

Syed Shamsul Haq: A worshipper of art

ZAHANGIR ALOM

During his lifetime, Syed Shamsul Haq became an iconic writer in the realm of Bangla literature. As an ambidextrous author, he enriched almost every field of Bangla literature with his brilliant writing skills. Though non-academic in nature and non-professional in spirit, he was also a spontaneous painter and sculptor.

In his twilight years, Rabindranath Tagore portrayed many masterpieces of art and later exhibited his artworks in Gallerie Pigalle in Paris, France in May 1930. Syed Haq too followed the trail of the Bard, but couldn't hold his exhibition during his lifetime.

Syed Haq had more artist friends than that of litterateurs, according to his wife Anwara Syed Haq. "He had good friendship with master artists like Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, Patua Quamrul Hassan, Aminul Islam and Qayyum Chowdhury. He took colour pallet and brushes in his hands in the '80s. He found his roots in the worshipping of motherland, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, National Flag and the Liberation War. His patriotic zeal with loyalty for the country is deeply expressed in his diverse creative works. He was basically a Sunday painter, but he would relay a message through his paintings. Painting soon became his great passion, and he had dream of holding his solo exhibition on his 81st birth anniversary," said Anwara Syed Haq.



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"Syed Shamsul Haq's life was closely attached with the nuance of classical art. His depiction of the pieces of art was originated from his life conscience. So, Syed Haq's art should not be evaluated from the fragmented imageries of his own life; he was rather a worshipper of art. His canvases play with multifarious mysteries and complexities as he went through various odds in his life," she added.

It is interesting that Tagore and Haq's treatment of colours on canvas is almost identical. Both kept most of their artistic creation as untitled. Yet, Syed Haq attached titles to several of

his works. "Lovers in Full Moon", "Returns of my Ancestors", Elusive Hand" and "Childhood Memory" are some of the works he entitled. Vibrant yet mature hues, scribbles, expressive eyes, geometric forms and shapes, asymmetrical line, bold use of black in his abstract creations and a beautiful compositional balance are the hallmark of Syed Haq's art. It is also interesting to note that the artist depicted a few pen works, especially one resembling the work of Tagore depicting his works in one of his manuscripts. Syed Haq's solo exhibition titled "Chitrer Dibyaroth", organised by Bengal Foundation, concluded at The Daily Star Bengal Arts Precinct on April 5.

"I will never give up theatre"

... Mishu Chowdhury

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Mishu Chowdhury's quest in theatre began when she was a child. Over the years, her career expanded to being part of the Desh Natok troupe, before she ventured into television plays and programme hosting. These days, the actor has been quite absorbed in new small screen ventures, and more, which she opens up about in a recent interview with The Daily Star.

What stage productions are you working on?

Mishu Chowdhury: With Desh Natok, I've been working on a new play titled "Surgao", directed by Masum Reza. The play has been staged 18 times so far, and I portray a



character named Hindumukhi. Theatre has always been close to my heart, and I will never give up the stage.

How has "Surgao" been received?

Mishu Chowdhury: I'd say that the response has been greatly positive. Seats were filled when curtains opened to the first show, and the audience has been full of praise.

Has there been an incident in your career on stage that has transformed things for you?

Mishu Chowdhury: I began acting on stage as a young girl in Bogra, which was also frequented by renowned acting troupes from Dhaka. I was able to see Selim Al Deen up close, in a play he wrote titled "Joiboti Konnar Mon". That was a moment I will never forget.

What new TV plays are you working on?

Mishu Chowdhury: I am working on a new play titled "Gramer Naam Shimulpur", which began airing on Channel i recently, six days a week from Saturday to Thursday at 6pm. I play the daughter-in-law of a household.

You are also a programme host on television. How is that playing out for you?

Mishu Chowdhury: I am hosting programmes on ATN Bangla and News 24, both of which are related to sports.

AUW Photo Carnival concludes in port city

AMIR HASAN SHAHRIAR, Chattogram

A two-day photo exhibition, titled '6th AUW Photo Carnival' concluded at Asian University for Women (AUW) in the port city on Saturday.

The exhibition showcased 60 photographs captured by 45 photographers from home and abroad at the university auditorium.

Photographers captured the images of landscapes, festivals, obstacles men face in their lives and different social phenomena through their lens.

With the theme "Dramatic", this year the photos were exhibited in three categories: photo story, mobile phone and single photos.

The photo stories contained around five photographs which narrated a story about something. In mobile category, the young artistes' skill was displayed by the action of their cell phones.

In all the categories, prizes were given to the best photographers. Jakir

Hossain Rana grabbed the first prize in photo story category. The title of his work was "Life against Death", where Jakir captured the moments of dare by the passengers of Bangladesh who risk their lives only for riding some human haulers.

In mobile category, a photo titled "I Can See You" by Toufiq Ahmed won

the prize while "Urban Tiger" captured by Syed Mahbubul Kader won the best photograph award in single photo category.

The exhibition was organised by the photography club of AUW, which was established in 2009. "The club members, coming from 15 different countries, have been proving the limitless

boundary of photography since then," said Jewel Paul, Curator of the carnival.

The exhibition concluded with prize giving ceremony and cultural programmes. Rock band Back to the Legend performed on the first day of the exhibition, while performance of the students of AUW followed the second day evening.



International non-profit development organization Aga Khan Foundation organized a concert in the capital to celebrate its 60 years of service to the world, at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB). Renowned Indian singers Salim-Sulaiman, Sukriti Kakkar, Vipul Mehta, Raj Pandit along with other artistes performed at the concert. Net proceeds from Jubilee Concert will be donated to the social development work of the Aga Khan Foundation in Bangladesh.

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