

WHAT'S ON

Independence Day Programme
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Shilpakala Academy open ground

Theatre
Play: Et Yeokaste
Troupe: Azanqak
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: April 1
Time: 6:15pm and 7:30pm

Group Art Exhibition
Organiser: Dhaka Art Centre and Shako
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7A, H-60, Dharmond
Date: March 19-29
Time: 11am-7pm

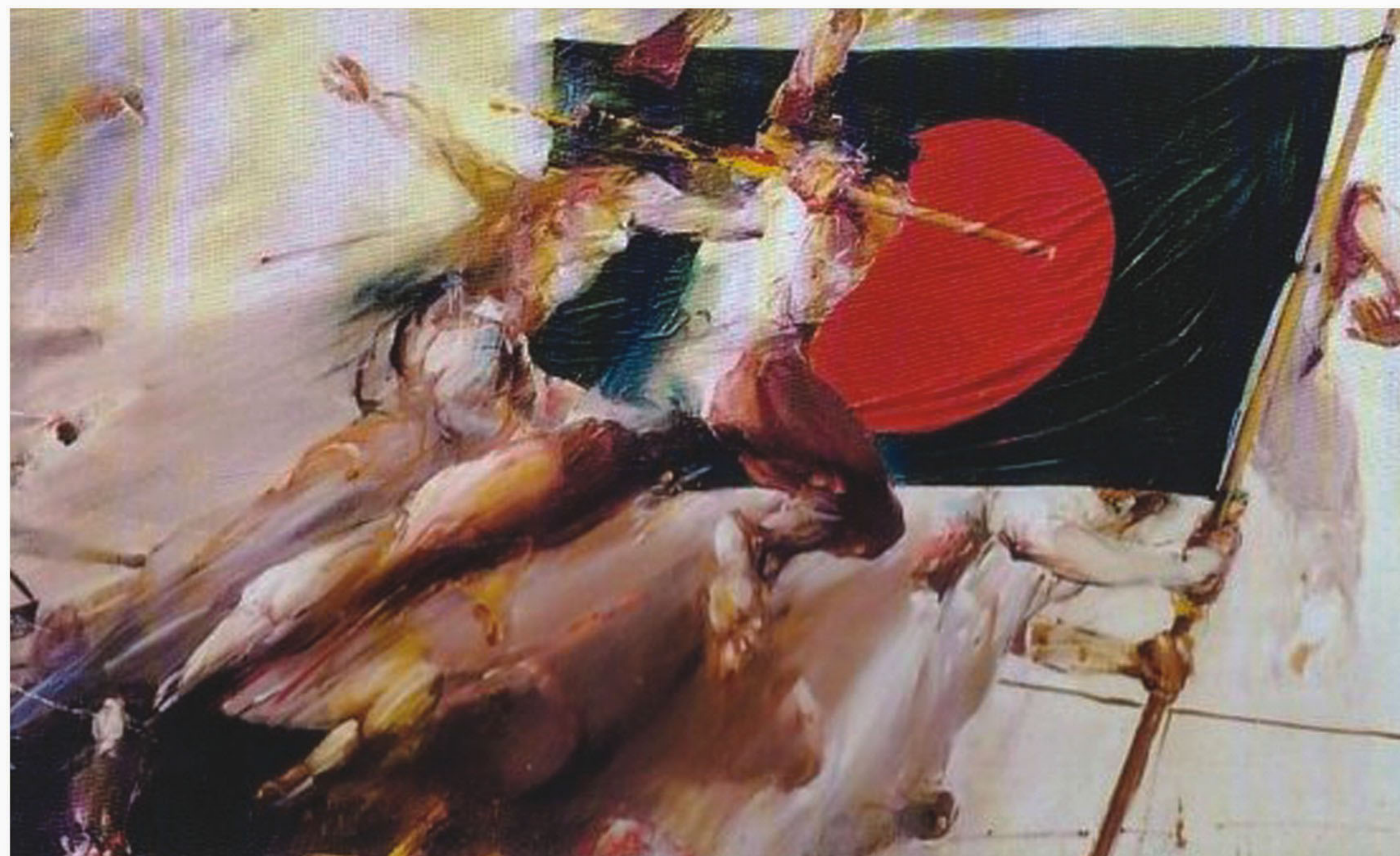
Rooted Creativity-9
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H-275/F, R-16, Dhanmondi
Date: March 22-31
Time: 12pm-8pm

Ganosangeet Album Launch
Album: Gano Manusher Gaan
Troupe: Uddhi
Venue: Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 27

Photography Exhibition
Title: In Search
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi
Date: March 25-April 6

What is Freedom?

What is freedom and what makes it so important? Is freedom just about the right to choose, the right to create for yourself the alternatives of choice? Great thinkers, politicians, writers, and artists have debated the meaning of freedom throughout history. On the occasion of our 40th Independence Day, we asked 15 of the leading and emerging Bangladeshi cultural personalities what freedom means to them:



FROM SHAHABUDDIN'S VICTORY SERIES

Ferdousi Majumdar, actor

For me freedom is the ability to do what I'm supposed to do with contentment and sincerity. If we don't find any pleasure in anything or whatever we're doing, we can't carry on. However, I firmly believe twisting the meaning of freedom to do whatever one wants, disregarding anyone else's rights, is appalling. Anarchy in the name of freedom should be avoided. Financial freedom ensures the basic human rights. Freedom should be achieved and retained forever. In my creative field I enjoy absolute freedom in choosing any role and enacting it in my own way.

Monirul Islam, painter

We always talk about liberty, but have we really tasted liberty? As an artist, I think that artists do not enjoy freedom in the absolute sense. An artist may be engrossed in too many thoughts at the same time. An artist is not always able to accurately portray his desires and aspirations on the canvas. Often, influences of master artists like Rembrandt, Goya and others are clearly evident in many artists' works. Freedom is very mysterious to me. It's very difficult to define.

Rafiq Azad, poet

Freedom of conscience is very crucial for human beings. Freedom, however, is much more than just being able to move about freely. It entails responsibility and making choices, which can also include wrong ones. As a freedom fighter, I feel freedom lets me explore ideas that have been articulated in my poems. My poetry reflects my experiences of the war.

Sabina Yasmin, singer

Independence from an authority that interferes in your work and attempts to impose unjustified decisions on you is freedom. To me as an artist, singing the way I want is freedom. In the music industry, I enjoy complete freedom. No one can force anything on me. I think artists enjoy freedom more than others in the society. At least that is what I see.

Aly Zaker, actor-director

In a mathematical manner, to me, 'freedom' equals to two times of 'independence'. We achieved independence in 1971 through our Liberation War but are yet to earn total freedom. This freedom would be accomplished if we can free our intellect from narrow-mindedness and bigotry. If I were not a citizen of a sovereign country, I couldn't have achieved whatever I have now. My theatre activism initiated in an independent country, which would not be possible in an occupied land. This is not only applicable to me but the whole nation.

Shibli Mohammad, dancer

Independence appears to me as a map, a flag and a country. I realise that those who didn't want the independence of our country, have been involved in national decision-making for



Ferdousi Majumdar



Shibli Mohammad



Mostafa Sarwar Farooki



Monirul Islam



Suborna Mustafa



Giasuddin Selim



Rafiq Azad



Samiran Chowdhury



Krishnakali



Sabina Yasmin



Azad Abul Kalam



Shayan



Aly Zaker



Hyder Husyn



Warda Rehab

Suborna Mustafa, actor

I was old enough to understand what was happening around me during the Liberation War. Later, I came to know the meaning of independence as opposed to subjugation, from my father. After Bangladesh achieved independence, I felt like I could fly because the vultures had left my sky. But, now I translate the concept of freedom as a state where no one can do me wrong and I

don't curb anyone else's rights. In other words, freedom is an individual's right to do whatever (s)he wants while respecting others' rights. I wouldn't do anything that interferes with my freedom.

Samiran Chowdhury, painter

To me, liberty is every moment alive. Freedom means feeling safe and secure in my

country. My canvas is a place where I can use colours, forms and textures of my choice. Paintings give me an opportunity to do what I like to do. To me, freedom means having the right to decide freely.

Azad Abul Kalam, actor-director

Personally, I feel that an individual's freedom can play the most important role in the

advancement of human civilisation. Ironically, the state never allows an individual to be completely free and it cannot ensure to an individual's freedom at all times either. I'd say I enjoy freedom in my personal life. In my profession, however, there are some question marks. When I'm an actor I have to follow the director's decisions, when I'm a director I have to respect the views of my producer. But when I write, I do feel completely free.

Hyder Husyn, singer-composer-lyricist

"Whatever you want, you should be able to do it by any means" is not the appropriate definition of freedom. I believe in thoughtfulness, consideration and respect for others; these values are essential aspects of freedom. As a musician, I never worry about my freedom. In fact, I've never been concerned about my personal freedom; rather I want to serve my duties as a citizen.

Mostafa Sarwar Farooki, filmmaker

I think my concept of freedom differs from those of others. Whatever I do without harming others is freedom to me. I would never be able to do what I do in the media if it wasn't for the complete freedom I enjoy in my profession. My co-workers also enjoy the same kind of liberty.

Giasuddin Selim, filmmaker

To be your own boss, not to accept anything that's forced on you and not forcing anything on others -- these ideas are combined into freedom. I enjoy freedom to its full extent in my line of work. I encourage my co-workers to be independent and think freely when it comes to doing anything creative. I've always believed that freedom remarkably enhances creative abilities in people. That is the principle on which I work.

Krishnakali, singer-composer-lyricist

The word freedom denotes a set of questions to me. In an independent state, the policymakers and the common people are supposed to have equal freedom of voicing their opinions on things that matter in their lives. And the opinions of common people are supposed to affect the policies made by the state. But I ask: Do we, the common people, under the leadership of any government, enjoy the right of having a say in the policymaking? The disparity of wealth between the rich and the majority of the population is unfathomable. These and other similar questions come to mind as I think of freedom and independence.

Shayan, singer-composer-lyricist

The concept of independence, to me, is the identity of my existence. A considerable length of time has passed since the country achieved its freedom. But for some reasons, the present state of our country falls short of expectations of both the people who fought for independence and the generations of Bangladeshis born after 1971. I believe this history of failure holds us responsible. But still, shame and failure notwithstanding, independence means an identity I own: a green passport and a red-green flag. This is all freedom means to me. I don't want to conflate issues of economic growth and reform, corruption and development with independence, which is an identity.

Warda Rehab, dancer

Freedom denotes free choice to do something without having any constraint or restriction. To me, freedom varies in different stages of life, considering the situation. So, freedom is a relative factor which varies from person to person. Freedom in one sector creates another wish-list to have another freedom. I feel blessed for having the freedom and support of my family to be able to commit myself to the art form -- dance -- I'm passionate about. As a classical dancer, my freedom encompasses everything about dance.

Interviews by **TAKIR HOSSAIN, SHAH ALAM SHAZU, JAMIL MAHMUD, ZAHANGIR ALOM AND AKRAM HOSEN MAMUN.**

ATN BANGLA	01:10	Time to Cricket	
02:50	Bangla Feature Film	03:20	Bangla Feature Film
06:15	Betar Juddho	05:15	Boishakhi-CNN Shara Bishwa
08:45	Drama: Juddho Ekhon Baki	08:45	Drama: Ekjon Shakhina
10:45	Bihango Kotha	12:30	Shudhu Cinemar Gaan
10:55	Shadhinator Gaan		Diganta TV
11:30	World Cup Big Hits	10:30	Time Line 1971
		01:30	School Angina
		08:05	Shadhinota Amar
		09:00	Drama: Ebong Odhakar
		11:05	Down the Wicket
			Z Studio
		11:10	Life Gamble
		01:30	Friday the 13th: A New Beginning
		04:30	Shanghai Knights
		07:10	Father of the Bride
		09:30	Iron Will

RADIO	
abc radio FM 89.2	08:00
09:00	Makomto Sherry
12:25	Standard Chartered-The Daily Star Jiboner
03:00	Joygan
05:00	Duranto Bidoley
09:00	Shandhata
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