

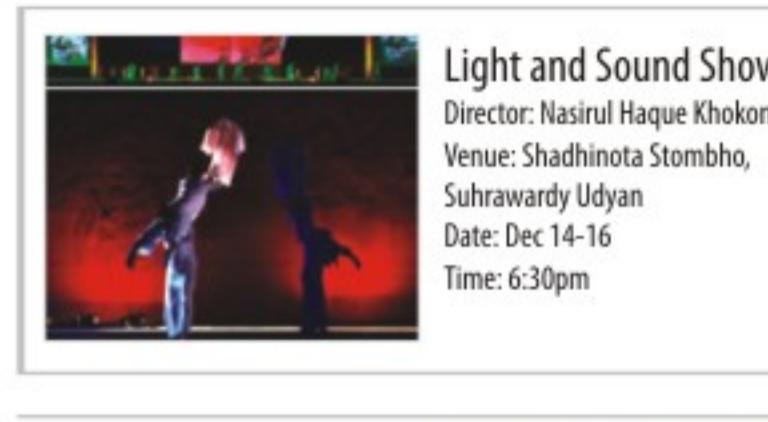
## WHAT'S ON



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



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



Light and Sound Show  
Director: Nasirul Haque Khan  
Venue: Shilpkala Academy, Stombo  
Suhrawardy Uddan  
Date: Dec 14-16, 8:30pm



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



Group Art Exhibition  
Title: Express Yourself  
Participants: American and  
Bangladeshi Artists  
Venue: Shilpkala Arts Centre, H-60,  
Rd-7A, Dhamondi  
Date: Dec 8-17, Time: 3-8pm



Documentary Screening  
on Liberation War  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre,  
Dhamondi  
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: Zainul Gallery, FFA, DU  
Date: Dec 11-15  
Time: 10am-6pm

## Travels through Liberty

In conversation with Selina Hossain

The varied experiences during 23 years of being a part of Pakistan -- Language Movement (1952), Tagore Birth Centenary (1961), Mass Uprising (1969) etc -- provided Bengali writers with inspiring subjects and themes for their novels, stories and poems. Added to that was the passion that withstood state-sponsored attempts to distort Bangla and the radical Islamisation of our culture. No other nation in the sub-continent has gone through a war to become a sovereign nation. These experiences gave our literature an edge, a dimension. I consider this to be an achievement. Contemporary litterateurs have stayed on that track.

Another major achievement is the emergence of Bangladeshi writers in the global literary scene. Indian and Pakistani writers have already made their mark worldwide. Over the last six/seven years, Bangladeshi writing in English, like Kaiser Haq and Tahmina Anam, have made significant achievements.

Though theatre as a performing art form has been hugely popular in Bangladesh, as a form of literature, plays have not really flourished. This is one literary medium that needs focus. In recent years, interest in poetry seems to have somewhat cooled off as well. I think honest, unbiased literary criticism is more or less absent in Bangladesh.



## Shakil and Fahmida to perform on Victory Day in Kolkata

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted Nazrul artiste Khairul Anam Shakil and popular adhunik singer Fahmida Nabi will perform at the Victory Day celebration programmes to be held on December 16 and December 18 at the premises of Bangladeshi High Commission in Kolkata, India. Every year, the Bangladeshi High Commission in Kolkata arranges a

victory fair and festival at its premises and arranges programmes by Bangladeshi artistes. This year Fahmida and Shakil are the invitees at the festival. A dance troupe from Bangladeshi Shilpkala Academy will accompany the singer duo.

The cultural programme featuring patriotic songs and dance will be telecast live on Tara Music TV. Besides, a fair will also be held showcasing Bangladeshi products. Fahmida will also be the featured artiste in a live musical programme on Tara Music channel today. The programme will be aired between 7:30-9:15 pm (Bangladesh time).

"This time I am going to celebrate Victory Day abroad. I am honoured and seek good wishes from everyone so that we can augment the image of Bangladesh through our cultural presentations," said Fahmida.

## Robi-Channel i Bijoy Mela 2011

## A CORRESPONDENT

Robi-Channel i is arranging 'The Robi-Channel i Bijoy Mela 2011' on the occasion of Victory Day at its Tejgaon office premises. The grand celebration would include conferring lifetime achievement award on Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artiste and noted music director, Shujeyo Shyam.

A press conference was held at the Robi-Channel i office to inform the media in this regard. The CFO of Robi, Mahtab Uddin Ahmed; Faridur Reza Sagar, Managing Director, Robi-Channel i and Impress Telefilm Ltd; Director and Chief News Editor Shykh Seraj and Shujeyo Shyam were present at the press conference.

The fair will contain seven sculptures in honour of the seven Bir Sreshtho along with 11 selected regions to symbolise the 11 sectors. The stalls will highlight images, documentaries and films on the Liberation War.

At the fair, 20 of the most revered painters of Bangladesh will be capturing the Liberation War on their canvas -- the money raised from sales would go to the Liberation War Museum. This whole event -- from 11 am to 2 pm -- will be telecast live in channel i.

The second position winner from group 'K' cautions about fat old corrupt persons. The artwork says "the bigger they are, the harder they fall!" The second position winner from the other group features doctor checks out an x-ray print of a corrupt individual, who stacked plenty of money in his stomach.

As part of its Youth Engagement and Support (YES), TIB has been arranging the competition and exhibition aiming at creating greater awareness and motivation among the young generation to say "No to Corruption". It also gives the participants an opportunity to communicate their understanding about corruption and raising voice against its effects.

Organisers also selected several cartoonists from both groups for special awards. The panel of judges comprised of educationist Syed Manzoorul Islam; cartoonists Shishir Bhattacharya, Ahsan Habib and Shahriar Khan. 'Kha' group winner Sk. Asifur Rahman's work has been used on the cover of the exhibition book.

In 'Kha' group, Hasib Karim, Syed Nafis Sadique and Umme Mahfuza Maliba secured the first, second and third positions respectively. Group 'Kha' winners are Sk. Asifur Rahman (1st), Afraf Karim (2nd) and Manobendro Golder (3rd). The

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The exhibition will remain open from 12-8pm till tomorrow (December 16).

## Discussion on English literary works on the Liberation War



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As part of the ongoing weeklong cultural and discussion programme of the Liberation War Museum, on the third day the museum organised a discussion on the English literary works on the Liberation War.

The discussion featured four books -- "The Silent and The Lost" by Abu Zubair; "The Search" by Shaheen Akhtar; "Song of Our Swampland" by Manzur Islam; "Interview with a Birangana and 1971 (poetry)" by Tarifa Faizullah.

Four discussants spoke on the books. Abu Zubair, the writer himself talked about the novel "The Silent and The Lost"; Ashfa Hossain discussed on "The Search"; Professor Abdus Salim spoke on "Song of Our Swampland" and Dalia Ahmed recited from the "Interview with a Birangana and 1971".

Abu Zubair said, "My writings articulate my clear perceptions, understanding and deep observations on the history of the Liberation War. Personal and social clashes as well as the various aspects of Liberation War are the prime themes in my writings. This novel is a life's work for me, and I hope Bangladeshi readers will enjoy it, both as a historical novel and a reference on the history of 1971."

Ashfa Hossain asserted, "The Search depicts all existing modes and norms of society as well as representation and brings out the victims of war. The novel is about Fahmida.

## Abu Zubair talks about his novel at the programme.

Biranganas of Bangladesh- women who were raped during the Liberation War in 1971. Her writings focus on women's regrets, needs and despair. As a writer, she takes a bold stand against any kind of religious fundamentalism in our society."

The English translation of "Talaash" (The Search) was published by Zubaan in January 2011. Talaash is Akhtar's second novel, for which she won the Prothom Alo best book award in 2004.

Professor Abdus Salim said, "The incidents and characters of the book (Song of Our Swampland) give details as the Liberation War of Bangladesh progresses from early days to victory. It is not really a story told against the background of the Liberation War. It is rather a tale of an inner journey of the writer."

After the discussion, Bonhishikha, a cultural organisation performed choral songs and Syed Shamsul Haq's "Payer Awaz Pawa Jai", was staged by Kotha Abritti Charcha Kendra.

## Merging memories with dreams

## FAYZA HAQ

Marking Victory Day, Ashok Karmakar's installation at Bengal Gallery is labelled "Let there be light". The ambitious exhibition featuring light, sound, paintings etc. opened last Monday.

On Monday (December 12), Shahabuddin and Mahmudul Haque, as the chief guests, added to the glitterati.

In one of Ashok's displays, the booming, almost deafening sound of tolling church bells bring in the sad memories of the genocide, unparalleled by few others. At Auschwitz, Nazis marked Jews from many countries. But surely the mindless Pak Army was no less bestial. Simon Diring's reports, and other foreign press coverage are flashed in the numerous lit-up computers.

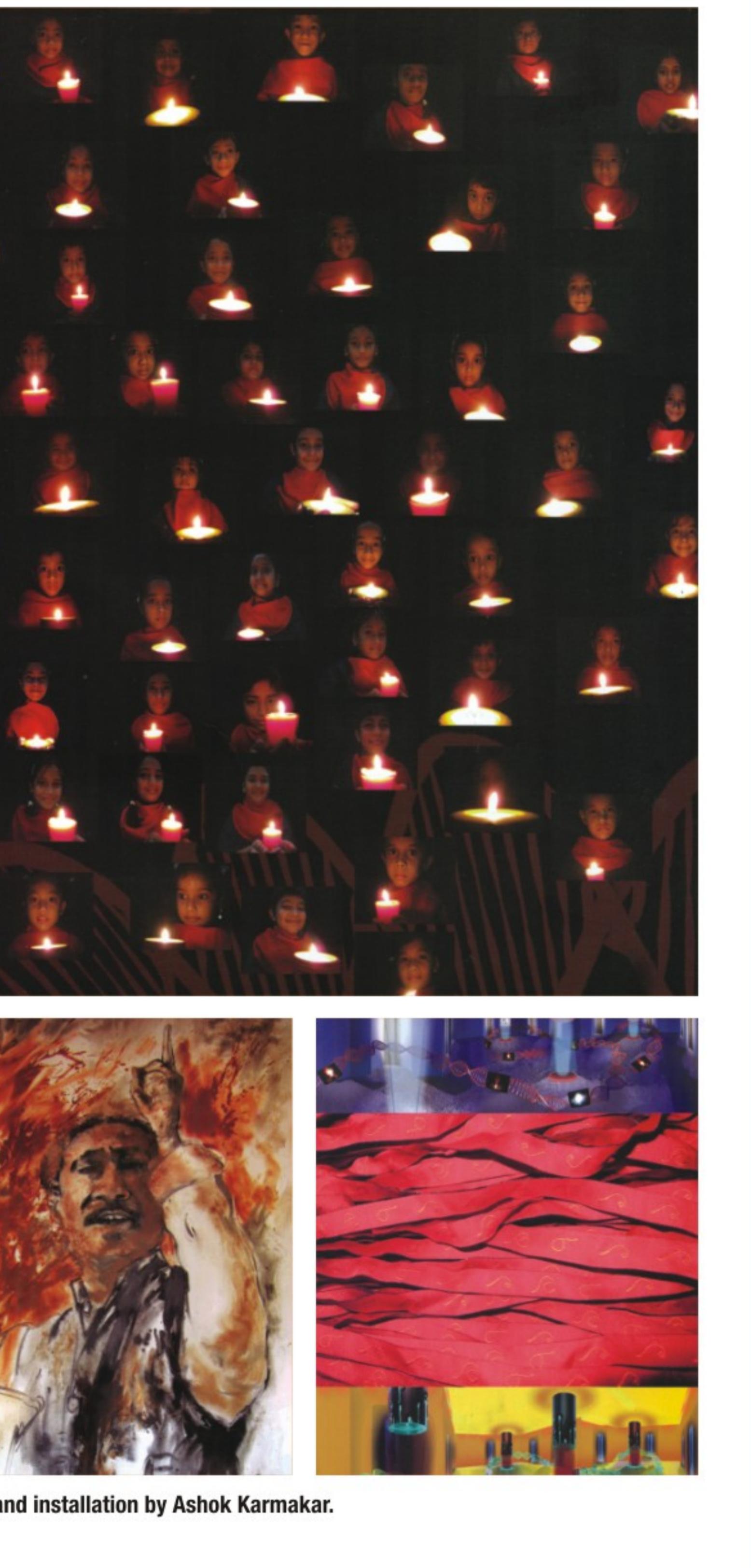
Amrita Barpatra, Times, as well as local newspaper cuttings -- both in English and in Bangla -- have been taken from the Liberation War Museum. Along with this are red and black earth collected from the killing fields. These form integral part of the winding installation. A narrow vermillion ribbon -- embossed with the numbers of the unforgettable '1971', was brought from Bangla, form another unforgettable part of the installation.

Smoke come from various small cauldrons covered with mounds of earth. On top hang specially crated bulb shades, with delineations drops of dainty blood turned into upturned elegant, cup-shaped blooming flowers. Some of them remind one of Bulwer Lytton's "Pompeii". The musical notes of the national anthem are gently mingled with the awesome, booming church bells tolling.

Some of the canvases are covered with the handprints of forty school-going children. They had come from the artist's school -- "Arani" -- in Dhamondi.

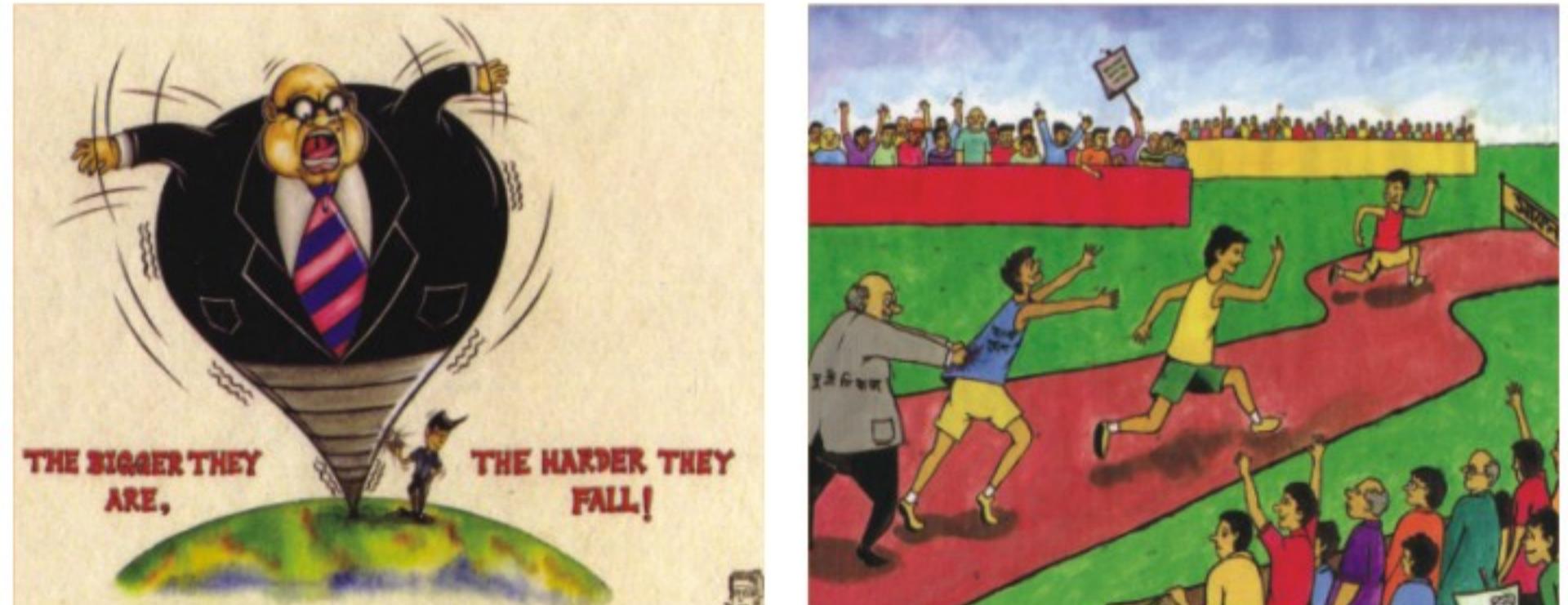
The number forty marks the forty years of independence of the country -- freedom from the yokes of a cruel, thoughtless regime -- and of course its evil cohorts. The Pak Army had been as savage as the marauding Huns -- who had destroyed the Roman Empire in Europe in the Middle Ages.

Ashok Karmakar has been the chief designer of Prothom Alo. His teachers at the Dhaka Art College (now Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University) included Mohammed Kibria, Sufiuddin Ahmed, Aminul Islam, Rafiqul Nabi and many other renowned artists. Karmakar has exhibited at overseas biennales. His 1971-themed works have created marvels for art buffs, earlier on at Shilpkala Academy, on numerous occasions.



Artwork and installation by Ashok Karmakar.

## TIB's cartoon exhibition against corruption



JAMIL MAHMUD



Cartoon is a great tool for creating awareness and developing a sense of responsibility and commitment through easy and satirical presentation of facts, events and stories. To inspire people to take a stand against corruption as well as to mark the International Anti-Corruption Day, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has been arranging cartoon competitions and exhibitions since 2006. This year, the exhibition is being held at the Zainul Galleria, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka.

The exhibition started on December 9. This year 159 cartoonists took part in the competition with 366 entries. A total of 56 cartoons have been selected for display, of which six in two different categories [three from each] are selected by the judges for awards. The categories are based on age. The 'Kha' group features cartoons by individuals aged from 13 to 18, while the 'Kha' group features individuals aged from 19 to 35.

In 'Kha' group, Hasib Karim, Syed Nafis Sadique and Umme Mahfuza Maliba secured the first, second and third positions respectively. Group 'Kha' winners are Sk. Asifur Rahman (1st), Afraf Karim (2nd) and Manobendro Golder (3rd). The

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As part of its Youth

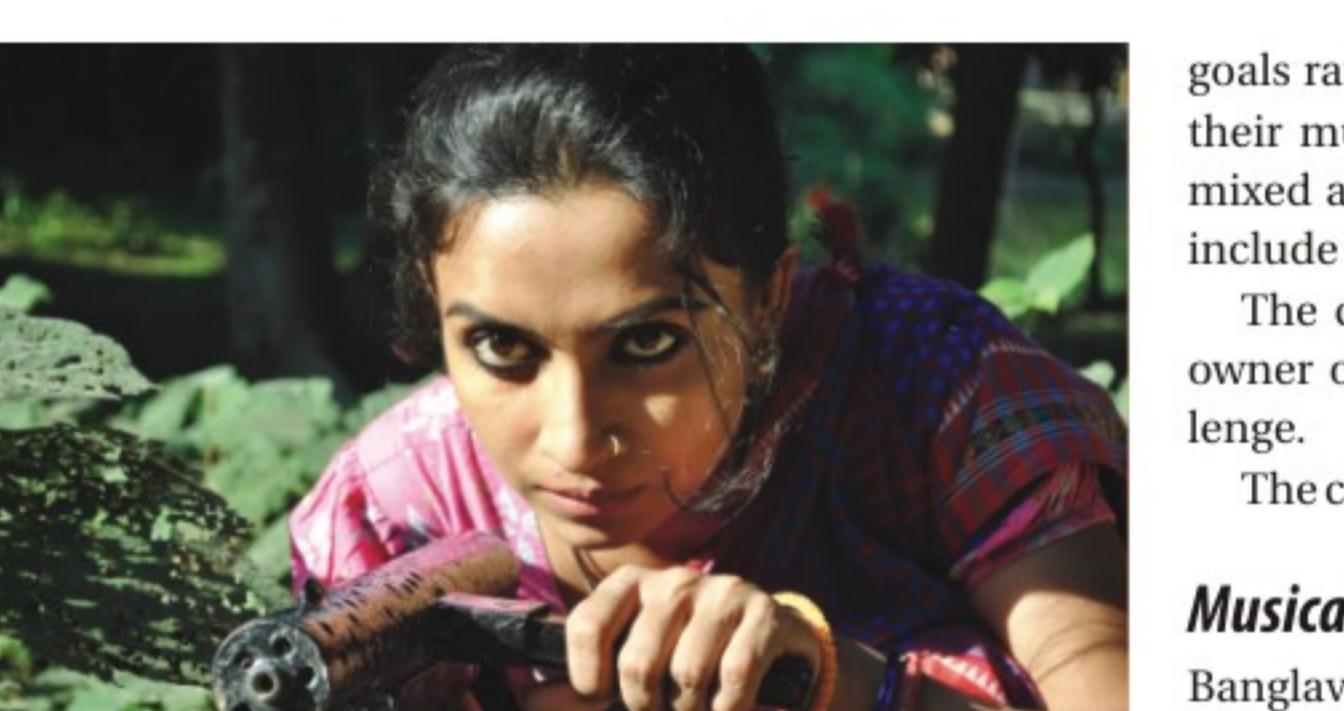
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## VICTORY DAY SPECIALS ON TV



"Aguner Chhaya" on BTV

## A CORRESPONDENT

There are many untold stories about the courageous freedom fighters who have never come to the public eye. The TV play "Aguner Chhaya" to be aired on BTV on Victory Day at 8pm, is set against the backdrop of such a rural family, back in 1971. The play focuses on a farmer couple. Against the will of her husband, Hawa Bibi, joins the freedom fighters, while her husband joins the Pakistani occupation forces and their local cohorts, the razakars. Gathering all her courage, at one point she raises the flag of Bangladesh atop her roof. Her bravery strengthens the morale of several other freedom fighters in the village. At this point the storyline takes a dramatic turn.

Written by Mannan Hira and directed by Awwal Chowdhury, the cast includes Jhuna Chowdhury, Farzana Chhobi, Hafizur Rahman Sharuj and Rawnak Hasan. The protagonist Farzana Chhobi says, "I feel privileged to have been a part of the TV play on our freedom struggle. We worked the entire night during the shooting and I was even hurt by a hatchet during the shooting, but that did not deter us from work. We all felt honoured to be a part of the team."

## Single-episode play "Flashback" on ntv

Single-episode play "Flashback" will be aired on ntv at 9pm on December 16. The play is directed jointly by Imraul Rafat and Mabrur Rashid Bannah. The latter has also written the play.

The story of the play revolves around a rock music group. It features five members, all of whom are concerned about their own identity.

## Kohinoor '71 on Desh TV

Bangladesh was devastated by the Liberation War. Despite being an independent country, it floated on tides of uncertainty. During these troubled times, a child was found on the streets -- no one willing to take her responsibility. She ended up at the Mother Teresa Home for children. In 1976, a family from Norway adopted the child and took her to their country. They named her Kohinoor, after the iconic diamond.

To celebrate 40 years of independence, Kohinoor was invited to Bangladesh. "Kohinoor '71" is a special programme highlighting the war child who grew up away from her country. The show will be hosted by freedom fighter and trustee of Liberation War Museum, Akku Chowdhury. It has been produced by Ashraf-uz Zaman and will be aired on Desh TV at 7:45 pm. On the show, Kohinoor will share her experiences and her story of growing up as a singer. She will also sing a song on the show. Kohinoor started taking ballet lessons from the age of 12 and has acted for both the small and big screen. She has performed in Norway, Sweden, England, Canada, South Africa and Sri Lanka. Kohinoor does not hesitate to introduce herself as a former war child. As a matter of fact, she proudly bears this identity.

## Musical and recitation programme on Banglavis

Banglavis will air a special musical and recitation programme featuring patriotic songs and poems on December 16 at 6:25pm. Titled "Aajonno Mrittu", the programme will feature reputed and young artists.

Reputed singer Abdul Jabbar will sing the popular number, "Salam Salam Hajar Salam". Talented singer Nancy will render two songs -- "Shob Koto Janala" and "Ek Nodi Rakto Periye".

Poet Asad Chowdhury will host the programme. Apart from his role as a host, the poet will also recite poems. Shakila Matin is the other featured reciter at the programme.

Mamun Khan is the producer of the programme.

## "Kohinoor '71" on