

## CULTURAL FEAST

## Book Fair

Occasion: Independence Day  
Venue: The Liberation War Museum, 5, Shegun Bagicha  
Date: March 22-31, from 10am to 8pm

## Exhibitions

Title: Traditional Boats of Bangladesh  
Venue: Bangladesh National Museum  
Date: March 19-April 06, 10am to 5pm and 3pm to 7pm on Fridays

Title: Colour of SHAKO  
Artists: 13 artists of the women artists association SHAKO  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of fine Arts, House 275/F, Road 27, Dhanmondi  
Date: March 23-April 06, 12pm to 8pm

Title: C for Courage  
Organizer: Central Kachi-Kanchar Mela  
Venue: Kachi, Kanchar Bhaban, 37/A, Segunbagicha  
Date: March 18-April 01

Title: Opening Exhibit  
Artist: Md. Tariqul Islam  
Venue: Art & Soul Gallery, Road 36 House 16, Gulshan  
Time: March 25-April 4, from 12pm to 8pm

16th National Art Exhibition  
Artists: Eminent and promising artists of the country

Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Date: March 12-April 11, 1am to 7pm and 3pm to 8pm on weekends

Children's Art Exhibition  
Organizer: Charuloy Academy

Venue: Goethe-Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi  
Date: March 25-31, from 3pm to 6pm

Festival of Indigenous People  
Venue: Plaza of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Time: March 30-April 05, at 5pm

Musical Soiree  
Organizer: Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Pothshad

Venue: Nazrul Institute, Road 28, Dhanmondi  
Date: March 30, at 6pm

Hou Hsiao-Hsien  
Retrospective  
Organizer: Zahir Raihan Film Society

Venue: Goethe-Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi  
Time: March 30-31

Schedule  
March 30  
3:00pm What Time Is It There (2001)  
5:00pm Good Men, Good Women (1995)

7:00pm Goodbye South, Goodbye (1996)

March 31  
3:00pm Flowers of Shanghai (1998)  
5:00pm The Puppet Master (1993)

7:30pm A City of Sadness (1989)

Japanese Film Festival  
Organizer: The Embassy of Japan

Venue: Institute of Modern Language, University of Dhaka

Time: March 29-31

Schedule  
March 30  
4:00pm Sadako Story  
7:00pm Nooto Ujman  
March 31  
4:00pm Little Elephant  
7:00pm Arno Agaru

## Erratum

In our yesterday's 'Q & A' interview with Mahmuduzzaman Babu, the song *Amit Bangla Gaan Gai* was mistakenly mentioned to have featured first on BTV instead of the erstwhile Ekuashay Television (ETV). We regret the error.

## Japan-Bangladesh Kite Exhibition

## Soaring high ...

AFSAR AHMED

**I**MAGINE brightly coloured kites soaring in the skies as far as the eye can see. This used to be a common scene in towns and villages on Makar Sankranti and other days. In fact the kite fever, used to attract both children and adults. Everyone joined in this riotous celebration and the victory shouts reverberated from rooftops to the accompaniment of drums as adversaries' kites were cut down. Any kite in the sky was fair game!

However, the kite flying tradition is perishing by the day. To popularise this fun-filled heritage, a Tibet-Japan-Bangladesh Kite Exhibition was held on March 28 at the National Museum Novara Hall. The two-day long exhibition, organised by the Dhakabashi Organisation, featured the delicacy and beauty of a good number of Bangladeshi and Japanese kites.

Inaugurated by Matsushiro Horiguchi, the Ambassador of Japan in Bangladesh, Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman of the Privatisation Commission and chief advisor of Dhakabashi presided over the programme.

The colourful Japanese kites with distinct characters gripped the spectators at the exhibition. As people say, the Japanese kites are among the most spectacular in the world, treasured as much for the aesthetic worth as for the pleasure they give as toys. The traditional kite consists of a light bamboo or wood frame over which is affixed paper painted with various bold motifs, ranging from faces of legendary war heroes to brilliant geometric patterns; in the hands of a skilled craftsman, the Japanese kite becomes a work of art. For instance, with the baggy sleeves and in a traditional attire, the *Yakkodako* kite from Tokyo, with a grotesque face putting out the tongue for exorcism, the *Noshirodako-Noshiro* kite from Akita, drawn only with tones of ink, the *Managakko-Yuzawa* kite from Akita, made in wooden frame instead of bamboo, the *Tsugarudako* from Aomori and many more "airborne artwork" containing the traditional Japanese essence captured the eyes of the visitors.



A boy deeply engrossed with the kites at the exhibition

Apart from the Japanese kites, a good number of Bangladeshi kites, which are on the verge of extinction, were also displayed. Sona Mia, a popular kite-man who has not given up the hope of preserving this age-old tradition of airborne sport, came up with almost 20 various designs of kites. The umbrella look alike *Chhata Ghuri*, the beetle leaf shaped *Paandan*, having four tails the *Chumukhi*, *Gayla*, turtle-like *Kauthadar*, snake-shaped *Shap Ghuri* were not any the less captivating than their Japanese counterparts. "The kite symbolises the human body and the string attached to it is the soul, the person holding the string is the Almighty," said Sona Mia. According to him the major differences between Japanese kites and Bangladeshi kites is that the latter are lighter and do not always need a tail.

To Sona Mia, the secret of successful kite flying is in its string. And he has access to some of the best-kept secrets of making razor-sharp string with *Chun*, glass powder and red colour.

Visitors at the exhibition were eager to fly these beautiful airborne warriors, although they were only for display. Engrossed with the kites and holding the *natai* (the reel) in his hands, the eight-year-old Shuman didn't hesitate to express his desire to fly kites and "enjoy a real kite fighting!"

However, as people say imagination is the highest kite that one can fly. Meanwhile one can only hope the old art of kite flying will continue to attract children and adults and reveal that the sky's the limit!

## BAFA celebrates Independence Day

NOVRA DEEPTA

Eight-year-old Apon was excited about his performance at the programme that the music school, Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA) had

organised. With an engaging smile, this boy in an angelic white costume said, "I will sing two patriotic songs with my friends in chorus."

BAFA arranged the special programme on the occasion of the Independence Day at the Shishu

Academy Sunday last.

The academy, founded by Muhammad Nurul Huda, celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. According to the principal of the academy, Rahiba Khanom Jhunu, "About 6,000 students in the three branches of the academy, take their basic lessons in music and dance which includes classical to modern music and dance as well as playing instruments like violin, tabla and guitar."

In the first session of the programme, Mayor of Dhaka Metropolitan City Sadek Hussain Khoka, Commissioner Kazi Abul Bashar, Commissioner Syed Lutful Haque and Treasurer Khaleda Habib, Secretary Amanullah Chowdhury and the Principal of BAFA spoke on the occasion. The discussion session was followed by the splendid performance by the students of the academy.

Seven little girls, resplendent in red saris and glittering ornaments, performed a dance piece with the Tagore song. After which, students of Dhanmondi branch of BAFA presented another dance piece with the patriotic number *Hajar Bachor porey* by Sabina Yasmeen.

Finally all the students rendered the songs *Bangladesh shadhinota lokhno praner dan* and *Purba digonter shurya utechhey*. The boys in white pyjama-punjabees and the girls in red skirt and white tops: the uniform of the academy performed to a spellbound audience.



BAFA students performing at the event

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