

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Theatre

Play: Raja Ebong Onyanno...
Troupe: Prachyanat
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: December 18
Time: 6:30pm



Exhibition of Architecture

Title: Nature is...
Artist: Rafiq Azam
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, R 279old, Dhanmondi
Date: December 15-26
Time: 12pm-8pm



Theatre

Play: Ekattorer Khudiram
Troupe: Shomoy Natyadal
Venue: Mahila Shamiti Auditorium, Natak Sarani
Date: December 19
Time: 6:30pm



Nikita Mikhailov Retrospective

Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society in association with RCSC
Venue: Auditorium, RCSC, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi
Date: December 22-24



Call to revive the spirit of Liberation War

Three-day programme by Banglar Sanskriti Andolon



Clockwise (from top-left): Actors of Prachyanat in "Keramat Nama"; an installation at 'Chhobir Haat'; Abdul Kuddus Boyati (centre) and Maula Bakhsh (right) perform a folk song; and the rally that started from FFA yesterday morning.

NADIA SARWAT

A three-day celebration by 'Banglar Sanskriti Andolon' under the 'bakul' tree at the Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA), Dhaka University was vibrant with the presence of a young crowd. Arranged on the occasion of Victory Day, the programme featured traditional Bengali songs (Rabindra Sangeet, Nazrul Geeti, songs of five poets, Gano Sangeet, folk songs) along with music by contemporary artistes, pala gaan, plays, film screening, performances by indigenous artistes, puppet show, art exhibition and more. The aim was to entertain and inspire the enthusiastic audience -- reviving the spirit of our Liberation War.

'Banglar Sanskriti Andolon' is a platform for cultural activists, created to speak out against the recent assaults on cultural practices of the country. The organisation aims to uphold our cultural heritage and confront fundamentalism. The organisation sees this three-day victory day celebration as a 'renewal of the spirit,' the spirit that motivated the Language Movement in 1952 and finally led the Bengali nation to independence.

The event began on the Martyred Intellectuals' Day (December 14) with a rally. The cultural programme started in the afternoon and continued throughout the night. An art exhibition (photography, paintings, cartoons and sculpture) was on at 'Chhobir Haat' as a part of the celebration.

The second day's programme began with Kafil Ahmed

presenting "Charya songs" (songs based on the verses from "Charyapada") and songs of Chandrabati (a poetess from 16th century Bengal). Artist Sharmin Sathi then presented Tagore songs. Her performance was followed by Suman Chowdhury and Jannat-e-Ferdous -- presenting Nazrul Geeti and songs of Atul Prasad and DL Roy respectively. Tapan Mandal rendered two Bijoy Sarkar songs. Cultural organisation Samageet then took the stage and presented Gano Sangeet of Hemanga Biswas. "Padma kao, kao amarey," "Urrur tana taan" (a song based on the 'Hul' revolution by the Santals), and "Shankhachil" -- all three songs performed by Samageet received rounds of applause from the audience. Next was a short, experimental play "Keramat Nama" by theatre troupe Prachyanat. The play was written and directed by Rincon Sikdar.

Nupur Sultana presented a Lalon song, "Doyamoy khomo aporadh." Performances by contemporary artistes such as Sumi from the band Lalon, Anusheh, Krishnokoli along with folk artistes Abdul Kuddus Boyati, Kanganini Sufia, Maula Bakhsh and others kept the audience charged till midnight, when Victory Day was ushered in with the beats of 'dhak' and 'dhol'. Burning the midnight oil, students of FFA made a replica of the sculpture "Aporajeyo Bangla" at the institute premises.

A colourful rally was brought out then from the FFA premises by the artistes of 'Banglar Sanskriti Andolon.' Manipuri Theatre performed their play "Sri Krishna Kirtan" in the evening. The event ended with a rendition of the National anthem.



Bijoy Mela by Channel i



Syed Enayet Hossain paints on the theme of Liberation War. The event was well attended by eminent Freedom Fighters.



A group performance at the 'Bijoy Mela.'

PHOTO: MUMIT M

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Like last year, to celebrate the Victory Day, Channel i organised 'Wheel-Channel i Bijoy Mela' at its Tejgaon office premises yesterday. Music, dance, recitation and reminiscence on Liberation War marked the fair. Eminent personalities of different sectors of the country attended the fair.

The event was inaugurated with much enthusiasm in the morning. Artistes of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, members of Swadhin Bangla

Football Team, leaders of Sector Commanders' Forum, editors of newspapers and noted cultural personalities among others were present at the inaugural ceremony. Noted theatre personality Nasiruddin Yousuff was the MC of the inaugural programme.

Theatre personality Ramendu Majumdar, music composer Shujee Shyam, Justice Golam Rabbani, Captain of Swadhin Bangla Football Team Zakaria Pintu, journalists A.B.M Musa and Abed Khan among others, spoke at the programme.

Artistes rendered songs of Swadhin

Bangla Betar Kendra at the programme.

Songs that inspired people during the Liberation War including "Purba digantey," "Jai Bangla Banglar jai," "Mujib baiyya jao" and more echoed with much verve.

Subir Nandi, Rafiqul Alam, Abida Sultana, Fakir Alamgir, Shaheen Samad, Khairul Anam Shakil, Ferdous Ara and Indramohan Rajbangshi, among others, rendered songs at the programme. Tamanna Rahman, Sharmila Bandyopadhyay and their troupes performed dance, while Kazi Arif, Bhaswar Bahdyopadhyay and Laila Afroz recited poems at the programme.

A stall for the artists drew attention of the guests and visitors. Noted artists including Quayyum Chowdhury, Hashem Khan, Rafiqun Nabi, Biren Shom, Alokesh Ghosh, Monirul Islam, Farida Zaman and Jamal Ahmed painted on the theme of Liberation War.

Impress Audio Vision, Shurer Mela, Banglar Mela and Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital had stalls at the fair. Stalls at the 'mela' included audio CDs, films and documentaries on the Liberation War, T-shirts, posters, books and more.

Channel i honoured several organisations at the programme. The programme was telecast live on Channel i.

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