

Classical Music Fest

Organiser: Chhayanaout

Venue: Chhayanaout Auditorium, Dhanmondi

Date: December 19-20

1st day from 6pm; 2nd day from 9am



Solo Art Exhibition


Title: Quest for Reality

Artist: Rafiqun Nabi

Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dhanmondi

Date: Dec 7-19

Time: 12pm-8pm



Annual Art Exhibition

Organisers: Shilpakala Academy and Dhaka Art College

Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy

Date: Dec 9-21

Time: 11am-7pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Return to Eden

Artist: Nasima Khanam Queenie

Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi

Date: Dec 13-27

Time: 3pm-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Woman in Gossamer

Artist: Nurun Naher Supti

Venue: Galerie Zoom, Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi

Date: Dec 5-19

Time: 3pm-9pm



THE ESSENCE OF VICTORY

Pulsating celebrations of December 16



Irrespective of age, gender and class, the whole of Bangladesh was painted in the colours of the flag to mark the 42nd Victory Day. Be it in the apparels, face paints or the smallest of flags, the spirit was identical in every heart, as countless people sang the national anthem in unison.

It's said a great yardstick of the magnitude of any victory is the magnitude of the battle fought, and by those terms, there are few victories in modern history bigger than that the emergence of Bangladesh. So it should come as no surprise that the anniversary of one of the most costly announcements on the world map will be one of the grandest days in the calendar of any Bangladeshi.

As every year, celebrations were taking place all over the capital; from the smallest area-based cultural organisations to a successful attempt at breaking a World Record, but the biggest celebration of victory was fittingly being held at the same place where the first scintilla of an independent Bangladesh arose from -- the iconic Suhrawardy Udyan. Organised by Gonojagoron Mancha -- the platform that held the helm of an awakening of spirit this year, the celebration, titled "Bijoy 2013", had it all -- from the essence of the roots in Bhawaiyya and Baul songs, to the heartbeats of the youth in energetic band performances.

The event started with Air Vice Marshall (ret'd) AK Khandaker -- the second-in-command of the Liberation War -- delivering the inaugural address, while Dr. Abul Barakat and Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal also spoke on the occasion. Cultural presentations by a wide variety of cultural groups followed, including Ghashphul, Padatik Sangeet Sangsad, Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha, Rabindra Sangeet Sammelan Parishad, Surtirtha, Satyen Sen Shilpi Goshthi, Chhayanaout, Music College, Dhaka Sangskritik Dol, Bhawaiyya Angan, Surer Dhara, Wrishij Shilpi Goshthi and Khelaghor.

Familiar songs and tunes echoed through the arena as people from all walks of life gathered, dressed in red and green, to soak in the feeling of victory. They came in families, friends, couples, in big and small bunches, undeterred by the sun and the absence of seats. They sang along with "Mukti'r Mondir Shopano Tole", "O Bhai Khati Shona'r chaite Khati", "Nai Nai Bhoy", "Dhono Dhanne Pushpe Bhora", "Himaloy Theke Sundarban" and "Bhoy Ki Morone", chanted along with slogans that were being chanted from the stage in between songs, and enjoyed the recitations of poems of the likes of Sikandar Abu Zafar and Salil Chowdhury.

After a number of Gono-Sangeet performances by artistes of the Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendro, the most-awaited part of the day drew nearer -- a choral singing of the National Anthem of all those present at the grounds, and wherever every Bangladeshi was at 4:31pm -- the exact time when the Pakistani army surrendered at this very ground on this day 42 years ago. It was preceded by a 'documentary act' showing the entire happenings of the surrender, and Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman delivering an address.

As the air continued to echo the most touching words to any Bangladeshi "Amar Shona'r Bangla, Ami Tomaye Bhalobashi" from thousands of voices, an oath-taking ceremony was administered by AK Khandaker, followed by a symbolic hand-over of the flag of Bangladesh.

With a "Concert for Freedom" still to go featuring performances by the top bands of the country, and a fireworks display, every single one in the crowd -- from toddlers to the elderly, from elites to labourers, from hardcore 'Gonojagoron' activists to the casual festival-visitors -- felt the pride and joy of victory in their own terms. With a big victory achieved 42 years after the war -- by bringing to book a perpetrator against the country -- there were reasons to celebrate, and maybe more so to send a message to those opposing the spirit of freedom, that we are the majority, and Bangladesh will never again be in the hands of those who do not acknowledge the independence, sovereignty and secularism of this land.

Who designed the national flag of the People's Republic of Bangladesh? Questions to test the basic degree of knowledge about our country and the Liberation War will be thrown up in the Victory Day Special episode of "Rin presents Bangladesh First" powered by Standard Chartered Bank. The programme is brought to viewers by Champs21.com, in association with The Daily Star. The programme will be aired tonight at 9:05 pm on Maasranga television.

Tonight's special episode features four celebrity guests as they join the participants in tackling questions based solely on Bangladesh's war of independence. Musa Ibrahim, the man who successfully scaled Mt Everest on May 23, 2010, paired up with Adhora from YWCA Girls' High School; Rumana Malik Munmun, the celebrated host of the Spelling Bee, kept company with Asif from Hermann Gmeiner School; Kazi

"Bangladesh First" and the Glory of War of Independence

Asif, actor, model and son of a Freedom-Fighter, consorted with Liha of Manarat International School; and Ognila Iqbal, a shining actress of the small screen, partnered with Nazib of St. Joseph Higher Secondary School.

The contestants and the celebrity guests stunned everyone with their active participation and their knowledge of the nine-month Liberation War. Both participants and celebrity guests shared numerous stories of the War of Liberation and expressed their love and respect for those who sacrificed their lives and families for the country. In three rounds of stiff competition, the contestants relived the past and elevated the importance of the history of Bangladesh in every aspect of our lives. Ferdous Bappy, host of Bangladesh First, salutes the Mukti Bahini for their selfless effort in liberating the country.

The repeat telecast will be aired on Friday, at 9am.

Freedom Fighters inaugurate Victory Fair at Channel i premises

On the occasion of 42nd Victory Day, Channel i organised a Victory Fair at Channel i's Tejgaon office yesterday. Thirty five Freedom Fighters inaugurated the fair at 10:30 am by releasing colourful balloons.

Managing director of Channel i Faridur Reza Sagar, director and head of news Shykh Seraj; directors -- Jahiruddin Mahmud Mamun, Mukit Majumdar Babu of the channel; managing director of Incepta Pharmaceutical Abdul Muktadir along with artistes of Shadheen Bangla Betar Kendra (SBBK), members of Shadheen Bangla Football Team, cultural personalities and civil society representatives were present at the inaugural programme. Ganosangeet artiste Fakir Alamgir led his troupe in rendering two spirited songs -- "Purba Digante Surja Utchheche" and "Daam Diye Kinechhi Bangla".

Apart from reminiscences of the Freedom Fighters, noted singers with several SBBK artistes Timir Nandi, Indra Mohan Rajbongshi, Monoranjon Ghoshal, Arup Ratan Chowdhury, MA Mannan and Rebeka Sultana performed "Rakto Diye Naam Likhechhi", "Arey O Amar Bangladesh-er Majhi Bhai", "Shonaye Morano Bangla Moder", "Aaji Bangladesh-er Hridoy Hotey", "Laal Sabujer Buk-e Oi" and "Ek Sagar Rakter Binimoy-e" respectively. Noted elocutionist Hasani Imam recited poetry while Farida Parveen also sang at the event.

Noted painters Abdul Mannan, Ranjit Das, Biren Shome, Rezaun Nabi, Moniruzzaman, Rasa and Shahjahan Ahmed Bikash along with several child artists did paintings on the theme of Liberation War, Joy of Victory and different aspects of independence.

Stalls at the fair showcased books, documents, photographs, films, diary of Liberation War. A stall of the Liberation War Museum was there too. Seven memorial pillars and 11 spots were located at the fair premises in memory of seven Beershreshtha and 11 sectors of the Liberation War. Amirul Islam and Shahidul Alam Shachchu directed the Victory Fair, aired live by channel i.



Freedom Fighters inaugurate the Victory Fair at Channel i.

MONG crowned first Bangladeshi Idol

Mong U Ching Marma, the voice from Banderban, has left all others behind to be crowned the first Bangladeshi Idol by audience vote, in a grand gala on Friday. He edged out first runner-up Arif Khan Joy and second runner-up Mrinmoy Singho Monty, to take home 10 lac taka in cash prizes, a brand new car and other prizes totaling 1 crore taka. The gala programme also featured performances by the top 12 of the competitors, Sabina Yasmin, Kanak Chapa, and Fahmida Nabi, and a dance presentation by Dhallywood stars Shakib Khan and Opu Bishwas.

Mong, a higher secondary student, has been singing from an early age, and was a part of Marma band group Chimbuk before he came on Idols. He expressed hopes of living up to the peoples' expectations, and become a representative of Bangla language and culture.



The three finalists with the host, moments before result announcement.

Muktijuddher Bijoy Mela in Chittagong

Sanjari Adhyatik Shilpi Goshti enthralls audience

Patriotism, moral and spiritual values were the underpinnings of Sanjari Adhyatik Shilpi Goshti's mesmerising performance at the Bijoy Mancha of Muktijuddher Bijoy Mela 2013 in the city's Kazir Dewri area on Sunday evening.

The spiritually-inclined musical troupe of Chittagong rendered a number of songs that comprised a brilliant confluence of patriotic beliefs.

In tune with the spirit of freedom, the troupe sang popular patriotic songs such as "Orey Bangali Jeo Na Bhuli, Esho Na Sobai Gola Chhere Gai Amar Sonar Bangla," "Ei Je Maati Sona Sona, Ei Maati Je Heerer Kona" and "Ei Maati Desher Maati Jiyol Kathi Sobcheye Khanti Sona".

With the slogan "Muktijuddher Bijoy, Bir Bangalir Ohonkar," Muktijuddher Bijoy Mela 2013 is being organised by Muktijuddher Bijoy Mela Uddhapan Parishad, Chittagong.

The fair, dedicated to the Liberation War, is being held at the Outer Stadium of Chittagong from December 10-25.

Besides this, discussions on the Liberation War by Freedom Fighters and eminent personalities are being held every evening at the Bijoy Mancha alongside various cultural programmes including recitation, dance, drama and music at MA Aziz Stadium Gymnasium Premises.