

WHAT'S ON

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

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

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Shahabuddin Ahmed
Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh
Date: Dec 18-28
Time: 10am-8:30pm (Friday)

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

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

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

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

Documentary Screening
Organiser: Bangladesh Documentary Council
Venue: Chhayanaat Sangskritik Bhaan, Dhanamondi
Date: December 17

NEW RELEASES

Shobdo Shoinik Documentary
Source: Laser Vision

Die Million '71 A Bangladesh Genocide Story
Directed by Mustaque Ahmed
Source: Pramannokar

Jam Album of the band Souls
Source: Deadline Music

Father Marino Rigon: Venice to Sundarbans Documentary
Directed by Ravisankar Maitree
Source: Laser Vision



PHOTO: GOLAM MAHBUB

Light and sound show at Suhrawardy Udyan.



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To mark the 40th Victory Day, numerous organisations have arranged cultural programmes across the city. Some of these programme started well ahead of Victory Day.

All these celebrations reached their peak on December 15 evening. Several programmes were held at different venues, including Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Liberation War Museum, National Museum, Central Shaheed Minar premises, Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Bangla Academy and Suhrawardy Udyan.

Shilpakala Academy has arranged a month-long celebration that started on December 1. The celebration includes staging of plays, rendition of patriotic songs, dance and more. On December 15, the programme was held at the National Theatre Hall and at the open space inside the academy.

The National Theatre Hall programme featured rendition of songs by invited as well as enlisted artistes of the academy. The programme outside featured recitation, dance and music.

The Liberation War Museum arranged a weeklong programme at its premises in Shegunbagicha. On December 15, the programme featured reading of eyewitness accounts of the Liberation War. Children and adolescents read out the stories collected from relatives of the witnesses.

The museum authority has so far collected 18,000 such accounts from across the country. Among others, noted media personality and one of the trustees of the museum, Aly Zaker, spoke at the programme.

The Central Shaheed Minar programme was organised by Shammilita Sangskritik Jote (SSJ). The day's programme featured rendition of songs,



Artistes recite poem at Central Shaheed Minar premises.

recitation, dance, street play and film screening.

Cultural organisations Udichi, Bangabandhu Shilpi Goshthi and Bonhishika performed group songs, while Moloy Kumar, Rupu Khan, Salma Chowdhury and Mahub Riaz, among others, sang solo. Charukantha and Sangbrita staged group recitations. Shukonya staged group dance.

Drishtipat and Motri Theatre staged street play, while Zahir Raihan's "Jiban Theke Neyra" was screened at the end.

SSI also arranged programmes at other venues around the city, including Rabindra Sarobar, Rayer

Bazar and Shoparjito Shadhinata premises.

The National Museum celebrated the 40th Victory Day through releasing fanush and lighting candles. Tajul Islam, State Minister for Liberation War Affairs, inaugurated the programme as chief guest.

Shishu Academy programme was held at its premises. The programme was divided into two sessions. The morning part featured art and patriotic song competitions for children. The evening programme featured award giving ceremony and cultural programme.

Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, State Minister for Women and Children's Affairs, was the chief guest at the programme. Noted artist and director of the academy, Mustafa Monwar, presided over the programme.

Bangla Academy arranged a three-day programme to celebrate the Victory Day. The programme started on December 14. The second day of the programme featured discussion and cultural programme. Director General of the academy, Professor Shamsuzzaman Khan, delivered the welcome speech at the discussion.

Professor Dr. Md. Selim of the Department of History, Jagannath University presented a keynote paper on the topic, "Muktijuddher Chetona, Dhormio Jongibaad Ebong Juddhaporadher Bichar". Among others, General Secretary of Sector Commanders' Forum, Lt. General (Retd) Harun-ur-Rashid Chowdhury Birpratik, and poet Dr. Muhammad Samad discussed on the topic. National Professor AF Salahuddin Ahmed presided over the discussion.

A cultural programme was held after the discussion. Among others, Kalyani Ghosh, Namita Ghosh, Fakir Alamgir, Sheikh Jamiruddin, Shreyashi Roy, Amjad Dewan and Biman Chandra Biswas rendered songs at the event.

A moving light and sound presentation, on the Liberation War and its preceding history, was held at the Shadhinata Stambha premises inside Suhrawardy Udyan. It was part of a three-day show that ended yesterday. On the second day, the show reached its peak as thousands of spectators thronged the venue till midnight. Starting from the evening, the show was repeated several times. Nasirul Haque Khokon designed and directed the light and sound show.

Weeklong Rabindra Drama Festival in Faridpur

REZAUL KARIM, Faridpur

A weeklong Rabindra Drama Festival will be held at Kobi Jasimuddin Hall premises in town from December 18 to 23. Boishakhi Natya Goshthi, a leading theatre troupe of the district, has arranged the programme.

Theatre troupes from Dhaka, Mymensingh, Rajbari and Faridpur will stage their plays at the festival everyday at 6 pm.

Khaya Shangkritik Sangstha, Shuchona Theatre, Boishakhi Natya Goshthi, Jionkathi, Fulki, Mongolnat, Bidrohi Natya Goshthi and Swapnadol are the participating troupes.

Tagore's plays "Ora Okarone Chanchal", "Ratner Rashi", "Istirir Potro", "Totakahini", "Ekti Pakhir Attokothon", "Sashti" and "Chitrangada" will be staged on the occasion.

Local politician Khondoker Mohtesham Hossain Babar and poet Md. Abdullah Ali Mamun will attend the opening function as chief and special guests respectively.

Liakat Ali Lucky, Director General, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Abul Biswas, a theatre researcher, will be the chief and special guests respectively on the concluding day.

A seminar, titled "Bangladesh-e-Rabindra Natya-r Prashongikota", will be conducted by dramatist Dr. Biplob Bala on the concluding day.

Rabindra exponent Professor Altaf Hossain, an organiser of the programme, said that the groundwork had been completed for the first Rabindra Drama Festival in the district. He was optimistic that the festival would attract an enthusiastic audience.

Liberation War in documentaries

"Aparajeyo Bangla" and "Die Million '71" screened at Dhaka Art Centre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of independence, Dhaka Art Centre has organised a five-day documentary festival at its auditorium. The festival features four films -- Zahir Raihan's "Stop Genocide", Deepa Mehta's "Deline Bangladesh", Mustaque Ahmed's "Die Million '71" and Saiful Wadud Helal's "Aparajeyo Bangla".

The festival wraps up today (December 17).

On December 15, two documentaries -- "Aparajeyo Bangla" and "Die Million '71" were screened.

"Aparajeyo Bangla", a 62-minute documentary, revolves around its namesake -- the iconic sculpture on Dhaka University campus. Research for and shooting of the documentary took nearly seven years.

Syed Abdullah Khalid's sculpture, "Aparajeyo Bangla", has become an evocative icon of the Liberation War. The project was launched in 1973 when the artist was a young teacher at the Department of Fine Arts, Chittagong University.

The filmmaker interviewed a number of individuals, including the sculpture's creator, its models, journalists, architects and more. Syed Abdullah Khalid; Hasina Ahmed, Syed Hamid Moksood and Badrul Alam Benu who modeled for the sculpture; noted journalist Saleh Chowdhury; senior architects Shahidullah and Rabiul Hussain and late journalist-cinematographer Mishuk



Aparajeyo Bangla

Munier spoke about "Aparajeyo Bangla" in the documentary.

According to Khalid: "I wanted to do something for my country and its people. After the Liberation War, I contemplated creating a symbol that would inspire generations of Bangladeshis. I had to face many obstacles and difficulties, like negative reaction from religious fanatics."

"On August 15, 1975, the work suddenly came to a pause when Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated. The project remained incomplete till the end of 1978. Some fundamentalist groups tried to demolish the sculpture in 1977. However, after a long break, work resumed in the beginning of 1979. The project was finally finished on December 16, 1979."

The film is directed by Saiful Wadud Helal and produced by Shaiful Wadud. Mustaque Ahmed's 10-minute documentary, "Die Million '71", addresses the genocide during the Liberation War. "I

collected the footages of Liberation War from archives. It's tough to make a film on the 1971 genocide, as we don't have enough video footage. You just can't make a documentary without enough video footage," said the director.

The film is dedicated to the freedom fighters. Joan Baez's "The Song of Bangladesh" has added a different dimension to the film. Baez wrote and performed the song at the Concert for Bangladesh, Madison Square Garden, New York in 1971.