

**WHAT'S ON**

**Contemporary Art Exhibition**  
Title: Silent Revelation  
Artist: Mohammad Iqbal  
Venue: Edge Galleries (Dhanmondi & Gulshan)  
Date: April 22-May 5



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: From the Pages of Memory  
Artist: Azmeer Hossain  
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, Dhanmondi  
Date: Apr 16-30  
Time: 3-8pm



**Group Exhibition**  
Title: Commemoration  
Venue: Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts  
Date: April 20-30  
Time: 10am-8pm



**Solo Photography Exhibition**  
Title: Photoesum by Nasir Ali Mamun  
Venue: Nalini Kanta Bhattacharya Gallery, BNM  
Date: Apr 10-May 3



**Concert**  
BAMBA Live Chapter 1  
Organiser: BAMBA  
Venue: ICCB  
Date: May 3  
Time: 12pm



# “Operation Jackpot” coming to the big screen

## Giasuddin Selim to helm Liberation War film



**FAHMIM FERDOUS**

Giasuddin Selim took nine years between his first film and second, but it appears his fans will not have to wait that long for his next. The director is gearing up to begin work on his next, and it's a big one.

The government body Chittagong Port Authority has commissioned Giasuddin Selim as writer and director for a film based on the historic “Operation Jackpot”, the series of commando operations at the Chittagong Port and other sea ports during the Liberation War that severely dented the Pakistani Army's advances. Reportedly, the decision was announced after a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the shipping ministry on April 18.

Talking to The Daily Star, Giasuddin Selim confirmed the news. “I was given the job a year ago, but I did not speak about it because it was not disclosed officially. The script has been completed, and will begin pre-production soon. Chittagong Port has a big part in the history of our Liberation War, and the film will highlight that,” he added.

About the film, the director informed that it will be a massive-scale project. “The film will shoot in Europe, India and in Bangladesh. There are scenes in it with 4000-5000 people

in them, and the film will have Indian characters and actors as well.” Speaking about the plot, he said “It will focus on the first operation of Operation Jackpot, which was the code name of a series of naval operations.”

In 1971, a number of Pakistan Navy officers were sent to the French City of Toulon for submariner training. Of them, 13 were Bangalee officers. Some eight of them escaped from there after the March 25 genocide to join the Liberation War, and arrived in India to receive specialized training along with a number of other guerrilla combatants. After months of training, the first operation was launched on the midnight of August 15, 1971 at the Chittagong Port, and sunk three ships of the Pakistan Army carrying military equipment and ammunitions.

About his expectation from the film, Selim said “I have not dealt with a project this big before, so I don't have experience. But I didn't have experience when I first came to make films either, so it will all work out. We have to work very hard, that's all.” He added that because of the scale of the project, it would take at least 18-24 months to complete once work begins. Asked whether he has thought about casting, Selim said: “It is such a big scale project, that all these things will be handled by different departments. I cannot make all the decisions because of its huge scope.”

# “We need to attract more brains, more patronage to theatre”

## ... Sayeeda Islam

**ROKON SHAHRIAR**

Sayeeda Islam is popularly called “The mother of Bangladesh Stage Drama”. A dedicated theatre activist Sayeeda has a bright presence in TV and radio plays too. She has enriched her acting career with as many as 500 nights of theatre performances, 80 TV plays and 100 radio dramas.

Presently on a sabbatical for health reasons, the actor talked about her career with The Daily Star.

**TDS: What brought you to theatre?**  
**Sayeeda Islam:** I never dreamed of being an actor. The moment I tied the knot with theatre activist Tabibul Islam Babu, I realized that my fate was to be a member of the theatre family. From the very beginning of our marriage I realized that Babu was ready to leave me but not theatre. I used to accompany him on his theatre activities, which gradually took me to a life of theatre and eventually I fell in love with the art. Inspired and groomed by talented actor Ferdausi Majumdar, whom I consider as my mentor, I debuted on stage in the role of Nirja Boudi in the play “Dui Bon” (Two Sisters) based on Tagore's story and that happened due to the sudden ill health of Rekha Ahmed, the regular actor of the role.

**TDS: We know you have a glorious theatre life. Please share a glimpse of that.**  
**Sayeeda Islam:** I feel happy to recall the plays I took part in: “Jomidar Dorpon”, “Shaah Ghat Kanakori”, “Rakkhushi”, “Mahapurush”, “Khotobikkhoto”, “Tebhagar Pala”, “Bhuboner Ghat” and “Ghritang Pibet”. Working with legendary actors such as Mamunur Rashid, Ferdousi Majumdar, Zakaria, Ariful Haque, Keramat Moula, Shuja Khandakar, Golam Rabbani, Kazi Tamanna, Mita Chowdhury and Tarana Halim is reason enough to be happy about my theatre career.



**TDS: Tell us about your involvement in other media.**  
**Sayeeda Islam:** I acted in roughly 80 TV dramas and 100 radio dramas. I was unable to take up movie offers.

**TDS: You have become a mother figure in our cultural arena. How did you achieve that?**  
**Sayeeda Islam:** In the drama called “Saat Ghat Kanakori” I played the role of the mother for a long time, which gave me a maternal image. Professor Nilima Ibrahim called me “The mother of Bangladesh Stage Drama”. I enjoy being called a ‘mother’.

**TDS: What is special about being a female actor?**  
**Sayeeda Islam:** I always enjoyed

advantages of being married to a theatre activist. However, that is not the case with all the ladies over there. There is a security concern for those who come back home at midnight after shows or rehearsals. A woman might face restrictions from in-laws after marriage. In spite of all these hindrances, women are involved in the media, which is a positive sign.

**TDS: What is your observation about present day theatre?**  
**Sayeeda Islam:** We have lack of theatre venues. Meritorious people are engaged in more profitable professions than theatre, which is why we need to make theatre profitable to attract more brains to the art form. Novel writers are well-paid; theatre script writers are not, which results in lack of good scripts. Actors who have good potential are rather engaged in electronic media. The theatre movement is presently based on subsidies and we need to come out of that culture, which is possible only if government and non-government organisations come forward to patronise theatre.

The writer is a contributor to The Daily Star.

# Recitation programme “Ek-i Brinte” held

**A CORRESPONDENT**

On April 26, poetry lovers gathered at Shawkat Osman Memorial auditorium of Central Public Library in Dhaka where elocutionists Dr. Mahbubur Rahman Chowdhury and Fakhrul Islam Tara recited an array of Bangla poems composed by Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam. The programme, titled “Ek-i Brinte”, was organised by Srot Abritti Sangsad.

The elocutionist duo -- Dr. Mahbubur Rahman Chowdhury, also an eye-specialist by profession, and Fakhrul Islam Tara set off the event with performing 14 Tagore poems and wrapped up the programme with presenting nine Nazrul poems.

Their presentation was arranged in five parjaya -- country and nature, love, sense of life, conscience of society and humanism.

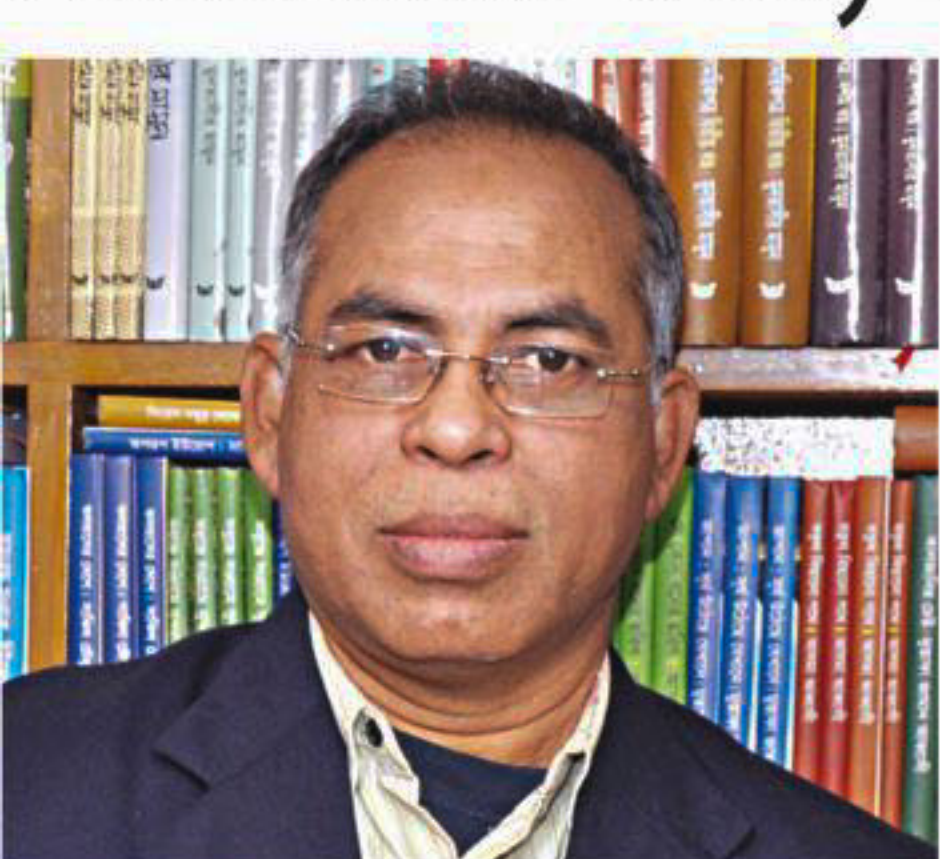
Among the Tagore compositions, they recited “Bangla Mati Banglar Jol”, “Antor Momo” “Anander-i Sagar Theke” and “Mon-e Pora” while they lent their voices to the National Poet's composition -- “Bangladesh”, “Kandari HuNshiar”, “Bidhohi” and “Hindu Musholman”. Mahful Rizvi lent his voice to the background music of their presentations.

The visual of Tagore paintings together with the melody of flute added artistic dimension to the performances. Srot Abritti Sangsad regularly arranges recitation programme. They have so far organised 39 recitation workshops.



Dr. Mahbubur Rahman Chowdhury and Fakhrul Islam Tara perform at the event.

# Publishers' body elects new leaders



**Monirul Haque**

**A CORRESPONDENT**

Bangladesh Gyan O Srijonshil Prokashok Samity, an association of publishers of knowledge-based and creative books, elected its new committee recently.

Farid Ahmed, owner of Somoy Prokashoni has taken charge as the chairman of the new committee, while the executive director's post has gone to Monirul



**Farid Ahmed**

Haque, owner of Ananya. The 21-member committee was elected without contest at the elections held at the organization's office. The two will succeed Mazharul Islam (of Anyaprakash) and Kamrul Islam Shayokh (of Panjeri) respectively.

Bangladesh Gyan O Srijonshil Prokashok Samity is the largest organization of publishers in the country. The new committee will serve for a two year term, until 2020.

# JIBON

## A busy lyricist



**SHAH ALAM SHAZU**

Lyricist Robiul Islam Jibon's rise to fame has marked him as one of the most significant lyricists of this generation. Till date, the songwriter has written 600 songs, brought to life by many prominent artists in the country. He has earned three Channel i awards for Best Songwriter, and his songs have taken



Popular film actress Nusraat Faria released the music video of “Pataka”, her first work as singer, through a ceremony in the capital on Thursday. The song, written by Rakib Hasan Rahul and composed by Pritom Hasan, was released on the Youtube channel of CMV Music. Indian filmmaker Baba Yadav has directed the swagging music video. Actors Arifin Shuvo and Badhan, singer Kona and film producer Abdul Aziz were present at the ceremony, among others.

shape as well known hits in film and television as well.


Among his popular lyrics include the songs “Keu Na Januk” and “Mon Karigor” sung by Tahsan; “Mon Mane Na” by Pooja and Imran; “Lojja” with Porshi behind the vocals and “Pagli Suraiya” by Liza, and many others.

His colourful career has also flourished in cinema, where his work spans 20 films to date. He has written songs for “Television”, directed by Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, as well as for other Dhallywood blockbuster hits such as “Premi O Premi”, “Bossgeri”, “Dhatiriki”, “Most Welcome” and many others.

And that's not all; Jibon's songs are known to rouse thousands during the most exciting event for the nation - cricket matches. Twelve songs by the lyricist are dedicated to the sport alone, with the most famous one being “Jole Utho Bangladesh”, vocalised by Durbin.

**BEOL**

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**QUIZ - 01**

**Avengers and their allies do what?**

