

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Theatre Play: Raja Ebrong 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 Shamuli Auditorium, Natak Sarani Date: December 19 Time: 6:30pm



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



SSJ's Victory Day celebration ends



The rally brought out by SSJ on December 16.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The four-day celebration by Shammilita Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) on the occasion of Victory Day ended on December 16. Programmes started simultaneously at the Central Shaheed Minar premises and Rabindra Sarobar, Dhanmondi on December 13.

The fourth and last day's programme kicked off with a colourful procession in the morning that circled around the Shaheed Minar, Doyel Chatter and TSC, DU. Cultural personalities Nasiruddin Yousuff, Hasan Arif, Syed

Hasan Imam and Golam Kuddus, among others, spoke prior to the procession. In the evening, cultural programmes were held at Shaheed Minar premises and Rabindra Sarobar.

At Shaheed Minar, Bhaswar Bandhopadhyay, Shimul Mustafa, Iqbal Khorshed, Mahidul Islam, Jharna Sarkar recited poems, while members of Srot, Muktaadaha, Swanan and Sharasruti took

part in group recitations. Artistes of Chhayanat, Dhruvotan and Drishti performed songs, while members of Srot, Muktaadaha, Swanan and Sharasruti took



Young dancers perform at Rabindra Sarobar.

Victory day observed in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Cultural organisations of Pabna celebrated Victory Day in the district. Pabna Drama Circle, Sammlito Sangskritik Jote, Pabna Gonoshilpi Sangstha, Horizon Shilpi Samproday and others celebrated the day with special programmes.

Local cultural personalities and organisations placed wreaths at the alter of 'Durjoy Pabna' -- Liberation War memorial in the town -- at early morning on Tuesday. Sammlito Sangskritik Jote, Pabna organised a cultural programme marking the occasion at Pabna Shaheed Minar premises. Artistes performed patriotic songs on the occasion.

Pabna Drama Circle arranged a programme at 'Doel Chatter', in the town Tuesday as well.



Artistes of Pabna Drama Circle during a performance.

Disney to launch free TV channel in Russia

REUTERS, Los Angeles

The Walt Disney Co and Media-One Holdings Ltd on Tuesday unveiled plans to launch a nationwide, free-to-air television channel in Russia in 2009, populated by Disney Channel and locally produced programming.

Disney will take a 49 percent stake in the joint venture and provide cash and programming as well as expertise in content acquisition and marketing to kids and families.

The company would not comment on the size of its investment in the joint venture, or the length of the deal.

Media-One, the majority stakeholder, brings to the table 30 owned and operated TV stations throughout Russia, as well as knowledge of the Russian market and regulatory environment.

The deal still must receive regulatory approval from Russia, which requires foreign investors to have Russian partners. Russia's regulatory environment for TV is seen as similar to that of western European countries.

Disney already operates local retail, licensing, theatrical distribution, mobile and Internet businesses in Russia.

Andy Bird, chairman of Walt Disney International, said on Tuesday that its newest Disney Channel would reach 75 percent of a Russian population that was already "extremely familiar" with the company's fairy tales and products.

Disney opted for a free-to-air strategy in Russia to get the broadest reach possible because paid cable and satellite TV subscription is "very limited," he said.

Advertisement for a free TV channel in Russia with Bengali text: 'প্রতি শুক্রবার বাংলাদেশ বেতার চাকা - খ বাণিজ্যিক কার্যক্রমে প্রচারিত হচ্ছে' and 'জীবনের কথা বলা সুরে সুরে পথ চলা'.

Large program guide section with 'On Air' logo, 'News Bulletin', and multiple columns of TV channel schedules for various networks like Channel 1, ETV, and National Geographic.