



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



FESTIVAL

ENHANCING THE IDENTITY A FINE ART FESTIVAL IN JOYPURHAT

ZAHANGIR ALOM

“I participated in many art camps and festivals, but I never experienced such an ambience; organised management, and enthusiasm amongst the young artists who made the 'Joypurhat Fine Art Festival' a grand success. My experience of participating at the festival is unequivocally evocative of a creative Bangladesh, if such festivals are gradually arranged in every district of the country,” said eminent artist Professor Samarjit Roy Choudhury, who inaugurated the festival in March 2016.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Organised by Charukala Utshab Joypurhat 2016 Udjapan Parishad, the art camp aimed to create a soulful breeze between the artists of several generations. To inspire creativity and to diffuse the practice of science and culture among the students of the rural schools, the event -- held at Teghor High School premises, Joypurhat -- turned out to be an accomplished fine art festival that featured the making of paintings by the young and prominent artists; cultural performances like presentation of songs, composed by Panchakabi and several folk bards; Santal

dance; a craft fair; a visit to the historical Paharpur Buddhist Monastery and Museum and a display of artworks by the participated artists and students. About a hundred noted artists including, Samarjit Roy Choudhury, Abdus Shakoor Shah, Rezaul Karim, Farida Zaman, Naima Haque, Ranjit Das, Afzal Hossain, Mohammad Eunos, Mostafizul Haque, Nasreen Begum, Ahmed Shamsuddoha, Moniruzzaman, Shameem Subrana, Rafi Haque, Anisuzzaman,

Bipasha Hayat, Harun-ar-Rashid Tutul, Abdus Sattar Toufiq, Maksudur Rahman, Rezaun Nabi and Alaptagin Tushar along with former and current students of the Faculty of Fine Arts of University of Dhaka participated in the festival.

A six-day art exhibition, featuring outcomes of the festival, was concluded last month at the Zainul Gallery, University of Dhaka. Asaduzzaman Noor, cultural affairs minister, inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest. “Such a festival

should be held regularly throughout Bangladesh. I am spellbound to hear the beautiful experiences of renowned artists who went to Joypurhaat, interacted with and offered tutelage to local school students, participated at art camp, cultural programmes and exhibited their artworks there.”

The exhibition at Zainul Gallery was a successful one. Apart from numerous abstract, semi-abstract, realistic, figurative, portrait, landscape and nature paintings and sculptures by the renowned artists, the show offered some brilliant works by the young artists and the students. The students' works were based on diverse themes like nature, heritage, landscape, Liberation War and the flora and fauna.

“Song of line-2”, depicted by Samarjit Roy Choudhury, is a marvelous acrylic piece that captures the time-honoured folk heritage synced with lyrical lines. Abdus Shakoor Shah also portrayed folksy feminine grace together with elements of nature. Aloptogin Tushar, in his work “Sobuj Upakkhyan”, superbly showcased an insect creeping on a tender branch of a tree.

Alongside academic studies, the students of the locality portrayed paintings in small groups, recited poems, performed music and dance and staged play. Above all they took lessons on becoming good human beings through the artistic and cultural practice.

Organising such an event is inspiring for us all, the art loving people of Bangladesh. If such arrangements are organised on a regular basis across the country, Bangladesh will soon be generating a pool of creative generations. ■



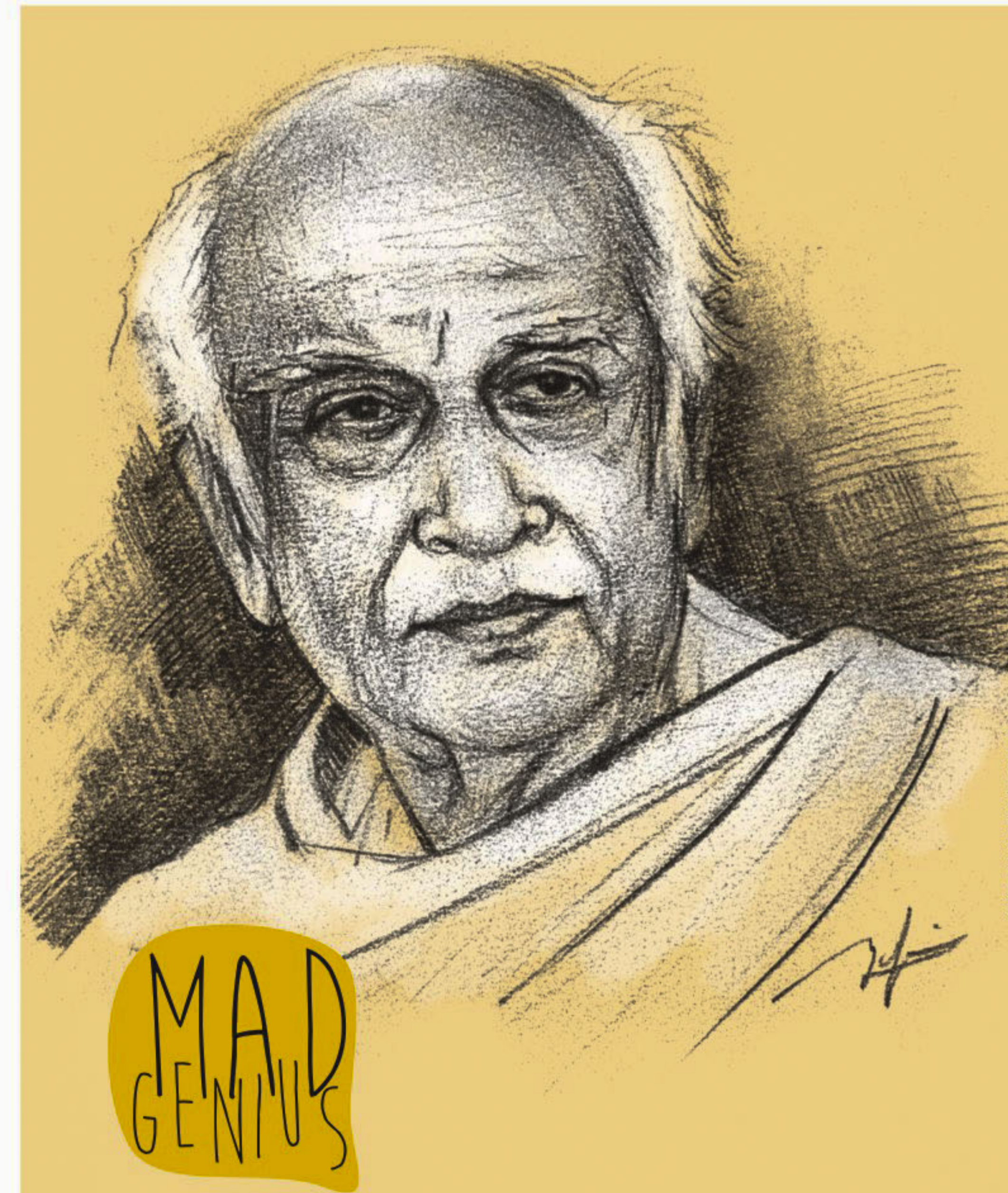
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SKETCH: YARIZ SIDDIQUI

MUZHARUL ISLAM

25 December 1923 – 15 July 2012

Muzharul Islam has been lauded as the most influential architect of Bangladesh and the Grand Master of regional modernism in South Asia. Not only he is credited for introducing modern architecture in his work during the 1960s and 70s, also he was the one, who actively invited a number of international architects like Louis I Kahn, Stanley Tigerman and Paul Rudolph to work in Bangladesh. Throughout an illustrious career of 50 years, an educator and activist, Islam devoted much of his time and knowledge to bring about social changes through his work. Among his most well known projects are the Institute of Arts and Crafts, Dhaka, Public Library (at present Dhaka University Library) Dhaka, Jahangirnagar University Master Plan and designs for Students' Hostel, Readers' Quarters, Class IV Employees' Quarters, Dhaka and many more.

“Independence brings in the greatest opportunity for a nation to express its thoughts, talent and energy. By enhancing the characters of the collective mind, it creates the utmost possibility to consolidate society economy and culture. Independence has no alternative. The liberation war of 1971 has created

such a great opportunity and possibility. It provided the necessary prerequisite to make a unique contemporary architecture, which would be able to speak truly of its own land, nature and climate. Now, we the architects can construct the right and distinct kind of architecture for an independent people.”

“The artistic qualities are essence of architecture. The practical aspects of architecture are measurable – such as, the practical requirements, climatic judgments, the advantages and limitations of the site etc. – but the humanistic aspects are not measurable. This depends on the talent, sensitivity and creativity of the architect. Only some bookish knowledge is not a sufficient tool in this regard. One has to be creative. One has to love his own land, its people and its culture and think profoundly about these. The love of one's own land is the eternal source of creative power, which in turn, makes a proper architect.”

The quotations are excerpts from an interview taken by the renowned architect Shamsul Wares, which got published in the literary magazine *Kali O Kolom* and later was translated by the Muzharul Islam Archive, a project of the Muzharul Islam Foundation

STARWEEKEND
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A SMALL HELPING HAND

It was a day like any other when I was getting back home with my son from his school. Our rickshawpuller was a middle aged man, who was evidently having a hard time pulling his rickshaw in such a hot weather. On our way home, I decided to pause to pick up some of my groceries from a nearby shop and asked the puller to wait for a while. I finished my shopping and placed everything on the counter, when suddenly my son added a cold juice to our items. As soon as we returned to our rickshaw, he took the bottle out of the packet and offered the juice to the rickshaw puller with a smile on his face. Seeing the man happy and grateful, suddenly I felt like cheering inside just from having witnessed such a simple act of kindness. My 5-year-old son set an example for me to see the generosity of everyday people everywhere. It might be a very little act, but I believe even such a small act can bring about major changes around us.

Srishti Sultana
Dhanmondi, Dhaka



PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

DIETING WRONG

Last week in our chemistry class, suddenly one of my friends fainted and hit her head on a desk. As we ushered her to our teachers' common room, our teachers immediately helped her with some first aid. Later, as our homeroom teacher talked to her parents, she got to know that it happened due to her eating disorder, while my friend thinks it's a mix up between heat exhaustion and lack of breakfast that morning. After a few days, she returned to our class with her nose fractured and a scar on her forehead. Her mother accompanied her and thanked our teacher for calling her immediately and said she would push her to have proper amount of food for every meal. Our chemistry teacher called my friend, and told her that diet control is not about forgetting all the food that she loves, rather it is about finding an eating lifestyle that she can follow all her life. It is important to find the balance between being healthy and keeping our energy level intact while not sacrificing our food entirely. It was not a lesson only for her, also for many other people who think eating less causes fat loss.

Meherin Islam
Zindabazar, Sylhet