



Four Decades of Victory

Shilpkala Academy's month-long celebration begins



A range of performances on the opening day.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Marking four decades of independence, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy (BSA) is holding a month-long 'Bijoy Utshab' (Victory Day Festival) -- featuring a number of cultural programmes at its premises.

The celebration began at 6pm on November 30 and was formally inaugurated at midnight on December 1 through lighting of 40,000 candles at the BSA premises. Chief guest, Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad, inaugurated the festival. A range of cultural events will be held at 'Unmukto Moncho' (open stage) of BSA till December 31.

Highlights of the inaugural programme included solo, group recitations and renditions, as well as dance performances by noted and emerging artistes and troupes;

film screening; magic shows and much more.

With releasing *phanush* in the air and pulsating beats of dhol, the event kicked off. Artistes and troupes recited poetry and rendered patriotic and Baul songs.

Several artistes of the TSC-based recitation troupe, Songbitra Abriti Chorcha O Bikash Kendra, presented their production "Abhijan-er Bir Shenadol" -- featuring poems of the National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Labonyo Shilpi compiled and directed the production.

Director General of BSA, Liakat Ali Lucky, sang a cover of a Bhupen Hazarika song, "Mongol Hok Ei Shotokey Mongol Shobar". Elocutionists of Charubak presented their production "Khubdho Shodesh Bhumi" at the event. Artistes of Dibyo Shangskritik Shangothon staged a dance to the patriotic song "Ekti Bangladesh Tumi Jagroto Janotar".

Akramul Islam sang a patriotic song "O Amar Desh-er Shona", while noted folk singer Kanon Bala Sarkar rendered "Kyan Jani Aaj Bondhur Lagi" at the programme.

Artistes of several musical troupes, including Uldichi, Wrishtiz Shilpi Goshthi, Nibedon, Bonhishikha and two Baul troupes led by Kuddus Boyati and Momota Dasi performed choruses while Samir Baul, Pagla Bablu, Joydev Karmakar and Amjad Dewan performed solos.

Group dance performances by artistes of Shadhma, Nrityanandan, Dhriti, Nrityalok Shangskritik Kendra, Bangladesh Academy of Fine Arts and other troupes drew good turnout. Shadhma's performance stood out.

An installation, replicating killing fields, at the BSA premises reminds everyone of the atrocities carried out by the Pakistani army and their local collaborators during the Liberation War.

ZAHANGIR ALOM

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