



'Whiny Women' to be inaugurated tomorrow



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Women in Arts Bangladesh, a supportive network for creative women will inaugurate their first ever exhibition, Whiny Women, at Dhaka Gallery tomorrow.

The two-day exhibition aims to focus on the complexity, contexts, and critiques of the representations of the South Asian female form. "The aim is to explore the diversity of representation within the home, workplace and pop culture," says Pracheta Ahana, the founder of the organisation. *Whiny Women* will inaugurate from 3 pm tomorrow, with eminent politician and actor Tarana Halim as chief guest, and novelist Shazia Omar as special guest.

MEHAZABIEN reflects on the decade

Popular actor Mehazabien Chowdhury has been entertaining the audience with her remarkable performances for the last ten years. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, she talks about her New Year's resolutions, upcoming ventures and more.



TANVIR MOKAMMEL to make government-granted documentary on Bangabandhu

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

Ekushey Padak awardee and eminent director Tanvir Mokammel is set to make a documentary about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Recently, Tanvir told *The Daily Star* that he will start shooting the documentary, funded by the Government of Bangladesh, from next month. Titled *Modhumati Parer Manushti: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman*, the documentary will be completed by this year, which marks the birth centenary of Bangabandhu. An agreement about the documentary was signed by the director and the Bangladesh Information and Broadcasting Ministry, in Dhaka.

Modhumati Parer Manushti: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will contain several video footages from Bangabandhu's life, including his famous March 7 speech, his release from Pakistan's prison, his return to an independent Bangladesh and other landmark events related to the liberation of the country. Tanvir said that the documentary will cover the lifespan of Bangabandhu, from his childhood to his assassination. "Although it is a documentary, it will be done on a biopic scale," he added.

Shooting for the documentary will begin on the bank of the Modhumati River in Tungipara, Gopalganj, where Bangabandhu spent his childhood years. According to Tanvir, parts of the documentary will also be shot in Kolkata's

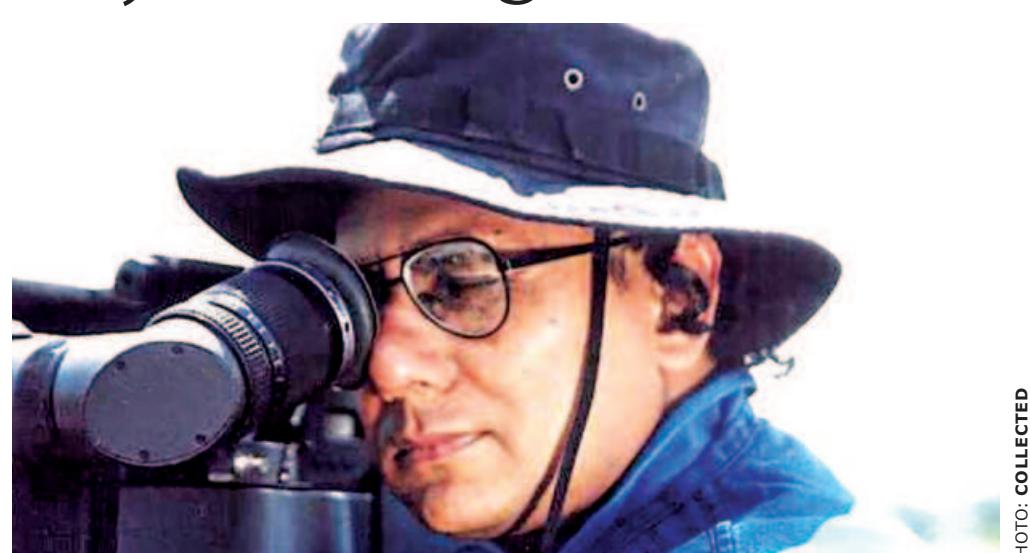


PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED
PHOTO: COLLECTED

Islamia College and iconic Baker Hostel, where Bangabandhu spent several years as a student leader. Another spot where the documentary will be shot is Shahid Hossain Sorhawary's house in Park Circus, Kolkata, where Bangabandhu had stayed.

Tanvir's long-time associate Syed Shabab Ali Arzoo will compose the background score for the documentary, while Uttam Guha will be the art director. Sources from the Government of Bangladesh have claimed that some other

filmmakers will be asked to produce more documentaries on the Father of the Nation, in the near future.

Tanvir, who hopes to wrap up the post-production work on his forthcoming feature film, *Rupsha Nadir Baankey* this month, is currently in Karimganj to attend a film festival, which begins today. His documentaries *Seemantarekha* and *1971* will be screened at the event, where he will also give a lecture on the 'Prolematics of Filming the 1947 Partition.'

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Happy New Year! How would you look back on 2019?

Happy New Year to you too! 2019 was a great year for me. I got to work on a broad range of projects that were appreciated by the audience. I hope to continue being a part of good projects this year as well.

Tell us about your upcoming projects.

I started shooting for my first project in 2020 yesterday. It is a television, titled *Memories*, directed by Mahmudur Rahman Himi.

Congratulations on completing a decade in the industry. How has your journey been so far?

Thank you so much! To be honest, I can't express my happiness in words. It feels as though the ten years just flew by in a flash. I am grateful to the Almighty, my family, my directors, my co-artistes and everybody who has been a part of my artistic career. I would also like to give a special shout-out to my fans and well-wishers. Their love and appreciation are what keeps me going.

What are your expectations from this year?

Last year, the industry witnessed many changes. The new rules asserted by the Director's Guild, in association with the Obhino Shilpi Shongho, have brought a sense of discipline in this line of work. I hope that everyone in the industry will follow the rules. As far as my career is concerned, I always take up projects that I truly like, keeping my role and the overall story in mind. This year, I would like to experiment with the kind of characters that I will play and also be a part of entertaining stories.

Film to be made on 'Friend of Bengalis' Father Marino Rigon

SHARMIN JOYA

Father Marino Rigon was called the 'Friend of Bengalis', for his unconditional love and support towards Bangladesh. He moved to Bangladesh during the 1971 Liberation War, where he gave shelter and cared for the injured.

He was honoured as a freedom fighter of the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War for his contributions during the war. He lived in Bangladesh as a missionary for sixty years, preaching the Gospel among Catholics, using the Bengali language and making a tremendous contribution to the Catholic Church of Bangladesh. He breathed his last at the age of 92, and left his well-wishers in October 2017.

The film, *The Father- An Untold Story*, is a joint venture of Bangladesh and Italy. The



feature film will be directed by Hemanta Sadeeq and scripted by Shahaduzzaman.

The shooting of the movie will take place in Venice and Vicenza, Italy. It will commence from this year.

Father Rigon translated 50 Bangladeshi literary pieces into the Italian language. He also translated 350 songs of Lalon. "His selfless contribution towards Bangladesh and our culture, is the first factor that attracted me to take up this project," says Hemanta Sadeeq. "I believe his story is very relevant to us and our culture. We cannot thank him enough for his unconditional support."

Father Marino Rigon was conferred honorary citizenship of Bangladesh by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for his tireless and exemplary contributions to society, especially in the country, in 2009.



TV WATCH

The Chinese cartoon series, 'Dream Baby Mongwa', dubbed in Bangla, will be aired on Boishakhi Television today and tomorrow at 6:15 pm.

PHOTO: COURTESY