

WHAT'S ON	Solo Painting Exhibition Artist: Biren Shome Title: Liberation War Bangabandhu Bangladesh Venue: Gallery Chitrag, H-4, Rd-6, Dhanmondi Date: Nov 15-26 Time: 10am-8pm	Architectural Exhibition Title: Nogomama: The Future of Our Habits Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi 27 Date: November 2-30 Time: 12 noon-8 pm	Theatre Festival Title: IDLC Theatre Festival Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Date: November 19 - November 23 Time: 5 pm onwards	Art Exhibition Title: The Traveller's Song Artist: Kanak Champa Chakma Venue: Edge Gallery, Gulshan-2 Date: November 9 - November 30 Time: 10 am-8 pm	Photography Exhibition Title: Travel & Travelettes Photography Exhibition Season 03 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Date: November 27- December 1 Time: 3 pm-9 pm
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"My life is like art" – Nazia Andaleeb Preema

Cosmos Books launches 'Preema Donna: An infinite Journey'

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Today marks the birthday of versatile artist Nazia Andaleeb Preema. Capturing her 25-year artistic journey, Cosmos Books launched Preema Donna: An Infinite Journey, at this year's Dhaka Lit Fest. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, Preema talked about the book and her prolific career as an artist, among other things.

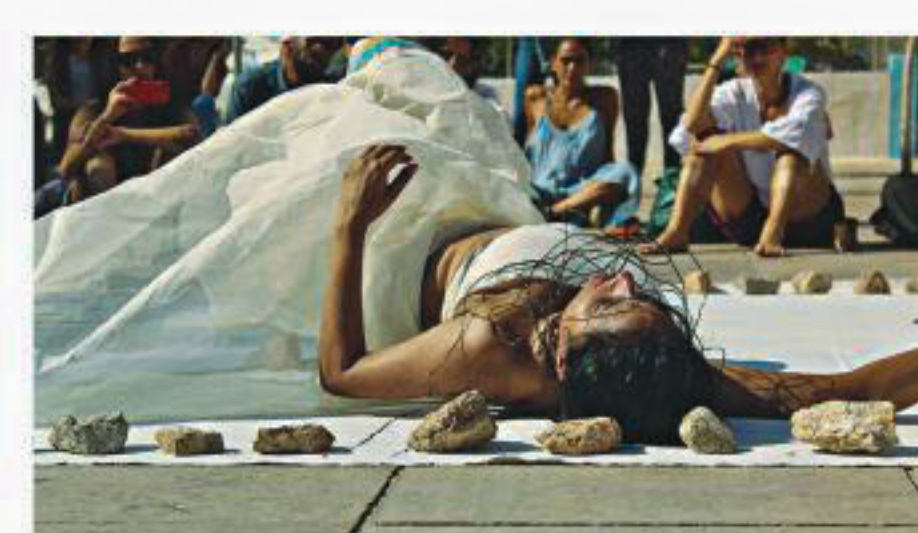
Bangladeshi art with the art of other nations across the globe. My 'Staring Women' series was prominent in constituting my artistic vision," said Preema. "The veil in my art emphasises the context to protest, interpret and improvise society, in a modern and contemporary way. I have tried to juxtapose two contrasting aspects in the series."

As one of the most influential visual artists of Bangladesh, she has emerged as a strong cultural catalyst. Her artworks embody lyrical overtones, while her illustrations demonstrate the virtuosity of blending tradition with contemporary media.

The book, *Preema Donna: An Infinite Journey*, consists of five chapters: Conflict, Courage, Wonder, Vision and Connection. It also features Preema's artistic philosophies and new media ventures,



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



which index her vivacious journey through visual interpretations.

"To understand art without knowing the artist is only a half-done task. My life is like art," said Nazia Andaleeb Preema. "Art connotes courage. No artist can evolve, revolve and deconstruct himself or herself without courage. My involvement with music and dance has enabled me to exercise absolute freedom in performance art, text and new media."

'Prima Donna' is an Italian word, which translates to 'First Lady'. It was originally used to identify the main female character in an opera play. Many renowned academics and critics, including National Professor Anisuzzaman, Moinuddin Khaled and Mustafa Zaman have contributed to the

book. Describing Preema's journey, art critic and former Italian ambassador to Bangladesh, Giorgio Guglielmino, wrote in the book, "Daring, bold, charismatic, confident, enigmatic and heeled: all these words can be used for a Prima Donna, and consequently, Nazia Andaleeb Preema."

Preema's work has been recognised worldwide for its innovative approach and distinct technique. Her paintings, performances and installations reveal a personal narrative that depicts her experiences.

Against all odds, Preema has forged an illustrious career that brought her awards, grants and acclaim. Her unforgettable experiences as an artist continue to inspire and enrich her creative pursuits.

She has participated in many international exhibitions, including the ongoing Venice Art Biennale in Italy. Her work, 'Fake news, women and visibility paradox', is currently on exhibit at the biennale, thanks to Bangladesh's third consecutive participation in the event. She asserts that artists must gather diverse knowledge, including literature, science, philosophy and psychology. Preema craves for a neo-renaissance in society. Through her artistic efforts, Preema wants to bring about social changes, especially in terms of women empowerment and peaceful co-existence for all.

"I want to connect and merge



Live art performances by Preema.

An artwork by Preema.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF NAZIA ANDALEEB PREEMA



Salil Chowdhury's 94th birth anniversary today

SYED MAQSUD JAMIL

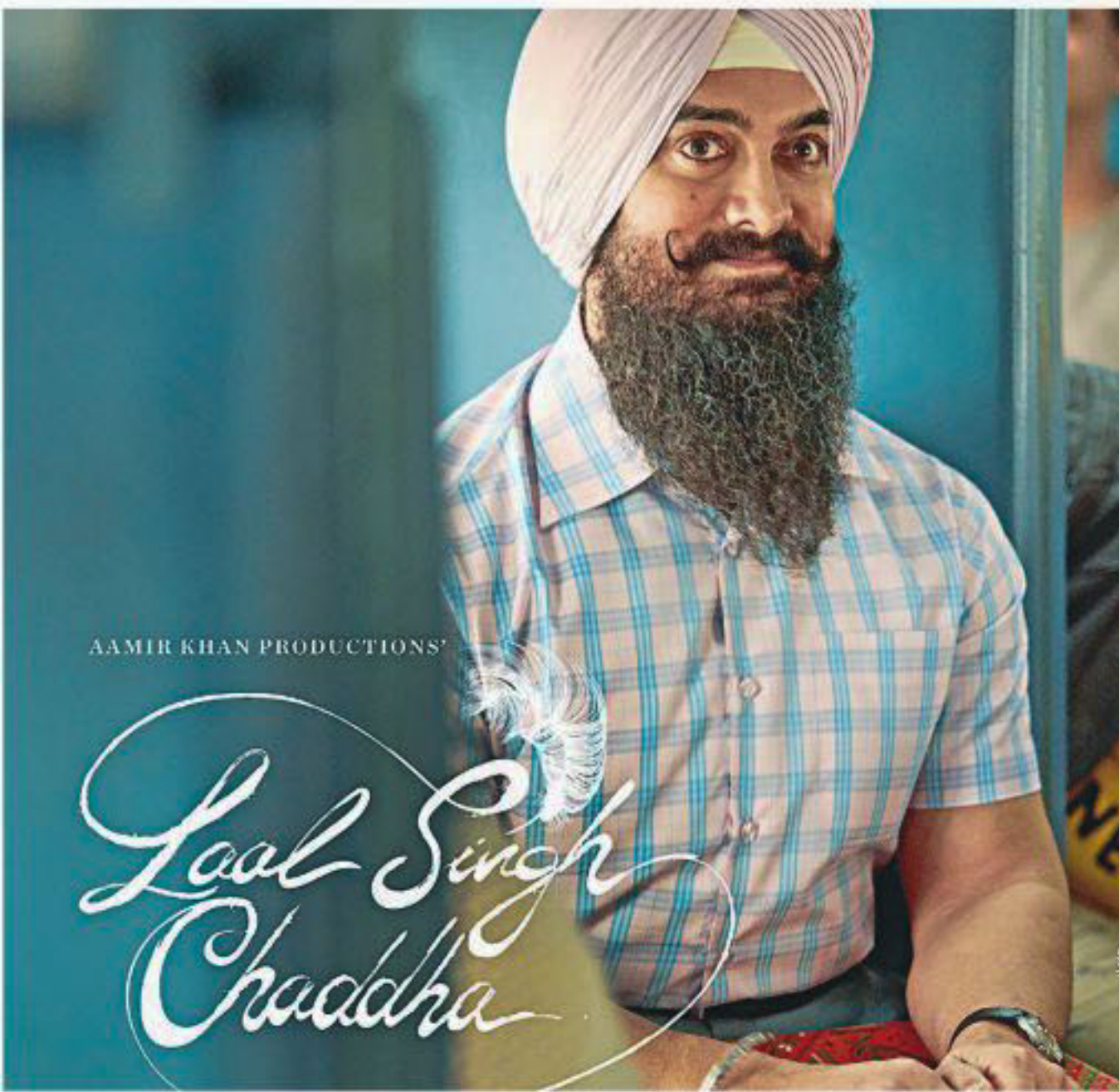
Songwriter, music director, lyricist, writer and poet Salil Chowdhury predominated the music industry in the 90s. He has composed songs in over 13 languages, including 75 Hindi films, 41 Bengali films, around 27 Malayalam films. November 19 marks his 94th birth anniversary. Born in 1925 in Gazipur, he grew up in a tea plantation where his father used to work. His father had a collection of western classical music and he gradually started taking interest in it, especially on the compositions of Mozart. Playing instruments, such as flute, harmonium and esraj, was his favourite pastime, and his surroundings always inspired him to pursue folk music.

Chowdhury began his musical career with the Bengali film *Paribortan* (1949). His Mozart-influenced composition, *Itna Na Mujh Se* for the film *Chhaya* (1961), sung by Talat Mahmood and Lata Mangeshkar, spellbinds music lovers even today.

He enchanted the audience with his folk tunes in Bimal Roy's film *Kabuliwala* (1961), where prolific singers like Hemant Kumar and Manna Dey sang his compositions. He has also worked with musical legends such as Mohammad Rafi, Usha Mangeshkar and Lata Mangeshkar.

At the beginning of his career, Salil Chowdhury was an active member of Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA), a cultural wing of Communist Party. Hemanta Mukhopadhyay was his fellow member. His time-less melodies include, *Tooty Hue Khwabon Ne* (Madhumati, 1958), *O Mor Moina Go, Zindagi Kaisi Hai Paheli* (Anand, 1971), and many others. Salil Chowdhury breathed his last on September 5, 1995.

'Laal Singh Chaddha' poster unveiled



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, from New Delhi

Indian superstar Amir Khan will be playing a Sikh in his fifties in *Laal Singh Chaddha*. In the first poster of the film, the actor is dressed in a checkered shirt and a pink turban. He sits inside a train compartment, as a flickering smile peeps through his lush beard and moustache.

Amir Khan shared the first look of *Laal Singh Chaddha* on social media recently. "Sat Sri Akaal ji, myself Laal... Laal Singh Chaddha," he wrote in the caption.

The film, an official Hindi adaptation of Hollywood star Tom Hanks' 1994 hit, *Forrest Gump*, is being directed by Advait Chandan, with Kareena Kapoor as the female protagonist. Amir Khan and Kareena Kapoor were last seen together in the box-office hit, *3 Idiots*, directed by Rajkumar Hirani.

Earlier, Amir Khan shared a short video clip that revealed the forthcoming film's logo. The video contained a brief song with the lyrics *Kya pata hum mein hain kahani, ya hain kahani mein hum*.

Laal Singh Chaddha was announced by Amir Khan on his birthday in March this year.

The film, a joint production of Viacom18 Motion Pictures and Aamir Khan Productions, is set to hit theatres next year, during Christmas.

'Colors of Bangladesh' concludes at BNM

TIASHA IDRAK

As visitors stepped into Bangladesh National Museum (BNM) from November 15 to 17, they were greeted with pictures that showcased the beauty of the country, at the photography exhibition and competition, *Colors of Bangladesh*. The event, organised by UNESCO Dhaka, in partnership with Prito Reza Productions, was supported by the Government of the Republic of Korea. It was inaugurated in the presence of Kim Cheol-Sang, Deputy Chief of Mission, Korean Embassy, Sun Lei, Education Specialist, UNESCO Dhaka, Kizzy Tahnin, Programme Officer for Culture, UNESCO Dhaka, and Prito Reza, photographer and curator.

The goal of the event was to promote the photography industry as a creative and cultural sector in Bangladesh, in light of the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, and as a driver for sustainable development. The focus of the exhibition was to highlight the beauty of Bangladesh, in the landscapes, daily lives of the people, and ethnic and religious diversity.

"An online search for Bangladesh usually brings up pictures of floods or the Rohingya refugees, all bearing negativity," said Prito Reza, who was a judge in the competition and the curator of the event. "We



wanted to exhibit the positive aspects of our country - the cultural facet that we're forgetting and the beauty in the simplicity of our people that we often overlook."

Other judges of the competition were Munira Morshed Munni, Shafiqul Alam Kiron and Wawi Navarozza. A total of 1,700 entries were submitted for the event, out of which 120 photographs were on exhibit. The photographs at the exhibition were also displayed through digital projector and on canvases.

Some pictures were screened through bioscope. They also arranged discussions every day on various issues related to photography.

Another attraction of the exhibition was a wall full of envelopes. On one side, the wall was labelled, 'Give what you can' for visitors to write positive messages for other people. The other side read, 'Take what you need', for visitors to pick up pleasant and optimistic messages from others.



IDLC THEATRE FEST 2019 (From left) On the first day of IDLC Theatre Fest 2019, 'Rosh Puran' by University of Dhaka, will be staged at the Experimental Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) at 6:30 pm. On the other hand, the popular play 'Bhoddornok' by Nattyachakro will be staged at the National Theatre Hall, BSA, at 8:30 pm. PHOTO: COURTESY