

WHAT'S ON



17th Asian Art Biennale
Bangladesh
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala
Academy
Date: December 1-31
Time: 11am-8pm



Int'l Group Art Exhibit
Venue: Gallery Cosmos, New
DOHS, Mohakhali
Date: Nov 27-Dec 26
Time: 12noon-8pm



Musical Soiree
Tribute to 15 Creators of Bangla
Nagork Songs
Organiser: Star Melodies
Venue: AS Mahmud Seminar Hall,
The Daily Star Centre
Date: Dec 17; Time: 6:30pm



Solo Print exhibition
Title: Deep Print
Artist: Wakilur Rahman
Venue: Gallery Twenty One,
751 Satmasjid Rd, Dhammconi
Date: Nov 29-Dec 16
Time: 12noon-8pm



Liberation War Film
Festival
Organiser: Star Cineplex
Venue: Star Cineplex, Bashundhara City
Date: December 16-20
Time: Regular show-times



Victory Day Celebrations
Organised by: Chhayanaut and DU
Venue: Central Playgroun, DU
Date: December 16
Time: 3:40pm



STAR MELODIES' TRIBUTE TO GREATS OF BANGLA NAGORK SONGS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commemorating 25 years of The Daily Star, Star Melodies is holding a series of special musical programmes, paying tribute to 25 noted composers of Bangla Nagork songs.

The first episode of the series was held last month, featuring songs of Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, DL Ray, Atulprasad Sen, Rajanikant Sen, along with stalwarts Raichand Boral, Sainesh Dutta Gupta, Sachin Dev Burman, Himangshu Dutta, and Kamal Dasgupta.

The second and final programme, on December 17, will feature songs of Subal Dasgupta, Robin Chattopadhyay, Abdul Ahad, Manna Dey, Hemanta Mukhopadhyay, Salil Chowdhury, Nachiketa Ghosh, Satinath Mukhopadhyay, Khan Ataur Rahman, Sudhin Dasgupta, Shyamal Mitra, Satya Saha, Robin Ghosh, Khandaker Nurul Alam and Alauddin Ali.

Both noted and promising singers Ifat Ara Nargis, Aniruddha Sengupta, Tanveer Alam Shawjeeb, Aloke Sen, Muhin, Suptika Mondal and Eva will present songs of the golden era.

The event will be held at 6 pm at the AS Mahmud Hall of The Daily Star Centre on the day.

Sadya Afreen Mallick will compère the programme. The event has been organised with assistance from Eastern Bank Limited and Simanti Creative Concern. Invitation passes can be collected from The Daily Star Centre. Seats are limited and available on a first-come first-serve basis.

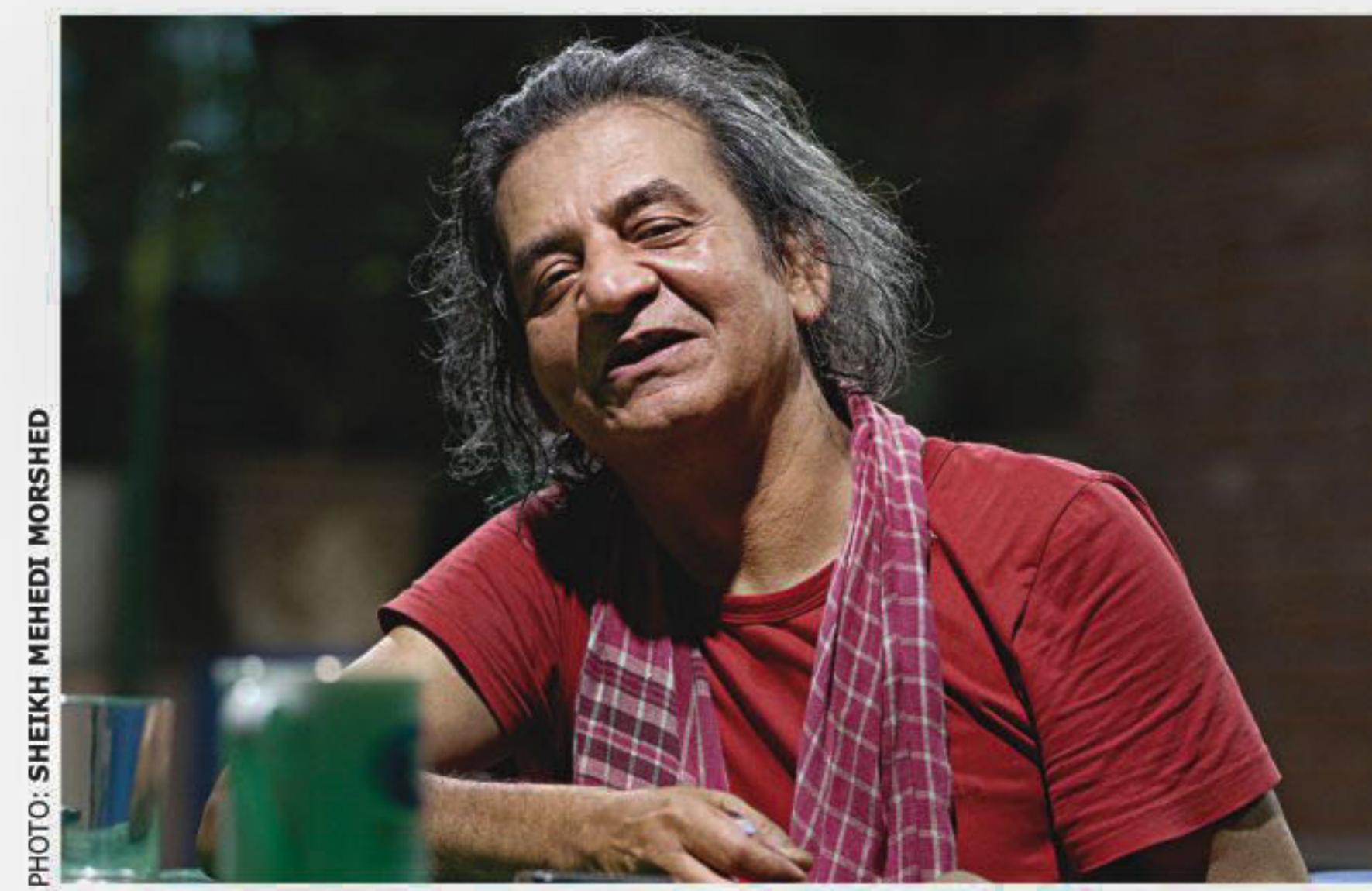


PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHEDE

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Internationally-renowned
Bangladeshi artist Shahabuddin Ahmed is a Freedom Fighter. His canvas is full of motion and movement, vigour and liveliness. His bold brush depicts the epic of our glorious Liberation War. Shahabuddin Ahmed fondly portrays the heart of Bangladesh in a magnanimous way.

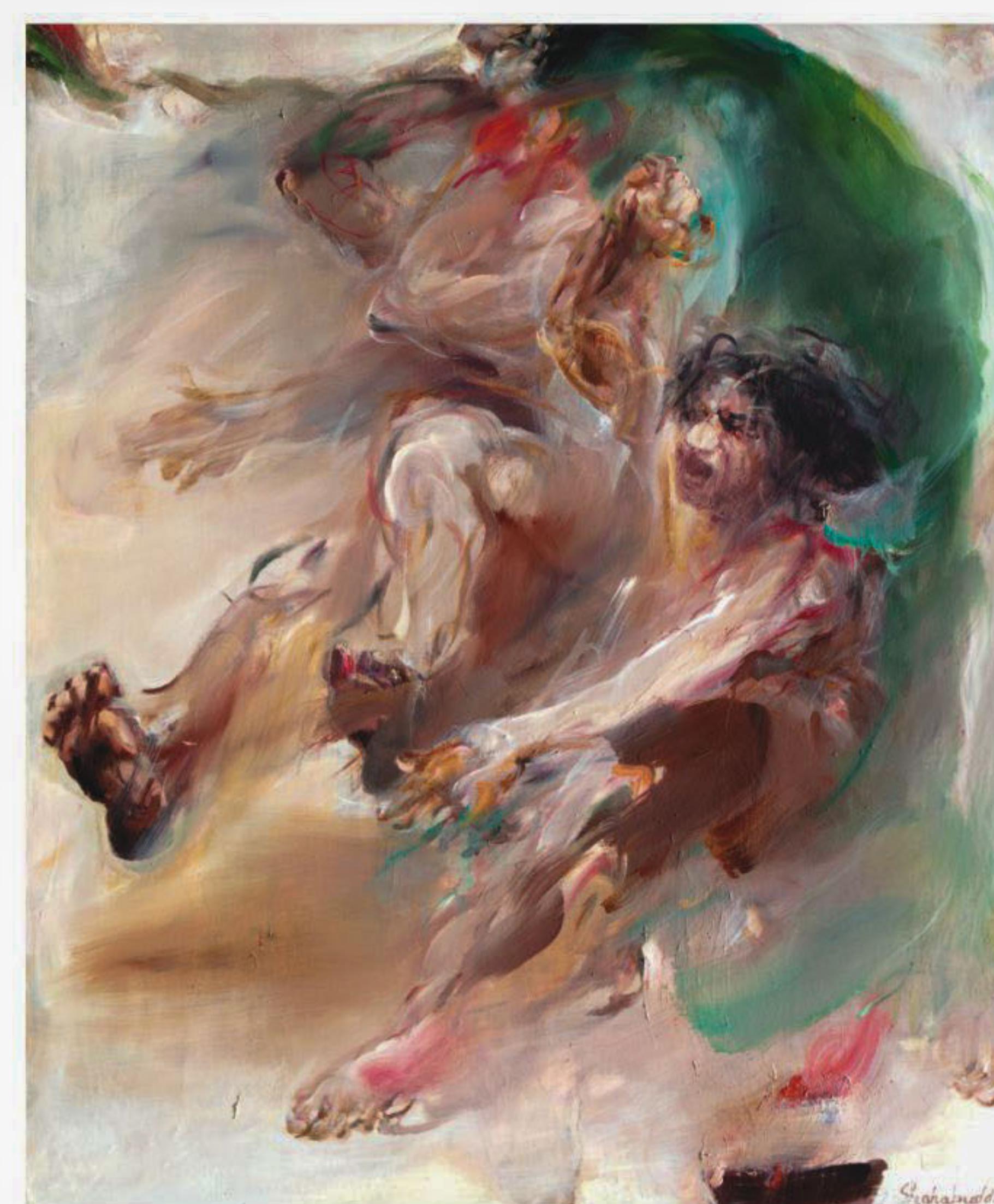
Many artists work while listening to the music of Beethoven, Mozart, or stalwarts of Indian classical music. Shahabuddin Ahmed rather renders his melodic thoughts into his canvas. "Creativity or invention is the crop and legacy of world civilisation. We should make the best use of this for the overall benefit of humanity," comments the painter, who exhibited his artworks in the same gallery in Paris where famous painter Francis Bacon's works were exhibited.

The artist hoisted the Bangladeshi flag in erstwhile East Pakistan radio at 11:30 am on December 16 when the Pakistan army was yet to surrender. But, he knew what was going to happen. "This was the indomitable spirit and I kept that up. I take pride in that," says Shahabuddin Ahmed, in a conversation with The Daily Star.

"I fought a nine-month battle of freeing my motherland. This is the glorious part of my life. Freedom is becoming more priceless as days go by."

"I was deeply influenced by the magical motion and movement of the artworks by my Guru, Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, prior to my entering Dhaka Art College (Now Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka). From then, it was my dream that I would become like Zainul Abedin someday. After enrolling to Dhaka Art College, I first saw the sketches of 1943 famine. There are unique expressions in those masterpieces that I don't think I can depict. I feel surprised that I have been influenced by almost all world artists except Vincent Van Gogh. The world masters -- Goya, Rembrandt, Eugene Delacroix, Michaelangelo and Leonardo Da Vinci are my family. A gharana plays an important role for an artist. Without it, no one can become an artist."

"The birth of Bangladesh would not be possible without the birth of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Pakistani army acted as fools. They thought their plot of



"Freedom Fighter-1", oil on canvas.

PHOTO COURTESY: ARTCON

conspiracies and atrocities will bear fruit. But the freedom-loving Bangalees proved our victory over them."

"The freedom of an artist is a difficult thing in the world. It is protected (by law) only in France. This is the fruit of French revolution. An artist should create their own freedom. The cranium that seeks freedom contains conscience of humanity, art, nature, history heritage and culture. It has a reflection of patriotic passion with social and political consciousness. Continuing art practice till the end is a prerequisite to becoming an artist. It is a way of meditation. You can portray anything in France, but not here. You have a society. You have to respect the desires of the collective social conscience."

Love for humanity is the prime pillar for an artist

In conversation with Shahabuddin Ahmed

provocation to move forward and to see the reaction. It helps something/someone to be granted as art or artist. If an artist cannot take negative criticism, they cannot reach the desired destination. Painters like Salvador Dali and SM Sultan were provocative in nature, but they were honest and true to their works. Love for humanity is the prime pillar for an artist, who serenades the songs of humanity and the harmony of life."

"Bengal School dominates our combined art legacy, due to the time-honoured art heritage of this Subcontinent. Painting is different. It is a product of European renaissance. There are very few painters in the world. A painting remains incomplete without creating drama or suspense in it. Without truth, no one can go farther. Bringing originality in painting is tough."

"The nostalgia of childhood is very close to my life. It helps an artist to assimilate their fantasy. The strength or force, anger, hunger and my masculinity always instigates me to create something bold and visionary. Now I am rather calm. I now intentionally insert the strength of our femininity in my canvas. I am observing the success and vigour of our womanhood and express my feelings towards them in my own way. The paintings that I depicted after the Liberation War were very different from my previous works. The memories of fighting to save my beloved motherland and its incumbent reflection were depicted in my works. I brought harmony between my previous styles of my art practice and the following ones. Force was there and still is, but in a harmonised form. I am the only artist who exhibited my works on Liberation War as a student in 1973. Later, I fought for establishing my intellectual and artistic place while living in Paris. That was a journey of my life. Time and space are precarious elements, and very important too. I express my feelings, love and pain in canvas."

"Bangladesh is new nation, only 45 years old. We have many problems as well. We have limitations such as lack of an independent National Art Gallery, modern and contemporary art museums and knowledge of proper curating system. We even don't inspire divergence of art practice through welcoming new media or techniques. There are 200 art galleries in just three roads of Paris. We cannot expect things like that Bangladesh. We have to go a long way to overcome these limitations. Bangladeshi artists are very talented; they just need to nurture their genius with the proper use of time, passion and patience."

"Bela Shesher Alo" on ATN Bangla

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In commemoration of Victory Day, ATN Bangla will air a special TV play titled "Bela Shesher Alo" tonight at 11pm. Scripted and directed by Abul Hayat who is also a part of

the cast, other actors include Irfan Sazzad, Shabnam Faria and Dilara Zaman. The narrative revolves around a former Freedom Fighter during the Liberation War and how he gives his granddaughter in marriage to a wealthy family.



Victory Day special TV Play "Sohodor"

A CORRESPONDENT

A special single-episode TV play on the Liberation War, titled "Sohodor", will air at 8:45pm on Boishakhi Television today. The play is written and directed by Tabarak Hossain, and casts Riaz, Sazu Khadem, Moutushi Biswas and Shirin Bokul.

The story revolves around two brothers who live with their mother. When one of them applies for a job and doesn't get it, he discovers that someone else got the job because they are wards of Freedom Fighters. The story unfolds eventually to reveal that his father was also a celebrated Freedom Fighter.

GOLAP KOTHA on Banglavision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate Victory Day, Banglavision is producing and airing a special TV play titled "Golap Kotha" tonight at 9:05pm. Scripted by Haidar Anwar Khan Janu and directed by Idris Haidar, the acting cast includes Rownak Hasan, Arman Parvez Murad, Shamima Nazneen, Kazi Ujjol, Ashraf Kabir, Saiful Alam Babu, Chandramoni, Rajon, Shawon, Reza, and more. The setting takes place in 1971 and highlights various events surrounding the war.

