

Bonna Mirza: Mastering all trades

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Bonna Mirza is primarily known as an actor with a career spanning television, film, and theatre. Her performances have been met with critical praise and garnered her much popularity among audiences. However, the actor is presenting herself in a new light as a TV host. She has been seen as a morning show anchor on Ekattor tv twice a week for two years.

"I truly enjoy being a presenter," said the actor, "It is not possible to continue any work at great length if you do not have fun doing it." But that is not all; aside from being a TV host, the star also has a 9-5 job for several months now. When asked what has made her look into a different profession, Bonna responded with, "I will never leave acting, as it is not possible. However, I am taking on fewer acting projects than before and that is why I have chosen to explore other fields. I am having great fun discovering my abilities in areas I have not explored before."

Now juggling three jobs, the actor explained how she manages to strike a balance. "I host the programme early in the morning only twice a week," she said, "So most of the time, shooting is scheduled during weekends, and the same goes for acting jobs. All this has made it quite easy to maintain a regular job."

The actor will also star in an eight-episode television play directed by Badrul Anam Saud titled "Chhaya Poth", for which shooting is going on at Rajendrapur. "I am always seeking to try new things," said the actor, "and viewers will see me play a role I have not tried before."

Regarding acting, Bonna Mirza revealed that she is now focusing on single-episode TV plays and telefilms. "Acting in drama serials consume a lot of time and require commitment, which I am not able to provide right now," she said.

Additionally, Bonna Mirza has extended her talents to the stage once again, after seven years. She is currently rehearsing with the theatre troupe Desh Natok for their new production "Shurgaon".



Laisa Ahmed Lisa and Sifayet Ullah (below) perform at the event.

In presence of Atulprasad's melodies Bengal Foundation holds musical evening

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Atulprasad Sen was born in Dhaka to a musical family in 1871, and although he went on to find professional success as a lawyer, his connection with music went deeper with age. Regarded as one of the poncho-kobi or five major lyricist-composers of Bangla music (along with Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Rajanikanta Sen and DL Roy), he is said to be one of the pioneers of intertwining Hindustani classical music in Bangla songs. Paying tribute to his rich musical legacy, Bengal Foundation held a soiree at The Daily Star-Bengal Arts precinct on Thursday evening, titled "Momo Moner Bijone".

Sifayet Ullah opened the soiree with one of Atulprasad's most recognizable

creations, "Moder Gorob Moder Asha", and went on to perform "Ke Go Gahilo Gahilo Pothe", "Ogo Nithur Dorodi", "Momo Moner Bijone" and "Muroli Kande Radhe Radhe Bole".

Seasoned artiste Laisa Ahmed Lisa took the audience on a musical joyride, opening with "Badol Jhuma Jhuma Bole". Her repertoire included "Ami Bandhinu Tomar Teere", "Modhukaale Elo Holi", "Daake Koyela Baare Baare", "Ke Abar Bajay Bashi", "Jabo Na Jabo Na Ghore" and others.

Bengal Foundation Chair Abul Khair attended the soiree, as did cultural luminary Dr. Sanjida Khatun, and eminent Indian Sarod player and teacher at Bengal Parampara Sangeetalay, Pandit Tejendra Narayan Majumdar.



Upholding the folk heritage of Bengal

Duet exhibition at Zainul Galley

ZAHANGIR ALOM

A duet art exhibition titled "Porompura", featuring artworks of Sreebash Basak and his daughter Urmila Shukla, is now on at Zainul Gallery-1, Faculty of Fine Art (FFA), University of Dhaka (DU). Eminent sculptor Ferdousi Prayabhashini along with renowned artists Abul Barq Alvi, Nisar Hossain (Dean, FFA) and Tajul Islam inaugurated the exhibition on October 24.

The exhibition superbly showcases the eternal folk heritage, essence of simple life, feminine grace, oriental line-based figures and visages and artistically pre-meditated fallen leaves.

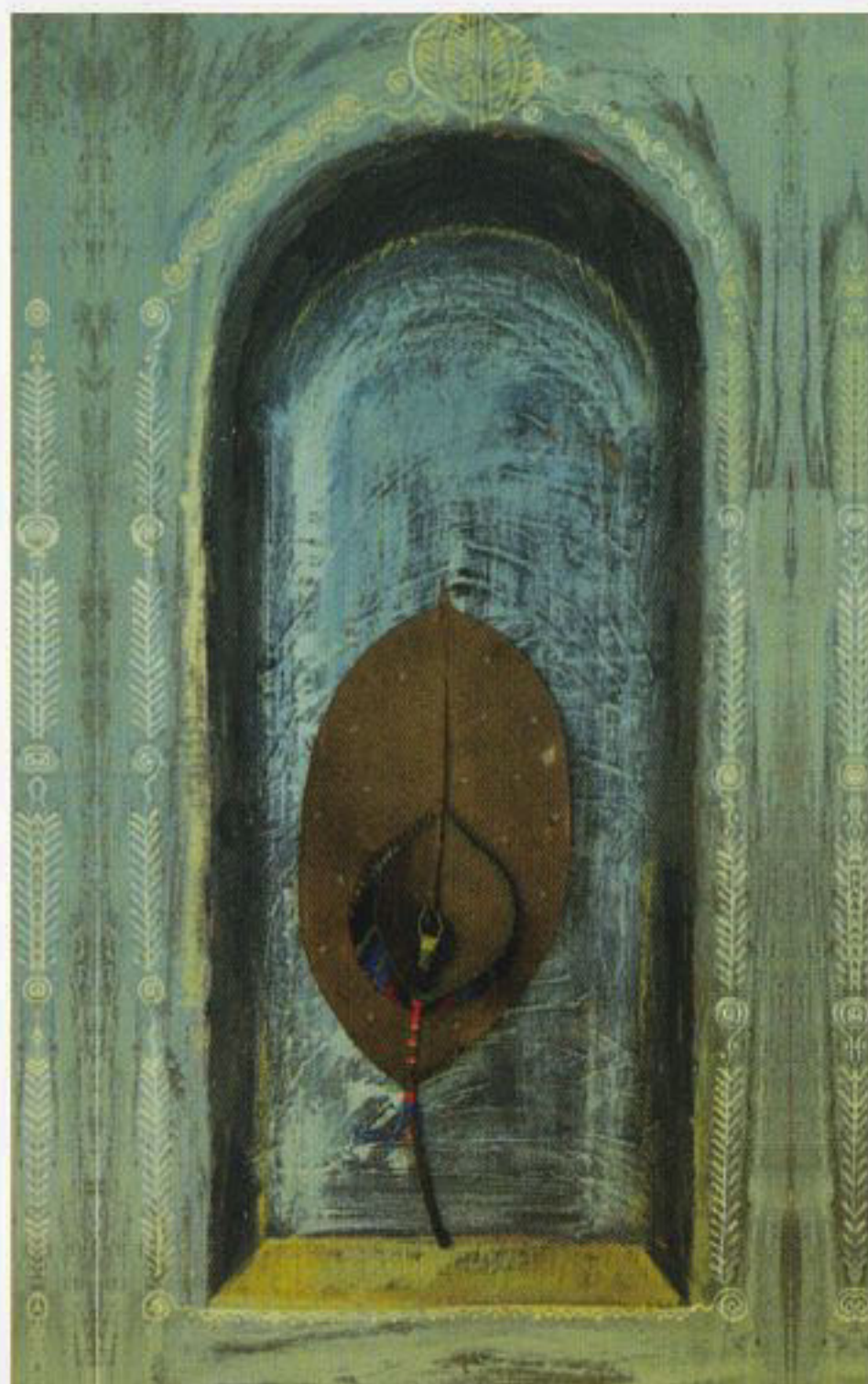
The participating artist duo -- Sreebash Basak (b. 1950) and Urmila Shukla (b. 1979) -- represent two different genera-

tions, though they completed their academic education from the same department (Drawing and Painting) and same university (FFA, DU). But their creative ventures meet in a harmonious end. They have a great love for nature coupled with time-honoured folk cultural heritage of Bengal.

Sreebash Basak, a disciple of maestros Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, Quamrul Hassan, Anwarul Haque, Safiuddin Ahmed and Mohammad Kibria, beautifully portrayed "Moner Manush", a Tagore-styled depiction of a Baul with ekara; "Leelabali" several feminine figures; "Ashroy", two sheltering daughters on the lap of their mother and "Sokhi", a colourful oriental styled painting.

Urmila Shukla uniquely portrayed several mixed media works on the series titled "Potranjoli". The artist has incorporated real fallen leaves woven by applique, colours and forms to complete the work.

The exhibition, open from 10am to 8pm daily, will conclude on October 30.



Double win for Konkona at MAMI

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

It was a double delight for Konkona Sen Sharma as her maiden directorial venture "A Death in the Gunj" brought her the award of Best Indian Filmmaker for 2016 and another feature film starring her in lead role got the honour of Best Film on Gender Equality at the 18th Mumbai International Film Festival.

Konkona's film, a suspense-thriller starring Tilotama Shome, Om Puri and Tanuja among others, also took the honour of being the opening film of the eight-day festival which concluded on Thursday night.

The Best Film on Gender Equality was awarded to "Lipstick Under My Burkha" directed by Alankrita Shrivastava which has Konkona along with Ratna Pathak, Aahana

Kumar and others in the cast.

In India Gold category, the top prize, called Golden Gateway went to "Lady of the Lake". Its makers will receive Rs 25 lakh as cash prize while the Silver Gateway went to "The Narrow Path" helmed by Satish and Santosh Babusenan. They will be given Rs 15 lakh.

In the International competition category, "Diamond Island" received the Golden Gateway award, while the special jury prize went to "Everything Else" by Natalia Almada. "Godless", helmed by Ralitz Petrov, got the Silver Gateway prize.

"The Salesman" by Asghar Farhadi of Iran won the Audience Choice award and American drama film "Manchester by the Sea", directed by Kenneth Lonergan, closed the festival, which screened 175 movies, including features, documentaries and shorts from 54 countries.



Mohakal Natya Sampraday's play "Neelakhyan" will be staged today at the Experimental Theatre Hall of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, as part of the ongoing Ganga Jamuna Theatre and Cultural Festival. The play has been adapted by Anan Zaman from National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's short story "Shapurey"; Yousuf Hasan Arko has directed it. The other plays at the festival today are Subachan Natya Sangsad's "Pronoy Jamuna" (at the National Theatre Hall) and Moitree Theatre's "Pakhi" (at the Studio Theatre Hall).