

WHAT'S ON

Aerial Photography
Photographer: Yann Arthus-Bertrand
Venue: National Parliament
Date: Dec 19-Feb 19

Samsul Huda Painting Award 2011
Organiser: Samsul Huda Chitro Shilpi Parishad
Venue: Gulshan Club, Level-2
Date: Jan 8-9; Time: 11am-6pm

Exhibition
Title: Paintings of the Past
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Date: January 6-17
Time: 3-9pm

Solo Tapestry Exhibition
Artist: Tajul Islam
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-26, R-3, Dhanmondi
Date: Jan 3-14
Time: 12pm-8pm

Theatre
Play: Play With a Tiger
Troupe: Dept. of Theatre, DU
Venue: Natmandal, DU
Date: January 6-12
Time: 6:30pm (everyday)

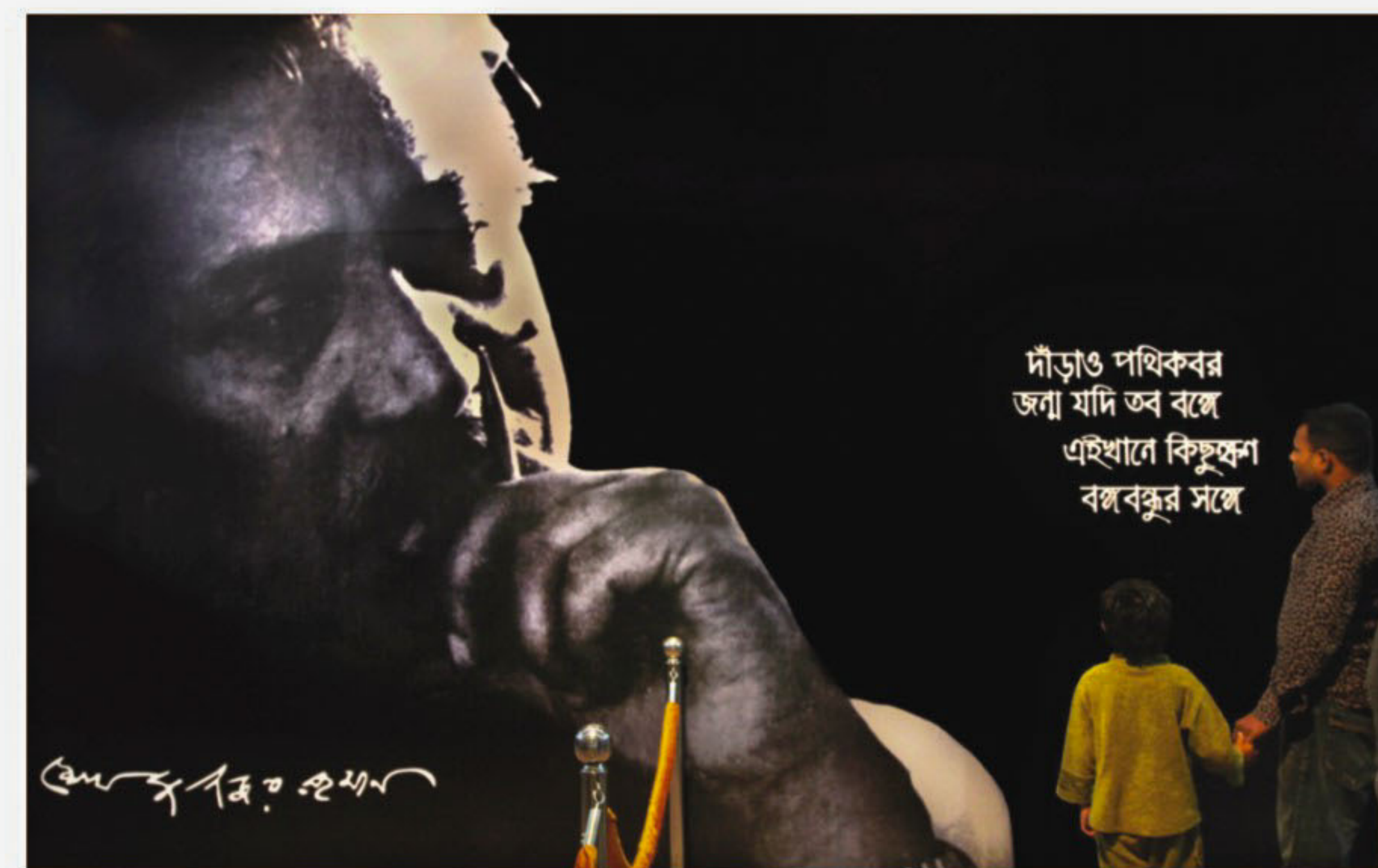
Seilm Al Deen Festival
Organiser: Dhaka Theatre, JU and Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Shilpakala Academy and JU
Date: January 14-16

Group Art Exhibition
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre
Date: January-15
Time: 11am-6pm

Rooted Creativity 7
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H-275/F, Rd-16 (New), Dhanmondi
Date: Dec 31-Jan 9
Time: 12-8pm

In Bangabandhu's presence

Pavilion Honouring Father of the Nation at Dhaka Int'l Trade Fair



The outer circle displays varied images of Bangabandhu.

PHOTO: MUMIT H.



Nasirul Haque Khokon

ZAHANGIR ALAM

Dhaka International Trade Fair 2011 is on at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the fair on January 1. Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) organised the month-long event.

Visitors will come across the 'Bangabandhu Pavilion' right by the entrance. With the title, 'Bangabandhu Shathe Kichhukhon' the 60ftx60ft aesthetically engaging pavilion is all about the Father of the Nation, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The hexagonal pavilion refers to the theme of the historic Six-point Charter (*chhyoj dofa dabi*).

"The Six-point Charter embodied the aspiration of Bengalis craving for emancipation; based on it our struggle for freedom and subsequent achievements came into fruition. Bangabandhu put forth this charter as a demand in Lahore, Pakistan, on February 5, 1966," says light designer Nasirul Haque Khokon, who provided the theme, concept and designed the installation.

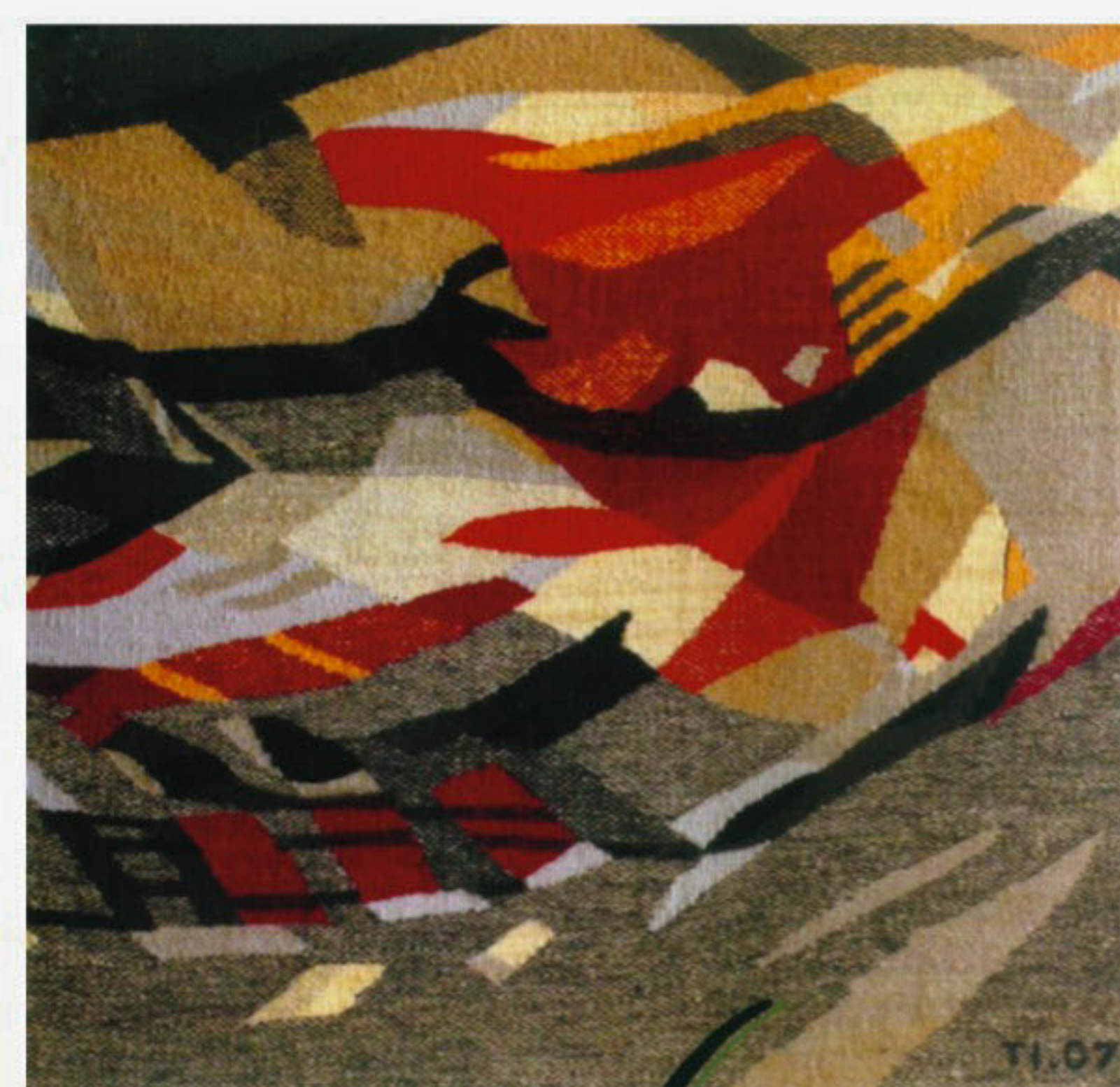
The pavilion has two -- outer and inner -- circles. The outer circle displays hundreds of rare photographs of Bangabandhu.

Ranging from Bangabandhu's childhood to significant moments with national, global leaders and personalities; Bangabandhu's portraits as cover designs on Time Magazine and Newsweek; his letter to his daughter and present Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina are on display. The inner circle has five big screens, showing an exclusive documentary featuring Bangabandhu's life; his visions of 'Shonar Bangla'; his historic decisions taken as a charismatic political leader; and the historic March 7, 1971.

"The installation has been done on a huge scale to signify its gravity. A number of talented young artists of 'Creations Unlimited' worked tirelessly to put together the installation," adds Khokon, also the CEO of Creations Unlimited.

Youngsters will likely find this pavilion fascinating; the wall features an engraving from Michael Madhusudan Datta's epic poem "Darao Pothikhor Janmo Jodi Tabo Bongey..."

The exhibition is on from 10am to 10pm everyday and will continue till the end of the fair.



Tajul's fondness for abstraction and organic forms

Solo tapestry exhibition at Shilpangan

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Tapestry, a form of textile art, is woven by hand on a perpendicular loom. It is weft-faced weaving, in which all the warp threads are hidden in the completed work, unlike cloth weaving where both the warp and the weft threads may be visible. In this way, a colourful pattern or image is created. Rashid Chowdhury was the pioneer of this art in this country and definitely the finest artist of this particular genre till today. He successfully introduced tapestry in various forms. His works are unparalleled in their subjects and unique work. This great artist created a distinct path in our subcontinent.

Artist Tajul Islam as a student of art, started out in this field by assisting Chowdhury when the latter returned from France. Tajul continued assisting his guru till 1979. After the death of Rashid Chowdhury, Tajul is one of the very few to work in this elegant, expensive and arduous medium. He has been working in this medium for 40 years. Now Tajul has unfolded his creative wings and tried to carve an individual path in our competitive art field. He has flourished in this medium. Though the medium is very expensive and time consuming, he has been able to overcome these limitations with his immense effort and devotion. Tapestry is very slow selling but Tajul's enormous fervour and perseverance helps him to continue at this very knotty media.

Tajul's solo tapestry exhibition is now on at Shilpangan Contemporary Art Gallery, Dhanmondi.

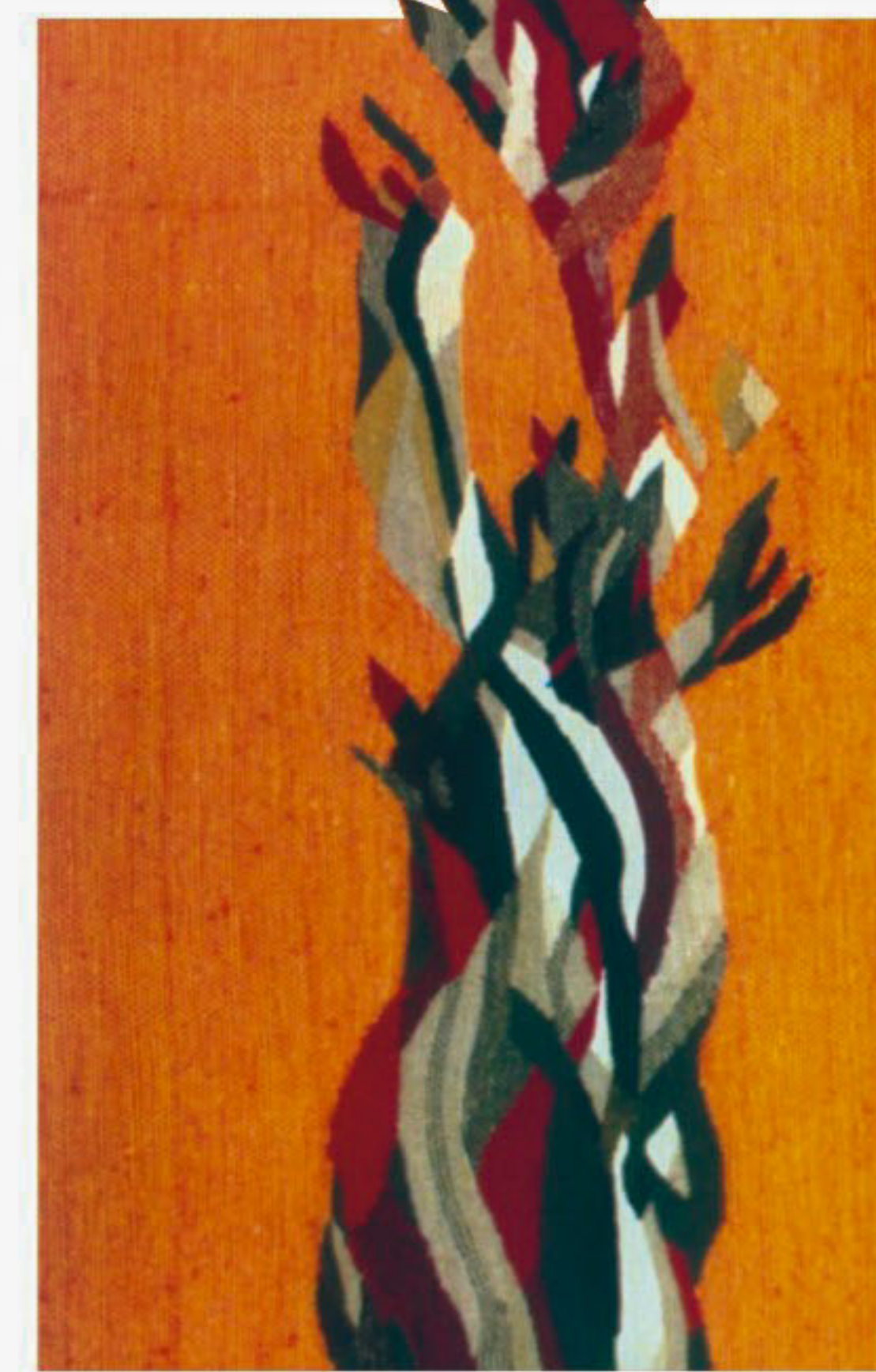
Tajul's forte is to search for fresh themes and present them with a novel approach. This inclination has helped him to hold his position at the forefront of the Bangladeshi art scenario.

Tajul was inspired by his teacher Chowdhury, and has proved his distinctiveness particularly in terms of design and colour composition. The thickness of colours, various geometric compositions and searching for aestheticism are frequently featured in his works. He concentrates on design rather than other angles. He continuously experiments on novel forms and mind-boggling shapes.

Tajul uses vibrant primary colours in the centre and dark colours like black and ash brown in the background to create a contrast of colours. In his recent creations, the artist has chosen to use azure, white, black, crimson, green and brown colours for the background. The artist is deeply inspired by varied organic forms, like growing vegetation, flowers and plants. Human figures occasionally feature in his work.

As a nature lover, Tajul tries to present synchronisation of colour in his works with great warmth and affection. He has used colours with vivid splendour to give a distinct message through his works, which for many years have been impressing colour aficionados both at home and abroad. Tajul's tapestries are lavish with various abstract images. But this abstraction does not hamper the viewers' perception of the artist's feelings and thoughts.

The exhibition ends on January 14.



Tajul Islam tapestries feature at the exhibition.

Winter melodies around Poush



PHOTO COURTESY: GOLAM MAHBUB

Bijoy Mela for working children

ABDUL WAHED, Kurigram

To build awareness on our Liberation War among working children, a day-long Bijoy Mela (victory fair) was observed in Kurigram recently. NGO Bangladesh Development Service Centre (BDSC) had organised the fair under the Non State Actors (NSA) project, funded by Save the Children-UK in Khaliganj School and College ground in Kurigram town. The fair featured various events such as sports, debates, music and art contests, discussion and a drama on the Liberation War. About 600 enthusiastic children visited the fair at various times of the day.

The fair which had 12 stalls was inaugurated on the college grounds by the Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Habibur Rahman as the chief guest. A discussion, presided over by a director of the BDSC Khandakar Ashraf Islam was held at the same location. Among others, convener of Shishu Adhikar Bastobay Forum advocate Abraham Lincoln; general secretary of the district Shilpakala Academy Mohammad Rasheduzzaman Babu; district children organiser of Bangladesh Shishu Academy Mohammad Ahsanuzzaman; general secretary of Kurigram Press Club Advocate Ahsan Habib Nilu; director of NGO Zibka Mohammad Manik Chowdhury and principal of Khaliganj School and College Rita Ranil Dev were speakers at the discussion. The NSA project co-ordinator Mohammad Rahimul Faruk conducted the discussion. About 200 working children participated in the events.

Gearing up for the peak season

In conversation with Jatra artistes



PHOTO: STAR

They uphold a tradition.

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh
Female jatra and drama artistes are gearing up for the peak season to increase their earnings. For the rest of the year, however the 150 female artistes in the district, including 60 in the district town, face hard times. Many are compelled to live in tiny houses mostly in Baghmara and Krishnapur areas of the town.

Several however, have no reason to complain. Rekha Aktar, 25, who hails from Madan in Netrokona, has been in the profession for nearly 10 years. Rekha told this correspondent that during the peak season from November to March, they manage to earn a reasonable income ranging from Taka 15,000 - 20,000 per month. "I act in different roles mainly as the heroine, in social and period dramas and *jatra pala*," said Rekha, who is married. As we are professional, we try to perform better in every show," she added. Mina Begum, 25 who has been in

this profession for quite long, told The Daily Star that she came to Mymensingh from Bagerhat four years ago. "The business for female artistes is better here than anywhere else in the country," said Mina, who has one daughter.

Other artistes too are optimistic. "Now we are hopeful of better days as more jatra and dramas are being staged than in previous years," said Parul Akhtar. The situation was dismal a few years ago. "After a series of bomb blasts in four cinema halls in Mymensingh town in 2002, female artistes and others connected to this art faced a serious crises and many had to quit this profession in order to survive," asserted Parul, going on to add, "Many of us patiently waited for better days and now the situation is gradually improving."

Eti Akhtar Trisha, 14, a young dance artiste in drama and jatra pala said that she entered the profession so that she could support her family. The daughter of a grocery shop owner, she added that she was

contemplating being a professional artiste because income was reasonable.

To build and maintain contacts for their business, female artistes have to maintain constant touch with *saaj ghars* (dress makers), said the artistes.

Nizam Uddin Bhuiyan, proprietor of Nizam Saaj Gar said that 19 female artistes are associated with his house. "When people from different areas come to us to pick up our dresses, we also inform them about the female artistes," Nizam said. "Actually we run our business as family members; and during the off season, we support the artistes according to our ability and when the season starts, they pay back the dues, Nizam added.

Nizam said an organisation named 'Mymensingh Jatra-Natok Shilpi Bahumukhi Kallyan Samabay Samity' of which he is the president, had been set up to promote the welfare of the artistes involved with the profession.

A CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Poush Mela Udjapon Parishad organised a two-day Poush Mela at Ramna Botomul. The festival was inaugurated by eminent cultural personality and adviser of Mela Udjapon Parishad, Ramendu Majumdar, on January 7. The Parishad has been celebrating the festival in the city for the last 12 years. The festival is usually observed on the first day of Poush. The cultural programme began at 7:30am on Friday. Singers of 'Nibedon' performed "Himel Hawaye Poush Elo." Then Shaiful Alam and Rupu Khan rendered some songs on the month of Poush. Nadira Begum, Nargis Chowdhury, Shuborno Kazi, Abu Bakar Siddique, Ifiat Ara Nargis, and other artistes rendered chorus songs on winter and rural rituals. Indigenous artistes of the Garo community also presented traditional dances.

The festival featured rows of stalls of exotic pitha and other traditional delicacies. A splendid marquee was set before the colourful stage. The programme was presided over by Golam Kuddus, vice presi-

dent of Sammilito Shangkritik Jote. Biswajit Roy and Hasan Arif spoke on the event. They discussed the importance of representing the rituals of our seasons to the young generation. The event was hosted by Manjar Chowdhury.

The mela featured recitation, songs, theatre, street plays, jatrappala, dance and instrumental music.

Members of cultural organisations, including Nibedon, Spondon and Satyen Sen presented performances. Ramna Botomul wore a festive look with enthusiastic crowds coming together at the weekend.



The mela featured recitation, songs, theatre, street plays, jatrappala, dance and instrumental music.

04:10	Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey	01:10	Die Hard 2
05:30	Amar Jigasha	03:20	Soorory Row
07:30	Sholo Ana Bangali Ana	05:05	Signs
09:00	Drama: Bikel-er Sona Road	07:00	Edge Of Darkness
		09:10	Twilight
		11:15	Soorory Row
ETV	DW Today Tomorrow	HBO	G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra
05:30	Ei Shoptalher Bidhya	03:15	Anacondas Trail of Blood
06:30	Desh Jurey Oporadh	05:00	The Shepherd
	Porikroma	09:30	Case 39
07:50	Musical Programme: Ta Na Na	12:00	Starship Troopers 3: Marauder
10:10	Media Gossip		
BANGLAVISION	Shudhui Gaan	12:30	Two And A Half Men
10:10	Art Show: Lal Golap	04:30	RIPping The Decade
02:30	Bangla Feature Film	08:30	How I Met Your Mother
06:05	Ebong Clax-er Bairey	09:30	Koffee With Karan
11:30	Business Vision	10:30	Royal Pains
		11:30	Warehouse 13
Rtv	Rebi Jege Acha Ki	12:30	Discovery Channel
02:30	Bangla Feature Film	12:30	Raging Planet
05:30	Biyer Golpo	02:30	How The Universe Works
11:30	Amar Panno Amar Desh	03:30	Destroyed in Seconds
		06:30	A Life Telling Tigers
Desh TV	Desh Janpad	07:30	Man Made Marvels
06:25	Shongskriti Sharadesh	09:30	Are We Alone?
12:30	Total Sports		National Geographic

DRAMA SERIAL	
CHANNEL 1	08:20pm Bibidho
05:30pm Mahonpurer Golpo	09:30pm Ghatok Baki Bhai
ATN BANGLA	BANGLAVISION
09:20pm Laboti	08:15pm Jamai Mela
10:55pm Ocheni Manush	09:45pm Fifty Fifty
ntv	Rtv
02:30pm Labonno Prova	09:20pm Life is Beautiful
ETV	10:20pm Tourist
	Diganta TV

NEWS BULLETIN	
BTV	BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am	News (Bangla) at 7:30am
2:00 pm 5:00 pm 8:00 pm	7:00 pm 8:00 pm
News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm	News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels)	News (English) at 6:00pm Rtv
News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am	News (Bangla): 2:30am, 4:30am, 7:30am, 9:30am
CHANNEL-1	News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am
ATN BANGLA	NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am
NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am	NEWS (English): 9:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 6:00pm

TALK SHOW	
ATN BANGLA	ntv
11:05am Asian City Vision 2020	12:00am Ei Shomoy
Desh TV	ETV
11:45pm Shoa Khat	12:00am Elusher Dupur
CHANNEL 1	BANGLAVISION
09:45am Gramphone	09:05pm Amar Ami
Tintomanta	Rtv
06:20pm Super Brand	08:30 Road to Democracy