

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Art Exhibition
Painter: Zahura Sultana Hossain
Title: Contemplation
Venue: Bay's Galleria, Radius Centre, Gulshan-2
Date: December 11-24
Time: 10 am-8pm



Victory Day Celebration

Songs, films, theatre, exhibition and more
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Shilpakala Academy premises
Date: December 14-22
Time: 5pm onwards



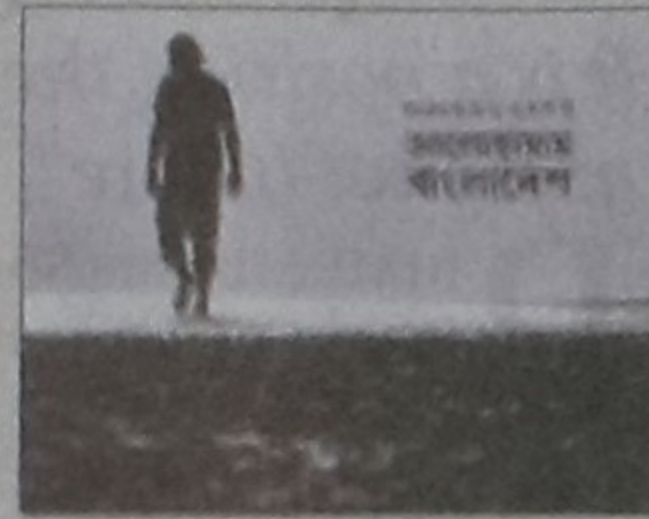
CD Launch

On the Liberation War
Organiser: Gunjan
Venue: Liberation War Museum, Shagunbagicha
Date: December 18
Time: 5pm



Photography Exhibition

Title: Alo-Chhayay
Bangladesh
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU
Date: December 16-22
Time: 2pm-8pm



Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artistes honoured by BSA



(Top) Honoured SBBK artistes, in the back row, with dignitaries. Group rendition at the programme.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The nine-day 'Bijoy Utshab-2009' (Victory Day celebration) is on at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). As part of the celebration, BSA held a daylong programme at Bijoy Mancha, BSA on

The day started with hoisting the national flag at the academy premises, rendering the national anthem, declaring inauguration of the programme with freeing 39 doves as a symbol of peace and more.

Cultural personalities,

organisations and artistes of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra (SBBK) recited poems on Liberation War, performed inspirational songs and dances on the occasion.

Humayun Dhuli staged a solo dhol performance. Ahkam Ullah and Ashrafal Alam along with members of

Kanthashilon presented recitation. Mohammad Abdul Jabbar and Nurul Alam Lal rendered solos while artistes of SBBK, Shurer Dhara and Jagoron offered choruses at the event. Jago Art Centre and Nandonik performed two group dances.

Chief guest at the

programme, Planning Minister Air Vice-Marshal (ret'd) A.K. Khandakar, Bir Uttam, who was the deputy chief of Liberation Forces, honoured 25 artistes of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra with crests and bouquets.

In his speech A.K. Khandakar said, "I am honoured to have this opportunity to show my respect to these artistes who inspired Freedom Fighters and a nation at war in 1971." Director general of BSA Kamal Lohani also spoke on the occasion.

SBBK artistes honoured on the occasion were Sardar Alauddin Ahmed, poet Mustafa Anwar, M.R. Akhtar Mukul, Shahidul Islam, Zahir Raihan, Shujee Shyam, Samar Das, Kazi Habib Uddin Ahmed (Moni), Ashfaqur Rahman Khan, Abinash Chandra Sheel, Amitabh Sen Gupta, Ajit Roy, Mohammad Abdul Jabbar, Raju Ahmed, Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Syed Abdus Shaker, A.B.M. Manzur Kader, Abul Kashem Sandeep, Belal Mohammad, Engineer A.S. Sharfuzzaman, Abdullah Al Faruk, Ashrafal Alam, Gobinda Halder, Gauri Prasanno Majumdar and Deb Djal Bandyopadhyay.

Cultural personalities Asaduzzaman Noor, M. Hamid, Fakir Alamgir, Shaheen Samad and others were present at the programme.

Later "Stop Genocide" by Zahir Raihan and "Muktir Gaan" by Tareq and Catherine Masud were screened.

Cultural organisations in Pabna observe Victory Day

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Cultural organisations of Pabna observed Victory Day with an array of programmes, stressing the values of the Liberation War. On Wednesday morning, local cultural activists paid homage to the martyrs with wreaths at Durjoy Pabna, a war memorial. Pabna Drama Circle, a leading cultural organisation, staged a street show in front of Muktiyodha Shangshad early in the morning. Members of the group staged the play "Ojha".

The artistes demanded the trial of war criminals through the drama. Earlier a discussion was held. President of the organisation, Pradip Sanyal Gopal, chaired the discussion. Pabna Drama Circle also displayed posters and photos published by the Muktiyodha Jaduhghar.

Annada Gobinda Public Library organised a discussion, cultural programme and com-

petition for children on the occasion. Vice president of the library, Mohammad Rabiul Islam chaired the discussion while the secretary of the organisation Abdul Matin Khan and cultural activist Abdul Aziz gave speeches. The speakers focused on the need to uphold the spirit of the Liberation War. They were of the view that Bangladesh was liberated with a dream to have society based on secular values, but we are yet to realise the goals of the war.

Later artistes of Shaheed Shadhan Music College, Pabna performed patriotic songs. A discussion and cultural programme were also held at the Victory Fair in Pabna Town Hall premises on Wednesday night. ADC Bijoy Bhushan Pal chaired the discussion. Deputy Commissioner of Pabna Dr. AFM Monjur Kadir, AL leader Rejaur Rahim Lal and vice president of Pabna Sadar Upazila Samsunnahar Rekha were the speakers.



A street performance on Victory Day.

PHOTO: STAR

Creating new spaces

Zahura's solo exhibition

A CORRESPONDENT

Artist Zahura Sultana Hossain's solo art exhibition is currently on at Radius Centre, Bay's Galleria in Gulshan.

The exhibition is titled 'Contemplation' and the artist would like viewers to take leave of self-consciousness, wander into their own space and interpret the works through their own experiences.

Zahura's paintings unfold themselves in a process, like life with hopes and dreams, enjoying a sense of security and freedom; but the passage of time takes its toll, bringing with it a sense of disillusion, frustration and many a constraint. She begins her paintings by constructing a structure almost perfect

only to be deconstructed later, losing control over the image until nothing is left intact, making it look almost like a battlefield. The surface is then once again reconstructed to whatever extent possible. Aesthetic sensibility and harmony help to create a sense of order. Her original image, its deconstruction and then its reconstruction all become part of the final output. "I find the process frustrating and a struggle, but at the same time challenging and deeply satisfying," says Zahura.

A successful painting in her words is a combination of various elements -- colour, texture, shape, size, space and tone, coming together like an orchestra.

The exhibition will continue till December 24.



Zahura's solo exhibition is on at Radius Centre, Bay's Galleria.

Ritwik Kumar Ghatak recalled in Rajshahi

Film festival in honour of the maestro

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Ritwik Kumar Ghatak, the Bengali master filmmaker was born in Dhaka on November 4, 1925 and stayed in Rajshahi for several years. He and his family moved to Calcutta (now Kolkata) in West Bengal in the 1940s. Partition (1947) had a major impact on Ghatak and is a recurring subject in his works.

Ghatak's films are now celebrated in India and beyond. His stature among Bengali film directors is comparable to that of Satyajit Ray and Mrinal Sen. Nevertheless, he is rarely remembered ceremonially in Bangladesh.

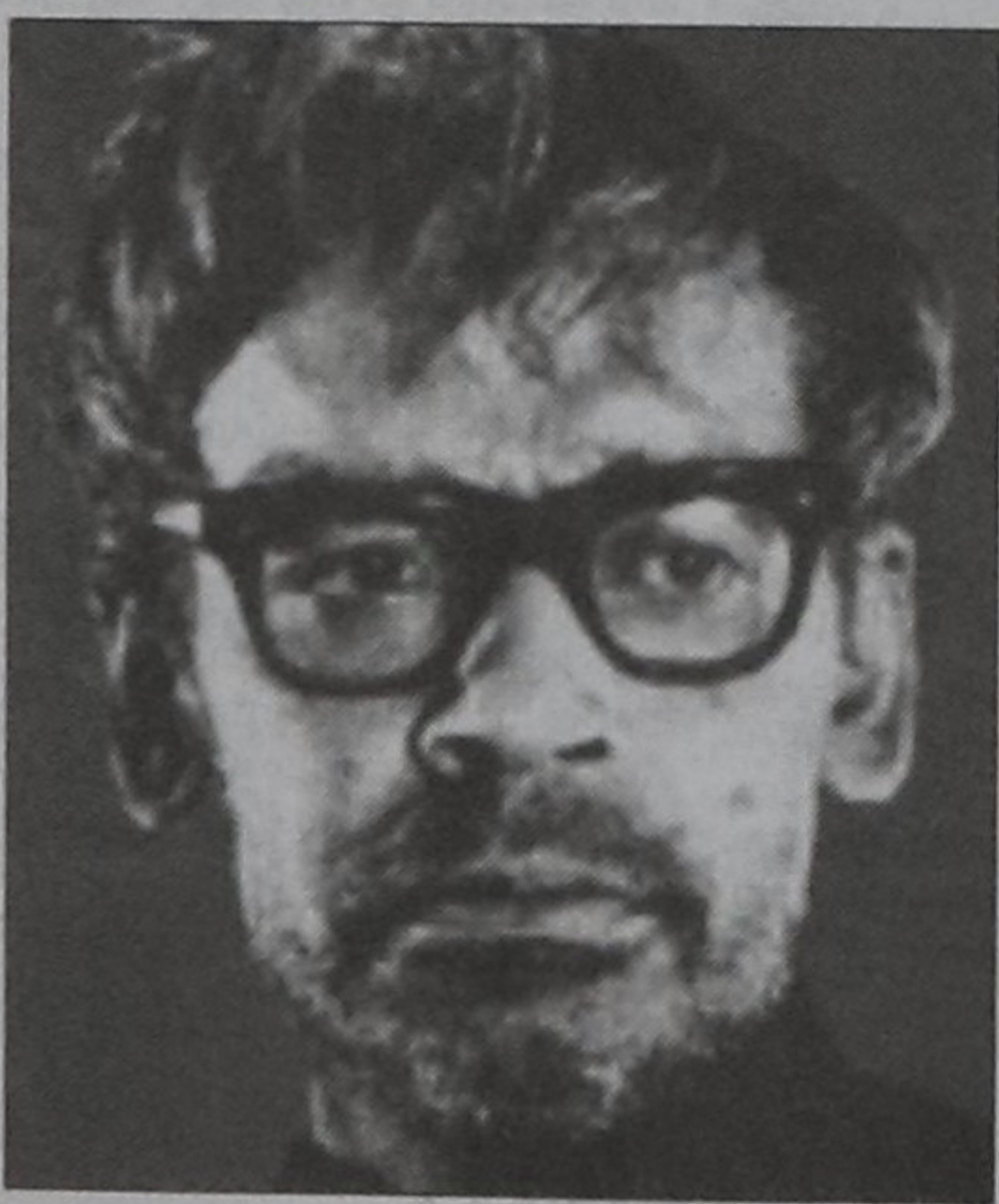
Starting from yesterday, Rajshahi Film Society has begun a three-day Ritwik Ghatak Film Festival at Rajshahi Homeopathic Medical College and Hospital at Ghoramara. Ghatak used to stay in the house that was later turned into the medical college.

"Our aim is to celebrate the life and works of Ghatak who maintained a bond between Bangladesh and West Bengal," said Dr FMA Zahid, convenor of the film society.

Eminent litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque formally inaugurated the festival on Thursday while Dr. AFM Zahid chaired the opening ceremony.

Rina Chakrawarty and Aroma Dutta -- nieces of Ritwik Kumar Ghatak -- were present on the occasion, which drew a huge audience.

Aroma said that Ghatak was greatly upset for



having to leave Bangladesh (then East Bengal) during the Partition and that he was proud of his roots.

Lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha attended the event as chief guest while among others Fazlul Haque, Monish Rafiq, two French researchers -- Sandra Alvarez and Anais Nasson -- spoke on Ghatak's life and works.

"There is hardly any Bengali movie enthusiast who does not know Ghatak, but only a few know that he was born and raised here," he added.

The festival will show eight full-length films by Ghatak -- "Nagarik", "Ajantrik", "Bari Theke Paliye", "Meghe Dhaka Tara", "Komal Gandhar", "Subarnarekha", "Titash Ekti Nadir Naam" and "Jukti Takko Aar Gappo".

The organisers hope that the festival is likely to draw a number of movie enthusiasts from across the country.

After Bangladesh's independence, Ghatak came to Dhaka with Satyajit Roy in 1972, just four years before his death on February 6, 1976. He then recalled his childhood in Dhaka and most of his youth in Rajshahi.

To Ghatak, the primary objective of filmmaking was humanity.

"Once we went to a char (shoal) on the Padma river in Rajshahi. Ritwik took some food that we thought was for us. But he gave away the food to people living in a small hut. He did not tell us who they were and why he gave them food, but we found out that he used to give them food regularly," wrote Pratiti Devi, Ghatak's sister, about his compassionate nature.

Ghatak came across the famous Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, Tara Sankar Bandyopadhyay, Probodh Kumar Sanyal, Humayun Kabir and Syed Mujtaba Ali as they were close to his father and brothers, and visited their house in Rajshahi.

10th Int'l Children's Festival of Performing Arts

KAVITA, New Delhi

The 10th International Children's Festival of Performing Arts kickstarted with a colourful inaugural ceremony on the afternoon of December 16. The evening belonged to Finland and Bangladesh which gave the huge audience mostly schoolchildren a delightful view of their cultures. Youth from countries as diverse as Indonesia, Germany, Iran, Israel, Mandwa, India, Latvia, Romania and Russia watched in rapt attention as the performers went through their paces.

Finland came up first with Youth Theatre FloppiFRAasi's presentation "Dawn Break" an amazing mélange of drama, song and dance including Bollywood numbers and concluding

with some peppy Bhangra dances from Punjab. The basic theme was the battle between good and evil. "Dawn Breaks" did some time travel between a dance school where teenagers are practising popular Bollywood dances even as quarrels and jealousy wreck their relationships. Cut to an ancient time with the same battle in an poetic Finnish storytelling tradition: the Evil Lady of the Forest has claimed many victims, until she is stopped in her tracks by the gentle Fairy of the Fields. The beautiful songs and the billowing red skirts of the Fairy which laid cover on the 'victims' and revived them had the audience clapping all the way and asking for more.

Finland was followed up by Bangladesh. The Nrityanchal group

presented "Shambhashan" (Addressing). The folk dance drama is a composition that interweaves a variety of Bangladesh folk dances. The drama gave a colourful glimpse of the country's simple rural lifestyle Baul songs (folk songs), the rhythm of Ektara, the agonised prayers for rain when faced with the spectre of drought, the alternately mournful and joyous strains of the shehnai during village wedding ceremonies and the rejoicing of the Nobanno (harvesting festival). The 11-member group, led by Mohammad Abul Hasan Topon, comprised the little four-year-old Priyanka and went up to 20-year-old dancers.

Befittingly the chief guest of the evening was the High Commissioner of Bangladesh, Tariq Ahmad Karim. In

his words, "We need to focus on what brings us together and we will have a much better world."

Most of the members of the audience were hard put to decide which of the two programmes they most enjoyed. As the Indonesian group of schoolchildren put it, the Finnish performance was "dramatic", while the Bangladesh folk dance drama was "colourful".

The three-day-festival will go a long way in forging enduring relationships between the children of 30 countries. They will demonstrate that it is possible to transcend the barriers of geography and language through culture and that children can act as true ambassadors of their nations at a time when the adults have wrought havoc on the planet.

Pre-Christmas celebration and prize distribution in Jhenidah

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah.

A discussion, cultural show, mock-fight and dance were performed on the occasion of pre-Christmas celebration and prize distribution in Jhenidah. The function was held on Thursday morning.

Lawmaker Abdul Mannan (Jhenidah-4 constituency) was present as chief guest while the special guests were Kaliganj UNO Anjuman-Ara Begum, Upazila women's affair official Anis Afroj; Reverend Jonathan Munchi Bangladesh Assembly of God; Rev-

erend John Talukdar Bangladesh Divisional Director of AG, UP chairman Ohiduzzaman and AL leader Jahangir Alam.

Seven hundred and twenty students of Kaliganj Ashirbad Assembly of God mission schools were present at the function. They took part in different events including the rendition of the National Anthem, songs, dance and display.

Reverend John Talukdar said, that he would take all out efforts and would try to give more facilities to the students.

Chief guest Abdul Mannan, appreciated the performance of the students and assured to extent his hands to them if needed.