

WHAT'S ON

Star Melodies Gaan Unplugged
By Established & Young Artists
Venue: AS Mahmud Hall (Level 3), The Daily Star Centre
Date: January 28; Time: 6pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Exploring Mind Matters
Venue: 58/E Kamal Ataturk Avenue, Floor 13
Date: January 27-28
Time: 11am-8pm

Theatre
Play: Shibani Sundori
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: January 27; Time: 6:30pm

Classical Music Soiree
Organiser: Shuddha Sangeet Proshar Goshthi
Venue: Bishwa Sahitya Kendra
Date: January 25, 26, 28
Time: 5pm

Int'l Children's Film Festival
Organiser: Children's Film Society
Venue: Various
Date: January 24-30
Time: 10am onwards

Solo Sculpture Exhibition
Title: Rhythm of Form by AAM
Kaoser Hassan Toghor
Venue: Zainul Gallery, FFA, DU
Date: Jan 25-31
Time: 11am-8pm



PHOTO: STAR

ATM SHAMSUZZAMAN CHRONICLES HIS LIFE

A CORRESPONDENT

Actor, director, and screen-playwright ATM Shamsuzzaman's foray into writing began when he was a student at school, long before the Ekushey Padak and National Film Award recipient harboured any ambitions to act. The actor has already penned quite a few poetry and novels, and now has undertaken the momentous venture of writing his autobiography. Titled "Shilpi Shongskriti O Amar Shilpi

Jibon," the book will be published and distributed by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Aside from detailing his life's events, the book will also recount the art culture of Bangladesh and how it has shaped his career over the years. ATM Shamsuzzaman expressed his motivations behind the venture saying, "Shilpakala Academy expressed their interest that I write such a book. I have written how the national art culture fueled my passion to the point

where I had to leave my home, and how it shaped my life and career thereafter. I highly anticipate the book's release and the readers' response." The book is scheduled for publication and distribution soon this year. Besides writing, the actor has appeared in "Ek Prithibe Prem," a film directed by SA Haque Olike. He also plays one of the pivotal roles in the TV series "Noashal," aired every Monday through Thursday on Rtv at 9:05pm.

A Malayalam perspective of our Liberation War

First look of "1971 Beyond Borders" revealed

FAHMIM FERDOUS

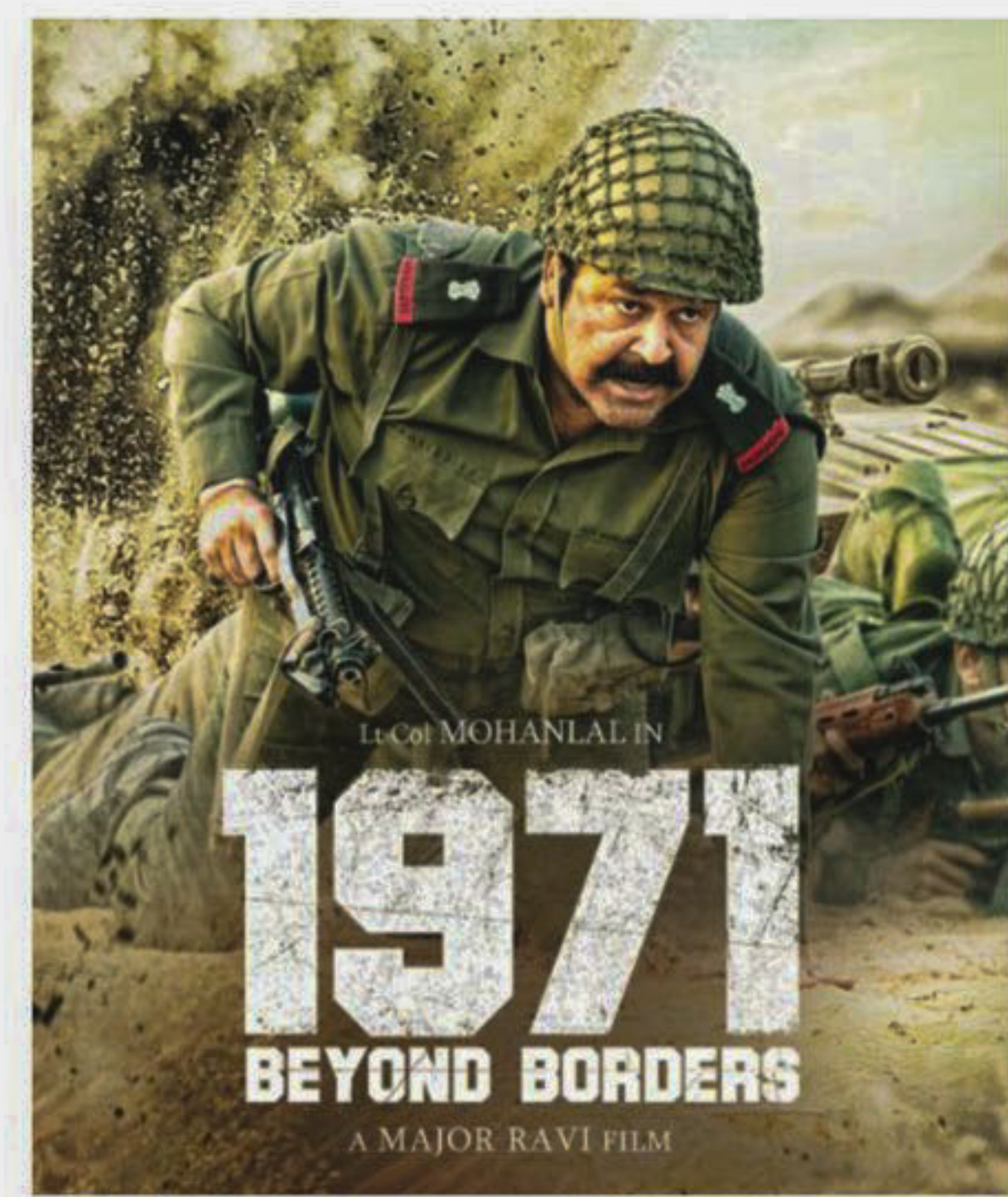
Bangladesh fought a bloody nine-month war to shed the name 'East Pakistan' and have a place on the world map of its own identity, and we all know that as Bangladesh's Liberation War. But, India extended its assistance to our struggle from the first week of that fateful 1971 December, and Indians recognise that 13-day battle as a victory of their own, which they refer to as the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971.

Mohanlal may not be very familiar name to the average Bangladeshi, but he is a big superstar of India's Malayalam films. To mark India's 68th Republic Day celebrations, the actor unveiled the first-look poster of his upcoming film "1971 Beyond Borders", centred on the aforementioned 'Indo-Pakistani War'. "The Battle of emotions begins here, sharing with you all first look poster of 1971 Beyond Borders," Mohanlal posted on his Twitter page while releasing the poster, that shows him in full combat mode on the frontline.

Although the 'Indo-Pak War' has been a subject of Indian films in the past, it remains to be seen how the subject matter is treated, especially the Bangladesh aspect.

Mohanlal plays a double role in the film, of Major Mahadevan and his father Colonel Sahadevan. Asha Sarath plays the female lead while Bollywood actor Arunoday Singh is also playing a central character. The film went on floors last October under the director of Major Ravi, in Rajasthan, Ottapaalam and Pattambi. Some portions of the film are also scheduled to be shot in Georgia.

The Major-Ravi-directed film is part of Mohanlal's series of films as Major Mahadevan, one of the actor's most accomplished roles - in "Kandahar" (2010), "Kirithi Chakra" (2009) and "Kuruksheetra" (2008). "1971 Beyond Borders" is set in timeline as a prequel to "Kuruksheetra",



and is supposedly based on true events of the 1971 War, at least the part that India partook in.

The story will unfold from the point of view of three soldiers who fought in the 1971 war, according to reports on Indian media. It will also include scenes about the father of the Major Ravi, who was a soldier in the 1971 war for the Indian army.

Indian media reports also quoted the director as saying the film will not be just a war movie, but touch on human sentiments and relationships that a soldier goes through in a war zone.

The first Indian film set on the 1971 War was as early as 1973 in "Hindustan Ki Kasam", chronicling the story of the famous Operation Cactus Lily carried out by the East Pakistan Air Force. The other films include 1982's "Vijeta", the 1997 blockbuster "Border", 2004's Amitabh Bachchan and Sanjay Dutt-starrer "Deewar" and most recently, 2007's "1971" that won the Indian National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi.

It remains to be seen how the film tackles the sensitive issue about the Indo-Pak War and Bangladesh being at the centre of it. In the 2014 Bollywood film "Gunday", the opening narration of "Bangladesh is born as Pakistan surrender on December 16 at the end of the Indo-Pak War" stirred up serious criticism from Bangladeshi people, eventually drawing an apology from the film's production banner Yash Raj Films.

NEWS bytes

BEYONCÉ inspires Marvel comic cover

Marvel has revealed a new Beyoncé-inspired cover for the second issue of its series "America". The illustration (by Joe Quinones) pays homage to Beyoncé's "Formation" video. The Gabby Rivera-written comic is set for an April release.

Marvel has released a number of hip-hop-inspired variant cover. Unlike "America #2", they are typically based on



album covers. Among the many records used for inspirations are: Run the Jewels' self-titled, Kanye West's "The Life of Pablo", Missy Elliott's "Under Construction", A\$AP Rocky's "LONG.LIVE.A\$AP", Chance the Rapper's "Acid Rap", Kendrick Lamar's "To Pimp a Butterfly", and GZA's "Liquid Swords".

Source: Pitchfork

Najma Chowdhury: A pioneer of our time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite the plethora of television channels at our disposal today and the diverse entertainment they offer, the black and white BTV from national television's earliest heydays evokes a nostalgia that is synonymous to our childhoods, a lost era we seek in the old fraying and browned photographs. The personalities on the television screen we have grown up watching are also eponymous to those days of yore, particularly the children's educational programmes. One such personality is Najma Chowdhury, host of the "K ar Kha" show geared towards toddlers teaching them the alphabet before they are old enough for school.

Born Sophia Najma Chowdhury, the television personality's early life is testament to her cultural and artistic achievements. Honed in literary and artistic education from a young age, her maternal uncle Abdul Matin was a National Award winner. Her parents encouraged her endeavours towards poetry and nurtured her affinity towards literature which led her to publish a book of poetry titled "Nil Konthi," and win the gold medal twice in the poetry section of the "East Pakistan Week" in erstwhile East Pakistan. Her academic career took off even before she graduated as an Economics student at Dhaka University, first teaching at her mother's college, and then at the Garrison Boys School in Lahore. Her versatility has led her to other artistic endeavours, including being the designer of a calendar published by Bitopi that was later taken by the then late President Zia during his travel to China as a state gift. In an era when women were expected to assume domestic, subjugated roles, Najma Chowdhury was stalwart in her beliefs and her career, making her a role model for women everywhere.

Although having a full time job at the World Bank in the field population education and control, she had a significant impact on national television. "Television and radio was, and still is my passion," she said, "and that is what



drove me despite already having a lucrative career." In January 1965, she began her television career as an announcer during national TV's pilot airing, and then as live news anchor. "My son then was old enough to go to school," she said, "and it came to my attention that children are sent off to kindergarten before they are emotionally ready to be separated from their home. It was then the inspiration to begin a show that can enable early education at home using the direct teaching method, which I must add was an idea I had borrowed from watching my mother. I then approached Mustofa Monowar with my idea and asked him if it is possible to create such a programme, and he gave me his full support." Thus the iconic

show, "K ar Kha" was conceptualised and created. As well as being the creator, Najma Chowdhury was the sole person in charge of script writing, and researching new material for the programme, as well as the performing host, supported by Sakina Sarwar as the producer.

The children's educational and entertainment show was the first to introduce puppets in 1976 and introduced Bangladesh to the outside world as a country growing in television technology, and subsequently won The Japan International Award in 1978. The show featured a male and female puppet, named "K" and "Kha" respectively. "The role of 'K,' voiced by Khairul Anam Tutul was to display the hesitation children express when pressured into learning new things, and "Kha" was voiced by the now state minister of the Post and Telecommunications Division Tarana Halim who would convince 'K' and the children that learning was fun," she added.

In the years that followed, Najma Chowdhury has been inactive in the media. "It gives me great pleasure when people run up to me and tell me they recognise me from the programme," she stated, "there is no greater reward than knowing that I have been such a significant figure in their lives. I'd be more than happy to be involved again in television once good offers come my way."

Ray of hope for underprivileged children

Fundraising concert on Feb 3



Distressed Children and Infants International (DCI) in collaboration with financial institute IPDC Finance Limited will organise a fundraising concert to help improve the lives of underprivileged children. The concert will be held on February 3 at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh (KIB). An announcement to this effect was made at a press conference on January 24 at the Meghna Hall, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka.

Tickets for the concert are priced from Taka 1,200 - that will help fulfill the basic monthly needs of a child per month. Tickets can be booked at through the Facebook Event "Concert for Children: Journey for

Child Rights & Sight", says a press release.

Top artistes who will perform at the concert include Sabina Yasmin, Ayub Bachchu, Syed Abdul Hadi, Haider Hussain and more. Prominent film actress Babita will also make an appearance.

Present at the press conference were noted musicians Haider Hussain and Ayub Bachchu. Senior representatives of IPDC included Mominul Islam, MD and CEO, IPDC Finance Limited; AFM Barkatullah, deputy managing director, IPDC Finance Limited; Dr. Ehsan Hoque, executive director and founder of DCI; Dr. Muhammad Abdul Mazid, advisor, DCI and chairman of Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE).