

## WHAT'S ON



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



Group Painting Exhibition  
Title: 40- Of Struggle and  
Creativity  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine  
Arts, H-42, R-16/01, Dharmundi  
Date: Dec 25-Jan 03

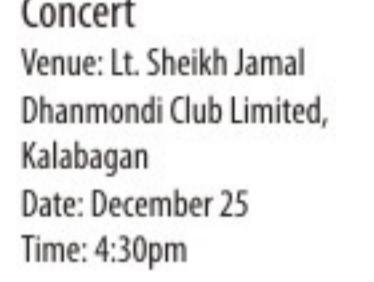


শিল্পীর রেখা সামগ্রে  
টেলিভিশন  
আরিক জীবন

Book Launch  
Title: Television Arik Jibon  
Venue: Ballroom, Hotel  
Ruposhi Bangla  
Date: December 25  
Time: 12pm



Solo Art Exhibition  
Artist: Shahabuddin  
Venue: National Museum,  
Shahjadpur  
Date: Dec 18-28  
Time: 10am-8:30pm  
(Friday: 3-8:30pm)



Concert  
Venue: Lt. Sheikh Jamal  
Dhamundi Club Limited,  
Dhaka  
Date: December 25  
Time: 4:30pm



Group Art Exhibition  
Organiser: Artist Club Bangladesh  
Venue: Asianic Gallery of Fine Arts, 5,  
Old Secretariat Road, Nimgali  
Date: Dec 17-26  
Time: 12-8pm



National Folk Music Festival  
2010-2011  
Organiser: Bangladesh Lok  
Sangster Parishad  
Venue: Chittagong & Dhaka  
Date: Dec 24, 30, 31



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

OF CHRISTMAS  
OLD AND NEW

The light that comes with the purity of Christmas.

FAYZA HAQ

One was going on a hot afternoon, on a desperate shopping spree, to get more items for friends and family. Lo, and behold! What cooled the mind's eye was the delicate, daintily lit Christmas tree at a window. It reminded me of the jolly days of Christmas past, when one sang out, heedless of any listener, "Ho, ho, ho, for a bottle of rum!" Of course no one can ever forget Dickens' Christmas scenes with Bob Cratchit and his family, with the mouth-watering baked fowl and what have you.

If one recreated the warmth of the home and hearth, perhaps no one did it as well as Dickens. Of course Trollope was there, but somewhere within his lines was a tongue in cheek approach and not pure bonhomie meal scenes. Christmas is there in "Gone with the Wind" too, with Uncle Peter chasing the only fowl for the table with a hatchet, while guests waited for bonbons at the end of the meal, provided by a wicked, but charmingly irresistible Captain Butler, Scarlett O'Hara's beau. "Thornbirds" too has jam roly-poly and other finger-licking items for festive meals.

Yuletide memories in Melbourne meant exchanging gifts, jokes and pranks with yummy dishes from each home, gathered around the Christmas table.

Here, in Dhaka, Christmas has its unique charm as well. My old buddy from the office, Perween Ahmed, has always tried to live it up. Watching and hearing carols and disseminating goodwill and understanding among all are what Christmases should be. We have often trudged up to Baridhara to listen to Christmas carols, when song sheets have been provided, and we have enjoyed ourselves to the hilt -- munching on little pastries.

It was something like "Baby's Day Out". Frolicking, and fun can't always be frowned upon. The city's shopping arcades, like the Anam Plaza, invites its patrons to celebrate The Nativity scene, with the three kings coming to the stable with their gifts. It is a symbol of joy and amity among men of all creed and cast. Hotel Ruposhi Bangla (former Sheraton) always has its reindeers, Father Christmas, and carol singers.



Christmas tree symbolizing the joy of Jesus' coming.

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Whether it is the Maldives, Melbourne, Hawaii, or Dhaka, one has treasured memories of the holidays. The unforgettable "Silent Night" has lyrics that will ring a bell for many -- till the sands of life are run.

## Artist Club Bangladesh's Homage to Liberation War and Victory

Group art exhibition at Asiatic Gallery of Fine Arts

ZAHANGIR ALOM

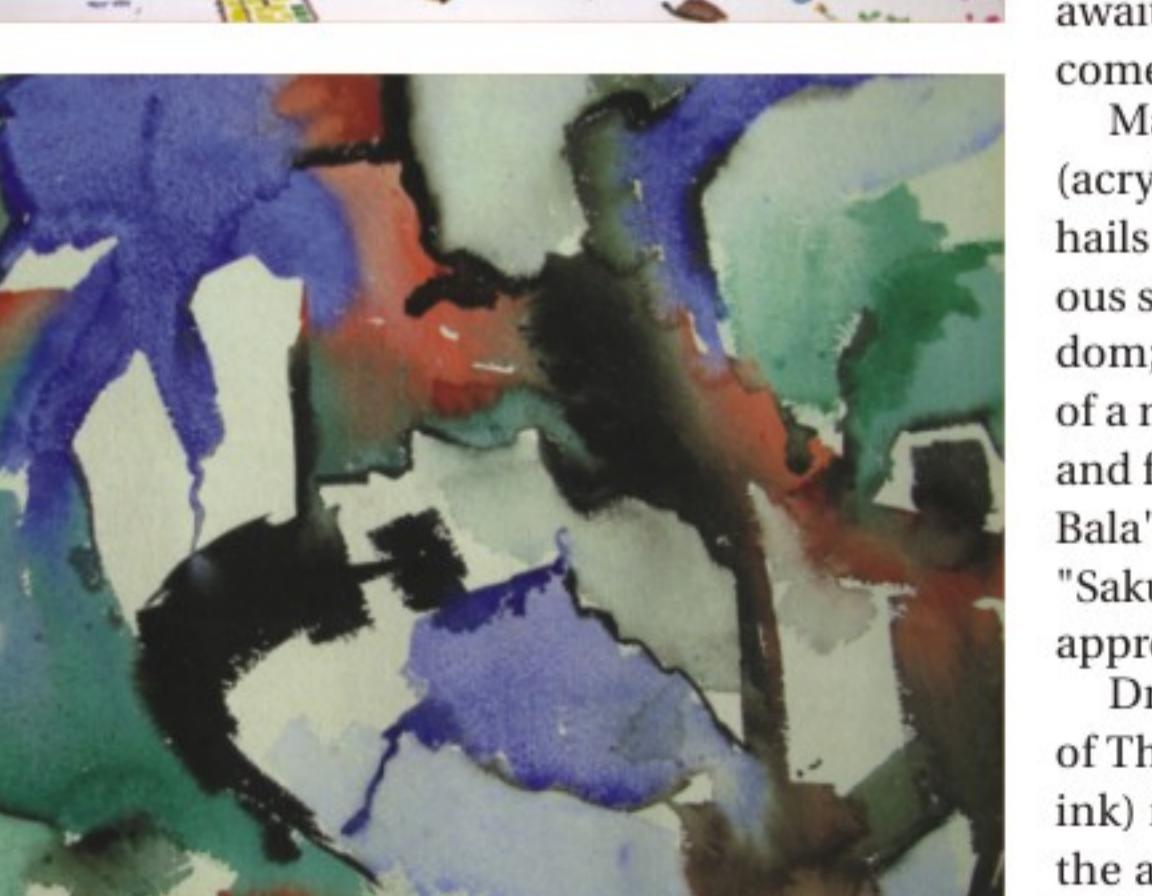
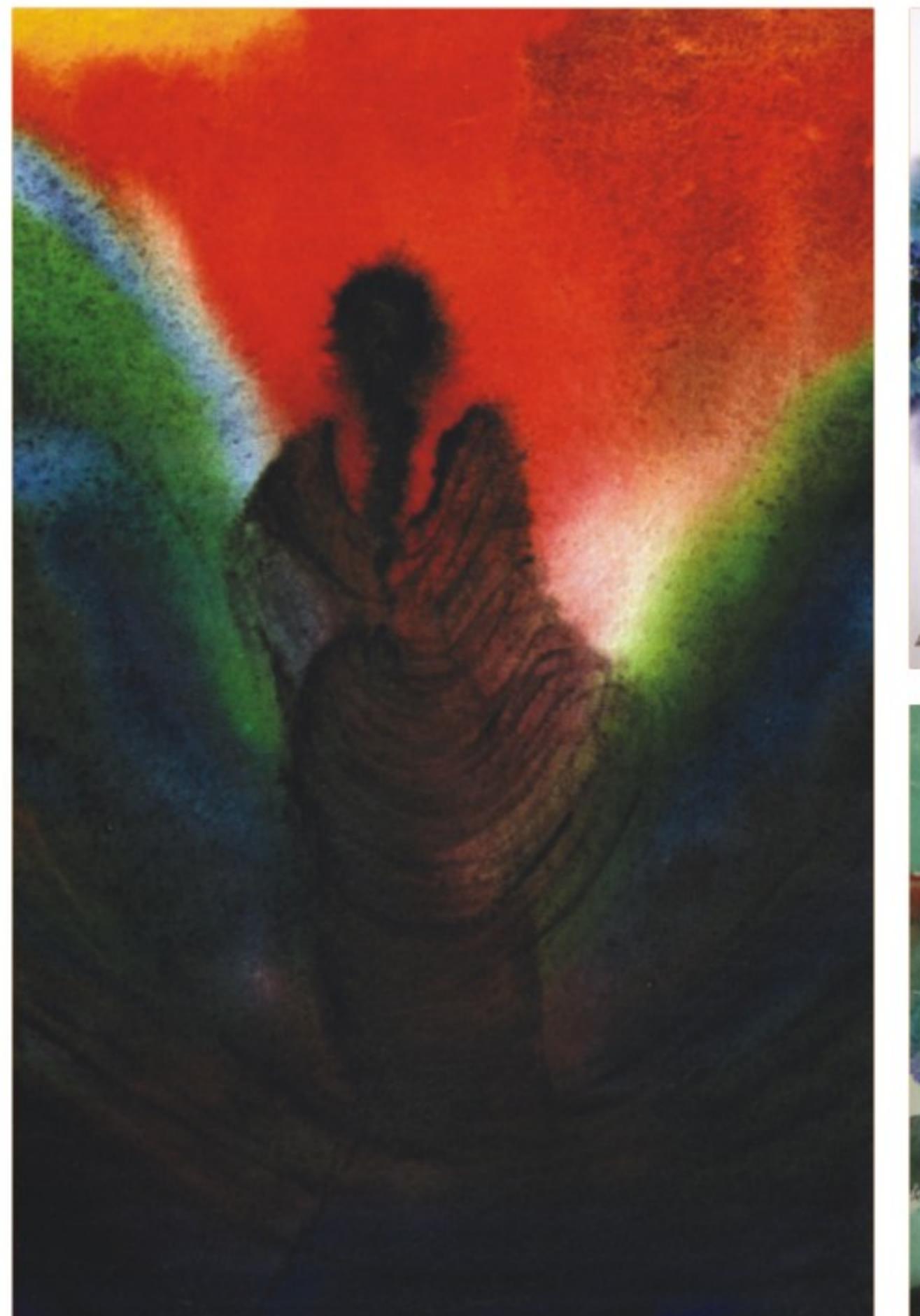
Marking the 40th anniversary of our War of Liberation and Victory, Artist Club Bangladesh (ACB) in association with Bangladesh Asiatic Society is holding a group art exhibition at Asiatic Gallery of Fine Arts, Nimgali. This is the fourth group art exhibition of ACB.

Noted poet, lyricist and chairman of BTRC Zia Ahmed Shelley inaugurated the exhibition on December 17 as the chief guest, while renowned sculptor Hamiduzzaman Khan was present as a special guest on the occasion.

The 12 participating artists -- Laila Sharmin, Sanjib Das Apu, Abhijit Choudhury, A.M. Kaosar Hassan Togor, Dr. Sk. Manir Uddin, Md. Shameem Iqbal, G.C. Trivedi Gupu, Hafiz Uddin (Babu), Nurun Naher Shupti, Aowlad Hossain, Dr. Mohammad Ali and Malay Bala are well established in the contemporary art scene.

A.M. Kaosar Hassan Togor, Malay Bala and Dr. Sk. Manir Uddin are also Assistant Professors at the Department of Sculpture, Oriental Art and History of Art respectively, in the Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA) of Dhaka University. Dr. Mohammad Ali is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Fine Arts of Rajshahi University while G.C. Trivedi Gupu is a Lecturer at the Department of Oriental Art, FFA of Dhaka University and Md.

Shameem Iqbal is the principal of SM Sultan Fine Art College, Jessore. The artists are showcasing 60 of their artworks, including four sculptures and two installations at the exhibition. The artworks are diverse with regard to themes and media including acrylic, watercolour, oil



Clockwise (from left): Artworks by Malay Bala, Laila Sharmin and Md. Shameem Iqbal.

colour, tapestry, drawing and mixed media.

With the title "Mid Summer Night's Dream-1 and 2" and "Hunter-1 and 2", Dr. Mohammad Ali is displaying several tapestries at the exhibition while Aowlad Hossain is showcasing "Shadow of the Past-1" (six works on pen and ink) and "Shadow of the Past-

2, 3 and 4" (charcoal). G.C. Trivedi's "Feeling of Line-1, 2, 3 and 4" (brush and ink) represent folk themed oriental figures. The subtle lines and scribbles used in his works symbolise his artistic transparency and minute details.

Sanjib Das Apu's acrylics -- "Symphony of Freedom", "Sabir", "Shadhinota" and "Evil and Lonely Days" tell the stories of a beckoning dream -- "Independence" emerging from the crucible of war. The artist also displays excerpts from the poems "Hey Bir" (Monjur-e-Mawla), "Barbara Bidar Ke" (Asad Chowdhury), "Nishidhho Journal Thekey" (Shahid Kadri) and "Kichhui

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## UPL Book Festival concludes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To mark the 40th anniversary of victory day, the University Press Limited (UPL), organised a book fair, featuring 71 books on the Liberation War at its new premises at Shahjadpur in the city. The festival was inaugurated on December 9 and ended on December 23.

On concluding day, the programme featured poetry recitation, reminiscences and documentaries of the Liberation War.

Poet Kaiser Haq recited poems on the Liberation War. Sector Commander Qayyum Khan recounted memories of the war days. Khan said "We fought to protect our motherland."

A video interview with Gen. Rao Farman Ali Khan was screened at the venue.

About the book festival, Mahrulk Mohiuddin, director of Marketing and Business Development of UPL, said, "UPL was set up as a publishing company in 1975 and we publish academic books both in English and Bangla. Many readers want to buy our books. I think our publications carry some significant aspects. We first take into consideration the readers' needs.

"We received a tremendous response at the fair. We wanted to focus on the Liberation War. The category of books included research based works, novels, translations, interviews and documentary based books. UPL believes that we all have the right to know the true history of our country. The fair was one of our sincere attempts to reveal the actual history of our glorious war of 1971."

Some notable publications are ---

"The Cruel Birth of Bangladesh" by Archer K B Blood; "Sheikh Mujib's Triumph and Tragedy" by S.A. Karim;

"The Last Days of United Pakistan" by G.W. Chowdhury; "Surrender of



UPL's Mohiuddin Ahmed (L) conducts a discussion at the book fest.

Dacca---Birth of a Nation" by Lt Gen JFR Jacob; "Sheeshob Pakstani" by Muntasir Mamun; "Witness to Surrender" by Siddiqi Salik; "From East Bengal to Bangladesh" by Shaikh Maqsood Ali; "Of Blood and Fire---The Untold Story of Bangladesh's War of Independence" by Jahana Imam, "Probash-Muktijuddher Dinguli" by Abu Sayeed Chowdhury; "Mooldhara '71" by Moidul Hassan; "Historicising Genocide: Genocide 1971" by Professor Imtiaz Ahmed; "Fault Lines: Stories from 1971" (edited by Professor Niaz Zaman and Asif Farrukhi) and "Pakistani-der Drishtite Ekattur" (edited by Muntasir Mamun and Mohiuddin Ahmed).

"We launched an outlet in Shahjadpur to popularise our publications among readers in the adjoining areas ---Gulshan, Banani, Baridhara and Uttara. The outlet was established one and half years back.

A CORRESPONDENT

To further strengthen their association with the music platform and to promote musical entertainment for the youth of the country, Bangalink has organised the nationwide concert series which began in December 2010, in Khulna, and moved through Chittagong, Rajshahi and Rangpur. The most popular and well-loved Bangladeshi bands, including Habib, Warfaze, Aurtihin, LRB and Miles performed to teeming audiences at all the successful music fests.

Over the years Bangalink has always supported music-based entertainment for the youth of the country on various occasions, including both band music and traditional music. The purpose of these activities has been to recognise and support the dynamic and diverse musical culture of Bangladesh.

A mega concert will be held today, (December 25), at the Bangladesh Army Stadium in Dhaka, with live performances by Hyder Hossain, Aurtihin, Warfaze, Miles and RLB.

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A CORRESPONDENT

A Christmas-special programme "Shubho Barta Niye Elo Boro Din" will be aired on ETV today at 7:40 pm. The programme has been planned and directed by Masudul Hasan Rony. Lipi Majumdar is the anchor of the programme. The programme will feature dance, music and discussion.

The programme will highlight the origin and significance of the festival. Anima Mukti Gomez will render a number of songs on Christmas. The artists of Saint Mary's Cathedral Square and artists from Garo community will perform dance and music. The programme will also shed light on the life and teachings of Jesus.

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A CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate Christmas Day, Banglavision will air a special programme for children titled "Santa Claus-er Tupi" at 6:30pm today. The programme, Santa Claus will be seen providing gifts among the children. He instantly finds a handicapped child and gives him a pair of shoes. The programme highlights the humanity and greatness of Santa Claus. Md. Fokruzzaman Chowdhury is the anchor of the programme. Kamol Chakma has directed the programme.

Laila Sharmin has sought peace, imagination and resourcefulness in her works. Nature in her diversity and colour in its richness are the constant from the crucible of war. The artist also displays excerpts from the poems "Hey Bir" (Monjur-e-Mawla), "Barbara Bidar Ke" (Asad Chowdhury), "Nishidhho Journal Thekey" (Shahid Kadri) and "Kichhui

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