

WHAT'S ON

Victory Day Celebration
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Shilpakala Academy premises

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Of Rupture and Continuity
Artist: Monimul Islam
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60 Gulshan Avenue
Date: Dec 10-23

Victory Festival 2011
Venue: Liberation War Museum, Segunbagicha
Date: Dec 10-16
Time: 5pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Let there be Light
Artist: Ashok Karmaker
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H-42, Rd-16, Dhamondhi
Date: Dec 12-17

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Express Yourself
Participants: American and Bangladeshi Artists
Venue: Dhaka Arts Centre, H-60, Rd-7A, Dhamondhi
Date: Dec 8-17, Time: 6-9pm

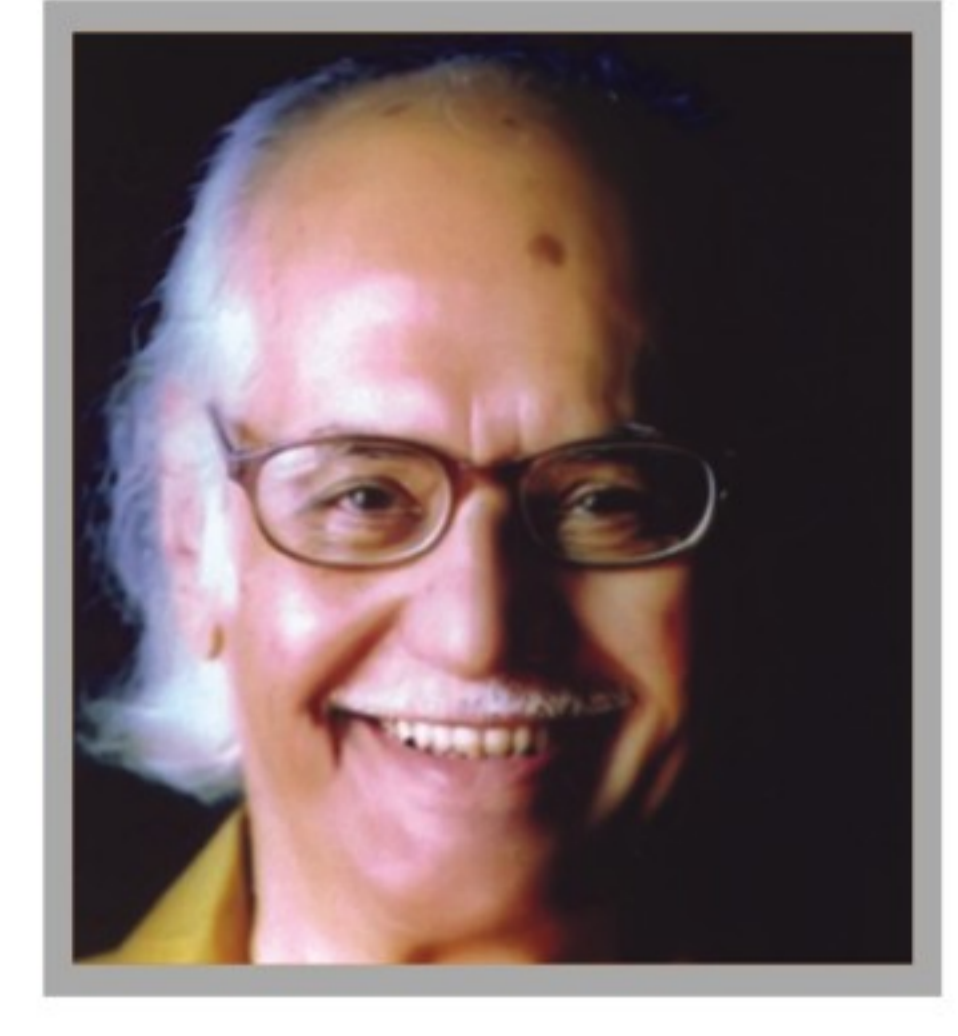
Documentary Screening on Liberation War
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhamondhi
Date: Dec 13-17

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Masters of Bangladesh Art '11
Venue: Radius Centre, Gulshan-1
Date: Nov 25-Dec 17

16th Berger Young Painters' Art Exhibition
Venue: Zamil Gallery, FFA, DU
Date: Dec 11-15
Time: 10am-6pm

Travels through Liberty

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury (1923- 2011)



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Pakistani army wanted me to sign a statement that said the situation of the then East Pakistan was calm and no genocide was taking place here. Sufia Kamal and I refused to sign that statement although our lives were on the line. They [Pakistani occupation forces] then printed a statement putting our names on it but without our signatures.

People who were known mass-murderers, rapists and looters during the Liberation War should be arrested immediately. I fear that these people would pose a threat to the country's peace and stability.

I've urged the government not to allow war criminals and suspects to leave the country. I demand a secular, democratic and non-communal Bangladesh. (Interview published on December 16, 2010)

Kabir Chowdhury no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent educationist and litterateur Kabir Chowdhury died of cardiac arrest yesterday at his residence in Naya Paltan, Dhaka. He was 89.

Chowdhury was born in 1923 at Brahmanbaria, of the then Tipperah district of united Bengal. His family hailed from Noakhali's Chatkhlia area.

With a master's in English literature -- graduating in 1944 from the Dhaka University -- Chowdhury was appointed education secretary in 1972 immediately after the Liberation War when his younger brother Shaheed Munier Chowdhury was killed by the local collaborators of the Pakistani army.

He was member-secretary of the first National Education Commission under Dr. Kudrat-e-Khuda and later, became the education, sports and cultural affairs secretary.

Chowdhury also played a major role as the director of Bangla Academy from early 1969 to mid-1972 in propagating secular values during the mass movements in the period. He was made the National Professor in 1998.

He headed several organisations that worked for secular democracy, such as the "Ekkattorer

Remembering Ritwik Kumar Ghatak



Litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque (2-R) inaugurates the event.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Commemorating the 86th birth anniversary of master filmmaker Ritwik Kumar Ghatak, a three-day programme was held recently in Rajshahi. The programme, organised by Ritwik Ghatak Film Society, was held at the Rajshahi Homeopathic Medical College in Ghoramara.

On the concluding day, Ghatak's twin sister Protiti Devi, eminent actor Probr Mitra and film producer Habibur Rahman Khan were accorded with a reception for their involvement with Ghatak's film "Titas Ekti Nadir Naam". The late filmmaker Tareque Masud and actor Master Tofazzal Hossain were honoured at the function. The programme concluded with the screening of Ritwik's film "Suborno Rekha". Litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque inaugurated the programme.

Sabbir Chowdhury, general secretary of Federation of Film Societies of Bangladesh; actor and poet Dikdar Hossain; writer and teacher Dr. Toshikul Islam Raja and teacher Farida Sultana attended the inaugural function. Absan Kabir Liton, President, Rajshahi Film Society chaired the function that was followed by a screening of Ghatak's film "Ajantrik".

At a discussion on the second day, film researcher and documentary maker Monish Rafiq presented a keynote paper on "Ritwik Ghatak's films are canvas of the destitute". Film critic Moinuddin Khaled; writer Zakir Talukdar; poet and filmmaker Tokon Thakur; poet and banker Ariful Haque Kumar and journalist Akbarul Khasan Millat were also present at the discussion. Later, "Titas Ekti Nadir Naam" was screened. The speakers demanded naming the venue after Ritwik Ghatak, since it was his house, which was later, turned into a medical college.

Ritwik was born in Dhaka on November 4, 1925. He stayed in Rajshahi for several years until his family moved to Kolkata in the 1940s. Partition, having a major impact on Ghatak, was a recurring subject in his works.

Ritwik Ghatak Film Society has been holding commemorative programmes in Rajshahi for years to pay tribute to the maestro. Ghatak's films are now celebrated in India and beyond. Nevertheless, he is occasionally remembered ceremonially in Bangladesh. The organisers hoped that such programmes would help the young know more about their cultural roots.

Wanna Celebration in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

People of the Garo community, one of the major ethnic groups of the country, celebrated their biggest festival 'Wanna' (harvest) at Askipara, under Haluaghat upazila.

On December 9, Askipara took on a very festive look as Garos of different age groups attired themselves in traditional clothes. Dance and music marked the conclusion of the two-day celebration, starting from last Thursday evening.

Garo women wear traditional clothes and adorn themselves with *daksharee*, *dakmanda*, *thami*, *taps*, *rekmachu*, *kannachil* and more. Local artists performed at the cultural programmes, the most enjoyable part of the celebration featuring traditional musical instruments -- *kakawa*, *nanglist*, *rangkilding*, *rangbong* -- in choruses and dances.

Cultural teams from Haluaghat and Dhubaura of Mymensingh and Madhupur of Tangail took part at the last



Dance and music marked the conclusion of the two-day celebration.

day's programme. The teams included Monikura Sangskritik Dol, Joyramkura Sangskritik Dol, Palashtoli Sangskritik Dol, Aynatoli Sangskritik Dol, Nalkura Sangskritik Dol, Askipara Sangskritik Dol, Sangra Sangskritik Dol, Telikhali Sangskritik Dol, Sangra Chibak Group and a team from Dhaka. They performed a variety of dances enacting regular household and outdoor activities.

William Hanna, Ambassador, Head of Delegation, European Union; Fabrizz Senesi, Senior Programme Officer of European Union and eminent theatre personality Mamunur Rashid spoke at a discussion on the concluding day. Sanjib Dronng, Convener of Wanna Celebration Committee,

presided over the event. Terming the festival "flamboyant and charming", the speakers were of the view that the diverse and strong cultural identity of the Garo people could be observed in these performances.

During harvest, the Garos pray for prosperity through making offerings to the Divine. Once this celebration was only observed in Meghalaya, India, but now it is being observed in both Mymensingh and Tangail in Bangladesh. Talking to this correspondent, Monindra Chiran, Father of Jhaljhalia Catholic Church in Haluaghat, said that, "Wanna is one of the biggest festivals of the Garo people. It has spiritual and social importance."

Natives, coming from adjoining villages to enjoy the festival, said that they wait the whole year for the celebration. The festival began with receiving the guests with *dakmanda*, *daksharee*, *katub* and *ganna*. The celebration ended with a Mandi chorus -- "Hareraray, Hareraray" -- that offers gratitude to God for a good harvest.

PHOTO: STAR

Celebrating Narail Mukto Dibosh

PONUEL S BOSE, Narail

A cultural programme marking December 10 as 'Narail Mukto Dibosh' (Narail Free Day) was held at Narail Shilpakala Academy premises.

Organised by Mukti Joddha Command Council's Sadar upazila unit, the programme included lathi khela, art competition and live performances. The soiree at Narail District Shilpakala Academy premises saw a large turnout.

In remembrance of the Liberation War, Narail Chitra Theatre depicted the battle scenes with the freedom fighters and Pakistan occupation forces.

Earlier in the morning Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad's Sadar Upazila unit, in association with the District Mukti Joddha Command Unit and other socio-cultural organisations, held special programmes. The programmes included hoisting of the National Flag, placing wreaths on the portrait of Bangabandhu and at the Shaheed Minar, bringing out a colourful rally and offering special prayers.



An artiste performs at the programme.

Celebrating 40 years of independence Theatre festival kicks off in Dinajpur

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Celebrating the 40th anniversary of independence, a seven-day long theatre festival began in Dinajpur last Friday evening. The Deputy Commissioner's Office has assisted in organising the festival.

Seven theatre groups from six districts including Rajshahi, Rangpur, Meherpur, Dhaka, Gaibandha and Kurigram took part in the event. All the cultural organisations of Dinajpur assisted to hold one of the biggest theatre festivals in the region. Ranjit Kumar Biswas, secretary, Social Welfare Ministry inaugurated the festival as the chief guest at Dinajpur Shilpakala Academy premises. Md. Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner of Dinajpur, chaired the discussion while noted theatre personality Moloy Bhowmik and Shajahan Shah delivered speeches.

Speakers urged the cultural activists



A scene from the play "Bagdi Dhuruyal".

to uphold the values of the Liberation War through their plays.

Anusilan theatre group of Rajshahi performed a play on December 9. "Roth-er Roshi" of Rabindranath Tagore, directed by Moloy Bhowmik, was staged at Rabindra Mancho of Dinajpur Shilpakala Academy. Other plays including, "Bagdi Dhuruyal", authored and directed by Arif Haidar of Rangpur Natya Kendra, was staged on December 11; "Ekattur" of Meherpur Theatre, scripted by Hasanuzzaman Malek and directed by Saidur Rahman; "Lal Jamin" of Shunno Theatre, Dhaka, scripted by Mannan Hira and directed by Shudipta Chakraborty was staged on December 12; "Circus Circus" of Prachyanat Theatre of Dhaka, scripted and directed by Azad Abul Kalam, was staged yesterday.

Moreover, "Biplob Bokkhe Shodosh" of Prochhad, Kurigram -- written and directed by Helal Uddin Ahmed and Julkarnain Swapan respectively -- will be staged as well.

The festival has generated much enthusiasm among the audience.

Bangladesh cultural fest in Canada

A CORRESPONDENT

Eminent dancer and choreographer Shamim Ara Nipa and Shibli Mohammad will wing their way to attend the Bangladesh Cultural Festival in Calgary, Canada to be held on 23rd and 24th December at Hayatt Regency Hotel. Noted singers Sabina Yasmeen, Andrew Kishor, Hasan Abidur Reza Jewel and several other singers will also participate in the festival.

The festival is organised by Bangladesh-Canada Association of Calgary.

The two day cultural festival will include an exhibition, cultural show and concert. Bangladeshis from all around Canada will be attending the grand event.



US box office hits three-year low

The US box office has suffered its lowest takings in three years, despite the pulling power of romantic comedy New Year's Eve's all-star cast.

The film, featuring the likes of Sarah Jessica Parker, Halle Berry, Robert De Niro and Ashton Kutcher debuted at number one with just \$13.7m (£8.8m). Jonah Hill comedy The Sitter opened at number two with just \$10m (£6.4m).

The poor weekend leaves total box office revenues for 2011 about four percent down compared to last year. "It's unbelievable how bad it is," said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian. The last two weeks have been the lowest-performing at the US box office for the entire year.

Cinema-goers spent \$77.4m (£49.5m) on tickets over the weekend, down from \$81m (£52m) the previous week. Reviews for New Year's Eve, a follow-up to box office hit Valentine's Day, were not kind.

The London Evening Standard said: "This is one of those unusual films that's more boring than life."

Time magazine added: "Neither nicely written, nor nicely acted nor nicely made."

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part 1 found itself in its third place with takings of \$7.9m (£5.1m). The fourth film in the vampire franchise has made around \$260m (£167m) in the US so far.

Disney's The Muppets took fourth place for the weekend with \$7.1m (£4.5m) and British comedy animation Arthur Christmas took the fifth spot with \$6.6m (£4.2m). Its total earnings in the US now stand at \$33.5m (£21.5m).

Next weekend sees the release of Hollywood's end-of-year blockbusters with Robert Downey Jr returning in Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows and the family film Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked.

Also on the horizon are Tom Cruise's Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol and David Fincher's adaptation of The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo.



The ensemble cast of New Year's Eve includes Jon Bon Jovi, Michelle Pfeiffer and Zac Efron.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

COLLECTIVE SACRIFICE

On the eve of their unconditional surrender to the Bangladesh-India Joint Command on December 16, the Pakistani army with their local collaborators, brutally killed hundreds of leading intellectuals of the country, as part of a master plan to academically cripple the soon to be liberated nation. Every year the nation mourns December 14 as the Martyred Intellectuals Day. Streams of people will visit the Martyred Intellectuals Monument at Rayer Bazar today. According to Banglapedia, the dead intellectuals include an estimated 991 teachers, 13 journalists, 49 physicians, 42 lawyers, and 16 writers, artists and engineers. Their sacrifice, and the reason for the sacrifice, has made them immortals. The nation's freedom was born through their collective sacrifice. An installation depicting the brutality was held at the Shilpakala Academy premises as part of their month long victory day celebrations.



ATN BANGLA	11:30 Binodon O Shongskriti
11:30 Business and Finance	Sanghad
11:25 Band View	Maaranga Television
08:00 Destination Unlimited	10:02 Bangla Feature Film
10:55 Bibeker Kache Proshno	06:30 Bangladesh Priyo
11:30 Drama Serial: Arogy	Bangladesh
CHANNEL 1	07:30 Prime Issue
11:05 Sports Time (Live)	08:00 Shillipi
01:05 Ebhong (Cinemar Gaan)	12:00 Shampotrik
03:05 Tele-film: Dja	Z Studio
09:35 Drama Serial: Shokal	10:45 Just Like Heaven
Sandhya Raat	01:30 Couching Tiger Hidden Dragon
11:30 Aloy Bhubon Bhora	06:40 King Arthur
BANGLAVISION	09:30 The Greatest Game Ever Played
01:05 Bangla Feature Film	12:10 Catch Me if You Can
05:25 Bichitra	01:25 A Knight's Tale
09:05 Shoundorjo Kotha	03:40 The Lost Future
11:25 Music Club	07:00 Good Neighbours
ntv	
11:30 Glamour World	
04:10 Janar Achhyo Bolar Achhy	

abc radio FM 89.2	10:00 Morning Express
06:00 Bhoos Janalay	12:00 No Tension
09:00 Mukhorho Jibonyo	04:00 Dhaka Calling
12:00 Darun Dupurey	09:00 Rishors
03:00 Desanta Bakiy	RADIO TQFM 94.9
05:00 Shondha Tara	06:00 Green FM
07:00 Shaj-er Maya	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
09:00 Raat-er Akashy	12:00 Today's Adda
11:00 Gajper Shesh Net	04:00 U Turn
Radio Footi!	07:30 Today's Hit
07:30 Hello Dhaka	10:00 Raat Bhor Gaan

The War Crimes File
On Desh TV at 9:45pm
Documentary
Directed by Howard Bradburn

Get Him to the Greek
On HBO at 09:30pm
Genre: Comedy
Cast: Jonah Hill, Russell Brand

Fourth Class Society
On Boishakhi TV at 08:10pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Kollan Koraisi, Humaira Himu

06:50 Documentary: Nirob	08:40 Predators
Kanna	10:35 Anaranda
08:15 Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe	HBO
09:00 Kichu Katha Kichu Gaan	11:55 Chili Factor
Rtv	04:00 Turistas
01:10 Bangla Feature Film	07:40 Spiders
05:00 Cinema Er Gaan	09:30 Get Him to the Greek
09:50 Lucky Line	11:35 Sherlock Holmes
12:05 Ghar-e Ghar-e Uthshab	StarWorld
ETV	11:30 Love's Hate U
04:30 DW Global 3000	03:30 The Devaris
06:30 Baula Ontor	09:30 Master Chef USA
07:50 Fashion and Fame	10:30 The Shield
08:20 Drama Serial: Ahongkar	11:30 The Big Bang Theory
10:10 Trinamool Sanglap	National Geographic Channel
Desh TV	02:30 Trapped
04:00 Desh Janagad	06:30 Super Cars Week
04:30 Durpath	10:30 Most Amazing Moments
06:30 Durer Janala	11:30 Caught in the act
08:15 Drama Serial: Saatkahon	12:00 The Indestructibles
09:45 The War Crimes File	Discovery Channel
Boishakhi TV	03:30 A Haunting
10:30 Bangla Feature Film	04:30 Dual Survival
04:15 Shorashori Doctor	08:30 Killer Outbreaks
05:30 Shudhu Cinemar Gaan	09:30 Man vs. Wild
10:35 Drama Serial: Talbat	

ATN BANGLA	11:30pm Det Com Fantasy
08:00m Chaid Phul Omabohya	BANGLAVISION
09:20pm Pooch Phaguner Pala	08:15pm No Problem
CHANNEL 1	ntv
07:50pm Kuschar Phona	09:45pm Sabuj Nokkhotro
08:25pm Local	ETV
Rtv	09:30pm Ghatat Baki Bhai
09:05pm Boyra Paribar	Desh TV
	07:45pm Gohinye

ETV	BANGLAVISION	BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am	News (Bangla) at 7:30am	News (Bangla) at 7:30am
2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm	1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm	1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm
News (English) at 10:00am	4:00 pm, 10:00 pm	News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm
News (English) at 8:00pm	News (English) at 8:00pm	News (English) at 8:00pm
News (Bangla): 2:30 pm	4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm	10:30 pm, 12:30 pm
CHANNEL-1	News (Bangla): 7:00 am	9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm
News (Bangla): 7:00 am	10:30 pm, 12:30 am	12:30pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm
ATN BANGLA	NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 am	10:30pm, 1:00am
NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 am	10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am	11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm
01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm	News (English): 9:00 am, 6:00 pm	5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

ATN BANGLA	12:30am El Showmy
06:15pm Kothamala	Rtv
12:30am Lead News	10:40am Tankalap
CHANNEL 1	07:40pm Our Democracy
09:45am Tritio Matra	ETV
12:30pm Taroka Kothon	12:05am Elushey-er Raat
BANGLAVISION	Desh TV
06:25pm Front Line	11:45pm Shoja Katha
ntv	Boishakhi TV