

CULTURAL FEAST

Victory Day Celebration

Organiser: Liberation War Museum
Venue: Liberation War Museum, Sylheti Bazaar
Date: December 10-16

December 13
4 pm onwards
Baul Gaan, Loko Gaan and Gazir Gaan

December 14
4 pm onwards
Remembrance, Cultural programme and group performance by Chhayanaut

December 15
4 pm onwards
Recitation and Music

December 16
10 am
Recitation and Dance

6 pm
Jatra pala
Organiser: Sammilito Sanskritik Jote

Date: December 13-16
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar Four Birangana from Sirajganj inaugurate the celebration

December 14
Venue: Rayer Bazaar Martyred Intellectuals' Monument
Discussion and cultural programme

December 15
Procession starts from Central Shaheed Minar

Solo Musical Soiree

Artist: Ajit Roy
Organiser: Pratibala and Abhijuday
Venue: National Music and Dance Centre, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Date: December 13
Time: 5:30 pm

Photography Exhibition

Title: Changing Images of Women in Bangladesh

Organiser: Pathways of Women's Empowerment, BRAC University

Venue: Shilpgram Gallery, House 26, Road 3, Dharmamandi

Date: December 14-19

Time: 10 am-1pm and 4pm-8pm

Cultural Programme

Organiser: Swabhumi Lekhak Shilpi Kendra

Venue: Rabindra Sarobar Stage, Dharmamandi

Date: December 13
Time: 4:30 pm

Dhaka Book Fair 2007

Organised by: National Book Centre

Venue: National Parade Square, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar

Date: December 14-16

Film Screening

Organiser: Academy of Film and Media

Venue: Academy of Film and Media, 4/1, Block B, Humayun Road, College Gate, Mohammadpur

Time: everyday at 3 pm and 6 pm

December 13: The Red and the White, The Battle of Algiers

December 14: Shalimar, Shei Reter Kotha Boley Eshchedi, Saving Private Ryan

December 15: Joyjatra, Gone with the Wind

December 16: Brave Heart, The Guns of Navarone

December 17: Shymol Chhaya, The Planter

Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Shyamal Roy Chowdhury

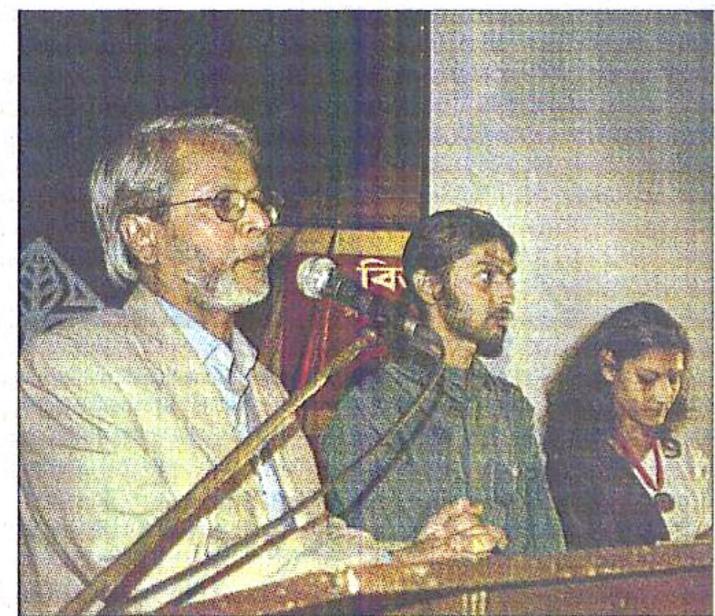
Venue: Art & Soul Gallery, Road 36, House 16, Gulshan

Date: November 30 - December 16

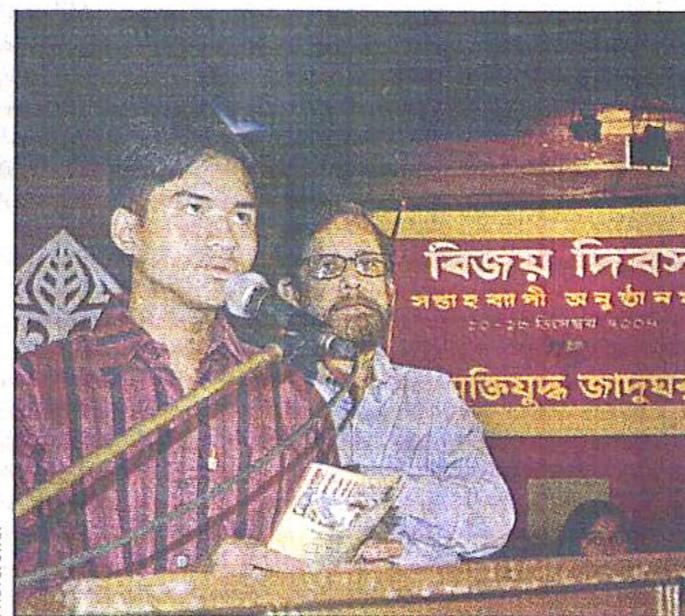
Time: 11am-8pm

Victory Day celebration at Liberation War Museum

Reading from witness accounts of the war



Dr. Nizamuddin Ahmed addresses the audience



Anuching Marma speaks on his write up, Asaduzzaman Noor (R) looks on

AHSAN HABIB

THE second day's programmes of the weeklong Victory Day celebration by Liberation War Museum (LWM) on December 11 were designed to generate interest among the young generation.

Witness accounts of the Liberation War, collected by school students, as part of the LWM initiative to document oral history of the war were presented. One or two teachers from every school are also involved with the project, thus linking three generations. So far 7,490 such accounts have made their place into the archive of the

museum. Five selected accounts from this collection were presented at the programme. Noted recitors Asaduzzaman Noor, Laila Afroz, Mahidul Islam, Ananya Laboni, and Kazi Arif read out the accounts.

"These collected accounts can be a great source for constructing the history of the Liberation War from the people's perspective," LWM trustee Ziauddin Tariq Ali said in his welcome speech.

Deeponkar Chandra Sarkar, a student of class 10, Comilla Ishwar Pathshala, documented his 80-year-old grandfather Yogesh Chandra Sarkar's narrative of the plight of a Hindu family during the war and how they survived the

difficult times.

Mili Das, a student at Boalmari Govt. Girls' High School presented her 85-year-old grandmother Laxmi Rani Biswas' account of the killings of her relatives and neighbours during the war.

Kausar Hassan of Adamji Can tonment School collected the story of Amena Akhter Kakon whose grandfather was captured with the help of the collaborators of the Pakistani army. His mutilated body was later found.

Reema Khondoker documented 70-year-old Zahura Khatun's account of a village girl taking part in the war, helping the freedom fighters. Her account also

reports the bravery of a man who is considered 'disabled' but did a remarkable job in freeing the village.

Anuching Marma of Dharmanarajik High School of Kamalapur collected Mong Pra Marma's narrative of fighting the Pakistani army in Rangamati.

Faculty of Architecture Department, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dr. Nizamuddin Ahmed made a conceptual presentation on the construction of museums and memorials on historic sites.

Performances by BRAC University students wrapped up the day's programmes.

"Bhashar Larai": A chronological look at the struggle for language

ERSHAD KAMOL

The Bengalis' struggle for the right to speak the mother language in Pakistan is widely known. However, going back in time, few are acquainted with the movements for language and freedom by the people of this land in the ancient times.

Rafiqur Rashid's poem titled *Bhashar Larai* features a chronological look at the struggles of Bengalis for their language. According to Rashid's poem the people of this land had to fight to ensure their right to speak the language since its inception.

Artists of the recitation troupe Kanthoshilon presented Rashid's *Bhashar Larai* through *abritt-i-pala* (a combination of recitation, choreography and music). The *abritt-i-pala* was staged on December 11 at the Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Central Public Library.

The narrative begins from the ancient Pala dynasty (8th to 12th century) and ends in the contemporary times. Apart from the struggle for language, the aesthetic aspects of Bangla literature in different ages as well as the nation's urge for freedom have been portrayed in Rashid's poem. Rashid has also used refrains from

works by legendary poets from the different ages.

As part of the chronological survey, Rashid focuses on the struggle of the poets who wrote the *Charjapad* -- an antique manuscript found in Nepal, featuring Buddhist verses which are considered to be the oldest record of Bangla. Rashid has even used a *Charja* in his poem that describes the rural lifestyle in those days.

The Sen dynasty, the successor of Pala, banned Bangla and

claimed that those who practiced Bangla would go to hell.

Bangla speakers enjoyed some freedom in the medieval period. Which is why, according to Rashid's *Bhashar Larai*, we have records of rich literature from this period such as *Sri Krishna Kirtan*. During the initial stages of the Turkish invasion, Bangla received patronage from the ruling class.

Works of poets like Alao bear the evidence.

Again Bengalis had to struggle

for the language during the colonial period, which received a momentum in the Pakistani period.

The Language Movement of 1952 plays an important role in Rashid's *Bhashar Larai*. The role of leaders, attitude of the rulers and the struggle of the Bengalis in 1950s were presented aptly through recitation by the artistes of Kanthoshilon.

Bangla literature had to overcome major hurdles, when the Pakistani regime banned Tagore and tried to impose Urdu culture and literature in the 1960s. The depiction of the movements in the '60s was the highlight of the performance.

Vice president, CRTS, Dr. Masuda Begum inaugurated the competition.

Over 50 students of class one to ten from different schools in the town took part in the competition in four categories. A discussion was also held at the same venue.

The show was directed by Meer Barkat.

At a discussion prior to the performance, poet Rafiqur Rashid, theater personality Nasiruddin Yousuff and cultural exponent Sanjida Khatun delivered speeches. The show was inaugurated by Sanjida Khatun.

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