

WHAT'S ON

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

Theatre
Play: Debatar Grash
Troupe: Manipuri Theatre
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: December 29

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Abdus Shakoor Shah
Venue: Gallery Chittrak, R-6, H-4, Dhanmondi
Date: Dec 27-Jan 10
Time: 10am-8pm

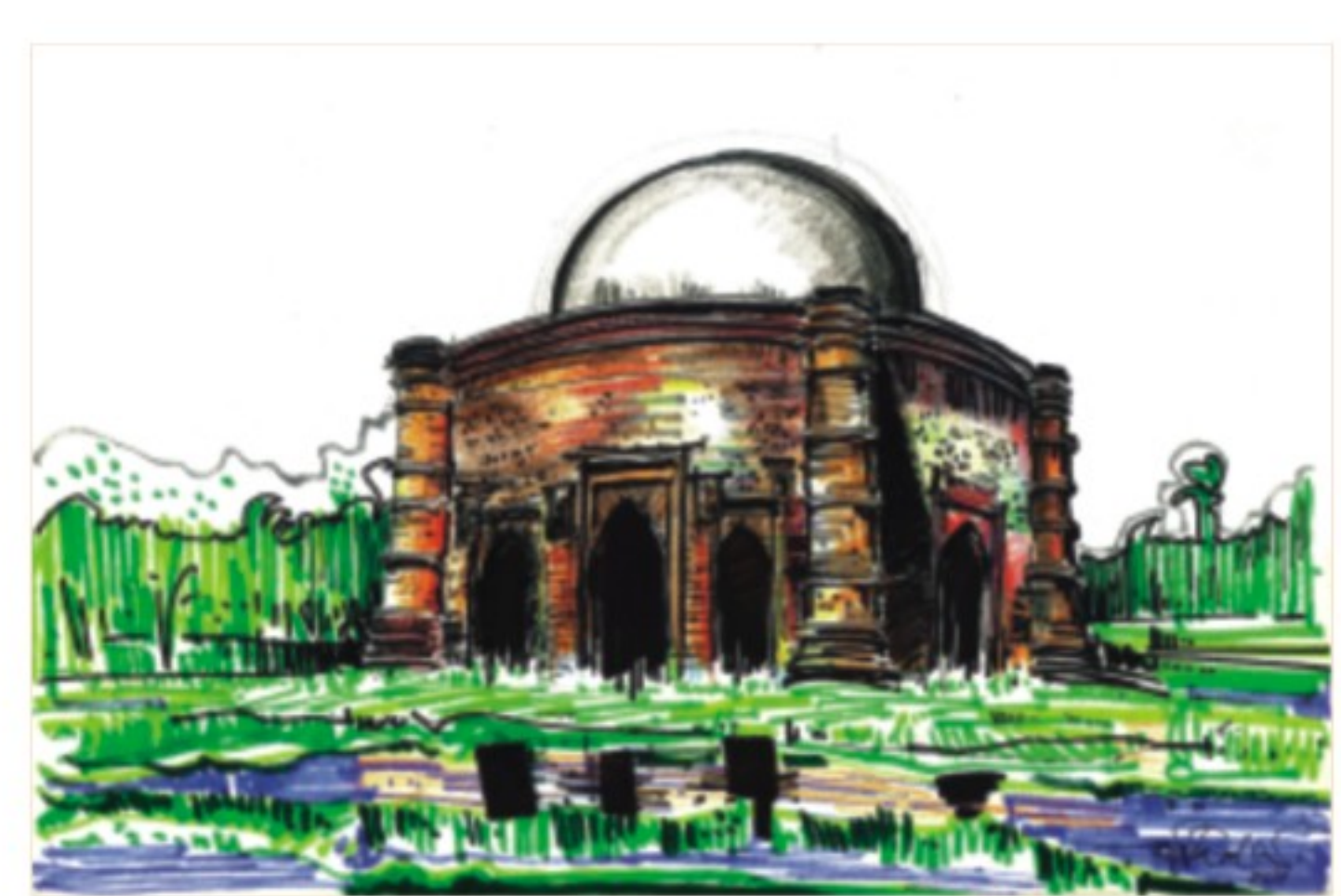
Photography Exhibition
Photographer: Shamsurrahman Lowly
Venue: National Art Gallery, BSA
Date: Dec 29-Jan 3
Time: 11am-8pm

Solo Exhibition
Title: Enlightened Arena
Artist: Sajid Bin Doza
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi
Date: Dec 30-Jan 12

Shamisen Meets
South Asia
Organiser: Embassy of Japan
Venue: National Music and Dance auditorium, Shilpakala Academy
Date: December 28, Time: 7pm

National Folk Music Fest 2010-2011
Organiser: Bangladesh Lok Sanggop Parishad
Venue: Dhaka
Date: Dec 30, 31

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Crossover
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi
Date: Dec 23-28
Time: 3pm-9pm



REVIVING THE PAST THROUGH PEN-AND-INK
Sajid's treasure trove of historical pieces



Sajid's remarkable pen-and-ink exhibition "Entity" is on at Gallery Zoom and Café Veranda of Alliance Francaise.

FAYZA HAQ
Sajid-Bin-Doza (Bonny), 34, an architect by profession, combines his studies at BUET with his work. Sajid's remarkable pen-and-ink exhibition "Entity" is on at Gallery Zoom and Café Veranda of Alliance Francaise. The exhibition is likely to bring in crowds of art lovers, and some patrons too into the bargain. Preservation of our rich historical monuments is Sajid's aim. Sajid not only brings out the beauty of the historical buildings of the Vedic, Mughal and colonial times, but he has researched in India and Bangladesh, as well as in Malaysia to bring out the wealth of our architectural heritage. Thus he draws his inspiration from drawings and manuscripts of the past plus photographs. Asked if he only sketches what he sees, Sajid says that at times he takes photographs, and then works on them at leisure in his studio. In this way he combines the past with the present, reality with imagination, in his store of knowledge on architecture. The exhibition, says Sajid, is not only to

present his passion for sketching, something in which he has been excelling since his school days, but to acquaint viewers, both young and old, with the wealth of our past in stone, cement and bricks. At times he adds nature and human figures to lend interest and a touch of reality. This includes the overwhelming flooding which today persists even outside the monsoon season. Sajid has added washes of watercolour in browns, reds and other pastel shades. On the whole the effect is a dramatic, dark colour. "Our historical monuments are being ruined due to exposure to the unmitigated rain, flooding and heat. The buildings are being affected by the adverse climatic changes and torrential downpour. That is why my drawings have such a dark hue. This, again, should help bring in more tourism to our country, and so enrich our revenues," Sajid adds with enthusiasm. Sajid has visited many historical sites, especially in Nature where he was initially educated, and in Rajshahi and Dhaka, where he currently resides. For his inspiration he has his mother, who is also artistically inclined

and his wife, who too is a practicing architect. His other family members too are very supportive. His Masters thesis is based on the preservation of our historical sites and his solo exhibition is an extension of that project. "Old Dhaka brings in monuments of historical interests like Lalbagh Fort, with the tomb of Pari Bibi depicted in the Mughul style, while Curzon Hall is a blending of the colonial with the Mughal period. The Rose Garden has the high renaissance of the colonial times. Hindu temples and palaces of Rajshahi and Dhaka, along with other places also reflect our rich past. All these should leave an indelible mark on the minds of the viewers, along with the footnote tags that I've added. "What you see in the 42 pieces is a blending of historical, architectural and personal interest. It took three years for me to complete this work apart from my research for seven years. I've seen people conserving their past in other places like India, Malaysia and Myanmar, and we should be able to do likewise," concludes Sajid.



THE BRILLIANCE OF BANGLADESHI DANCE
"Nupur Bejey Jaye" at Chhayanaut

ZAHANGIR ALAM
Shadhona, a centre for advancement of South Asian culture, held the 12th edition of its bi-monthly dance programme "Nupur Bejey Jaye" at the main auditorium of Chhayanaut in Dhanmondi, Dhaka, on December 25. The show predominantly featured spirited dance performances based on gono sangee, contemporary dances, time-honoured folk dances and several compositions based on Tagore numbers. Samina Hossain Prema and Arpita Shome choreographed the entire performance while the artiste duo with their troupes danced on the occasion. Choreographed by Samina Hossain Prema, five artistes set off the event with the song "Joy Bangla Banglar Joy". Prema with co-artists danced to two Bhatiali numbers "OMajhi" and "Maro Jawan Haiyo". With the patriotic song "O Aalor Pothojatri", another group dance presentation by seven artistes followed. While emceeing the event, Lubna Mariam, general secretary of Shadhona,

reminded on the early days of the mass upsurge of 1969 and the Liberation War of 1971. She shared her experiences of choreographing dance pieces with gono sangee at that time. Prema then led two spirited dance pieces with the numbers "Ahoban Shono Ahoban" and "Janotar Sangram Cholbei". Featuring her own choreography, Arpita Shome expressively danced to several classical monsoon melodies -- "Jodi Mon Kandey Tumi Chole Esho Ek Boroshaye", "Ja Jare Ja Ja Chhutey", "Dekhecho Ki Takey", "Jao Pakhi Bolo Hawa Chholochholo" and "Megher Palok Chander Nolok". All through the contemporary dance presentations, Arpita did justice to the collage, full of literary allusions. A lonely woman's yearning for embracing her beloved was exquisitely depicted through her dance performances. Several artistes of Dhriti and two of her students accompanied Arpita during the performances. Prema again took the stage with several co-artists and danced with the

ever-popular folk songs "Ami Takdum Takdum Bajai" and "Shohag Chand Bodoni Dhoni Nacho Tho Dekhi". The presentations were rhythmically superb. With the song, "Kon Ganjey Aailo Pani", a lathinach (martial art form) performance of Manikanj district by four male artistes followed. A martial dance, called "Raibeshey" was performed next. It is believed that during the reign of Raja Pratapaditya (of Jessore), there were around 52000 "Raibeshey" who performed this dance to boost the morale of soldiers. A number of Shadhona and Bhabna artistes presented the piece. Under the title, "Akash", Arpita Shome with several co-artistes of Dhriti performed dances in her second session. Set on several Tagore songs -- "Neal Anjan Ghano", "Shawan Gagoney", "Gahan Ghano Chhailo", "Dhwanilo Rey", "Hridoye Mondriro Damru Guru Guru" and "Mon Mor Megher Shongi", the presentations generated a celestial ambience along with Tagorean gravity. Arpita choreographed the pieces.



The show featured spirited dance performances based on gono sangee, contemporary dances, folk dances and several compositions based on Tagore numbers.

LEADING LIGHT
Pabna Theatre-77 celebrates 35th anniversary



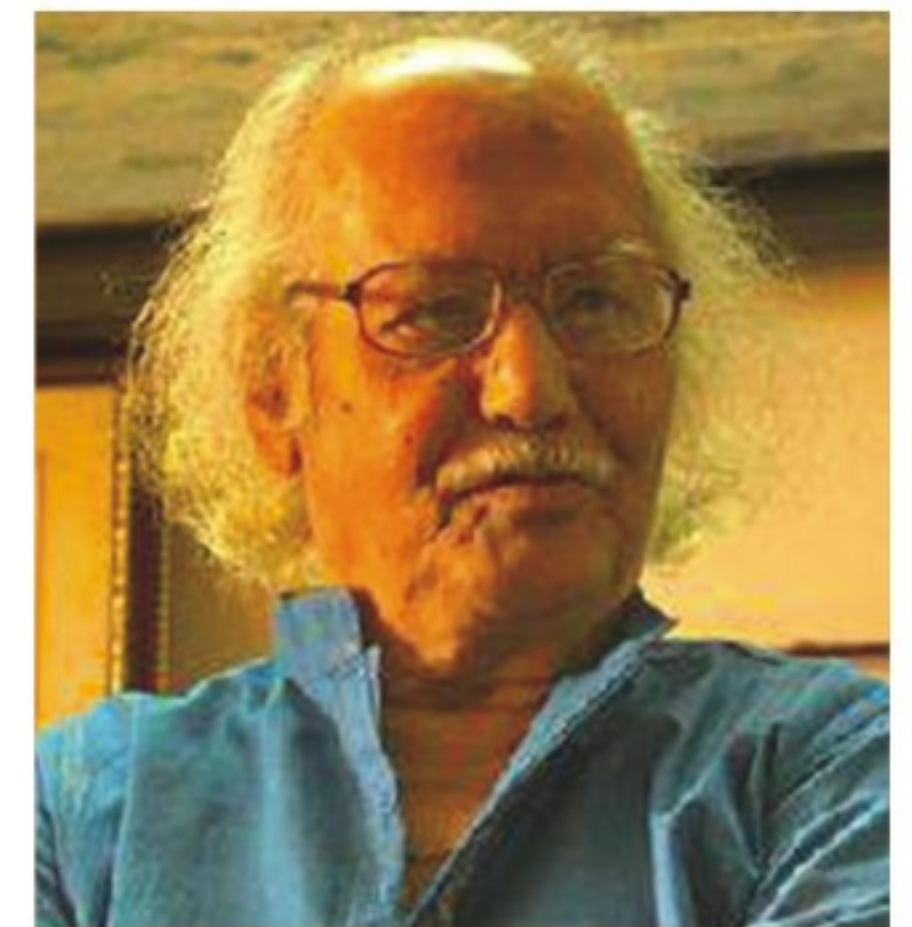
Different organisations staged six plays at the festival. PHOTO: STAR

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna
With the theme, 'Where life is nothing but a synonym for rebellion, death is not at all there' a group of young people established 'Pabna Theater-77', the first cultural organisation to be established after liberation in Pabna. Pabna Theatre-77 observed a three day anniversary festival from December 24 to 26 at the Pabna Town Hall premises celebrating its 35th year. A discussion marked the conclusion of the festival. President of Pabna Theatre-77 Md. Mokarram Hossain chaired the concluding discussion. Among the speakers, Toufik Hassan Moyna, presidium member of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, Asaduddin Paplu, secretary of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation Rajshahi division, Faridul Islam Khokon, president of Shammilito Sangskritik Jote, Pabna and Kobad Ali, founder secretary of the organisation spoke on the occasion. The speakers focused on the role of the organisation in the theatre movement. Pabna Theatre-77 started the theatre movement in the 1970s after liberation, they said, adding that many such organisations were established in the footsteps of the group. Focusing on the role of the theatre

movement in society, the speakers said that it should be patronised on a larger scale. Earlier, the lawmaker of Pabna-5 constituency, Golam Faruk Khandaker Prince, inaugurated the anniversary festival on December 24. Different organisations staged six plays at the festival along with cultural programmes. The artistes of Gonoshilpi Shongshtha, Pabna Theatre 77, and folk artistes of the district performed patriotic and folk music at the festival. Pabna Theatre 77 was established on December 24, 1977 as a step toward gearing up the cultural movement. "Despite facing many obstacles Pabna Theatre 77 has achieved a successful innings of 35 years," said Md. Abul Kashem, secretary of Pabna Theatre 77. "Theatre is not only for mere entertainment, but also reflects the ideology of a group of people. Theatre movement inspires people to struggle against injustice. The artistes of Pabna Theatre 77 believe that theatre is a weapon in society," Kashem added. Kashem noted that in the group's 35-year journey, Pabna Theatre had produced 40 plays and staged plays in around 300 locales across the country. Pabna Theatre 77 has also participated in many theatre festivals around the country.

In remembrance of Kabir Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation organised a memorial meeting in honour of recently deceased National Professor Kabir Chowdhury on December 26 at National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). Ramendu Majumdar, president world-wide of International Theatre Institute (ITI), Liakat Ali Lucky, director general of BSA; Golam Kuddus, vice president of Sammilito Sanskritik Jote; Jhuna Chowdhury, general secretary of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF) and Mir Zahid Hassan, chief of Mahakal, among others, spoke on the occasion. The discussants asserted that Chowdhury had made an immense contri-



but ion to modern Bangladeshi theatre. Theatre was his life and he loved experimenting. He wanted to enrich theatre with his powerful expressions.

Ramendu Majumdar said, "Chowdhury's role in the field of theatre was immense and he reformed and revolutionised the theatre movement of Bangladesh. He frequently visited the Theatre Federation. He was well informed about theatre activities in our country." Liakat Ali Lucky said, "Kabir Chowdhury was the model of a progressive Bengali. He designed a modern and scientific national education policy. He was an institution in himself." About Chowdhury, Jhuna Chowdhury said, "Sir was versatile and multi-talented. He was like a guardian for theatre and cultural activists. He was bold, outspoken and a modern thinker." Golam Kuddus said, "We learned several things from him. He was a visionary. He was an inspiration for us. His humility also gave us strength."

Abdus Shakoor Shah's solo exhibition at Gallery Chittrak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Gallery Chittrak in Dhanmondi, has organised a 15-day solo painting exhibition, featuring the works of eminent painter Abdus Shakoor Shah. Shakoor is widely recognised for his folk motifs and ballads. Over a large span of his career, the painter has been working on folk motifs and ancient ballads. Folk ballads of Mymensingh-the famous Mahua and Malua love stories, Nakshi Kanthar Maath, Gazir Pata, Manasha Pata have found prominent place in his paintings. He has used oil, acrylic, gouache, watercolour and mixed-media in his works. About 40 paintings are on display at the exhibition. Abul Khair, chairman of Bengal Group inaugurated the exhibition on December 27 as chief guest. Poet Rabul Hussain and Professor Nazrul Islam were present as special guests at the inaugural session of the exhibition.



Theatre Art Unit premieres "Shesher Kobita"



JAMIL MAHMUD
The play gives priority to the inter-relationship of the characters rather than the time period. approach. Some of the dance elements in the play have also been borrowed from the West. Mahbub Selim has planned and directed the music. His work is juxtaposed with western dance forms. Examples of Selim's work include a Scottish song as well as a Tagore number with contemporary musical re-arrangement. Young performers such as Prashanta Haldar and Fauzia Karim dubbed the roles of the protagonists. Although the diction of important literary characters such as Amit and Labonya was of a level in conformity with the characters, the young performers did reasonably well. Among others, Saif Sumon, Anika Mahin, Jolly Ahmed and Mehmd Siddiqui played important roles. Shaheerur Rahman did the set design. Bari's directorial approach was to set the play in contemporary surroundings. He asserts that he tries to experiment with the story. He gave priority to the inter-relationship of the characters rather than the time period. Describing the stage adaptation of the Tagore classic as a tough job, the director finally sees his work as a 'fusion' of the novel. Use of western as well as contemporary experimental arrangement of Tagore numbers are examples of Bari's contemporary

BONNA MIRZA @ DS CAFÉ



The gorgeous and talented actress Bonna Mirza is the celebrity of the month at DS Café. She will be on the hot seat and take up your calls at the Daily Star office on Thursday, December 29, between 2:30 and 3:30 pm. Fans can ask about her life on and off screen! The best question will be highlighted in the transcription. Call 8126155, 01711623915 and 01711623917.



Theatre troupe Prachyanat staged its production "Punarjanmo" at Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on 26 December 2011. A deconstruction of Henrik Ibsen's 'When We Dead Awaken', "Punarjanmo" has been adapted by Shahidul Mamun and directed by Azad Abul Kalam.

Table with TV and radio program listings for ATN Bangla, Channel I, and Bangladesh Television.

Table with radio program listings for abc radio FM 89.2, Dhaka Calling, and Morning Express.

Saathkahan On Desh TV at 08:15pm
Drama Serial Cast: Orsha, Mir Sabbir

The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou at Studio at 09:30pm
Genre: Adventure/Comedy
Cast: Bill Murray,

Lucky Line On Rtv at 9:50pm
Quiz Show
Host: Nabila

Table with TV program listings for various channels including Desh TV, ETV, and Discovery Channel.

DRAMA SERIAL
ATN BANGLA 08:40pm Chand Phul
09:20pm Pooch Phaguner Pala
CHANNEL I 07:50pm Kuschar Phona
08:25pm Lora
Rtv 09:05pm Boyra Paribar
11:30pm Bhele
BANGLAVISON 08:15pm No Problem
ntv 09:45pm Sabuj Nokhkhoto
ETV 09:30pm Ghatok Baki Bhai
Desh TV 07:45pm Gohinye

Table with news bulletin listings for ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL I, and BANGLAVISON.

Table with talk show listings for ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL I, and BANGLAVISON.