

WHAT'S ON
Programmes on Victory Day
 Organiser: Liberation War Museum
 Venue: Liberation War Museum and Jalladkhana Boddhobhumi, Mirpur
 Date: Dec 10-16
 Time: 4pm onward

Drawings & Sketches Exhibition
 By Master Artists
 Venue: Shilpakala Gallery, Dhanmondi
 Date: Nov 27-Dec 10
 Time: 3-8pm Daily

Photography Exhibition
 "Pakhi'r Desh Bangladesh"
 Venue: Bangladesh National Museum
 Date: Dec 4-11
 Time: 9:30am-4:30pm

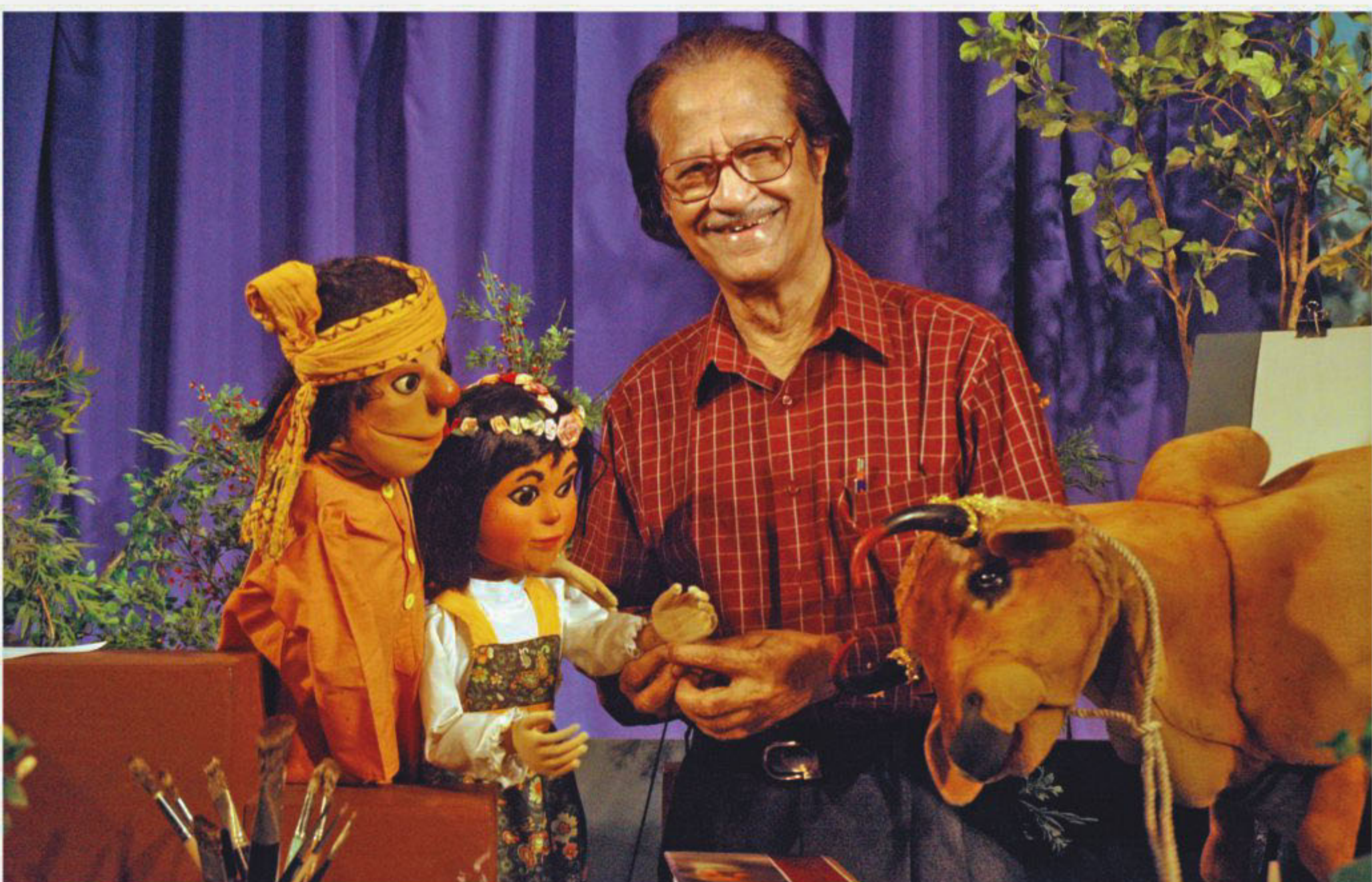
Bangladesh Film Festival 2015
 Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Venue: National Art Gallery Auditorium, BSA
 Date: Dec 10-24; Time: 6pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Artist: Kalidas Karmakar
 Title: Alluvial Realization
 Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts, Uttara Badda
 Date: Dec 4-22
 Time: 10am-8pm

NEWS bytes

Ed Sheeran breaks venue record

It's official: Ed Sheeran's tour Down Under is a record breaker. The English singer-songwriter set a new attendance mark at AAMI Park in Melbourne with 33,323 on December 5, only to break it again the next night with 33,595. Although it's predominantly a sporting venue, the multi-purpose AAMI Park has hosted concerts from the likes of the Foo Fighters (in 2011) and Bruce Springsteen, who previously held the record when he drew a crowd of 31,847 for a show back in February 2014. Taylor Swift's 1989 tour will stop at AAMI Park this weekend. Sheeran's box-office achievements are particularly lofty when taken into consideration it's his sec-



Mustafa Manwar with his puppets. PHOTO: STAR

MUSTAFA MANWAR recalls the Liberation War

KAVITA, New Delhi
 The scenes from the refugee camps in West Bengal in 1971 are etched forever in Mustafa Manwar's mind: grim, distressed faces and a deathly silence which enveloped everyone, including the children. "They were getting basic necessities such as food and clothes but laughter, which is crucial for human beings, was missing. Even the children did not play together. The trauma was tremendous because of the inhumanity of the Pakistani army. So I thought I would have puppet plays to boost the refugees' morale and bring back laughter in their lives," says Manwar, puppeteer, artist, director and producer of TV programmes and author of screenplays. And he did do that through his puppet plays, such as *Agachha*, *Rakhkhas* and *A brave farmer*. The play with maximum impact was *Agachha*. The storyline:

Drawing a parallel between unwanted weeds and the Pakistani oppressors, the play shows how the farmer pulls out the weeds that ruin his crop and throws them away just like the Pakistani rulers need to be weeded out before they destroy the ethos of the country. The greatest accolade for Manwar was the audience's spontaneous laughter in the camps, particularly in Kalyanpur. Young and old alike joined in mirth fuelled by the satire. Manwar, as he admits, was moved to tears at the response. "I was so emotional because I saw their laughter had returned. I realised that it was almost as important to laugh as to have food," says the versatile artist. One old man in the refugee camp said it was the first time that he had laughed after a month. Another feather in his cap was when Lear Levin, an American documentary filmmaker, visited the country and made

a film of these puppets. Later, Tareque Masud added many shots to those taken by the foreigner and called his film *Muktir Gaan*. Coming back to the present, Manwar says puppetry is a very good medium for satire. Though Bangladeshi politicians are not accustomed to satire, he says he uses it subtly to lampoon them. Now he is busy with reviving folk stories and great writers of children's tales through puppetry. He has also worked on Hans Christian Andersen's *The Nightingale* and *The Ugly Duckling*. Meanwhile, Manwar is upbeat about his puppetry medium. As he says, "Puppetry is a great medium to learn aesthetics and painting. All art forms can be combined in puppetry -- painting, voice and oratory, for example. It is a very important medium for children." And his delighted young and old fans would tend to agree.

Bangladesh Film Festival begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) is holding a mega festival of Bangla films from today, titled "Bangladesh Film Festival 2015". The festival will run simultaneously at the 64 district Shilpakala Academies till December 24. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor will open the festival, with Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu as chief guest, at the National Art Gallery auditorium, which will be the festival venue in Dhaka. Other guests will include BSA Director General Liaquat Ali Lucky, Syed Salahuddin Zaki, Mosihuddin Shaker and Morshedul Islam. The festival's first film will be Tareque Masud's "Mati'r Moyna". The festival features some of the best films made in Bangladesh, including classics like Zahir Raihan's "Kacher Deyal", Mosihuddin Shaker's "Surjo Dighol Bari", Goutam Ghose's "Padma Nodi'r Majhi", Subhash Dutta's "Sutorang", Abu Sayeed's "Kittonkhola", Alamgir Kabir's "Simana Periyee", Badal Rahman's "Emil'er Goyenda Bahini", Tareque Masud's "Runway" and Abdullah Al Mamun's "Sareng Bou". Besides, recently-made films of taste, including Prosun Rahman's "Sutopa'r Thikana", Morshedul Islam's "Amar Bondhu Rashed", Nasiruddin Yousuff's "Guerilla", Gazi Rakayet's "Mrittika Maya" and Tanvir Mokammel's "Lalon".



Hridoy Khan sings first patriotic song

SHAH ALAM SHAZU
 Hridoy Khan has been in the pop music circuit for a good while and has carved a niche for himself with his catchy tunes. But this time, he has broken out of his comfort zone to sing a patriotic song, marking the month of victory. Titled "Amar Achhe Bayanno, Amar Achhe Ekattur" ("I have '52, I have '71"), the song was composed by Hridoy himself and recorded at his studio recently. Kabir Bakul has written the song. "I have long wanted to make a song about Bangladesh," Hridoy told The Daily Star, adding that he is also looking to produce a music video of the song. He will himself direct it. "My primary goal is to release it on December 16, but if that does not end up happening, I promise it will release this month of victory," Hridoy added.



Dhaka Comicon to 'go beyond borders'

A CORRESPONDENT
 The fourth edition of the Dhaka Comicon, one of the pioneering pop culture conventions of the country, returns this weekend, from December 10-12 at the Jamuna Future Park, and it will bring in new elements for fans. This year's event is being sponsored by Bikroy.com.

A press conference was held at The Daily Star Centre on Tuesday, where representatives of organisers and sponsors elaborated details of the event. Comicon, short for comic convention, are conventions where fans of comics, TV shows, movies, video games and pretty much anything pop-culture related gather together, sharing their collections, cosplaying (costume play) their favourite characters, and buying merchandise. The first Dhaka Comicon was held in 2012 and has grown strength to strength, along with a number of other regular conventions being held in the capital. International guests have been

invited to the Dhaka Comicon this year, and Bangladeshi attendees can also discuss participation in conventions in India's Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Hyderabad. A group of Florida-based (USA) videographers named Eleventh Hour will be recording the convention, another norm for such events.



"I work 16 hours a day" ... Priyanka Chopra

Top Bollywood actor Priyanka Chopra says she works 16 hours a day to get recognition and money, and has no time to enjoy life. The National Award-winning actor has become a household name not only in India but globally too with her American TV show, "Quantico". "Success is not a destination.... Success is a journey. You are successful if you are consistently successful," Priyanka said. Asked whether money matters, Priyanka said, "I do make money as I work very hard for what I do. I don't sleep at night, I work 16 hours a day, I don't have weekends or birthdays or Diwali." On whether Hollywood would be the next step, the 34-year-old star said, "I have an agent in America since five years but I do work on my own terms. I am a star here in Hindi cinema so I

don't want to do anything for the heck of it. I have no desperation to prove a point to someone. I would do films there if they excite me." Earlier, Deepika Padukone had revealed that Priyanka was the first industry friend she made in Bollywood. To which Priyanka added, "We had common friends... We used to meet for movies and dinners." So is it possible to be friends with contemporaries? The Mary Kom star said, "I can be friends with most of my colleagues I work with." Priyanka and Deepika will be seen as Kashi Bai and Mastani in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's magnum opus "Bajirao Mastani". Also starring Ranveer Singh as Peshwa Bajirao, the film releases on December 18.

TV WATCH
Tele-film "Na Manush" on Maasranga

A CORRESPONDENT
 Tele-film "Na-Manush" will air on Maasranga Television this evening at 7:50. Written by Asaduzzaman Sohag and directed by Ashis Roy, it casts Tawsif Mahbub, Mithu Sabbir, Safa Kabir, Farhan Jovan and others. The plot surrounds four university friends, Adi, Rafi, Shams and Rupa, who spontaneously make plans to go off somewhere. They are

joined by Rupa's misfit brother Rashed. Shams, reluctant to go at first, later changes his mind because he has feelings for Rupa. He shows a dislike for Rashed, and his friends side with him. As they spend a night in an old palace in gay abandon, the three friends mistreat Rashed behind Rupa's back, until a point where Rashed is nowhere to be found. And then who ever goes in search of Rashed goes missing as well.

