

12th Anniversary and Independence Day Programme

Organiser: Liberation War Museum
Venue: Liberation War Museum, 5, Shegun Bagicha
Date: March 22-28
Time: 7:00 pm



Mahanagar Natyotshab '08

Play: Konjush
Troupe: Loko Nitya Dal
Venue: Zahir Raihan Shanskrit Kendra, Loharpur, Shrutapur
Date: March 28 at 7 pm
Organiser: DCC and BGTF



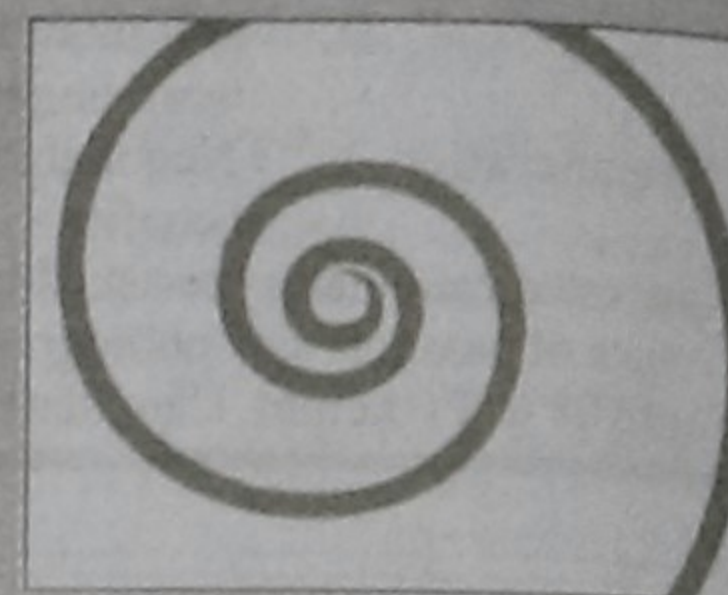
Group Art Exhibition

Title: 65th Grand group art exhibition of reputed Bangladeshi Artists
Organiser: Saju Art Gallery
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, F/40-41, D.C.C. north Super Market, 2nd, circle, Gulshan.
Date: March 22-April 23
Time: Saturday to Thursday 10am to 8pm.



Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Landscape
Artist: Isme Azam
Venue: Gallery Zoom of Alliance Francaise De Dacca, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: March 28-April 10
Time: 9am-12am Saturday and 5 pm-8pm Sunday to Friday



Amar Shurey Swadhin Bangla

Grameenphone honours artistes of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra at a grand concert

MAINUL HASSAN

On the occasion of the 37th Independence Day Grameenphone honoured the artistes of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra through a concert at Gulshan Youth Club premises on March 26.

The programme started at 4pm with artistes of Chhayanat rendering *Dhono dhanney pushpey bhora*.

The title of the programme was "Amar Shurey Swadhin Bangla". At the programme participating bands performed selected songs aired on Swadhin Bangla Betar during the Liberation War. The idea is to popularise and generate public interest in these songs and the artistes of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra. The bands presented the songs in their own style, keeping the original lyrics and tunes intact.

Yaatri opened their performance with the song *Bicharpoti tomar bichar korbey jaara*, Salil Chowdhury classic that became popular during the freedom movement. The band also performed their original songs *Meye, Ek paye nupur* and *Mitthey prem*.

Powersurge was next. "For Powersurge it is something new as we usually perform metal songs," said Jamshed, vocalist of the band. Powersurge performed the Nazrul Sangeet *Karar oi lauhokopat*.

Next on the stage was Black The



Artcell performs at the programme

band performed the popular *Gano Sangeet, Jonotar shangram cholbei*, written by Sekandar Ali and composed by Sheikh Lutfar Rahman.

Artcell performed *Durgom giri kantar moru*, written and composed by our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

The felicitation of the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artistes

started with recitation by Asaduzzaman Noor. Noor recited *Nurul din-er shara jibon* written by Syed Shamsul Haq. A short presentation by Shankor Sawjal titled *Jagoron-er bijoydhoni* followed. At the programme Grameenphone honoured 55 artistes of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra including Kamal Lohani,

Abdul Jabbar, Apel Mahmud, Shujee Shyam, Ajit Roy, Aly Zaker, Saheen Samad, Mamunur Rashid, Lucky Akhand, Timir Nondi, Fakir Alamgir, Rafikul Alam, Indra Mohon Rajbongshi, Soovas Dutt, Kalyani Ghosh and others. Among the artistes 33 were present at the programme.

A special song composed for the

occasion, *Tomakey obhidadon hey shobdo shoinik* written by Shankor Sawjal and rendered by Fahmida Nabi, Tanvir Alam Sawjib, Polash Khan, Wakil Ahad and Shumi was played at the venue in honour of the award recipients. Topu, Arnob, Linkon and others representing the new generation of musicians presented the awards to the



A view of the enthusiastic crowd at the concert

honourees. Artistes of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra also performed songs at the programme.

The other artistes to perform were Ornob, Renaissance, Dolchut, Aurhohin and Miles.

"The role of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra during the Liberation War cannot be described in a few words," said artiste Naquib

Khan. "This initiative to honour the artistes of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra should have been realised years ago," Naquib added.

Channel and Radio Today were the media partners of the programme. The concert was coordinated by Asiatic Events Marketing Ltd.

Independence Day programme at Chhayanat

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of the Independence Day, Chhayanat arranged a musical programme at its Sanskriti Bhaban Auditorium on March 26.

The welcome speech was delivered by Sanjida Khatun and was followed by a musical performance by the students of Chhayanat. They rendered the song *Bandh bhengey dao*.

Artistes of Chhayanat performed patriotic and inspirational songs. Among others, Nilufer Jahan, Anindita Chowdhury, Nirjhor Chowdhury, Elora Ahmed, Azzur Rahman, Sumon Majumdar, Kalpana Anam, Mita Haque and Khairul Anam Shakil performed at the programme.

Nilufer Jahan rendered *Keno cheye achho go ma* and Kalpana Anam sang *Ei Banglar matiey* to name a few.

A chorus song *Phirey cholo matir taney* was performed by the students.

The show wrapped up with a rendition of the National Anthem.

International Dance Day to be celebrated at national level

To celebrate the International Dance Day (April 29), Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Bangladesh Nrityashilpi Sangstha are jointly organising month-long dance competitions at the district and division levels across the country. Apart from that, on April 29 and 30, cultural programmes will be held at different venues in Dhaka, says a press release.

Rasheda K. Chowdhury, advisor to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs; Dr. Zillur Rahman, advisor to the Ministry of Education and Business; Sharful Alam, secretary to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs; Mahabubul Alam, director general of Bangladesh Betar; Mahfuz Anam, editor, *The Daily Star*; Saiful Bari, chief advisor of AIN Bangla; Brigadier General Safat Ahmed, advisor, Rtv and others were present at a press conference and discussion held recently.

"Nrityashilpi Sangstha has been celebrating the International Dance day for the last few years. This year, they expressed interest in arranging the celebration programmes jointly with the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). As a national organisation, BSA is also eager to share the responsibility of celebrating International Dance day with apt importance," said Kamrul Hasan ndc, director general of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in his opening speech. He also informed the guests on the format of the month-long competition, which started from March 20 at the district level.

Expressing his contentment at the laudable initiative, Mahfuz Anam said, "The initiative is certainly commendable but perhaps it would've been more effective if the conference was held earlier." He also emphasised the importance of cultural activities as a medium to project our image to the world.

Putting an end to the discussion, Rasheda K. Chowdhury requested everyone to cooperate and make the event a success.

The schedule of the month-long event was announced at another press conference held on March 24. The winners of the ongoing district level competition will participate in an event on March 28. The competition is being held on *Kathak, Manipuri, Bharatnatyam, Odissi*, folk and creative dance forms. Participants should be between the ages of 14 and 25. The winners of the district level competition and the winners will then participate in the final national dance competition to be held on April 27. A three-day fair will be arranged from April 27 to 29. The event will end on April 29.

Liberation War on canvas

Independence Day celebration at the Liberation War Museum

NADIA SARWAT

On the Independence Day, the Liberation War Museum premises was crowded with eminent artistes, poets, litterateurs, media personalities and freedom fighters. In association with Gallery Chittrak, Liberation War Museum arranged a programme titled *Muktijuddher Chetona* (The spirit of Liberation War) where artists participated and offered their paintings to the museum. The event was a part of the ongoing weeklong Independence Day programme organised by the museum.

Noted artists Qayyum Chowdhury, Hashem Khan, Rafiqun Nabi, Mustafa Monwar, Murtaja Baseer, Manirul Islam, Aminul Islam, Farida Zaman, Shishir Kumar Bhattacharya, Khalid Mahmud Mithu, Kanak Chanpa Chakma, Shahid Kabir, Biren Shom and others participated at the painting programme.

The artworks depicted diverse subjects related to the Liberation War -- ranging from the valour of the freedom fighters to scenes of genocide as well as generations moving away from the spirit of the war.

Noted Tagore singer Rezwana Chowdhury Banya and her organisation Surer Dhara presented songs at the event. Media personality Afzal Hossain was the MC. Channel I aired the programme live.

The event ended with a note of hope that the trial of the war criminals will be initiated soon, as it has become a demand of the masses.

According to the organisers, Liberation War Museum will soon arrange an auction of the artworks.



Eminent artists engrossed in work at the Liberation War Museum



Rezwana Chowdhury Banya along with her students sing at the programme

"Swadhinata Orjoney Muktijuddho"

Discussion at Bangla Academy

JAMIL MAHMUD

To observe the Independence Day, Bangla Academy arranged a discussion and cultural programme at its premises on March 26. Discussants spoke on the significance of the Liberation War in achieving a sovereign country in 1971. The cultural programme featured patriotic songs rendered by popular artistes.

Acting Director General of Bangla Academy, Mainul Hasan delivered the welcome speech. Lieutenant Colonel (Retd.) Kazi Sajjad Ali Zahir Birpratik read out the keynote paper. The paper titled *Swadhinata Orjoney Muktijuddho* emphasised several key issues of the Liberation War. The set up: the six steps of the Liberation War; the formation of eleven sectors; the administrative role of the Mujibnagar Government during the war; the role of

the teachers, engineers, artistes and other professionals were some important topics discussed in the keynote paper.

According to the paper, the initiative of the movement for independence was first introduced through the struggle against the East India Company.

The paper also highlighted some apparently overlooked mass killings during the Liberation War like the EBRC killing, which occurred on March 25, 1971 in Chittagong; the 20th Baluch regiment killed and imprisoned more than 1000 Bengalis. The EPR killing at Pilkhana was also addressed in the paper.

Mofidul Haq, a trustee of the Liberation War Museum and Major (Retd.) A.S.M. Shamsul Arefin discussed on the keynote paper.

Educationist and noted Nazrul researcher Professor Rafiqul Islam presided over the

programme. In his speech, Professor Rafiqul Islam said, the young generation should study the history of the Liberation War. Watching movies on the war is not sufficient; reading books on the subject is also necessary.

The cultural programme featured patriotic songs rendered by noted singers including Farida Parveen, Ferdous Ara, Fakir Alamgir, Rebeka Sultana and Syed Rezaur Rahman.

Farida Parveen rendered several patriotic songs including *Ei padma ei meghna* and *O pakhirey*.

Ferdous Ara rendered *Amar mon choley jay* and *Boltey paro shey kon desher*. Fakir Alamgir and Rebeka Sultana rendered *Daam diye kinechi Bangla* and *Ek shagor roker binimoye* respectively. Syed Rezaur Rahman sang *Shono ora kije boley*, a song on the Language Movement.



Professor Rafiqul Islam speaks at the programme

PHOTO: STAR