

## In loving memory of JAN-E-ALAM

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

Jan-E-Alam was one of the frontrunners of pop music in Bangladesh. He, along with Azam Khan, Ferdous Wahid and Firoz Shah, played an integral role in popularising the genre, during the 70s. The noted singer passed away on March 2, 2021, while being treated at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University. He was 65. His wife passed away amid the pandemic, and he is survived by his two daughters.

Born in Harirampur, Manikganj, Jan-E-Alam was also a prolific lyricist and music producer. A number of singers made their debuts under the banner of his company, Doyal Production House. Samina Chowdhury's first solo album was released under his company. Momotaz and S D Rubel among others also worked with Doyal Production House.

Besides lending his voice to 4,000 songs, Jan-E-Alam wrote and composed 3,000 songs. He earned accolades soon after his first album, "Bonmali" was released in the 70s, from Dhaka Records. He released more than 80 solo albums throughout his career. He was known for his individualistic approach of combining pop and folk music.

"Gondhomer Lagiya", "School

Khuilachhe Re Mowla", "Doyal Baba Kebab Kaba", "Kali Chhara Kolomer Mullyo Je Nai", "Tumi Piriti Shikhaiya", "Doyal Bhandari Line Chhara Chole Na Railgari" and "Phul Chhara Phagunre Naamtai Britha" are some of his notable songs.

"I will always cherish my memories with him," said noted musician Ferdous Wahid, a close colleague and friend of Jan-E-Alam. "Firoz Shah and I did a show together in 1972, arranged by Jan-E-Islam."

"He used to attend all of my family programmes," said Fakir Alamgir. "His contribution to the music industry is immense. He knew how to entertain the audience very well."

"He was a simple and down-to-earth man, who loved and respected people," added musician Hasan Motiur Rahman. "We have worked together in many projects from his production house," shared music composer Farid Ahmed. "In 1995, we did a remake of his popular song 'Gondhomer Lagiya'. I composed that version."

Jan-E-Alam was laid to rest at his familial graveyard in Harirampur, Manikganj.

Translated by Sharmin Joya



PHOTO: COLLECTED

## "The film 'Bangabandhu' is an emotion to us"

— Chanchal Chowdhury

Noted actor Chanchal Chowdhury has charmed audiences with his brilliance on the stage, television, and the silver screen, portraying a wide range of characters over the years. He is set to play Sheikh Lutfar Rahman in "Bangabandhu", Shyam Benegal's forthcoming film on the Father of the Nation. It is a joint venture from Bangladesh and India. The film's shooting kicked off on January 21 in Mumbai. Chanchal Chowdhury went to Mumbai on January 19, and came back on February 5. He is also preparing for Amitabh Reza Chowdhury's "Munshigiri", a web project for Chorki. He will also star in ZEE5 Global's "Contract". In a recent chat with The Daily Star, the actor talks about shooting for the film on Bangabandhu and more.



PHOTO: STAR

SHARMIN JOYA

How was your experience of shooting for the film on Bangabandhu in Mumbai?

It was great to work with such a professional and technically skilled team. I got to learn so much. I have wrapped up my Mumbai schedule, and I will be shooting again when the team comes to Bangladesh. Everyone in the team is really cooperative.

You will be playing the role of Sheikh Lutfar Rahman, Bangabandhu's father, between the ages of 40 and 60. What has been your biggest challenge in portraying him?

There are not enough documents available on Sheikh Lutfar Rahman. However, I was

fortunate enough to have long conversations with our Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, and Sheikh Rehana. They shared many things about their family, which was helpful for all of us.

Before leaving for Mumbai, several actors from the film, including you, went to meet the Prime Minister. How was the experience?

It was the experience of a lifetime. Listening to stories about Bangabandhu directly from the Prime Minister was a privilege. This project is not just a film— it is an emotion to us.

How would you describe Shyam Benegal as a person?

He is a true professional, and a humble

gentleman. Although he is a senior filmmaker, he never depends on anyone for his own work. From the beginning of the day till the pack-up, he stays on the sets. He is a keen observer, who makes his actors rehearse every scene thoroughly.

Are there any memorable anecdotes from the Mumbai shoot that you would like to share with us?

Getting to work with Shyam Benegal is a special experience in itself, that too, on a biopic of Bangabandhu. But one memorable anecdote that comes to mind is that the entire unit wore matching t-shirts with "Bangabandhu" written on them during the shoot, which made me emotional.

## Galleri Kaya's 'Masters & Prodigies' explores contemporary graphic art in India



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSEH

RASHEEK TABASSUM MONDIRA

An exhibition, titled, "Masters & Prodigies" featuring the works of 34 eminent artists from India, is currently underway at Galleri Kaya, Uttara. Inaugurated on February 28, it focuses on contemporary graphic art and printmaking.

The featured artists in this exhibition are: M F Husain, Somnath Hore, S H Raza, Salil Sahani, Atul Dodiya, K G Subramanyan, Krishen Khanna, Amitabha Banerjee, Badri Narayan, Sakti Burman, Sanat Kar, Dipak Banerjee, Ganesh Haloi, Suhas Roy, Lalu Prasad Shaw, Jogen Chowdhury, Manu Parekh, Sunil Das, Niranjan Pradhan, Prabhakar Kolte, Sadhan Chakraborty, Aditya Basak, Monaj Mitra, Bimal Kundo, Manoj Dutta, Ajit Seal, Pradip Maitra, Chandra Bhattacharjee Pankaj Panwar, Ramendra Nath Kastha, Atin Basak, Partha Dasgupta, Swarup Basak and Jayanta Naskar.

"Throughout their lives, artists work with different mediums to portray their thoughts," shares Goutam Chakraborty, Director, Galleri Kaya. "This exhibition is an effort to feature such works, in an attempt to make art more participatory."

The exhibition features 67 artworks done on etching, lithograph, serigraph, silkscreen,



woodcut print, intaglio, and wood engraving, including some historically significant pieces.

"Masters & Prodigies" is dedicated to the birth centenary of renowned sculptor and printmaker Somnath Hore (1921-2006). Born on April 13, 1921, in Chattogram, Bangladesh, his sketches, sculptures and prints reflected on several major historical issues and events of 20th century Bengal.

"Somnath Hore has an intimate link with Bangladesh by birth. On the occasion of his birth centenary, we took the opportunity to dedicate this exhibition to him," shares Goutam Chakraborty. "Two of his lithographs from 1969 are exhibited at the event."

To make art affordable to the masses, different versions and editions of artworks need to be introduced at large— this is one of the central goals of Galleri Kaya.

"Art does not really play a large role in our economic strength. So, this industry needs to be more affordable and accessible to people," expresses Goutam Chakraborty. "If multiple editions or variations of an artwork can be purchased, art will be more affordable."

According to Goutam Chakraborty, Bangladeshi art has to be popularised in different parts of the Indian subcontinent. "Our artistic activities are mostly centered on West Bengal, specifically Kolkata and Shantiniketan," he shares. "We need to expand more in the northern and southern parts of India to introduce people from other regions to our artists. Galleri Kaya aims to popularise Bangladesh's art in different parts of the world."

The exhibition, organised in partnership with Artitude, and sponsored by ADN Group, will be open every day from 11 am to 7:30 pm till March 16.