

RECOMMENDATIONS



Independence Day programme at Liberation War Museum

March 27
Somoy Shangsakritik Goshthi and Prachyanaat will perform two street plays titled Kabor by martyred intellectual Munier Chowdhury and Dorir Khela by Brindaban Das. The show starts at 6:30 pm.

March 28
The closing ceremony of the Book Fair will feature reading from the books on the Liberation War. Eminent writers will participate in the reading. The book fair is open daily from 10 am to 8 pm.

Exhibition

March 19-27
The 1st aerial photography exhibition by an Air Force pilot Sharif Sarker is going on at Drik Gallery. Titled *Pakir Chokhey Bangladesh*, the display is open from 3 pm to 8 pm daily.

March 25-April 02
Shipangan has arranged a 9-day joint exhibition of photographs by Architect Enamul Karim Nirjhar and wood carving by 64-year-old artisan Sri Roy Chand Shadhu. Titled *Two*, the exhibition will remain open daily from 10 am to 9 pm till April 2.

Film Show

March 26
Biswa Shahitya Kendra will screen a movie *Dersu Uzala* by famous Japanese director Akira Kurosawa at 5:00 pm at the auditorium of the centre.

Dance Drama

March 27
Bulbul Lalita Academy will hold a dance drama *Shurjomukhi Nadi* based on a story of the Liberation War at the Mahanagar Natya Mancha at 6:00 pm.

Around the world



A kid runs away from Shrek while Princess Fiona (L) looks on after the opening ceremony of an event held by Universal Studios Japan (USJ) at a department store in Yokohama, suburb of Tokyo, 25 March. USJ kicked off its promotion from today at 14 cities all over Japan.

Music musings

Gana sangeet: a rich tradition Patriotism to the fore

SADYA AFREEN MALICK

WAY back in 1993, I was presented a rare audio cassette with an original song of Dilip Kumar Ray, a famous singer of the 1930s. This was presented to me by Dr Khan, (a reputed doctor settled in the USA) who had driven all the way from Ohio to Pennsylvania to present the cassette to me.

He had heard me sing the famous song *Dhon O Dhanney Pushpey Bhora*, at musical concerts, in the USA, and had told me that I should have the original tune in my possession. It still is one of my priceless possessions.

We are used to listening to a simplistic style; but the original tune has a classic touch to it.

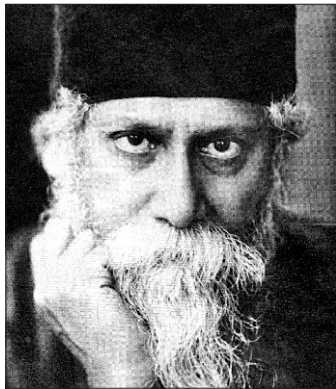
If we look back in the early 1940s a new trend of Bengali art song, known as *gana sangeet* or people's song, was initiated by those who worked against all kinds of repression in the society. The songs were imbued with a patriotic fervour and reflected the desire for a society free from exploitation.

Rabindranath, Mukundo Das and Kazi Nazrul Islam the three main poets of Bengal, have composed the largest number of patriotic songs. The two other poets and composers, Rajanikant and Dwijendralal Ray, also composed songs belonging to the genre.

When Rabindranath was only a child, noted musicians and talented artists gathered at their house. It was a time when patriotic and anti-British sentiments were at their apex.

Tagore's patriotic songs were composed in 1875 when he was just 14 years old. The earliest such composition was *Tomare torey Ma shopuni ey deha*. This patriotic trend gathered momentum during the *swadeshi* movement. Tagore's 60 patriotic songs, however, were a fraction of the 2,500 songs that he composed. Later Tagore expanded his repertoire with folk musical forms of the *Baul* genre.

Joggeswar Das, (1878-1934) was better known as Mukunda Das. He was born in Munshiganj but spent his boyhood in Barisal and settled there. He was inspired by the patriotism of Aswini Dutt and soon began to compose songs to propagate anti-British feelings. In his songs *Bhoi Ki Moroney*, *Baan Eshheychey Mora Gangey*,



Rabindranath Tagore

Mukunda reflected almost all the moods of patriotism.

He was also a powerful actor and performed in *pala* or rural based theatre. He was severely tortured in jail to stop him from spreading anti-British sentiments.

The 1940s were a watershed in the history of people's theatre and people's song of the Bangalis. This



Atul Prasad Sen

trend was originated by none other than Kazi Nazrul Islam.

When Nazrul returned from the frontiers in 1921, he began to compose fiery patriotic songs also. Nazrul composed a number of songs on awakening of youth and women, communal harmony, heroic sentiment, with inspiring language and music.

His poems, a revolt against the colonial domination and social injustice, spoke of beauty and love. Among the popular songs, imbued with a rhythm and exuberance, are: *Shikol Porar Chol*, *Karak Oi Louho Kapat*, *Aj Rokto Nishi Bhorey*, *Chol Chol*, *Durgomo Giri*, *Jago Onoshon* and many more.



Kazi Nazrul Islam

Dwijendralal Ray, popularly known as DL Ray, was initially trained in classical music by his father Dewan Kartikeya Chandra Ray. He was a pioneer amongst the Bangali classical vocalists. After completing his Masters in English from the Presidency College, Ray went to England for further studies.

On his return to India he joined



Dwijendralal Ray

the government service as a Deputy Magistrate. During the *swadeshi* movement in 1905, DL Ray was inspired by the patriotism of the time and this was reflected in his compositions, which veered away from the humorous songs that he had long composed.

Rajanikanta Sen, one of the *pancha kabis* (five chief poets) of Bangla art songs, was basically a lawyer in Rajshahi. Rajani was deeply influenced by DL Ray's style and soon began to compose songs of a similar nature. He too, was influenced by the *swadeshi* movement and composed songs reflecting the spirit of the patriots.

Mayer deya mota kapor



Mukundo Das

matheye tule nare bhai carried one of the most important messages of unification and love amongst fellow beings. This song, which called for a total boycott of foreign goods, stood out as a beacon of hope during the *swadeshi* movement.

The Indian People's Theatre (IPTA) was founded in 1943. It was a movement, which sought to enlighten the masses and organise the people in the struggle for economic freedom and justice. The musical squad of IPTA was initiated by musical minds like Binay Roy, Jyotirindra Maitrya, Hemanga Biswas and Salil Chowdhury.

These songs which were previously known as patriotic songs, were now popularly termed as *gana sangeet* or people's songs.

During the Liberation War of Bangladesh, the songs *Orey Majhi*, by Shahid Saber, *Himalay Theykey Shundorbon*, by Shukanto, *Ful Khelbaar Deen Noi Oddo*, by Shubhas Mukhopadhyay, *Jonotar Shongram Chobey*, by Sikandar Abu Zafar, *Orey Bishom Dolraa Dheu*, composed by Sheikh Luthfur Rahman and many other songs, gave encouragement to the struggling masses and heightened their yearning for a motherland free from exploitation.

These immortal songs are on the verge of extinction. Many countries have put considerable efforts to re-launch their national treasures. A select few artists in our country, with private initiative have been struggling hard to preserve these songs, while patronage from the state is yet to come.

Reminiscence

Women freedom fighters and language activists honoured

NOVERA DEEPITA

ON March 24, the Bangladesh Women Journalists Forum (BWJF) honoured Forkan Begum, Minara Begum Jhunu (both freedom fighters) and language activists Rowshan Ara Bachchu and Chemon Ara Shahin for their tremendous contribution in the Liberation War and The Language Movement.

The high point of the function at the National Press Club was the presentation of crests to the courageous women by Maleka Begum, chairperson of the function and a prominent women activist.

The freedom fighters and language activists shared their experience of the Language Movement and Liberation War. As Rowshan Ara Bachchu said in her speech: 'We felt that we should fight for our right from the very beginning of the independence of Pakistan in 1948. We were only 35 female students in the entire Dhaka University at that time. We were bound by many restrictions but despite those restrictions, we got involved in the activities like meetings, processions and strikes to demand that Bangla be made the state language of the then East Pakistan.'

Minara Begum Jhunu was an active freedom fighter in 1971 who fought on the frontier as a soldier.



(Sitting) Rashida Amin, Maleka Begum, Rowshan Ara and Forkan Begum at the event.

Recalling the Liberation War she says: 'It was the night of March 25. I was on the Dhaka University campus and witnessed the brutality of Pakistani army. I saw thousands of dead bodies dumped behind the then Iqbal Hall.' She also talked about her guerilla training near the border of India where she was also the member of the women's volunteer force. The main tasks of that force were to take care of the wounded freedom fighters, train up the women fighters and manage the mobile libraries to inspire the freedom fighters as well as the ordinary people.

Freedom fighter Forkan Begum was also a frontier guerilla fighter. She said, 'In 1971, I was among a small group of women who were being trained to fight the war. On March 23 we, the members of that suicidal squad, gathered in thousands at the outer stadium to hoist the national flag of Bangladesh there. After hoisting the flag we walked all the way to the house of Bangabandhu to give him the flag.' She also said that although women used to lead processions and meetings at that time, they were not given their due recognition by the powers that be.

Reliving the momentous days of 1971

SHILPI MAHALANOBISH

COME March 26 and the nation will celebrate its Independence Day. Once more we commemorate our Liberation War through special programmes. We also pay homage to those great martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the country. **The Daily Star** spoke to three cultural personalities to get a view of what Independence Day means to them.

Farukh (film actor)

In my view, the Liberation War of Bangladesh started from 1966. Since then there have been popular protests against the injustice and deprivation of the nation. We organised ourselves under the leadership of Bangabandhu. People from



all walks of life fought for the country and inspired the freedom fighters.

I can recall many things now about our Liberation War, some of which I will share with you.

I was in the Khaled Musharraf's sector and was trained under Lieutenant General Ovan in Dehradun, India.

It was March 25, when my friend Nader and elderly Bengis Bhai

informed me about the disturbed political scenario of the country. I stayed in Shamoly with my sister at that time. We went to the residence of Bangabandhu and he advised us to be careful. Nader went to some other place and told me that if he gave me a secret note I should go to a fixed location. Nader was killed during the Liberation War.

I was having my tea on the 25th night at Paramount Hotel at Nawabpur. My debut film *Jalchhobi* was released at that time. There was tension everywhere. Meanwhile a policeman told everybody to go back home because the army had been deployed in the city. I don't know from where I got so much courage.

Some people were standing on a nearby bridge as I began to give a speech. Soon, some 150 people gathered there to listen to me. We were placing barricades on the street. We did not know that there was an army camp in Shadarghat. Soon a Pakistani military jeep arrived at the spot and an army personnel pointed a gun at us. I reacted to this.

However, he soon left the place for unknown reasons. Everybody embraced me and we distributed sweets amongst ourselves. But we did not withdraw our barricades. A very short while later we heard that the Rajarbagh Police Line had been attacked. And the firing had started by then. That was a horrifying moment. Those who have not experienced such brutality won't be able to realise the situation.

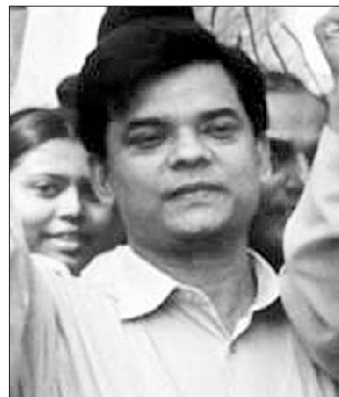
I had many other experiences during the wartime. Once, when I was engaged in a guerilla fight at Jinjira, I hid inside a grave to save my life from the Pakistani Army. I was lucky to be saved because about 10,000 people were killed in that battle within half an hour. I shiver even now whenever I think of that moment. But I regret that there is no monument for those martyrs in

Jinjira. It is true that thousands of people had died in our Liberation War but Jinjira is the only place where altogether 10,000 people were killed in one operation.

On December 14 or 15, I went to India through Comilla, leaving behind my father and elder sister, who were both freedom fighters. I bade farewell to them and started my lone journey. I met a fellow freedom fighter on the way. He told me that the war was over and we should head back to Dhaka. Overwhelmed with joy and happiness, I went back to Dhaka.

Jewel Aich (Magician)

At the beginning of the Liberation War, a collaborator of the Pakistan Army who was our neighbour as well, looted all the goods of our house. We lost our furniture and ornaments and I lost my magic kits. They even dug the cemented floor of our rooms. I took part in the war and dreamt of liberating the country. I went to West Bengal in the middle of the war as I got very sick. Then the doctors advised me to engage in less difficult jobs like teaching in the camps and schools. I was inspiring the people to fight the war. This is how we got a flag and an independent country.



TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTv
News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:40 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:10 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
Late Night News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
CHANNEL-i
Breakfast News 07:15 am, 9:00 am
News (Bangla) at 7:15 pm, 9:00, 10:30, 12:15 am.
Telecast of BTv news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.
Telecast of BTv News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
Latest News (Bangla) at 09 a.m, 10:00 a.m, 11:00 am, 1pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.
NTV
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:02 pm, 6:30 pm, 9:45 pm.
News (Bangla) 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.
TARA BANGLA
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.
BBC World
Every hour on the hour

March 26

BTv
07:35 Suprabhat Bangladesh
08:50 Live Telecast of the Independence Day Parade
03:15 *Shongbad Potrer Pata theke*
03:20 Bangla feature film: *Ekhono Onekh Raat*
05:30 Nutan Juger Bhore
05:05 *Nabo Anonde Jago*
06:00 *Desh Janopod*
06:30 Poem recitation
07:00 Weather Forecast
07:20 Music programme: *Golap Folano Din*
08:30 Special Drama: *Shubash Fereni*
09:40 Documentary film
10:30 Dipto Diner Shurjadyo
ATN BANGLA
7:55 Live Telecast Prog: *Din Suru Hook ATN Diey*
9:05 Live Telecast of the Independence Day Parade
11:30 Children Prog: *Sapner Sadinota*
3:40 Short Film: *Shelalipe*
6:20 Special Prog: *Bhaskar Shelpa Amader Swadinota*
8:00 Musical Prog: *Amar Des Amar Gan*
8:30 Independent Day Special: *Ektattur Juddajatra*
9:00 Drama: *Palabar Poth Nei*
10:35 Independent Day Special: *Abong Mukteyudda*
12:20 Independent Day Special: *Lal Sabujer Aie Pataka*
12:30 Bengali Feature Film: *Abichar*

CHANNEL-i

08:00 Live Telecast of the Independence Day Parade
11:30 Poems of Shamsur Rahman
12:00 Trityo Matra
01:30 *Shongbadpotre Bangladesh*
02:00 Swadhinota Tumi
02:30 Songs of Shimul Yousuff
03:30 Shatter Shandhane
05:00 Music Plus
05:45 Bangla feature film: *Megher Pore Megh*
ntv
09:00 Live Telecast of the Independence Day Parade
12:05 Vashkorje Swadhinota
10:30 Bangla Film: *Dui Boon*
02:30 Swadhinota Tomar jonno
03:00 Live Telecast of the Independence Day Concert
05:10 Beersreshtha
06:20 *Shubho Shondhya*
08:10 Special Drama: *Pechhone Tokhon*
09:40 Magazine: *Amaar Ohonkar*
11:20 *Dindarpan*
12:00 Documentary Film: *Tokhon*
HBO
10:15 Comeheads
12:00 MacKenna's Gold
2:30 The Hunted
4:45 The Screaming Room
: *Dracula Goes to Hollywood*



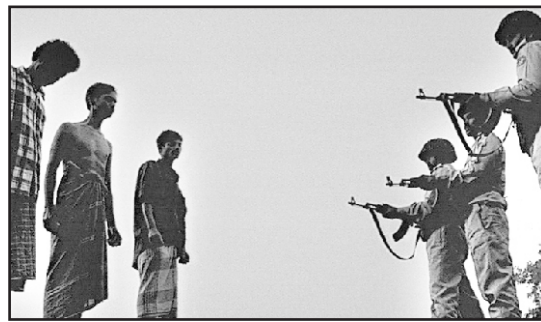
Channel-i: Feature Film: *Megher Porey Megh*



ATN BANGLA: Drama: *Palabar Poth Nei*



ATN BANGLA: Short Film: *Shila Lipi*



ntv: Documentary: *Shei Raater Kotha Boltey Achechi*

5:15 Hannibal
7:45 Thirteen Ghosts
9:30 Bulletproof
11:15 Don't Look Back
1:00 Max Knight: Ultra Spy
MGM
9:00 Fraternity Vacation
11:30 Iron Maze
2:00 Nice Girls Don't Explode
4:30 Manny and Lo
7:00 Demon Warp
9:30 Iris
11:30 Gangs on New York
STAR MOVIES
9:15 Till Human Voices Wake Us
11:00 Taken - Episode 4
12:30 Air Bud: Seventh Inning Fetch
2:00 Fly II: The Insect Awakens
3:45 Year Of The Gun
5:30 Taken - Episode 5
7:00 People I Know

8:40 The Wisdom Of Crocodiles
10:15 The Annihilators
11:45 Taken - Episode 5
STAR WORLD
1:30 Mac Gyver
2:30 Oprah Winfrey
3:30 Bold And Beautiful
4:30 Hollywood Squares
5:00 Oda
5:00 Miami Vice
6:30 The Simpsons
7:00 Home Improvement
7:30 Friends
8:00 Just Shoot Me
8:30 Tna Wrestling
9:30 World's Wildest Police Videos
Nash Bridges
Baywatch
10:30 South Africa Tour Of New Zealand 3rd Test Day 1 (L)
12:30 English Premier Football League 04 Leeds UnD Vs

Manchester City (R)
English Premier League Preview (T)
South Africa Tour Of New Zealand 3rd Test Day 1 Highlights (S)
Sportsline (L)
Uefa Cup Uefa Cup 2003/04 4th Round Leg 2 (R)
Sportsline (R)
TEN SPORTS
8:00 SL v Aus 3rd Test Day 2 H/Ls
10:00 SL v Aus 3rd Test Day 3 (Live)
5:30 Velocity
6:30 SL v Aus 3rd Test Day 3 H/Ls
8:30 Indias Tour of Pak: 5th ODI H/Ls
March 27
BTv
09:15 *Annyo Bhuban*
01:05 The Drama of The Week
02:30 Documentary Film
03:05 Nibedan
04:05 Alor Shatadal
04:30 Swadesh Shangsakriti
05:05 English Debate
06:10 Wrestling
07:00 Share Market, Weather Forecast
07:05 *Shataful Fulte Dao*
07:30 Priyo Swadhinota
08:30 Drama Serial: *Sera Golper Notoke*
09:00 Drama: *Hindoye Momo*
10:25 *Teknaf Theke Tetulia*
10:30 *Hey Mahajibon*
ATN BANGLA
10:50 Nayeka Sangbad
12:40 Short Film *Chakkarg Uro Cola Saal Rang*
1:25 Feature Film: *Nadir Nam Modhumati*

5:10 Surer Madury
5:45 Jobon Gigasha Annodristee
6:20 Serial: Thunder Stone
8:00 Drama Serial: *Bazpakhe*
8:30 Drama Serial: *Lai Neel Bagune*
9:25 Drama Serial: *Sapno Copoth*
10:30 Chanchollakar Mamlamla
12:00 Short Film: *Shelalipe*
CHANNEL-i
09:50 Tritiyo Matra
12:00 Chithi Pelam
01:00 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan Sa Re Ga Ma*
05:00 Sharif Malamine
05:45 *Sangeet Mala*
06:10 Music Plus
06:45 Gillette World Sports
07:55 Drama Serial: *Amar Kotha Likhun*
08:25 Drama Serial: *Hello Bangladesh*
09:35 *Hridoye Mati O Manush*
10:00 Drama Serial: *Ujan Pakhi*
ntv
09:30 *Ei Shomoy*
10:30 *Swadhinota Tomar Jonyo*
11:00 *Birshreshtha*
12:02 *Banglar Banchi*
02:30 *Pechhone Tokhon*
03:00 Drama Serial: *Ronger Manush*
03:40 *Amar Ahankar*
04:15 *Tokhon*
05:05 *Itihasher Ei Diney*
05:10 Gallery
05:40 *Alokapat*
06:20 *Shubho Shondhya*
06:50 *Shangshakriti Ei Shoptaho*
08:10 *Megha Serial: Tin Purush*
09:10 *Tele Film: Bhalobasha Chhine Gelo*
11:20 *Dindarpan*

HBO

10:15 Daughter Of Darkness
12:15 Door To Door
2:15 Pythons 2
4:30 Return To Cabin By The Lake
5:45 The Little Rascals
7:30 Timecop
9:30 The Majestic
12:3 Other Specialist
2:45 Ted Bundy
STAR MOVIES
11:45 Pretty Woman
01:45 Going All The Way
03:30 The Deep End
05:15 Groundhog Day
07:00 We Were Soldiers
09:15 Heathers (A.K.A. Lethal
11:00 Hemoglobin
12:30 Rupert's Land
03:15 Circuitry Man II:
STAR WORLD
02:30 Monster Farm
03:00 X Men
03:30 The X-Files
04:00 The X-Files
04:30 World's Wildest Police
05:30 Miami Vice
06:30 The X-Files
07:30 Xena: Warrior Princess
08:30 Tna Wrestling
09:30 Mutant X
10:30 Enterprise
11:30 Baywatch Hawaii
STAR SPORTS
07:00 South Africa Tour Of New Zealand 3rd Test Day 2 (L)
01:00 Uefa Champions League Extra Quaterfinals (T)
04:00 South Africa Tour Of New Zealand 3rd Test Day 2 (L)
05:25 Olympic Final Qualifying 2004 China
08:54 English Premier Football League 2003/04 (L)