukherjee, Debasish Sarkar, Soumya Bhowmick, Tanisha Sen, Sudeshna Majumder, Paramita Banerjee and Basanti Majumder performed in the productions. Professor Mahua Mukherjee choreographed and directed the productions.

PHOTO COURTESY: ABHIJIT NAYAK



Catherine Masud, the Chairperson of the Tareque Masud Memorial Trust (TMMT), eminent personalities, friends and well-wishers placed wreaths at the grave of Tareque Masud at Nurpur Village in Faridpur, marking his third death anniversary.