

WHAT'S ON

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 Art 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




Architectural Exhibition

Architect: Kashef Chowdhury

Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan

Date: Dec 13-Jan 13

Time: 12pm-8pm



Of spirit, passion and colour

Three-day Victory Celebrations at BUET

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking 42nd Victory Day, students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) chalked out a three-day (December 14-16) elaborate programme to celebrate the indomitable spirit and varied colours of victory. The students' passion for Red and Green along with their patriotic zeal was evident in their effort to showcase the opulent history and heritage of Liberation War.

The students decorated the walls and streets of BUET with paintings and *alpana* themed on the Liberation War and colours of victory. Their diverse initiatives in conveying the sublime saga of our War of independence included a photography and painting exhibition where they also displayed the names of seven Beershreshtha in ambigram fonts; a film and documentary screening; a book fair; styling a replica of Boddhobhumi; display of fireworks, fire spinning; pitha utshab (traditional cake festival); Nagordola (merry-go-round), showcasing of a 3-D wall magazine with literary, artistic and cultural pieces



Students perform an instrumental orchestra.

along with evocative moments of our political history and unplugged music and cultural shows.

On Victory Day (December 16), several students, in a cycle rally, from BUET reached the national memorial, at Savar, to place floral wreaths. Shib Narayan Das, who first designed the National Flag of Bangladesh, spoke at the programme while all the BUET students, teachers and staff members sang the national anthem along with their countrymen at 4:31pm.

In the evening, the students presented an instrumental orchestra with 21 musical instruments including the sitar, flute, violin, guitar, dotara, mridanga, harmonium, tabla, drums and mouth organ. The rendered some spirited patriotic songs "Chol Chol Chol", "Teer Hara Ei Dheu-er Sagar", "Moder Gorob Moder Asha", "Dhono Dhanne Pushpe Bhora" and "Badh Bhenge Dao". Eight students also presented our national anthem a capella.

Reading out from "Ekattur-er Chitthi", recitation of poems, musical performances with dances came next on stage. The soloists performed songs including "Ekbar Jete De Na", "Amaye Gethe Dao Na Mago", "Nao Chhariya Dey", and more, while several BUET based bands captivated the crowd till midnight.

Tributes paid to Peter O'Toole



Tributes have been paid to actor Peter O'Toole, the star of the 1962 classic "Lawrence of Arabia", who died on Saturday aged 81. He had been in hospital where he was being treated for a long illness.

Sir Michael Gambon, who appeared with O'Toole when he played Hamlet in the National Theatre's first production in 1963, said: "He was a great actor."

O'Toole's daughter Kate said the family was overwhelmed "by the outpouring of real love and affection being expressed towards him, and to us".

Fellow actor Sir John Standing who had been O'Toole's "great, great friend" for more than 60 years, told the BBC he had been lucky enough to work with him five times. "He was brilliantly funny as well. He couldn't wait to make you, either on stage or off stage, laugh. He was a delight to work with."

Michael Redwood, who directed O'Toole in one of his final screen roles in the forthcoming British film "Katherine of Alexandria", described the actor as "an inspiration to work with".

O'Toole began his acting career as an exciting young talent on the British stage and his 1955 performance at the Bristol Old Vic's run of Hamlet was critically acclaimed. He hit international stardom when Sir David Lean cast him as British adventurer TE Lawrence, the World War One soldier and scholar who led an Arab rebellion against the Turks.

Irish President Michael D Higgins said, "Ireland, and the world, has lost one of the giants of film and theatre."

In July 2012, after a career spanning 50 years and at the age of 79, O'Toole said he was retiring from the stage and screen.

"The Shield" star Michael Chiklis added O'Toole was the "original, hard drinking, classic, actor's actor", while fellow US actor Neil Patrick Harris added: "Lucky to have worked with him for a month in Prague. Wonderful man, remarkable talent."

UK Prime Minister David Cameron said his thoughts were with O'Toole's family and friends, adding the actor's performance "in my favourite film, Lawrence of Arabia, was stunning".

The exuberance of patriotism

Bands show their love for motherland



Burst of energy lights up the Dhaka sky.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

FAHMIM FERDOUS

On the glorious Victory Day of Bangladesh, Suhrawardy Udyan, fittingly, was the epicentre of celebrations on Monday. While people gathered in from the morning to enjoy the music and recitation, it was during the choral singing of the national anthem that the arena turned into a human sea of red and green, with the numbers soaring up to hundreds of thousands. As the evening sets in, a dazzling display of fireworks -- rated as many in the crowd to be the best they have seen -- lit up the Dhaka sky, almost like a symbolic preview to the burst of energy that was awaiting the audience on stage.

Although the "Concert for Freedom" organised as part of the Bijoy 2013 programmes were scheduled to have one part of it held early in the afternoon, timing crunches meant they would all take place in the evening.

Thrash metal band Mechanix were first on stage, performing the title track of their only album "Oporajeyo".



Powerful, fast drumming, aggressive guitar riffs and a cut-through solo tightly wound around the typically dark, metaphoric lyrics of the band, speaking of an invincible protagonist who battles on against the odds.

In a drastic change of tempo, band Shohortoli, who classify themselves as 'theatrical rock', took the stage next with a touching piece titled "Desh Mata'r Kachhe Chitthi" - a dialogue-and-song composition with a strong, satirical outlook on how patriotism is being pushed to the sidelines by corporate culture and globalization, while Freedom Fighters continue to struggle.

Maqsood O Dhaka was the next act on stage. A veteran of

the Bangladeshi rock scene, Maqsood is known for his strongly-versed lyrics. The band performed their iconic song "Bangladesh" that moved the massive crowd, followed by "Parwardigar", a hard-hitting song written this year against the backdrop of violence in the name of religion.

Cryptic Fate took the stage next, opening with the melodic "Protibad", before bringing the crowd alive with "Cholo Bangladesh", arguably the most inspirational song about Bangladesh by a rock band. Written a long time ago during the Bangladesh Cricket Team's first World Cup venture, it has become an anthem of sorts for cricket lovers of the country, and the response from the

audience was massive.

Dreek, a young, energetic rock band was up next, opening with a just-revealed song "Aamrai Bangladesh", featuring a fantastic chorus that echoes that there's a bit of Bangladesh in all of us, and if we all do our part, it will take the country forward. They also performed "Jhona'r Moto Chonchol", their popular tribute to Kazi Nazrul Islam and a masterpiece narrating the force of the youth.

Pentagon, one of the longest-running bands currently active, were next on stage, with their song "Jaago", another inspiring, upbeat song urging the people of the country to wake up against all evil and darkness.

Although security concerns cut the concert short by a fair bit (because of the open nature of the arena, law enforcers cited their limitations in eliminating all security threats), the large audience that walked out of the park kept humming the tunes as the lyrics played in their heads; lyrics that spoke of the power of the youth and the people, and the power of love for your country.

Bangla Academy recalls 1971 Victory

On the occasion of Victory Day, Bangla Academy organised a discussion and cultural programme at Rabindra Chatter (on its premises) on December 16. The academy launched its celebrations through the placing of wreaths at The National Martyrs' Monument at Savar in the morning, according to a press release.

In the Victory Day Memorial Speech, Professor Muntasir Mamun delivered a keynote speech, titled "Muktijuddho, Manobata Birodhi Oporader Bichar O Itihaser Odhikar". Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman, chairman of the academy presided over the programme. Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of the academy delivered the welcome address at the programme.

Later, singers Monuranjan Ghoshal, Kalyani Ghosh, Fatema-tuz Zohra and Swarnamoyee Mondal performed on the occasion. Elocutionists-- Rafiqul Haque, Akhter Hossain, Amirul Islam, Alom Talukder, Rifat Nigar Shapla, Anjir Liton and Ahmed Kaiser among others reciting poetry at the event.

Victory Day observances

Cultural events marking a historic day

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Artistes of Udichi Shilpi Ghosthi, Mymensingh district unit joined in a choral rendition of the National Anthem, marking Victory Day celebrations in front of Shaheed Firoz Jahangir Square in the town on Monday.

The cultural group also organised similar programmes at Trishal, Bhaluka, Muktagacha, Tarakanda, Shyangganj, Gouripur, Gafargaoan, Phulbaria and Bangladesh Agricultural University.

People from all strata of society joined the programme spontaneously in hundreds.

Earlier, Language Movement veteran and Freedom Fighter Abdul Aziz Talukder hoisted the national flag to begin the programme.

Advocate Emdadul Haque Millat, Mymensingh, secretary of CPB; Ferdous Ara Mahmuda Helen, president, Bangladesh Mohila Parishad; its secretary Monira Begum Anu; Dr. Prodip Kar, Udichi Mymensingh unit vice-president; Sajeda Begum Saju; Hasan Tareque, central secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra Union; Abdur Rob Mosharraf district Jubo union district president and advocate Shabbir Ahmed Liton attended the programme, among others.

Sarwar Kamal Robin, Udichi Mymensingh unit secretary delivered the welcome address.

"As part of country wide programme undertaken by Bjoy'71 and Ganogagoran Mancha, we organised programme at different venues at 4.31 pm," said Robin.

"At 4.31 pm on this day in 1971, Pakistan occupation forces led by Gen. AAK Niazi surrendered to the joint forces in Dhaka's historic Ramna Race Course, now Suhrawardy Udyan, following a miserable defeat at the hands of the joint forces of Mukti Bahini and Mitra Bahini," said the Udichi leader.

"Through such programmes, we want to convey the significance of our final victory to the younger generations," Robin said.

On the occasion of the Martyred Intellectuals' Day, theatre troupe Somoy staged their acclaimed production "Bhager Manush" at the Experimental Theatre Hall of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Based on Saadat Hasan Manto's short story "Toba Tek Singh", the play has been adapted by Mannan Hira and directed by Aly Zaker. The play debuted in 1997 and has so far been staged 158 times. Set against the backdrop of the India-Pakistan partition, the play features Pavel Islam, Riaz Mahmud Jewel, Mansura Rashid Lovely and Fakhrul Islam Mithu, among others, in the cast.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON



A Santa Claus of arts

Thomas Lehman's heartwarming art project "A Piece for You"

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Many people say gift-giving is an art. Thomas Lehman -- a German choreographer -- has taken that concept a level higher; he gives people presents of performance. And that is not the most remarkable aspect of his little project; it is that he gives these gifts to strangers in strange lands. Thomas' art project "A Piece for You" has been criss-crossing through Europe and Central Asia and is currently in Bangladesh, spreading smiles along the miles on his motorcycle.

Thomas himself explains, talking to The Daily Star at the studio of Shadhona dance school last week: "I think giving presents is a very special human interaction. They link people in and across societies. I thought of this unique present to give to people, which would be a performance choreographed and designed specifically for the 'presentee'. So I set out on a tour, going to places and experiencing human interactions as I gave people the gifts. I think what's special about it is

the presenter investing their time, energy and skills, to create something unique and beautiful for the presentee."

So, how does Thomas know what gift he is going to give to a stranger he meets in a foreign country? "I have to get to know that person. I have to talk to them, bond with them and only then I can figure out what I could give them as a present. That I think has been one of the most fascinating aspects of my journey. I have met so many people, spent time with them and communicated with them without speaking a word of each others' language, and even felt care and concern; that communication and connection in itself is art to me," says a beaming Thomas.

His decision of coming to Bangladesh has been backed well by the Goethe-Institut and Shadhona. "When I was planning, I contacted many of the Goethe-Institut offices abroad, and the Dhaka office responded very quickly. They have worked together with Shadhona before, and when I got in touch with Lubna Marium -- she was



Thomas Lehman spreading smiles along the miles on his motorcycle...

positive in her feedback immediately, and it has gone very smoothly. My motorbike is not with me though; it was packed from Kygistan to go to Japan, where I will meet it again." And of his work with Shadhona, he says "My project is open to collaborations and I've done workshops in other 'stations' of my visit, so I'm doing that here. The dancers of Shadhona are giving gifts for each other; I am just trying to infuse the idea into their minds and help them put it together. I haven't got a lot of time with them (until when the interview was done), but they are an energetic bunch and I'm looking forward to the presentation."

The Dhaka edition of "A Piece for You" will be held today (December 18) at the Goethe-Institut in Dhanmondi. Thomas will move on to Korea, China, and Japan and countries in between, while his map is circled on South, Middle and North America for 2015, and if all goes well, he will travel through Africa and back to Europe in 2016.