

<p>WHAT'S ON</p>	<p>Solo Art Exhibition Title: Deyaal - Solo Exhibition by Farhana Afroz Bappy Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani Date: Dec 2 - 15 Time: 11 am - 9 pm</p>	<p>In remembrance of Anwar Hossain Title: Anwar Hossain'er Shoromshobha Venue: National Music and Dance Centre Auditorium, BSA</p>	<p>Group Art Exhibition Title: Winning With Art Venue: Bay's Galleria, Gulshan 1 Date: Dec 1 - Dec 31 Time: 10 am - 6 pm</p>	<p>Photography Exhibition Title: American Landscape - A Photography Exhibition by Shibly Shiraj Venue: EMK Center Date: December 8 - December 20 Time: 9:30 am - 8 pm</p>	<p>Drummers' Union Title: Bangladesh Drum Day Venue: Russian Cultural Center Date: December 7 Time: 3:30 pm - 10:30 pm</p>
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WATCH NOW ON A & E TALK

An exclusive insight to 'Hasina: A Daughter's Tale'

ELITA KARIM

For renowned ad-film maker, Piplu Khan, opting for a docu-drama after years of making commercials was not an easy decision. However, the challenge of portraying the life of Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, was an offer he simply could not refuse. Telling the story of one of the most influential figures in history, Piplu Khan pulled through with the touching film. He talks about the five years that he and his team spent researching, writing and shooting the film. He also sheds light on some of the unique moments that he spent with the Prime Minister, eventually growing a rapport with her. Below is an excerpt of the heart to heart that we had with Piplu Khan on the first episode of 'A&E talk'.

How was the whole 5-year journey?
Piplu Khan: It has been quite an experience. I remember how in the beginning I was absolutely blank and had gone to the Gana Bhaban to meet with the Prime Minister and the producers from CRI. I was asked to just sit with Sheikh Hasina

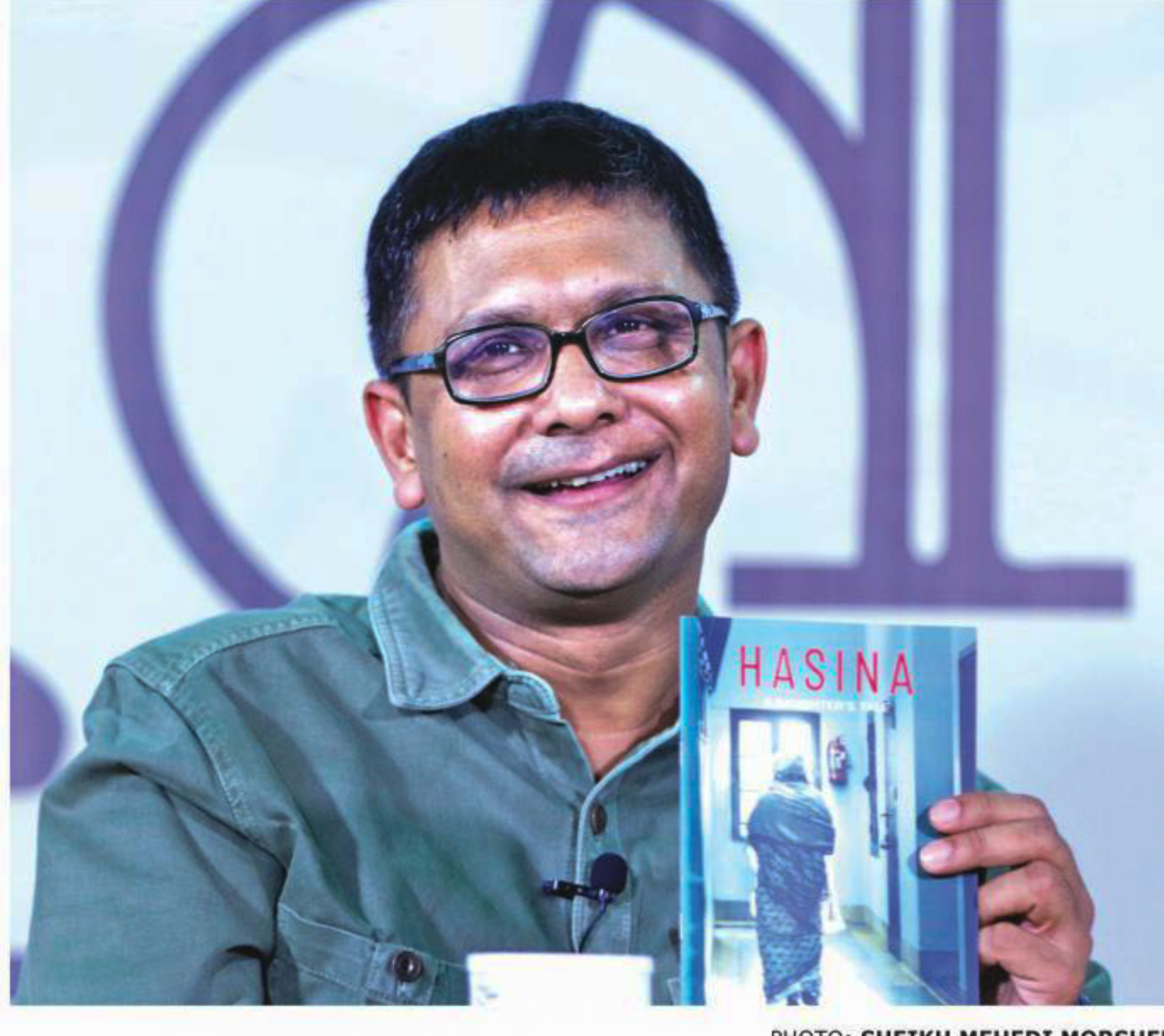


PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

and ask her a few questions. When I was doing that, I noticed that the PM was very comfortable answering our questions and made everything very easy. That's when I told her - can I call you *apa*? We ad-filmmakers are not a formal lot! She laughed and said yes! Eventually, I read up on whatever I could get my hands on - history, politics, heritage - anything related to Bangladesh. However, it was

only after the Holey Artisan incident that I truly felt that somewhere, something had gone wrong with us as a nation. I began to look for more books, read and research more about Bangladesh. At the same time, I had stopped reading the newspapers and watching television. **What was it like, shooting at Dhanmondi 32 with the Prime Minister?**

Piplu Khan: Believe it or not, the Prime Minister visited Dhanmondi 32 after 10 years only because of the shoot, and that too after being requested for three years! She usually visits on August 15 and follows some rituals in a particular area downstairs. But for the shooting of the docu-drama, Sheikh Hasina stepped into the corridor after many years, where the portraits and pictures of her family members are displayed. There is one scene in the film where she walks through the corridor and moves towards the camera. When we called for action, she would not come. We waited for a while and were wondering what happened. That's when I went up to her to see if everything was ok. I found her standing shell-shocked, when suddenly she held my arms and said, "This is the exact spot where my brother Russel had walked for the first time, in front of me!" That's when I actually understood why she never visited Dhanmondi 32.

What are some of the moments that you will cherish from this 5-year-journey?
Piplu Khan: The film itself is a treasure-trove of memorable instances. However, I can tell you that here are many memorable instants that are not in the film, but they made me understand the Prime Minister better, as the daughter of Bangabandhu. You see, I am interested in politics and I was fortunate enough to document the life of our Prime Minister. Similarly, there are many other politicians and individuals in our country who have equally marvelous stories and moments to offer - and I think we, as storytellers, should take advantage of this.

Bangla Academy completes 63 YEARS

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

Bangla Academy celebrated its 63rd founding anniversary on Monday. A programme, beginning with wreaths placed at the Central Shaheed Minar and grave of Dr Mohammad Shahidullah was arranged to mark the day.

A discussion session chaired by writer Subrata Barua was held at the Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad hall of the academy preceded by a minute of silence in honour of the martyrs of the Language Movement. Columnist, researcher and cultural personality Mofidul Haque presented the founding anniversary keynote speech titled, *Boishhik Potobhumikay Bangali Jatiyotabad o Jatirashita*, at the discussion



PHOTO: KAZI SALAHUDDIN RAZU

session. Director of Bangla Academy, Aparesh Kumar Banerjee, was also present in the panel. The session was followed by a cultural programme presented by the executives and staff of Bangla Academy. Dignitaries along with former directors and executives of the academy were present in the programme.

Bangla Academy began its journey on December 3, 1955. Chief Minister of the then East Bengal, Abu Hossain Sarker, inaugurated the academy, which started with the main aim of conducting research on Bangla, our culture and history, and publishing Bangla literary and research works. The academy organises the month-long Ekushey Book Fair, the biggest book fair of the country, commemorating the Language Movement and its martyrs.

Mim and Shuvoo to play 'Shaapludo'!

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Arifin Shuvoo and Bidya Sinha Mim are set to play the leading roles in *Shaapludo*. The film, which is directed by Golam Sohrab Dodul, started shooting last month and finished on December 3. "We wanted to surprise everyone, and this is why we did not announce the film beforehand", said Arifin Shuvoo to *The Daily Star*. Bidya Sinha Mim mentioned that the best part of this upcoming film will be the script: "The audience wants to see a good story, and that is exactly what we are going to deliver." *Shaapludo* is produced by Bengal Creation.



Aloke Sen to pay tribute to Ustad Ghulam Ali Performance on Tara Muzik this morning

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Today marks the 78th birth anniversary of legendary Ghazal maestro Ustad Ghulam Ali. To pay a musical tribute to the living legend, Kolkata-based popular TV channel Tara Muzik is set to air a solo Ghazal programme, *Aj Sokaler Amontrone*, where renowned Bangladeshi artiste Aloke Kumar Sen will perform live.

The programme, to be aired this morning at 7:30 am (Indian time) and 8 am (Bangladesh Time), will be accompanied with great Tabla artiste Pradip Ghosh and guitarist Abhijeet Banerjee from India.

Sen has a strong inclination for khayal and ghazal. He was invited by ICCR, India to perform at several ghazal programmes held in Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh and Nagaland of India in 2015.

"Khayal represents the internal aesthetes of melodious imagination. It is rather than an imaginative song, as it is full of spirituality while ghazal is the medium of expressing the best literary essence through melody," asserts Sen, who feels honoured to perform for Ustad Ghulam Ali's birthday. "All the forms of higher love, either human or spiritual, can be articulated through the metaphors of ghazal."

Aloke Kumar Sen is a classical vocalist and ghazal artiste. Born in a musical family of Narail, he was baptised in music by his parents Bhim Sen and Shantana Sen, who are



PHOTO: STAR

renowned jatra artistes. Sen completed both his B Mus and M Mus from the Department of Hindustani Classical Vocal Music at Shanto Mariam University of Creative Technology securing first class with first position in both the examinations and receiving a gold medal from the president of Bangladesh. The artiste has been receiving

tutelage in the genre under the guidance of noted classical vocalist and guru Anil Kumar Saha since 2008. Sen has also been taking classical lessons from Pandit Tushar Dutta. Besides Khayal and Ghazal, the artiste regularly performs thumri, bhajan, Nazrul Sangeet, film and adhunik songs on different TV channels and stages.

Kathak workshop concludes at Rewaz Performers' School

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Rewaz Performers' School, a pioneering dance company in Bangladesh founded and run by renowned Kathak exponent Munmun Ahmed, arranged a five-day long Kathak workshop, conducted by acclaimed Kathak dancer and choreographer from India, Madhumita Roy, at their premises from 1 December, which concludes today. Madhumita Roy, a disciple of Kathak legend, Pandit Birju Maharaj, has established herself as an outstanding soloist and choreographer both in India and internationally. "The aim of this workshop is to keep ourselves posted on new content being composed and taught by Maharaj Ji in his classes in India today, which we are seldom directly privy to given the geographical distance" said Munmun Ahmed. "Madhumita is facilitating in bridging that gap. We hope to continue such a practice in order to keep Bangladeshi Kathak dancers up-to-date with the evolving standards of Kathak in India."



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED