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Kibria International Print Fair 2019 begins today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The eighth Kibria International Print Fair 2019 begins today at 5:30 pm at Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka. Kibria International Print Fair Organising Committee and Kibria Printmaking Studio have jointly organised the fair to pay tribute to the late abstract master and eminent printmaker Mohammad Kibria.

Honourable Minister of Education, Dr Dipu Moni, MP will inaugurate the fair, while renowned artists Rafiqun Nabi and Monirul Islam will attend the event as special guests. Eminent printmaker Syed Abul Barq Alvi will preside over the inaugural programme.

Both eminent and young printmakers from 20 different institutes, organisations and studios from Bangladesh and India will exhibit their prints at the fair.

At the opening programme, internationally renowned printmaker-painter Shahid Kabir will be honoured with the lifetime achievement award for his lifelong contribution to arts. Besides, the organisers will confer five awards to young printmakers.

Artists from the printmaking departments from all over the country, along with artists from Visva-Bharati University and Rabindra Bharati University, India, are going to participate in this 3-day long fair.

Apart from that, several renowned Dhaka and Delhi-based printmaking studios will participate in the fair that is open from 3 pm to 8 pm daily, until February 17.



Renowned artist Monirul Islam (centre) viewing the exhibit.



'Dystopia' closes tomorrow

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The second phase of 'Artist December-2018' titled *Dystopia*, started at the gallery of Epiphania Visuals, in Lalbagh of Pura Dhaka. On February 8, theatre activist and a faculty member of the Department of Sociology at the University of Dhaka, Samina Lutfa, inaugurated the exhibition. The doors of the exhibition will be open till tomorrow 8 pm. The display is curated by Jafrin Gulshan, a Bangladesh based artist and an art critique.

In conversation with Anisul Hoque

Anisul Hoque gained popularity as an author through his many articles, short stories and books. His repertoire also includes poems and scripts for tele-fictions and films. He intends to write about issues and subjects that will be talked about both in Bangladesh and among the Bangla speaking populace in other countries. Hoque has won several accolades for his writings, including the Bangla Academy award. The book, 'Ei Pothe Alo Jele' – the fourth in a volume, is one of the most noteworthy releases by the author. In a recent chat with The Daily Star, he talks about his new books, the *Ekushey Boi Mela* and more.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Tell us about the theme of *Ei Pothe Alo Jele*.

Based on true events, the book is set against the backdrop of the mass uprising in 1969. It depicts the common people's struggle for Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's unconditional bail in 1971. This February marks the 50th anniversary of his bail. Needless to say, it is a really special book. I would also like to mention that the fifth and final piece of work in this volume will be a 500-page novel,

based on Bangladesh's emergence from 1971 to 1975. I plan to release all the volumes together in one book comprised of 1,500 pages.

How are your readers responding to the book so far?

The response to the book has been incredible. It is not only attracting the attention of my long-time fans, but also new readers. As an author, that is the greatest gift for me.

What are your thoughts on this year's *Ekushey Boi Mela*?

I love coming to the *Ekushey Boi Mela* throughout the month. I think

that the organisers have done a great job this year. It feels great to see thousands of people coming to the fair to spend time in the company of books and their favourite authors with a patriotic zeal.

What can you tell us about some of your other books at the fair?

My book titled, *Bangabandhu Jonno Bhalobasha*, published by Pearl Publications, will be released soon. I have also written a young-adult novel. Another book, *Shofol Hote Jaan*, has garnered a good response at the fair as well.

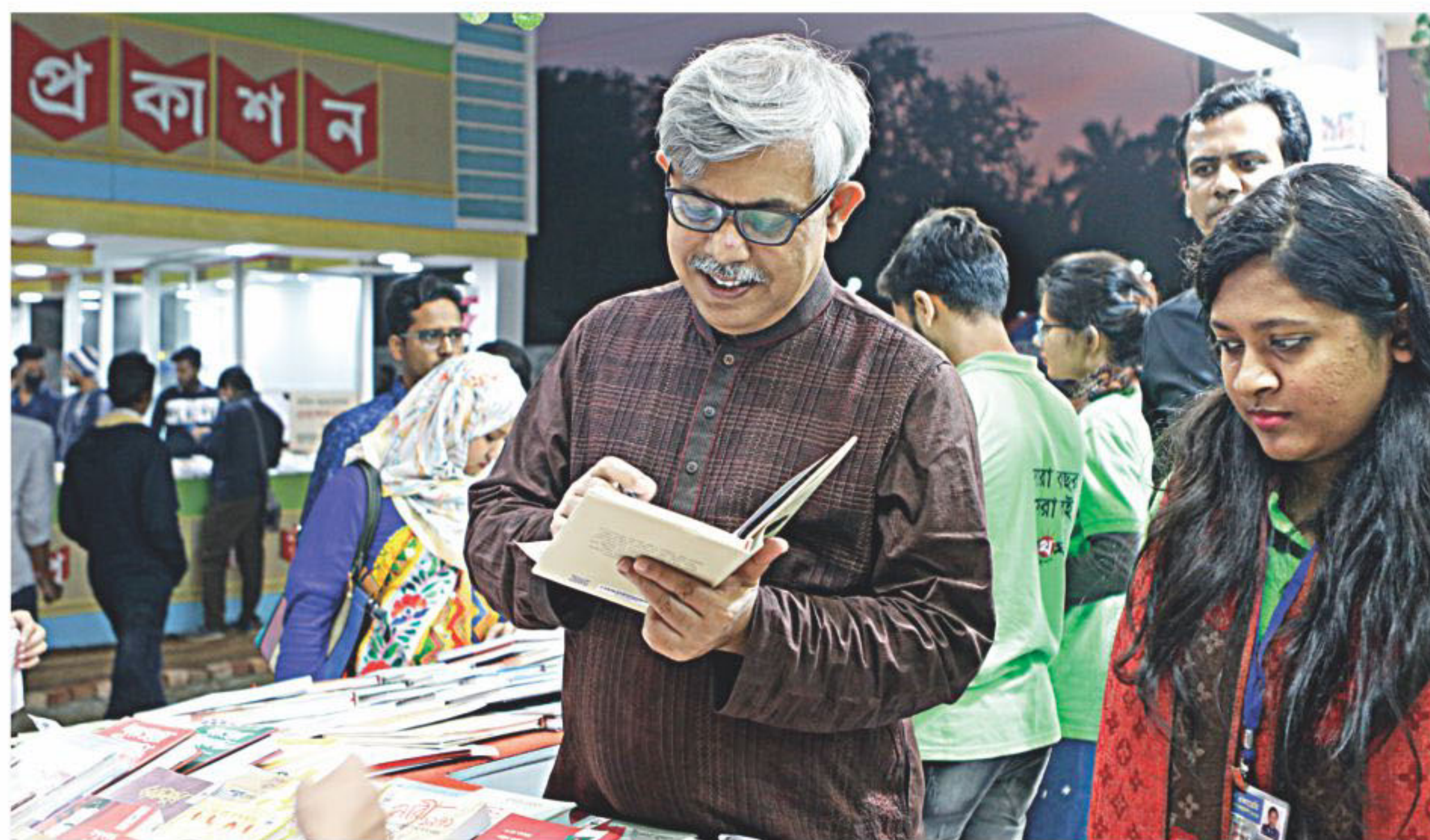
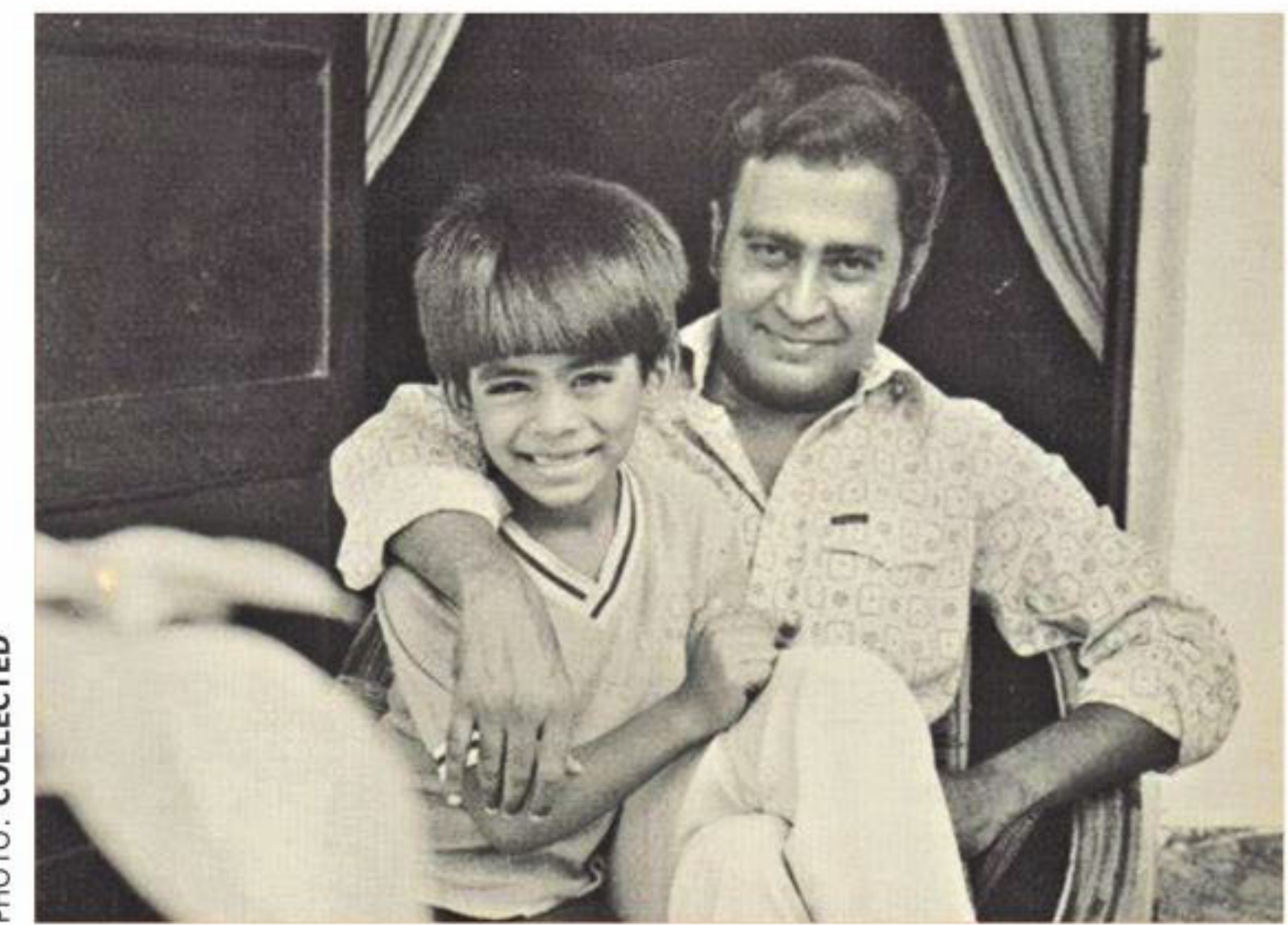


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Remembering Syed Ahsan Ali Sydney

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National award winning actor, Syed Ahsan Ali Sydney was a prominent figure in the Bangladeshi television drama, and film industry. On the renowned actor's death anniversary yesterday, veteran actor Suborna Mustafa paid her respects to him on social media, stating that Syed Ahsan Ali Sydney was the most handsome actor in the history of Bangladeshi television.

"Like every year, I visited his grave at our family graveyard in Old Dhaka on his death anniversary. I remember and miss him all the time," said Syed Ahsan Ali Sydney's son, popular television actor, Jeetu Ahsan.

Syed Ahsan Ali Sydney acted in many iconic tele-fictions including *Rahu*, *Noyon Shommu*, *Ke Tumi Nai*, *Ami Tumi Shey*, amongst others. He continued acting in tele-fictions till his very last days.

Kangalini Sufia wishes to sing again

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH from Savar

After suffering from multiple complications including throat ache, kidney diseases, irregularities of blood circulation in the brain, and heart problems, noted folk singer Kangalini Sufia was admitted to Savar Enam Medical College Hospital in the first week of December last year.

When Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina intervened, Sufia was taken to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). After spending a long time in the hospital, the legendary singer is back to her house in Savar. However, doctors have recommended her to rest for a minimum of six months and to refrain from singing. We recently visited the 70-year old artiste in Savar to find out about her present condition.

Sufia has to take ten different medicines after lunch, as prescribed by her doctors. She is worried about the loans she took from people for taking care of her family and her treatment. "I

am the breadwinner of my family. Although I receive Tk 10,000 from the Prime Minister every month, we still face many hardships," explained Sufia. "However, I am grateful to the Prime Minister for arranging my treatment."

Sufia's condition is quite unstable at present, as she cannot speak properly. "The doctors have told me not to sing. But singing is what I do for a living. I want to return to performing on stage," she said.

We also spoke to Sufia's daughter Pushpo Begum, who is a mother of two.

"Currently, we have a loan of Tk 8 lakh on our shoulders," explained Pushpo. "Creditors come to my house for their money frequently. I request them to not discuss the matter in front of my mother, as it can lead to further health issues and stress for her."

Sufia was born to Hindu parents Khokon Halder and Tulu Halder in Rajbari. As a teenager, she began singing at village functions and was widely praised for her skills. The singer married Sudhir Halder and converted to Islam

three years after the Liberation War of Bangladesh and took the name, Sufia Khatun.

In the early years of her career, Sufia emulated Ustad Halim Boyati and Aynal Boyati of Faridpur, but soon grew her own distinctive style. Mustafa Monwar, the former Director General of Shilpakala Academy, christened her 'Kangalini Sufia'.

Sufia was a regular artiste of Bangladesh Betar and BTV as well as many private stations. She also performed in the UK, South Korea, Qatar, Italy, Hong Kong, the US, Thailand, China and India.

Sufia has some of the most popular folk songs to her credit including *Poraner Bandhob Re*, *Buri Hoilam Tor Karone*, *Narir Kachhe Keu Jaiyo Na*, and *Konba Pothey Nitaigonje Jai*. She was also a playback singer for the films, *Darodi Shatru*, *Agun* and *Raj Shinghashon*.

Kangalini Sufia has received around 30 national awards including the Shilpakala Padak in 2017. She also has 10 international awards to her credit.



PHOTO: STAR