

# 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 exhibi-



tion on his 81st birth anniversary," said Anwara Syed Haq.

"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 Dibyaro", organised by Bengal Foundation, concluded at the Daily Star Bengal Arts Precinct on April 5.



## AUW Photo Carnival concludes in port city

AMIR HASAN SHAHRIAR, *Chittagong*

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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