

WHAT'S ON

16th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh
 Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: December 1-31
 Time: 11am to 8pm except Fridays (3-8pm)

Solo Art Exhibition
 Artist: Proshanta Karmakar
 Buddha
 Venue: Café Mango Gallery, H-3/A, Rd-72, Gulshan
 Date: Nov 14-Jan 14
 Time: 10am-10pm

Cartoon Exhibition
 Meet the Faces
 Artist: Mitu
 Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
 Date: Dec 5-18
 Time: 3pm-8pm

Solo Painting and Drawing Exhibition
 Title: Shifting Sands
 Artist: Nasima Khan
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge
 Date: Dec 13-27
 Time: 12pm-8pm

Photography Exhibition
 Title: On Boarders
 Organiser: Bengal Foundation and Goethe Institute Dhaka
 Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Art Precinct
 Date: Dec 10- January 04
 Time: 12pm-8pm



Letters from Freedom fighters move Chittagong audience

MINHAJ UDDIN, Chittagong
 The auditorium of Theatre institute Chittagong (TIC) filled up with emotions, as letters of Freedom Fighters were being read out by famous recitation artists of Chittagong on Sunday evening, on the occasion of Martyred Intellectuals Day.
 The programme was organised by Drishty Chittagong, in association with Rotary club of Chittagong port city. At the programme titled "Muktir Kotha Shuni", audience heard the reminiscence of freedom fighter AKM Raisul Huq Bahar of Chittagong, who described his inspiration of joining war, his experiences and incidents during the war.
 In between the memories, famous recitation artists and poets of Chittagong read out the letters by different freedom fighters to their near and dear ones during the War. The performers are Bishwjit Chowdhury, Kamrul Hasan Badol, Subra Biswas, Sabira Sultana Bina, Jinnah Chowdhury, Jahir Uddin Ahmed, Aysha Huq Shimu, Pranab Chowdhury, Mujahidul Islam and Wasika Ayesha Khanam.
 The programme was conducted by Saber Shah of Drishty Chittagong, and elocutionist Mili Chowdhury. In his welcome speech, Masud Bakul, President of Drishty Chittagong, paid his homage to the freedom fighters and martyred intellectuals.

SPIRIT OF VICTORY ALL AROUND

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 December is the month of victory, the spirit that transcends social barriers as people of across strata of society hoist national flags everywhere. Cars and vehicles ply on roads hoisting national flags, jubilant youths adorn their cheek with Red and Green, and they are dressed in attires and accessories themed on Victory Day.
 A number of artists and organisations held cultural programmes ushering in and celebrating the Victory Day

2014. Sammlito Sangskritik Jote arranged a four-day (December 13-16) victory festival at various venues of Dhaka. Solo artists, with cultural and theatre troupes recited poems, rendered patriotic and folk songs and staged street plays every day at the venues.
 On the eve of victory day, artistes of Bonhishikha, Drishti, Anandan Sangskriti Bikash Kendra and Awami Shilpi Gosthi performed choral songs at the stage on the Central Shaheed Minar, including "O Amar Desh-er Mati", "Jonmo Amar

Dhonno Holo", "Banglar Hindu, Banglar Bouddho" and "Bongshi Bajaye Ke Re" while Bulbul Mahlanbish, Kanan Bala Sarkar, Bulbul Islam and others rendered solo songs. Elocutionists from the troupes Swarbanjon and Swarchitra along with soloists Dalia Ahmed, Syed Shahidul Islam and Tamanna Sarwar recited poems at the event. Artistes of Spondon danced to a patriotic song while members of Chandrakala Theatre and Natyadal staged two street plays on the day.
 Ganojagoron Mancha organised

documentary screening on Liberation War and mass killings of martyred intellectuals at Dhaka University (DU) area during 1971. Artistes also performed live songs and recited poems on stage.
 A grand Victory rally was started from Central Shaheed Minar premises at 10am yesterday. The rally circled several streets of the campus area. People from all walks of life thronged at the DU area in the evening and enjoyed live cultural programmes organised by various organisations.



Elocutionists perform at the event.

A buzzing Victory Day at DU campus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 On a cold December day in 1971, a new Sun marked the birth of an independent nation after nine months of a bloody war that began in March. When that day comes every year, the entire nation dives in celebration with the joy of freedom and remembers the contribution of hundreds of thousands of heroic souls.
 Keeping in line with its tradition, Dhaka University, an epicentre of youthful celebrations, wore a new look on the Victory Day. Student organisations based at the Teacher-Students Centre (TSC) of the university celebrated the day through elaborate programmes.
 The three-day programmes, "Rokte Ranga Bijoy Amar-2014" began on December 14, the Martyred Intellectuals Day, through illuminating several killing grounds situated within the campus, with candles. TSC donned a new look with installations and wall paintings of Victory Day. A photography exhibition of Dhaka University Photographic Society (DUPS) at TSC premises hosted rare images and paper cuttings of 1971. Dhaka University Film Society (DUFS) screened "Stop Genocide" and "Muktir Gaan" for an open audience. Later in the evening, a concert took place at TSC premises with the participation of campus-based bands and Obscure. Their rendi-



Fireworks light up the night sky at TSC, Dhaka University, at the stroke of midnight. PHOTO: SAURAV DEY

tions of patriotic songs along with their own compositions enchanted the present crowd.
 As the night began to fall, DUFS released 43 fanush (paper lanterns) illuminating the night sky, while the concert was still on in the back-

ground, along with the crowd chanting "Joy Bangla".
 Slogan 71's dazzling fireworks in front of Raju Bhashkarja marked the beginning of the Victory Day. Dhaka University Vice chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique was present there to

take part in the celebration.
 In the morning, Dhaka University Cycling Club held a bicycle rally, led by the university Vice Chancellor. In addition, several other student organisations marked the day though different programmes.

"Joyjatra is the image of the Liberation War in my mind"

... Tauquir Ahmed
SHAH ALAM SHAZU
 Tauquir Ahmed is a successful actor and director for both television and cinema. Under his direction, the film "Joyjatra", based on the Liberation War, earned him immense fame. As the nation celebrates the 43rd Victory Day, the talented artiste spoke to The Daily Star, about his expectation and disappointments about the day.
After 43 years of the country's liberation war, what do you consider our as biggest achievements?
 Tauquir Ahmed: Independence itself is the greatest achievement for us. The significant progress in the arts, culture and literature are the outcome of the country's freedom.
And what are your major disappointments?
 Tauquir Ahmed: Society could have been more organised. Valuable time has been lost but it is yet to happen. Definitely, good governance is the need of the hour.
Who inspired you to make "Joyjatra"?
 Tauquir Ahmed: Every artiste has held the spirit of the Liberation War within them. The same goes for me, and that is why I made the film. For me, "Joyjatra" is the image of the Liberation War in my mind.
What message did you want to convey through "Joyjatra"?
 Tauquir Ahmed: The movie was made for those who sacrificed their lives for the country's freedom. The Liberation War is the result of ordinary people's aspirations, and that which I wanted to show with "Joyjatra".
Do you have plans to follow up with another film on the Liberation War?
 Tauquir Ahmed: No, but I plan to make a film on the language movement next year.



Asian Group-Channel i Bijoy Mela held

A CORRESPONDENT
 Eminent cultural personalities, poets, artists, educationists and Freedom Fighters, members of Naval Commando and others inaugurated a daylong Bijoy Mela 2014 at Channel i premises yesterday, through releasing pigeons in the sky. Young artists painted on Liberation War while child artists took part in an art competition from where 10 received awards. Colourful red and green stage, seven memorials by the names of seven Beershreshtha and eleven sectors were placed at the fair. The victory fair also included stalls displaying

documents, books, photography and documentaries on Liberation War along with showcasing heritage and culture of timeless Bangladesh.
 Several artistes, including Khurshid Alam, Fakir Alamgir, Tapan Chowdhury, Selim Chowdhury, Moutusi and others rendered songs like "Bijoy Nishan Urchhe Oi", "Purbo Digonte Surjo Utcheche", "Aji Bangladesh-er Hridoy Hotey", "Jonmo Amar Dhonno Holo" and more. Poet Asad Chowdhury and Syed Hasan Imam recited poems at the event, while child artists danced to several patriotic songs. Channel i aired the fair live.



Poramati: A tale from 1971

SAURAV DEY
 Padatik Natya Sangsad Bangladesh premiered their 31st production "Poramati" at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on December 14 evening.
 Written by Babul Biswas, the play — a narrative from a torture camp of Pakistani Military during the Liberation War — has been directed by Dr. Irin Pervin Lopa. Selim SH Chowdhury, Team Leader of Padatik, is the art director of the play.
 The play depicts an earthy tale of sheer horror narrated by a number of prisoners held by the Pakistani Army. The perpetrators insinuate the poison of betrayal into the prisoners and it leads to a crack in their unity. Betrayal poisons the mind of Bangladeshis during the war shattering their unity, and the play brings forth that tale of betrayal and killing by the Pakistani Military and their local collaborators.
 "Poramati" fits well into the present socio-political context where people are running after personal interest instead of collective welfare of the society.
 Omiyo Mizan, Kamruzzaman Pavel, Al Amin, Faruk Faysal Duke, Mahmuda Akter Lita and Kamal Hossain played different



The play depicts atrocities by the Pakistani army. PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

roles in the play. One of the strongest aspects of the play was the bold, near-perfect acting. What was even more commending was that three members of the cast were debutants on stage.
 Three members of Martyred Intellectuals families — Panna Kaiser, Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury and Zaheed Reza Noor attended the premiere, along with Indian Deputy High Commissioner Sandip Chakraborty.

A realistic set design coupled with vivid imagery, and an audio-visual in the background gave the audience a glimpse of what happened in 1971. The representation on stage was so vivid that Syamoli Nasrin Chowdhury and Panna Kaiser had a hard time sitting through it. The play deserves applause, though one and half hour runtime seemed tad lengthy for this compact narrative.