

# Shujeo Shyam

## reminisces on the glorious days

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Born in 1946, Shujeo Shyam has been singing since his childhood. An eminent composer of widely rendered patriotic songs like "Rokto diye nam likhechhi" and "Bijoy nishan urchhey oi," Shujeo Shyam has been associated with Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra (SBBK) from the inception of the radio in April 1971.

"Says a nostalgic Shyam. "Whenever I remember those days I feel the same spirit I had 44 years ago." The artistes of SBBK used to sing with just a tabla and a harmonium, he recalls.

The station had only one tape recorder and two microphones: one for the singers and the other for the musical hands. There was no separate place for rehearsals. Says Shyam, "We had a single goal and that was to sing with dedication and inspire the Freedom Fighters and the people of Bangladesh."

"SBBK was a popular station and every one waited to listen to the latest news and the inspiring songs," Shyam recalls. One message from the Freedom Fighters to the radio station read, "The songs you play keep us alive, give us the strength to move on and fight the war."

Kamal Lohani used to write scripts for the kathikas (satirical plays) at night. "I remember lyricist Abul Kashem Swandip. He hardly had the courage to approach the senior artistes. Once this humble boy came to me and asked

whether I would compose a song he had written. When I read the lyrics, I was moved by the spirited words." The song is now widely rendered: "Rakto diye nam likhechhi Bangladesher naam."

Shyam distinctly recalls December 16, 1971. When they were rehearsing a song, the programme producer Abu Taher came and told them, "This song won't do, we need to sing the song of independence."



Lyricist Shahidul Islam told Shyam on Victory Day that he would write a song and have the latter compose music for him. It took Shyam a fraction of a second to agree despite the high spirited reaction to the news of victory.

Shahid wrote the antara (first stanza) and gave it to Shyam for composition. Shyam and singers Rothindranath Roy, Kaderi Kibria, Kalyani, Mala, Rupa and others, led by Ajit Roy, rehearsed the song. Shyam says, "We completed the song at 5:30pm and it was recorded after a skit the same evening.

The song was played that evening after the speech of Syed Nazrul Islam, the then President of Mujibnagar Government who came to the station along with Tajuddin Ahmed, the Prime Minister."

Shyam says, "I can never forget those days. I am proud to have witnessed the most glorious days of the Bangalis and be a part of the struggle the nation went through during 1971."

# Beckoning the vicissitudes of time

## Lipi's solo show at Bengal Art Lounge

ZAHANGIR ALOM

*Tayebe Begum Lipi is a versatile visual artist who continually uses diverse media like painting, drawing, video, constructed objects and installations. The ongoing solo exhibition "No One Home" at Bengal Art Lounge, showcasing installations, drawings and videos by Lipi, is a remarkably coherent exhibition in which the artist continues to explore the themes that have long haunted her -- the nature of womanhood, the place of women in society, the ephemeral nature of life -- in a characteristically candid endeavor.*



The artist (2-R) gives guests a tour of the exhibit.

The artist is renowned for her sharp observations of things around her, and rendition of those into distinctive art pieces. In the video "I wed myself" (2010) for example, Lipi played both the role of the bride and the groom on a wedding-stage, therefore questioning the construction of gender and the precise roles it assigns to individuals. The various objects like bras, blouses, shoes and hand bags, she makes of stainless steel razor blades refer to femininity while offering a stark contrast with the usual material these articles are made of. Both visually compelling and thought-provoking, these artworks raise questions of the representation of women and the place they have in society.

Social activist Khushi Kabir and Dr. Thomas Prinz, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, jointly

inaugurated the exhibition on December 5 that will continue till January 9.

"No One Home" presents a series of objects of women's daily life like safety pins, stainless steel razor blades, heeled shoes, hand bags, a sewing machine and a bathtub. These personal objects create a feeling of hollow intimacy for their owner is nowhere to be seen. The viewer is left with the strange impression of peering through an empty apartment: the lights are on, but there is no one home.

The exhibition also showcases series of pencil drawings representing skin and hairs under various forms. Alluding to the aging process and its physical consequences on the body, these poignant works deal with womanhood, transition and ultimately with mortality. The vicissitudes of time are

further explored in a 2-channel video in which the artist is seen cleaning up her ancestors' graveyard on the family property. This work delves on the tension between what is and what was, inviting the public to introspection.

Tayebe Begum Lipi's seminal artistic practice has installed her as one of the most recognised Bangladeshi artists. She was the commissioner for the first ever Bangladeshi pavilion at the 2011 "Venezia Biennale dell'Arte", and her work "Love Bed" was acquired in 2013 by the Solomon R Guggenheim Museum (New York, USA). Tayebe Begum Lipi is currently preparing with her husband and fellow artist Mahbubur Rahman a major retrospective of their works on the theme of "The Artist as Activist" at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum (Michigan, USA).

# Shahabuddin works on display in Kolkata

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

A creative mind cannot be confined to any territory, language or culture as they belong to the entire world.

This observation by Indian President Pranab Mukherjee could not have been more relevant as he inaugurated an exhibition of the works of eminent Bangladeshi painter Shahabuddin Ahmed titled "Shanti" at the Indian Council of Cultural Relations in Kolkata on Saturday evening.

"A creative mind cannot be confined to any territorial limitation, to any language group, to any distinct cultural group. It belongs to the entire world," Mukherjee said. Mukherjee said it was not possible for any sensitive mind to keep away from the liberation struggle for their country.

He recalled the freedom struggle of Bangladesh and said every section of the society joined Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Shahabuddin Ahmed, at the age of 21, had served as a platoon commander of the

Mukti Bahini during the 1971 Liberation War.

Ahmed, who was present, presented a painting to the Indian President.

Now based in Paris, Ahmed's works are permanently displayed in renowned galleries there which include Galerie Daniel Besseiche, Galerie Samagra, Galerie du Fleuve among others.

The works of the 65-year old artist bear the stamp of ordinary people and lives of revolutionary leaders and are also displayed in many museums and galleries around the globe.



# "Thriller" becomes first 30X Multi-Platinum album

Michael Jackson's "Thriller" has become the first album to be certified 30-times multi-platinum in US sales, topping more than 30 million sales in America, the Recording Industry Association of America announced Wednesday.

Jackson reigns as the best-selling artiste of all time, totaling over 100 million in sales for "Thriller" worldwide and one billion in sales to his credit.

"RIAA has awarded Gold & Platinum records on behalf of the music business for nearly 60 years, but this is the first time an artist has crossed the 30X multi-Platinum plateau," RIAA Chairman and CEO Cary Sherman said in a statement. "We are honored to celebrate the unique status of 'Thriller' in Gold & Platinum history. What an exceptional achievement and testament to 'Thriller's' enduring spot in our hearts and musical history."

"100 million albums and counting; there has never been a phenomenon like 'Thriller,'" John Branca and John McClain, co-executors of the Estate of Michael Jackson, said in a joint statement. "Michael opened the floodgates of

his creativity, explored emotional depths and pushed the boundaries of sonic innovation. In the process, he breached destructive barriers in the music industry and literally united the world through his music: there isn't a place on this planet that hasn't been exhilarated by the music of Michael Jackson. Thirty years after its release, 'Thriller' continues to be a revelation."

"Thriller" has an impressive track record. When the album came out on November 30, 1982, it was certified platinum just two months later, according to RIAA. On October 30, 1984, it was certified 20-times platinum. The most recent record came less than two months after Jackson died, when "Thriller" hit 29-times platinum on Aug. 21, 2009.

At the 26th annual Grammy awards in 1984, Jackson nabbed eight wins, including album of the year and record of the year for "Beat It". Guinness World Records recognizes "Thriller" as the world's best-selling album of all time.

Source: Internet

# "And there is always Bhaijan" ...SRK

## Ice melting between the Khans?

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan says he does not feel the need to have a real brother because he has one in close friend "Bajranghi Bhaijaan" star Salman Khan, and his two sons. During a Q&A session on Twitter with fans, the megastar was asked if he wishes to have a brother in real life.

The 50-year-old actor replied, "My two boys are now like my friends and brothers and everything so I am ok. And there is always bhaijaan."

After years of cold war between them, Shah Rukh and Salman, 49, are back as friends and have often been seen heaping praise on each other. The duo will be seen together this week on Bigg Boss, the controversial reality show which Salman hosts.

Shah Rukh, who is gearing for the release of his romantic-comedy "Dilwale", was also asked about when he would finish working on autobiography. "How is writing of your book going on? How does it feel to write the heart out?" asked his fan, to which the actor replied, "A very very long process and slow... giving your heart out takes a bit of time."

Source: PTI



# Musical evening at IGCC

A CORRESPONDENT

Indira Gandhi Culture Centre is organising a musical evening of Bulbul Mahalanobish on December 19, at the IGCC, Gulshan-1, Dhaka.

The former Southeast University Chairperson for the Department of Bengali Language and Literature, Bulbul Mahalanobish is better known as a versatile singer and writer.

During Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971, Mahalanobish was a prominent singer of Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, where she also played the leading female character in "Jallader Darbar", an extremely popular episodic radio play written by Kalyan Mitra.

