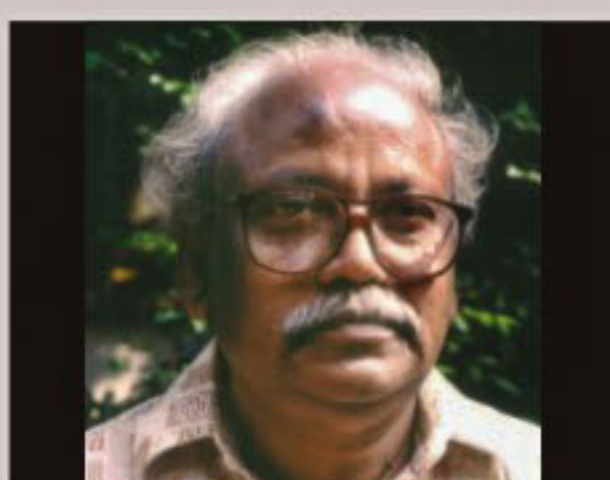


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

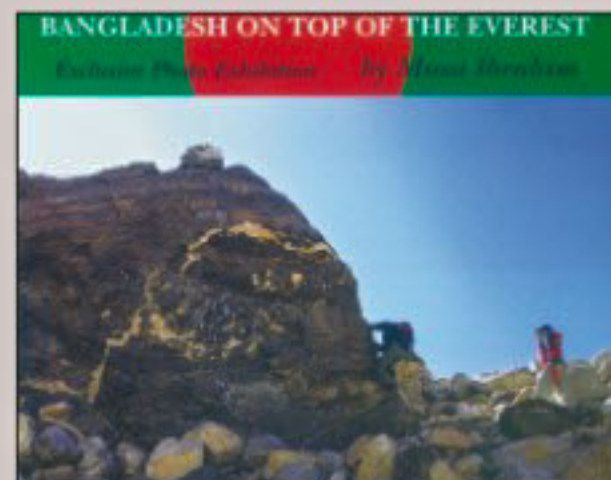
Korean Film Fest
Organiser: Embassy of the Republic of Korea
Venue: Main Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbagh
Date: December 5-11
Time: 11am onwards



Drawing Exhibition
Artist: Rafiqun Nabi
Venue: Gallery Chittrak, H-21, R-4, Dhanmondi
Date: December 3-20
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Photography Exhibition
Title: Bangladesh on Top of the Everest
Photographer: Musa Ibrahim
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: November 26-December 9
Time: 9am-8pm



Jazz Show
Troupe: The Ari Roland Jazz Quartet
Organiser: US Embassy in Dhaka and Nriyadhara
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: December 10
Time: 7pm



Victory Day celebration at Shilpakala gains momentum



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking four decades of Victory, Bangladesh Shilpakala academy (BSA) is holding a 16-day Bijoy Utshab (Victory Day Festival) featuring a number of cultural programmes at its premises. With the theme 'Banglar Mati Durjoy Ghati, Bujhe Nik Durbritto', the festival began on December 1 and will continue till December 16 at BSA's Unmukto Moncho (open stage).

Major attractions at the festival include solo and group recitation and renditions, dance performances by noted and emerging artistes and troupes, jatra pala by several cultural organisations, and magic shows by illusionists.

On the seventh day (December 7), a number of artistes and troupes performed at the festival.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Highlights include recitation, renditions of songs, dance and more.

Sanjoy Roy rendered "O Amar Bangla Ma Tor" while Nabin Kishor Gautam sang "Jodi Raat Pohaley Shona" at the event. Kanan Bala Sarkar performed two folk numbers -- "Kyan Jani Aaj Bondhur Lagi" and "Orey Tui Amarey Korli Pagol" on the occasion. Samia Naz, AKM Mostafizur Rahman and others also performed solos.

Noted Tagore artiste Mita Haque rendered "Jodi Tor Daak Shuney Keu Na Ashey" and "Tumi Kon Kanoner Phool" at the event. Artistes of Shurer Dhara, Bangabandhu Shangkritik Forum and a baul troupe led by Amir Ali Boyati performed choruses.

M Mohon Sinha, Rafiqul Islam, Shahabuddin Mian,

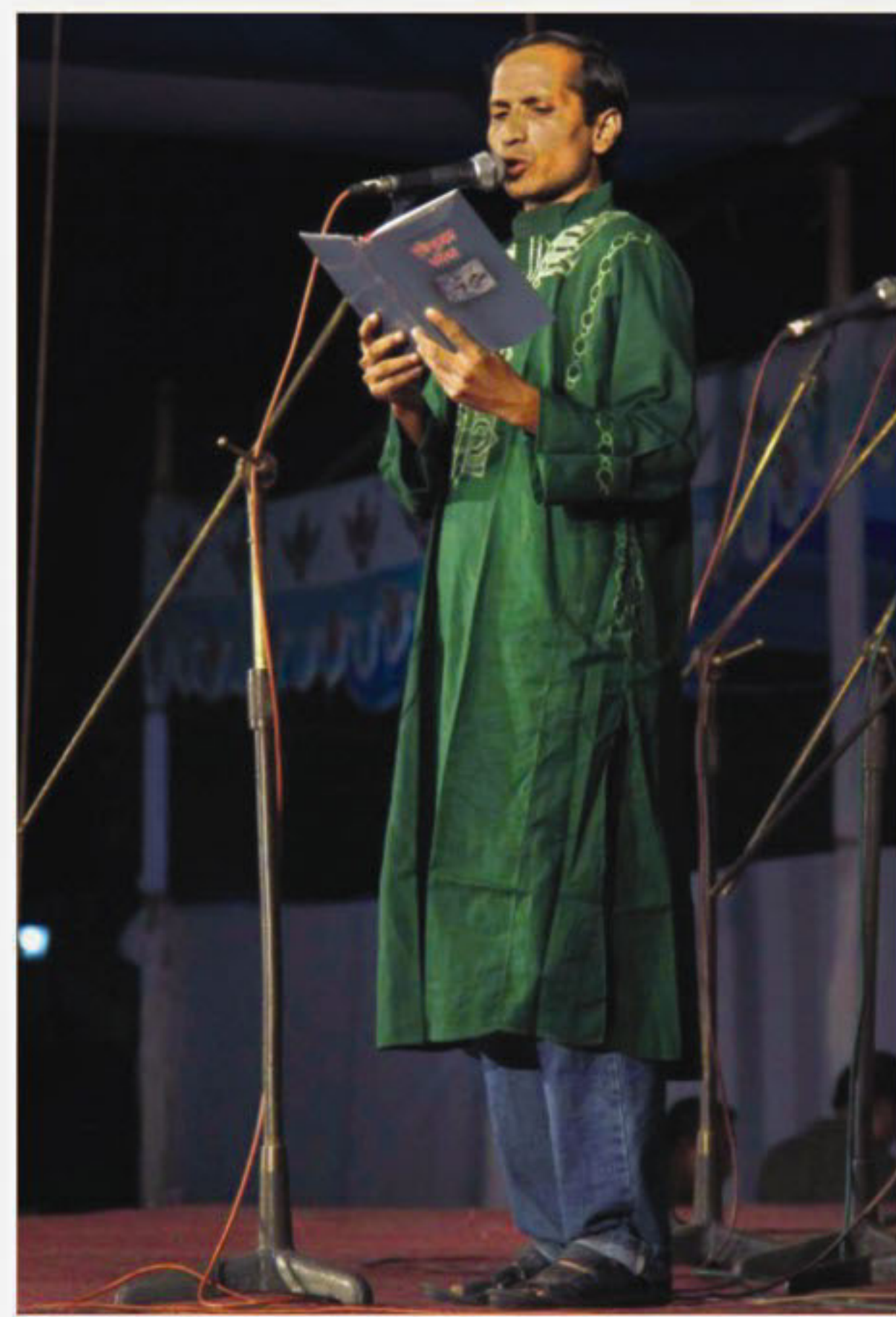
Moniruzzaman, Jamaluddin, Delwar Hossain Khan, Syed Meher Hossain, AFM Ekram Hossain, Ashutosh Sheel, Chandan Dutt and Subal Dutt instrumentally assisted the singers. Swapan Kumar Nag directed instrumental music.

Mahbub Parvez, Foyzullah Sayed and Foyzul Alam Pappu recited poems on the Liberation War, while artistes of recitation troupe Prokash staged choruses at the programme.

Nilufar Wahid presented a solo dance while dancers of Nandanik, Ghungur and Nriyaya Jatun (Mymensingh) performed group dances at the event.

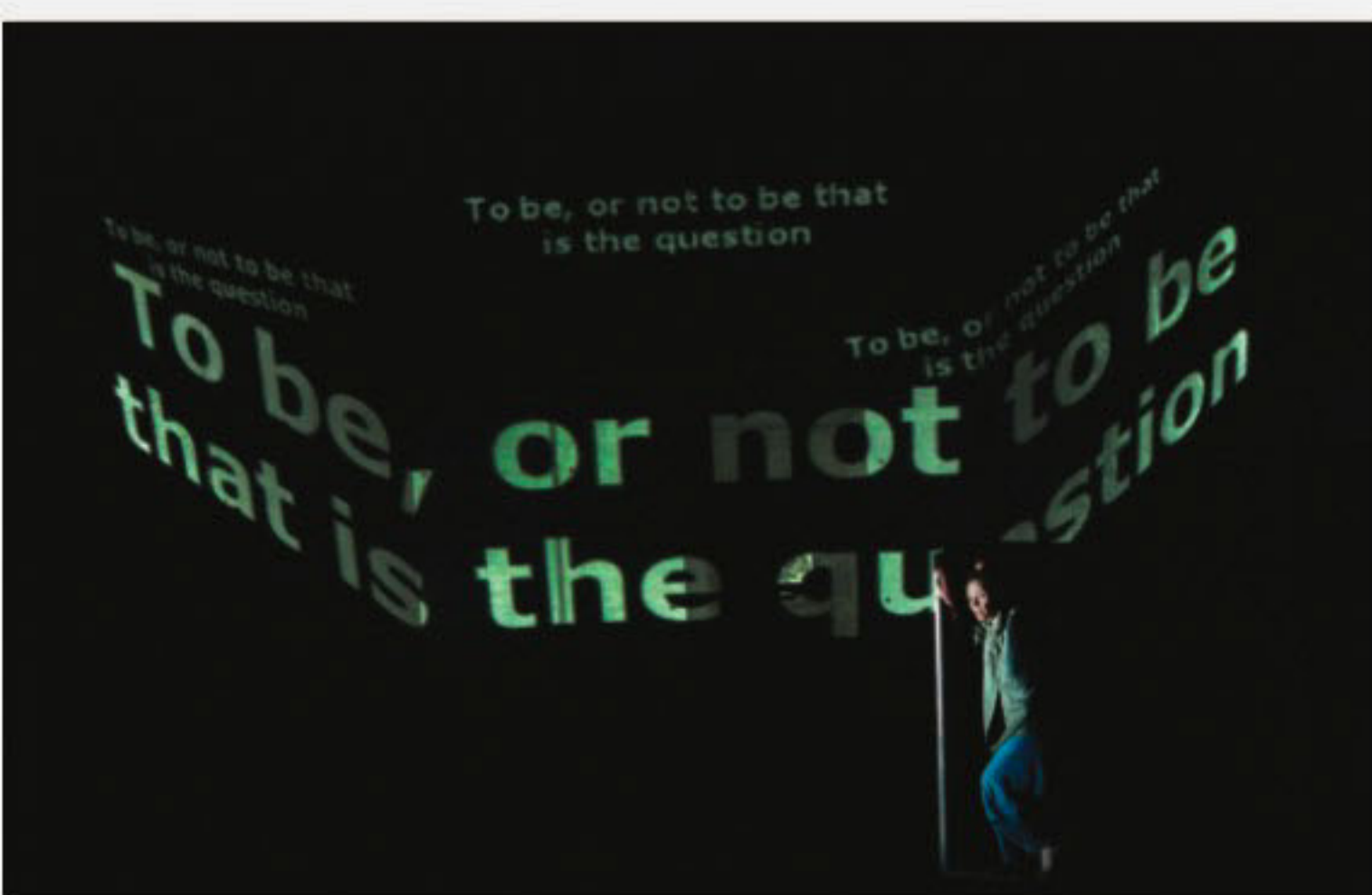
Illusionist H Rana entertained the audience with magic.

Emceed by Shyamoli Sultana, the programme was directed by Mahmud Selim.



A monologue exuding self-belief

Norwegian play "Giddagasas" staged at Shilpakala



Nina says defiantly, "You can keep me here forever, but my mind works, it travels, it flies."



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

JAMIL MAHMUD

"Giddagasas" (Prison), a Norwegian indigenous troupe Beavivás Sámi Teáhter production directed by Bangladeshi theatre personality Kamaluddin Nilu, is being staged all over the world at present. The Bangladeshi premiere of the play was held at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on December 7.

A global production in every sense, "Giddagasas" has been written by Greek playwright Lia Karavia. The monodrama -- which reveals an individual's struggle to survive the brutal repression of a totalitarian government -- sees noted Finnish actress-director Anitta Suikkari as the protagonist.

Nina, in the play, has been imprisoned for her thoughts and ideas. She believes in equal rights for all. Her oppressors keep her in a solitary cell to break her spirit, but she continuously develops new strategies to retain her dignity and fortify her soul. Sharing the fate of countless



people all over the world, the protagonist tells herself -- and the audience -- stories that keep her strong in solitary confinement.

She does not shy away when recounting humiliation, psychological and physical abuse. She does not want to compromise, and remains committed to her ideologies under

the most difficult of circumstances. She knows she will survive; no prison can keep a spirit incarcerated; and she transmits this message to the audience.

The play is an individual's self-evaluation and makes one contemplate the current events across the world.

"It's high time we take a close look at human civilisation," said Nilu after the play.

The story of "Giddagasas" has no ending, but the play ends with hope -- the protagonist has not lost her hopes of freedom. Nina says defiantly, "You can keep me here forever, but my mind works, it travels, it flies."

Anitta Suikkari delivered an outstanding performance. The actress seemed focused and engaged the audience's attention throughout the one and a half-hour long play.

In several ways, the approach was minimalist and the set was designed like a prison cell.

Annita's costume was also simple. She was dressed in a jeans and a shirt.

Though English subtitles were projected above the stage, it was often hard to follow them and keep eyes on the protagonist simultaneously. The play is in Sámi language.

Two more shows of the play were held yesterday at the same venue.

Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT) held the shows.

Helen Mirren Hollywood worships the 18 to 25-year-old man

She may be a "dame," but you definitely can't call Helen Mirren "tame."

The actress was an honoree at The Hollywood Reporter's annual Power 100 Women in Entertainment breakfast, and raised eyebrows by criticising the industry's preoccupation with what goes on below the belt.

"With all respect to you many brilliant and successful women in this room -- executives, producers, writers, directors -- really not too much has changed in the canon of Hollywood filmmaking, which continues to worship at the altar of the 18- to 25-year-old man..."

Mirren, 65, an Oscar winner for "The Queen" (2006), also got laughs with a few other blunt observations.

"I resent having witnessed in my life the survival of some very mediocre male actors," she said to applause, without naming names. "... and the professional demise of some very brilliant female ones."

She said it has been this way all through history, and only advances women have made in the real world -- socially, professionally, and personally -- have led to a change in the way they are portrayed onscreen.

"Virtually every drama made for film, stage or television has 20 male characters to one, two or maybe if you're lucky three female characters. And that includes Shakespeare, incidentally," Mirren said, saying that's why she took the role of Prospera (formerly a male character named Prospera) in Julie Taymor's new film version of "The Tempest". "I had to nickname one of their roles," she joked.

The Power 100 list includes "Twilight" author Stephenie Meyer, the Kardashian sisters, Angelina Jolie and Sandra Bullock.

Source: Internet



Dame Helen Mirren as Elizabeth II in "The Queen".