



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDIMORSHED

Gems of Nazrul's Independence Day tribute to release on March 26



As a tribute to Bangladesh's Golden Jubilee of Independence in the birth centenary year of the Father of the Nation, a special musical production by Gems of Nazrul will be telecast on Channel I at one minute past midnight on March 26.

The 16th production by Gems of Nazrul will feature a hundred artistes performing two songs - "Eyi Amader Bangladesh" and "Durgomo Giri". The vocals are performed by leading Nazrul exponents Shaheen Samad, Sadya A Mallick, Dalia Nausheen, Fatema Tuzzohora, Yasmin Mustari, Shahid Kabir Polash, Bijon Mistri, Mahmudul Hassan, and the younger generation of artistes. The videos will be available on the official YouTube channel of Gems of Nazrul and associated social media pages.

Conceptualised by noted Nazrul singer and cultural personality Sadya Afreen Mallick, the music is directed by Ibrar Tipu and the video production by Rommo Khan. The song will be accompanied by a dance performance choreographed by noted Manipuri dancer Warda Rihab and performed by Dhriti Nartanalaya. The production has been supported by Standard Chartered Bank Bangladesh.

The performance pays tribute to the leadership and sacrifice that culminated in the country's independence. The songs of Nazrul Islam, the Rebel poet bestowed with the title of the country's National Poet is noted for both its fiery and patriotic lyrical beauty.

Mamo talks 'Contract', latest projects

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Zakia Bari Mamo came into the limelight with Lux Channel i Superstar. Since then, she has carved a space for herself in the fields of television and films, winning the National Film Award for her role in "Daruchini Dwip" (2007). Mamo stars in the web series, "Contract", alongside Arifin Shuvoo, Chanchal Chowdhury, Rafiath Rashid Mithila, Shamol Mawla and others. The show is currently streaming on ZEE5 Global. On the other hand, her film, "Sphulingo", directed by Tauquir Ahmed, was released yesterday. In a recent chat with *The Daily Star*, Mamo talks about working on these two projects, and more.

"Contract" is an action-packed political thriller, based on renowned Bangladeshi author Mohammad Nazim Uddin's novel of the same name. How was your experience of working on it?

I got to work with a skilled and dedicated team on "Contract." My co-actors, Arifin Shuvoo and Chanchal Chowdhury, are brilliant in it. We have made this series with a lot of love.

You play the character of Meena in "Contract". What can you tell us about her?

I do not want to give out any spoilers, as it is best if the audience watches the series without knowing anything. All I can say

is "Contract" is a completely new territory for me. The character is unlike anything that I have played before.

"Contract" is free to watch on ZEE5 Global for viewers in Bangladesh. What would you say makes the series stand out from other shows on OTT platforms?

I am confident about "Contract". Bangladesh has been doing really well in recent times, in terms of web content. Our directors and writers have come up with some brilliant scripts. I think the key to success for any show is good storytelling, and "Contract" offers just that to the audience.

After "Contract" started streaming on ZEE5 Global from March 18, your film, "Sphulingo", was released yesterday. Were you nervous before their releases?

The two projects are very different from one another. I was nervous before their releases, but I took it positively. As an artiste, I feel blessed to be able to entertain the audience through different mediums.

Do you have any message for your fans?

My fans give me the strength to keep working. I hope that they continue to support good stories, and I am excited for them to watch "Contract" and "Sphulingo".

Translated by Shababa Iqbal



PHOTO: STAR

'Futures Beyond the Self' underway at Kala Kendra

RASHEEK TABASSUM MONDIRA

An art exhibition titled 'Futures Beyond the Self', a multidisciplinary artiste engagement is currently underway at Kala Kendra in Mohammadpur. The exhibition was inaugurated on March 10.

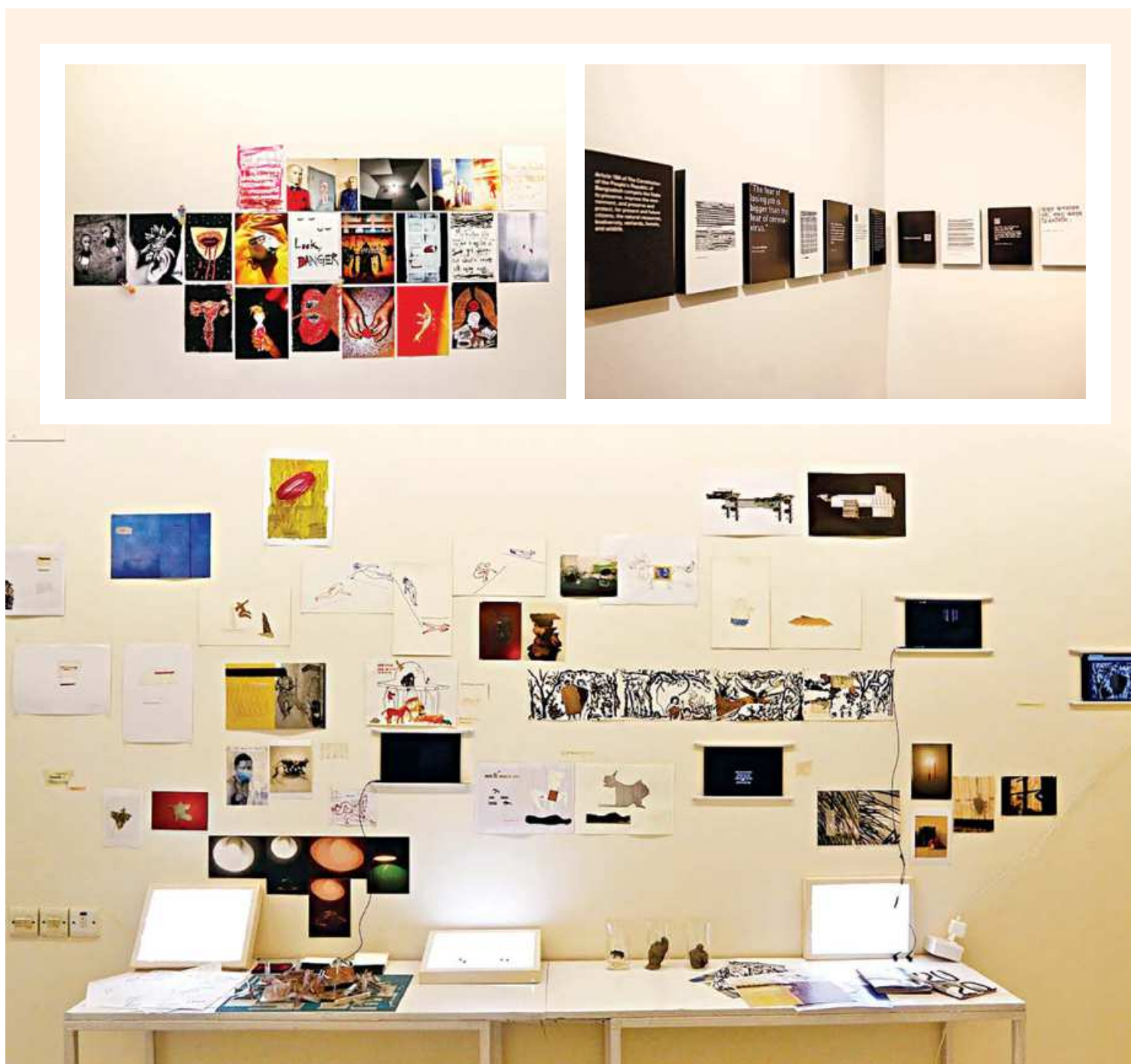
Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, in partnership with Kala Kendra, arranged the exhibition, featuring eleven multidisciplinary artiste works. 'Futures Beyond the Self 2020' project, initiated by Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, invited artistes of Bangladesh to present



their perspectives and ideas about the future they envision for the world. The participants applied for funding in late September and after a rigorous selection process, eleven awardees were selected to exhibit their work.

Tayebe Begum Lipi, visual artist and Trustee/ Founder of Britto Arts Trust, Dr Meghna Guhathakurta, Executive Director, Research Initiatives Bangladesh, Tanzim Wahab, Chief curator, Bengal Arts Programme & Bengal Foundation and Wakilur Rahman, curator, Kalakendra, along with Dr Kirsten Hackenbroch, and K Md Mahmud Hassan from Goethe-Institut Bangladesh served in the jury panel.

The exhibition portrays and reflects on individual and collective engagement in society; envisioning the future world relating to others and self. The ongoing pandemic has



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDIMORSHED

changed and reshaped our individual and collective approach to life, questioning our deep-rooted beliefs, creating awareness about the present world at large and challenging to build a better sustainable future. The eleven exhibits reflect the thoughts of these artistes, as they look beyond themselves and explore different thoughts and ideas.

"The participants are multidisciplinary artistes, some of them are researcher, musicians, performance artiste and many more," shares Wakilur Rahman, curator, Kala Kendra. "To transform these works into a visual form was quite challenging, nonetheless it was enjoyable, and these experiments of portraying anything in a visual form presented us with a learning opportunity."

Samsul Alam Helal's photography collage exhibit, 'Strange Space', explores the artiste's imaginative world as he investigates the relationship between politics and pandemic, raising questions about future threats. Tahia Farhin Haque's visual art exhibit, 'Duality in Reality' portrays the hard facts about our disconnection with reality.

Priyanka Chowdhury's 'Pandemonium Chronicles', along with Pranabesh Das and Toukir Ahmed Tanvee, explores the relationship between different elements of our society, questioning our ability to participate in the cruel, inhumane practices around us. The exhibit features the woes and struggles of garment workers during the pandemic, also as a whole, along with other elements of inhumane behavior in our society. Sumana Akter's performance art, 'Gloomy Kantha', portrays the artiste's anguish and despair during the pandemic, weaved into the intricate designs of the Kantha.

Other installations feature Tehai Interdisciplinary Art Initiative's 'Agni Mangal' by Akramul Momen, 'Food as Community, Food as Praxis' by Parsa Sanjana Sajid, Aungmakhai Chak and Zakaria Hossain, '2020 Decode Moments' by Murshed Jahangir, Arifur Rahman's video installation, 'Haghere- an Era of Homelessness', 'Screenlife Film' by Shahla Islam, Emran Sohel's visual installation and Karkhana Collective.

The exhibition features several artiste' talks as well and is open for all every day from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm till April 08.