

### 12th Anniversary and Independence Day Programme

Organiser: Liberation War Museum  
Venue: Liberation War Museum, 5, Shegun Bagicha  
Date: March 22-28  
Time: 6:30 pm



### Independence Day Programme

Organiser: Bangla Academy  
Venue: Bangla Academy  
Date: March 26  
Time: 4:30pm onwards



### Independence Day Programme

Organiser: Chhayana  
Venue: Chhayana Sangskriti Bhaban Auditorium  
Date: March 26  
Time: 10am onwards



### Theatre

Play: Binodini (special show for Independence Day)  
Troupe: Dhaka Theatre  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Segun Bagicha  
Date: March 26  
Time: 7pm



## Qayyum's spirited Liberation War artworks



An artwork on the theme of Liberation War by Qayyum Chowdhury

FAYZA HAQ

Sitting at the Bengal Gallery and reminiscing over the Liberation War days, veteran artist Qayyum Chowdhury recounts his participation in 1971 with the activists from the then Art College -- with Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin and Quamrul Hassan. He takes pride in his paintings and brush and pen sketches that he made after 1971 delineating the freedom fighters and the portraits of the tortured and abused. He brought in the river and the boats too in the backdrop, at times, clinging to his penchant for the idyllic. However, the focus of his artwork on canvas and paper were the bold and driven freedom fighters -- both men and women.

In his passionate and motivated paintings and sketches, he

depicted the Bangladeshi flag with the golden map in the centre of the bright vermilion disc, with deep green surrounding it. The flaming red headbands, the Sten guns, bayonets, the burning flames of explosion in the distance, the angry stance and gaze of the young freedom fighters, with mostly the upper limbs and chest exposed, were brought in with deft strokes of the paint and pen strokes.

The watercolour of Zainul Abedin, the compositions of Quamrul Hassan and the etchings of Safiuddin were his guiding forces while he worked. The influence of the western masters, especially Vincent Van Gogh, Paul Gauguin, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso and Tapis also made an impact on his work.

In his works, with the theme of

Liberation War, one finds both the dancing lyrical lines, colours of protest, agony and suffering. The furious energy, the determination and dedication of the freedom fighters were perhaps not delineated better except by Hashem Khan or Shahabuddin on canvas, much later on.

One knows Qayyum to be a painter of voluptuous women, toiling but patient farmers, the blossoming trees, sunlit skies, trilling birds and flitting butterflies. His better-known paintings in oil, acrylic plus his sketches in pen and brush have been the songs of joy and contentment. His works done during the war have not been that well exposed to his admirers.

Qayyum devoted his time to making posters and took an active part in demonstrations after the

March 1971 crackdown by the Pakistan Army. Not only his own life was in danger for his active participating in the freedom movement but those of his family and friends too. Both food and shelter were scarce until after the Liberation.

Qayyum worked feverishly, motivated by his emotion and mind, drawing inspiration from what he saw before his eyes. At first bitter and full of angst, in 1971, with independence in hand for the nation that had suffered from war, unimaginable cruelty and one of the worst genocides in recorded history, Qayyum then brought in the portrayal of war with joyous victory in mind. His paintings and sketches then were like Delacroix's *Victory in theme and Goya's* other remarkable pieces on burning images of war.

## Looking back at '71

Kazi Arif reminisces

AUREEN AHSAN

Kazi Arif needs no introduction. A distinguished recitor, TV show presenter and also an architect by profession, he was a freedom fighter in the Liberation War. On the occasion of the Independence Day, Arif shared his memories of the war with The Daily Star. Young, bold and resolute to free the country, he enlisted into the league of soldiers ready to take on the opponent; prepared to make necessary sacrifices.

Although the sparks of revolution had already been triggered, Arif was initially not prepared for a war. "Rallies and protests were part of the movement. But personally, I did not anticipate the war," he said. He recalled how eventually he prepared himself for the war, acquired training and was armed with ammunition.

Arif added, "I remember how excited it was when my comrades and I were shown how to use a grenade for the first time." His whole account -- of the Declaration of Independence on March 26, generating the message throughout the nation using pamphlets, endurance of unimaginable pain and finally victory on December 16 -- reflected the true emotions born in a fighter out of love for his country, for the people. After victory was earned, "I took the initiative to air the National Anthem on radio from

the Chittagong Betar Kendra," adds Arif.

When asked about the role of recitation and songs during the war, Arif said, "There are two aspects of any revolution -- leadership and motivation. I believe that songs, poems and plays support the theory of motivation. They are able to convey messages to a wide range of people at a time, and also have a very discernible impact on them. The function of a leader is to guide but the primary objective is to convince the people, which to a considerable extent is fulfilled by the art forms -- recitation, songs, etc."

Arif attributed the misconceptions and confusions of the new generation regarding independence and the Liberation War to the distortions that history often undergoes. But nonetheless, he believes that gradually people will be more knowledgeable on our past. It is very important to come up with a means of recording the accounts of the freedom fighters.

Being a cultural personality, he feels it is his responsibility to always highlight the "positive" facets of the Liberation War through his works. He further added, "Trial of the war criminals should be initiated as soon as possible in order to deliver justice to the victims of the war and their families. No matter how small, a crime should be acknowledged appropriately. It is imperative to accredit all the freedom fighters



with the respect, honour and love they deserve, and avoid 'labelling' them."

On being questioned what independence truly means to him, he quoted "Bandhan shudhu

srengkholey noye, muktir o ek bandhan hoye", and explained, "Every soul is free; but there is an underlying bond in freedom and everyone has to settle within those boundaries."

### INDEPENDENCE DAY SPECIAL

#### TV play "Fera" on Banglavision

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Banglavision will air the special play Fera tonight at 8:25 pm. Written by Hasan Azizul Haque, the play has been directed by Mir Shariful Karim Strabon.

The story is set in 1971. In February Alif's wife Asia leaves his family, not being able to cope up with severe poverty any more. After about a month, Alif sets out to bring his wife back home but midway receives the news that Asia's marriage has been

arranged somewhere else. Meanwhile, the Liberation War breaks out and Alif joins the war leaving behind his ailing mother. During the war, he gets shot in the leg. After the war, the changed reality disappoints and frustrates Alif. Going against the government's call, Alif does not return his weapons. He buries them in his backyard. Years later Alif's son Anis retrieves the arms and turns them in to the Liberation War Museum. Saif Babu, Munmun, Dilara Zaman and Naresh Bhuiyan play the main characters of the play.



A scene from the play Fera

#### TV play "Golper Moto" on Channel i tonight



Momo and Anisur Rahman Milon in Golper Moto

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Based on Rabeya Khatun's story, TV play Golper Moto, will be aired tonight at 7:50 pm on Channel i. Khalid Mahmud Mithu has directed the play. The play highlights the

contemporary issues of trial of war criminals. The bond among a group of young people is breached when the identity of the parents are disclosed.

The cast includes Momo, Anisur Rahman Milon, Khaleda Aktar Kolpona and Simana.



It's my flag...  
It's my vanity...



RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Pvt. Ltd.