

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

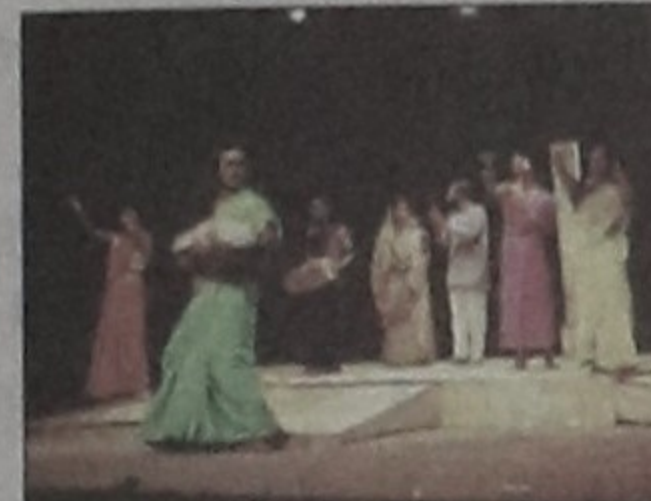
**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Painter: Zahura Sultana Hossain  
Title: Contemplation  
Venue: Bay's Galleria, Radius Centre, Gulshan-2  
Date: December 11-24  
Time: 10 am-8pm



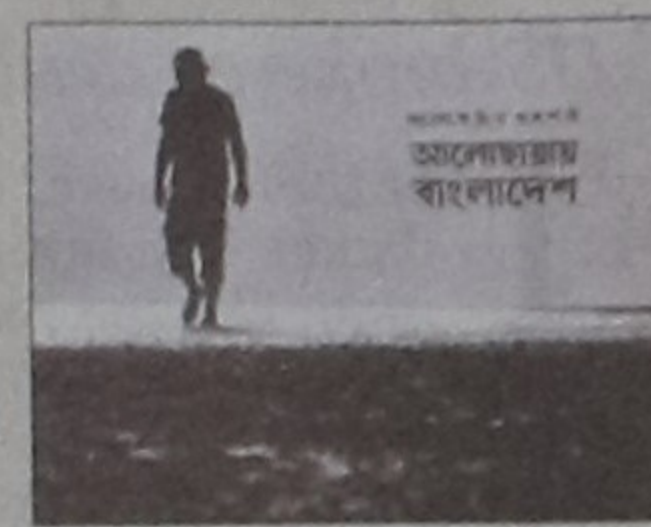
**Victory Day Celebration**  
Songs, films, theatre, exhibition and more  
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: Shilpakala Academy premises  
Date: December 14-22  
Time: 5pm onwards



**Theatre**  
Play: Shikhandi Katha  
Troupe: Mahakali Natya Shampraday  
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: December 25 & 26  
Time: 7pm

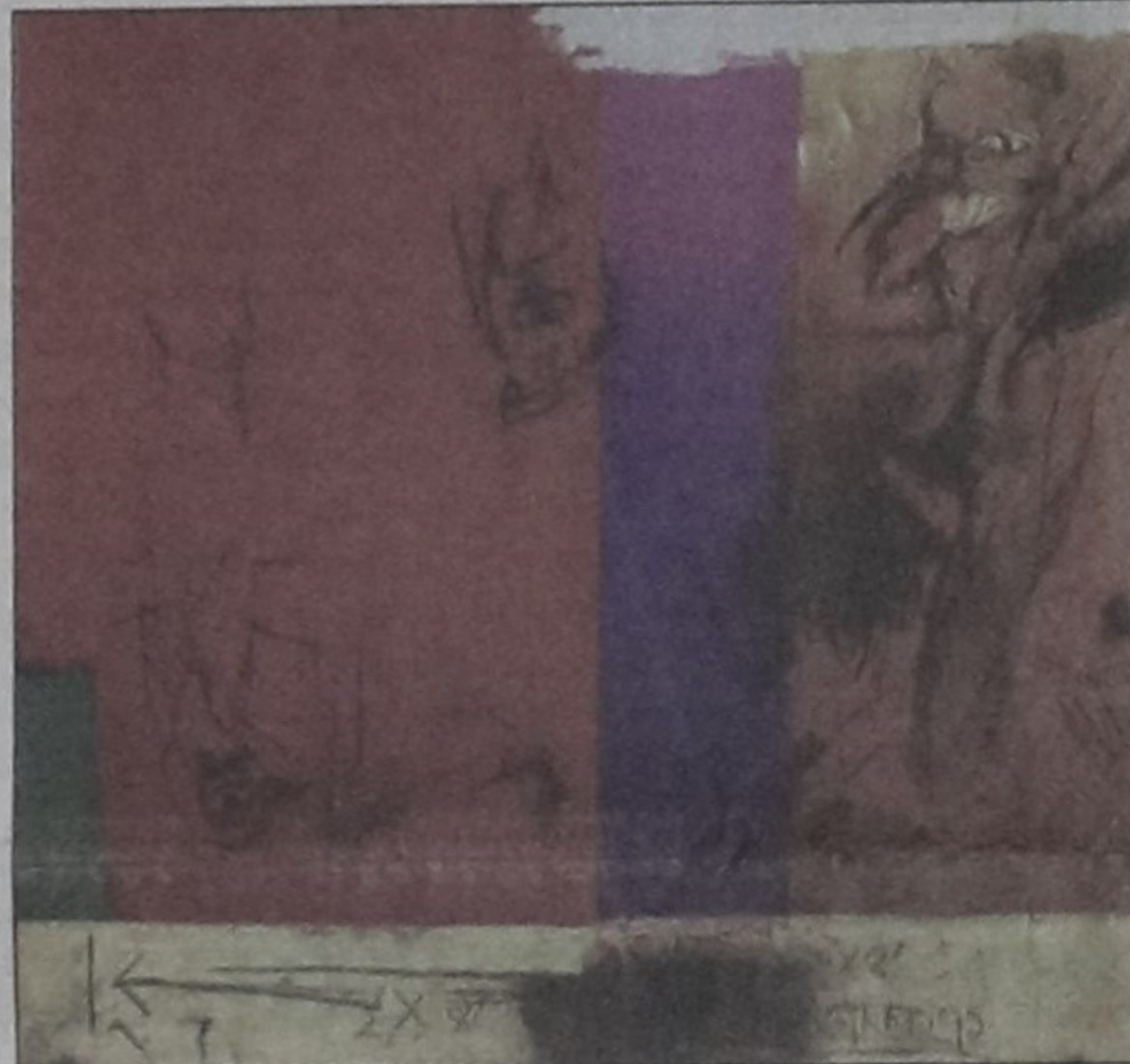
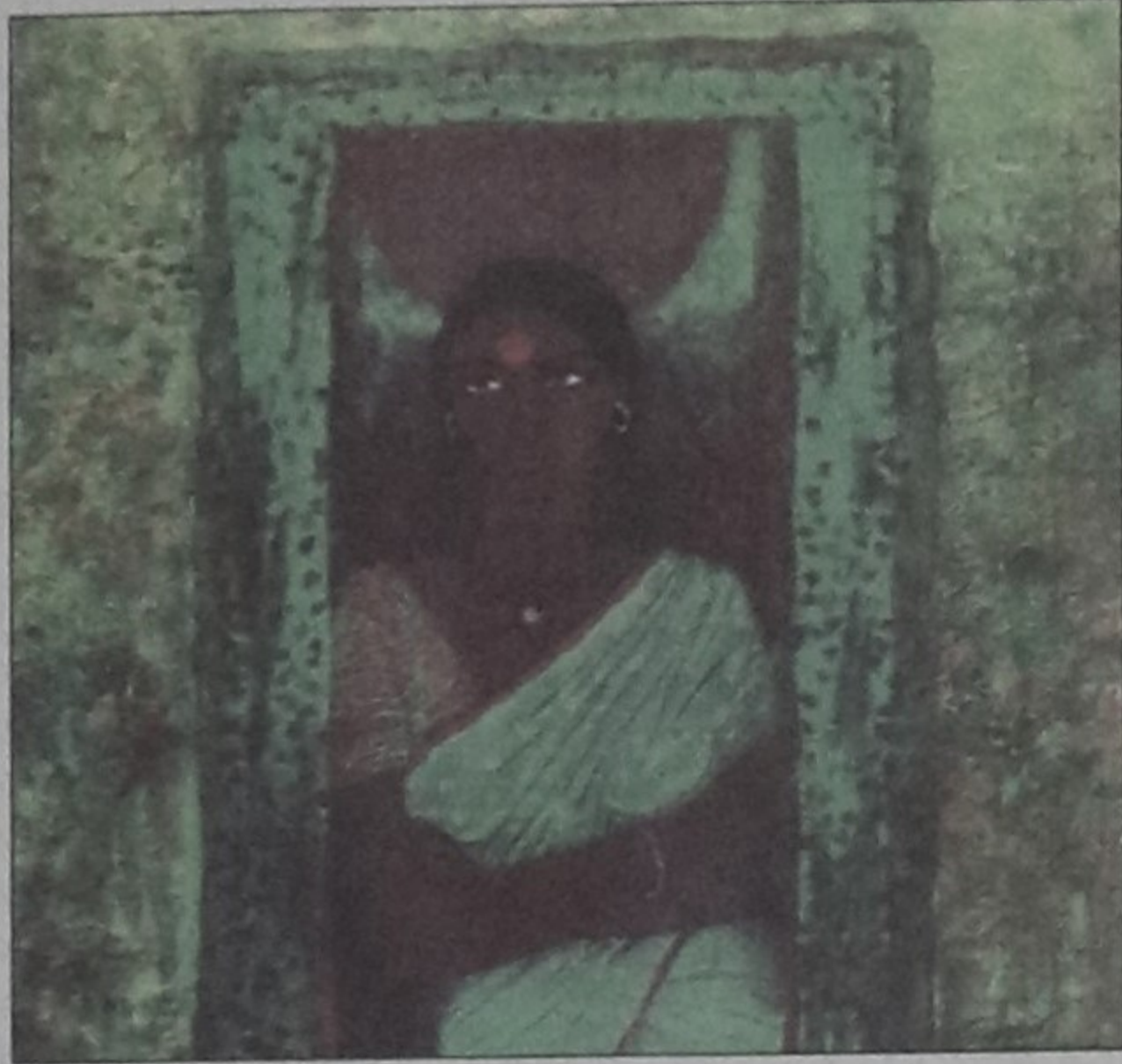


**Photography Exhibition**  
Title: Alo-Chhayay  
Bangladesh  
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU  
Date: December 16-22  
Time: 2pm-8pm



## Liberation War in art

Exhibition at Shilpakala Academy



(Clockwise from top left): Artworks by Syed Enayet Hossain, Nasreen Begum, Nisar Hossain and Nurul Islam on display.

TAKIR HOSSAIN

On the occasion of Martyred Intellectuals' Day and Victory Day, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) organised a group art exhibition. The exhibition features works -- in different mediums -- of 26 painters. On display are works of senior and prominent painters like Mohammad Kibria, Syed Jahangir, Syed Enayet Hossain, Nitun Kundu, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Nurul Islam, Hamiduzzaman Khan, Abdus

Sattar, Nisar Hossain, Debasish Pal and others. The exhibition is now on at National Art Gallery of BSA. Nitun Kundu, one of the leading modern sculptors of Bangladesh, has to his credit "Sabash Bangladesh" on Rajshahi University campus -- a glorious tribute to the Liberation War. He graduated from the Government Institute of Arts (now Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka). During that time there was no sculpture department at the institution. He was a student of the paint-

ing department. He gradually developed his skills in the sculpture medium. His "Shaheed Sharoney", in bronze, is a symbol of gun. Syed Jahangir likes to portray the scenic beauty of rural Bengal. In his work, ammunitions of Freedom Fighters are prominent. Jahangir mostly works in oil, water and acrylic mediums; oil being his favourite. Samarjit Roy Chowdhury is one of the prominent figures in the Bangladeshi art circuit. He is particularly known for the folk motifs in his works. In his

work at the exhibition, a female visage with some folk motifs delineate familiar aspects of Bengali culture. Acrylic, pastel, oil and mixed media are predominantly used in his large and medium canvases. Restless curves, geometric forms and broken lines make his paintings noteworthy. Syed Enayet Hossain is another significant painter of the late '60s. His work "Jai Bangla" shows a group of people celebrating victory under a large national flag. Red and green are very significant and the figure movements are

noticeable in the painting.

Nasreen Begum achieved fame for her series on "Cactus". In recent times, she has been working on other themes but maintains her individual language. Scrupulous technique and smooth shades are the prime characteristics of her works. At the exhibition, her painting shows a rural woman waiting for her beloved. Her face appears gloomy and the eyes are the most noticeable feature in the work.

Nisar Hossain is a socially aware painter who tries to capture varied personal relationships, socio-economic and political dilemmas. Gruesome faces in different perspectives are common features in his paintings. Bright colours with sketch oriented human figures and varied animal forms are also recurring features. His "Ghatok 71", shows some evil faces with vivid colours like red, mauve and light yellow.

Debasish Pal is another participant at the exhibition. He is an assistant professor at the Ceramic Department, Faculty of Fine Arts. His works delve deep into our rural culture, heritage and the Liberation War.

Nazib Mohammad is another participant at the exhibition. He does figurative paintings -- featuring rural men, lush greens, romantic images, birds, indigenous flora, people at leisure etc. His landscapes take the viewers far away from the hustle bustle of city life. Freedom Fighters, the Liberation War and human forms in motion are the recurring themes in painter Shahabuddin Ahmed's artworks. His works focus on the strength and morale of the people of Bengal. His canvas is not tranquil. His painting at the exhibition shows a Freedom Fighter's courageous movement towards an unknown destination. The exhibition continues till December 22.

## Premiere of "Jaago" held

A CORRESPONDENT

The premiere of Interspeed's latest endeavour 'Jaago', claimed to be the first Bangladeshi film based entirely on football, was held at the Madhumita Cinema Hall recently, says a press release.

Directed by Khizir Hayat Khan, "Jaago", features a football match between 'Comilla Azad Boys', a Bangladeshi team and 'Tripura Eleven' from India. Though there has been no previous record of winning against the visiting team, the local team snatches victory through determination, hard work and team spirit. Khizir Hayat Khan has also done the screenplay for the film. Adnan Karim is the producer of the film.

The story of "Jaago" is said to be inspired by the "Swadhin Bangla Football Dol", who alongside the Freedom Fighters in 1971 played a vital

role in the Liberation War by raising funds and support for our war through charity matches.

Actor Ferdous and Lux-Channel i Superstar 2006, finalist, Bindu play central roles in the film.

Along side the story the movie also contains wonderful songs -- Jhum jhum brishti, Shomoy churi, Keno choley geley, pothey jetye jetye and Jago Bangladesh. Popular artistes such as Kumar Bishwajit, Bappa Majumdar, Ornob, Milon Mahmud, Ishtiaque Hossain, Johad, Kona, Srabonti Ali and Konok Aditya have also lent their voice. The songs have been composed by Ornob.

ATN Bangla and Radio Foorti are media partners of "Jaago". The film has been sponsored by Citycell.

The film aims at inspiring Bangladeshi football into reclaiming the old passion of victory and patriotism.

"Jaago" is expected to be released soon.



A scene from the film.

## Uttara Cultural Society: Celebrating national events in the suburb

A CORRESPONDENT

Uttara Cultural Society which was established earlier this year, organised a daylong programme at Rabindra Sarani, Sector-7, on the occasion of Victory Day. This was the first daylong observance of an event of national significance -- by the society.

"We have formed this organisation with like-minded people living in Uttara who are passionate about our traditions and are willing to work to uphold our culture. Apart from national events like Victory Day, Independence Day, Pahela Baishakh, we also celebrate festivals such as Boshonto Utshob (Spring festival), Borsha Utshob (Monsoon festival)," said Sharifa Qader, president of Uttara Cultural Society.

"We are an umbrella organisation consisting of several smaller committees. As the saying goes, 'ten are better than one.' The member groups possess similar values and commitments, so everything is well-organised and coordinated.

The idea to have a daylong celebration on December 16 conceptualised when the committee celebrated Pahela Baishakh earlier this year.

"Although our resources are limited, we still tried to bring out the best," said the president of the organisation.

There was nagorola, pitha festival, stalls offering Bangladeshi cuisines, handicrafts and much more at the programme, alongside music and dance. Four bands -- Alternation, Bohemian, Aftermath and Minus +2 -- performed live on the occasion. There were Baul songs and drama too.

The National Flag was hoisted at the event to honour the martyrs. The first performance was by Uttara Kobi Nazrul Sangeet Academy. Chaturanga Shilpakala Academy was next, followed by Uchchhash Lalitkala Academy. The cultural schools that took part in the programme are from the different sectors of Uttara. Anjali Nrityakala Niketan and Sruti Lalitkala Academy, among other schools, performed at the programme. The performances of these schools went on till the evening.

After dusk, Uttara Cultural Society members performed.

Many of these members are aged and can clearly recall the days of 1971. Emotions of joy, grit and triumph came forth once again, 38 years into freedom, at the celebrations on December 16.



Sharifa Qader (C) with the young participants on Victory Day's celebration

## Sound Touch celebrates 12 years

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

Sound Touch, a popular cultural group of Rangpur has been holding shows every three months for the last twelve years. The cultural shows are called 'Otoeb'.

To celebrate its achievements over the last twelve years, Sound Touch held a weeklong cultural festival that ended recently at Rangpur Shaheed Minar.

Artists performed bhawaiyya and other folk

songs as well as *adhunik* at the festival. Competitions on dance and music were also part of the festival.

Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister G.M. Quader was the chief guest at the concluding programme. In his speech, Quader highly praised Sound Touch for its efforts to uphold traditional Bangladeshi art and culture.

Quader said, "With inadequate patronage, Sound Touch has been holding cultural shows in Rangpur for the last twelve years and it is no small accomplishment."

## Film 'Earth Pilgrim' A feat on feet

KAVITA, New Delhi

He calls himself an 'Earth Pilgrim' because his long journey, with deep spiritual dimensions, has taught him to cultivate a reverence for the earth or 'Gaia'. And even as world leaders descend on Copenhagen to discuss ambitious targets for damage control of climate change and the world grapples with huge environmental problems, he believes there is hope yet if we live in harmony and renew our connection with nature.

Meet Satish Kumar, former Jain monk, peace pilgrim, ecologist and Gandhi disciple. Recently, the UK-based Satish was in Delhi for a screening and talk on "Earth Pilgrim", a 50-minute documentary film which he has presented for BBC as part of the Natural World series.

The film pans in on Satish as he walks through his well loved Dartmoor in Devon which he has made his home and describes as "My wild paradise". Satish takes us through some magnificent landscapes, minutely observing the change of seasons and the wondrous flora and fauna of the area. Darkening the sky are the starlings who follow each other in a mass, and seek safety in the protection of numbers akin to what he terms, "one immense organism, like a single cell."

The camera also takes us to observe other wonders of nature: the mellifluous skylarks soaring high above, a foster mother pipet feeding a fledgling cuckoo before it grows and wings its way to

Africa where its parents have flown already, the mating ritual of the damselfly, a fox with its playful cubs, the changing flora of the area with the change in season -- bluebells,



The documentary film "Earth Pilgrim" was presented for BBC as part of the Natural World series.

thistle and gorse and a host of other plants and flowers.

Sitting under a tree, Satish says, "The tree is the highest teacher. Even Buddha attained enlightenment under a tree." And nature needs to be nurtured, he adds. "We talk of human rights, what about the rights of nature?" he questions.

What were the challenges he encountered in what can only be termed as "walking meditation" through the moors? Says Satish, "The film

was over one year in the making. Since it showed the four seasons, and homed in on so many birds and wildlife, it required a big dose of patience. Also it had to be filmed in natural light so we had to wait for the sun's scarcity in UK."

"Earth Pilgrim" is not Satish's only claim to fame. Inspired to follow in the footsteps of the great philosopher Bertrand Russell, he undertook

a pilgrimage from his native India virtually around the world to make a peaceful protest against nuclear weapons. Traversing a distance of 8,000 miles over a period of more than two years without any money -- he ended up at JFK's grave in the US. Questioned on how he managed this stupendous feat, he says that people helped out with tickets, food and clothes but mostly he depended on his own feet.

Quite a feat on feet.

## Rock Hall of Fame inductees announced

Pop supergroup ABBA will join icons of the '60s and '70s -- Genesis, Jimmy Cliff, the Hollies and the Stooges -- as they are inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame next year, the Hall announced Tuesday.

Both ABBA and the Stooges have been nominated in years past but have not made the cut. The induction ceremony will take place March 15, 2010 at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York.

The 2010 inductees were chosen by a voting committee of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation. Artists are eligible for inclusion 25 years after their first recording is released.

The inductees "represent a great cross-section of artists that define the broad spectrum and history of rock 'n' roll and people that have contributed immeasurably to our business," Foundation President and CEO Joel Peresman said.

ABBA, a Swedish group that became one of the most successful acts in pop history, released their first album, "Ring, Ring," in 1973. The group gained a new fan base last year with the movie version of the musical "Mamma Mia," which incorporates songs such as "Dancing Queen," "Mamma Mia," "Money, Money, Money" and "The Winner Takes It All."

Peter Gabriel was the original lead singer of the progressive rock band Genesis in the 1960s, but the group rose to greater popularity when he left in 1975 and was replaced by Phil Collins. Some of the band's more familiar songs include "Follow You, Follow Me," "Tonight, Tonight, Tonight," "Invisible Touch" and "We Can't Dance."

Cliff is a Jamaican ska and reggae singer who is credited with introducing reggae to a broader audience through his starring role in the 1972 film "The Harder They Come" and the release of the accompanying soundtrack.

Founded and led by the Iggy Pop, the Stooges were a forerunner of the punk and hard rock movements in the late 1960s.

Part of the British Invasion, the Hollies had a string of pop hits in the 1960s and were characterised by their three-part harmonies and squeaky clean image.

Two of the original members continue to tour today. The group released their most recent album, "Then, Now, Always," in March.

Source: CNN