

WHAT'S ON

Group Painting Exhibition
 Title: Musings in Watercolor
 Venue: Edge Galleries, Gulshan-2
 Date: Nov 26-Dec 15
 Time: 10am-8pm

Solo Photography Exhibition
 In Limbo
 Photographer: Suman Paul
 Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
 Date: December 10-21
 Time: 9:30am-8pm

Cartoon and Photograph Exhibition
 Organiser: TIB
 Venue: Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts (DU)
 Date: Dec 9-15
 Time: 12-7pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Peace
 Artist: Proshanta Karmakar
 Venue: Gallery Cosmos
 Date: Dec 08-17
 Time: 12am-8pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: The Uncaged
 Artist: Zahangir Alam
 Venue: La Galerie, AFD, 26, Mirpur Road
 Date: Dec 1-15
 Time: Mon-Thurs (3-9pm), Fri-Sat (9am-12noon & 5-8pm)

Theatre
 Play: Kanjush
 Troupe: Loko Natyadal
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
 Date: Dec 15
 Time: 7pm



Stills from "BHuban Majhi" and "Guerrilla", films that continue to portray the Liberation War even in the post-2010s.

Liberation War on celluloid

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

In four decades of independence, the Bangladeshi film industry has taken giant strides. Although the number of annual movie titles has experienced a decline in recent years, the industry previously enjoyed a boom -- when the cinema halls used to be packed to the brim. However, only a handful of movies have been made so far on the Liberation War, all of which have gained much acclaim from both critics and the audience.

"Ora Egaro Jon" is the first of its kind when it comes to films on the war. Directed by Chashi Nazrul Islam, the film portrays the experiences of some movie-loving youths during the Liberation War. The roles in the film were played by real Freedom Fighters. Although many years have passed since it first hit the silver screen, Ora Egaro Jon still holds a certain appeal for the film buffs.

"Jibon Theke Ney" is another timeless classic, directed by Zahir Raihan. Inspired by events surrounding the mass uprising of 1969, the movie was released prior to the war, but still falls under the category of movies that represent the true spirit of independence. In the movie filled with ironies, Raihan used the

metaphor of a family to unmask the hypocrisies and oppression of those clinging to power. The movie, featuring the stellar cast of Rowshan Jamil, Anwar Hossain, Khan Ataur Rahman, Razzak, Rosy Afsari and Suchonda, continues to be an audience favourite.

Director and actor Subhash Dutta received great accolades for making the film "Orunodoyer Ognishakkhi". Bobita gained a large share of the limelight for her performance in the movie.

Another milestone in the genre is Narayan Ghosh Mita's "Alor Michhil". The plot revolves around a group of unscrupulous people who are submerging in corruption. "Alor Michhil" shows how some youths -- returning from the war -- foil the selfish and unethical attempts by those culprits.

Khan Ataur Rahman also directed a memorable film, titled "Abar Tora Manush Haw", on this theme. The frail economy of the post-war country was pushing youths into depression. Khan Ataur Rahman made the film to bring back those youths to the right path.

Chashi Nazrul Islam's "Songram" (1974) is based on the diary of sector commander Khaled Mosharraf. The movie was a commercial success. Another hit was Shahidul Islam Khokon's

"Commander", released in 1994. In the same year, Kazi Hayat also made a film on the Liberation War, titled "Sipahi". The movie focused on the struggles faced by the youth, when the country was still reeling from the gruesome effects of the war.

Humayun Ahmed made his directorial debut in 1994 with "Aguner Poroshmoni", an instant classic. The story circled around a family forced to stay indoors during the war. Several actors won national film awards for their performance in the movie.

Later in 2004, Humayun Ahmed also made "Shyamol Chhaya", focusing on a group's journey by a boat during the tumultuous period of the war.

Tanvir Mokammel's "Ekattor" deserves mention as a very well made documentary on the Liberation War.

Tauquir Ahmed's war film "Joyjatra" was praised both in the country and in the international arena. The new generation was introduced to different aspects of the war through the film. Several popular TV stars acted in the film.

Tareque Masud's "Muktir Gaan" remains one of the most successful documentations of the war.

In the post-2010s, the most notable films

based on the Liberation War remains Nasiruddin Yousuff-directed "Guerrilla" (2011). Based on Syed Shamsul Haq's novel "Nishiddho Loban" and starring Jaya Ahsan, Ferdous, ATM Shamsuzzaman, Raisul Islam Asad and a host of other seasoned actors, the film was the recipient of a staggering 10 National Film Awards, as well as the NETPAC Award at the Kolkata International Film Festival. Other notable films of the era are Tanvir Mokammel's "Jibondhuli", Morshedul Islam's adaptation of Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal's children's novel "Amar Bondhu Rashed" (2011) and Humayun Ahmed 2014 adaptation "Anil Bagchi'r Ekkin" (which won six National Film Awards), Zahidur Rahim Anjan's 2014 film "Meghmallar" (based on Akhtaruzzaman Elius' short story "The Raincoat"), and Fakhrul Arefeen Khan's "Bhuban Majhi" (2016) starring Aparna Ghosh and Parambra Chatterjee.

Some other key movies on the Liberation War include "Roktakto Bangla", "Bagha Bangali", "Ekattorer Jishu", "Dhire Bohe Meghna", "Muktir Kotha", "Hangor Nodi Grenade", "Agami", "Nodir Naam Modhumoti", "Megher Onek Rong", "Bangla Ma-er Damal Chhele", "Shobhon-er Ekattor".

Reliving songs of freedom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It may be no surprise that Ekushey Award winning Nazrul singer Shaheen Samad will make an appearance on a musical programme on BTV tonight, but instead of serenading viewers with her melodious vocals, the artiste is slated to host the show. Titled "Bijoye Nishan Urche Oi", the BTV programme is scheduled to air tonight after the 10pm news.

Performing artistes on the show include Sabbir, Luipa, Ronty Das, Apu, Priyanka, Rashed, Sushmita, Badhon, Marlene and Nandita. The show's repertoire will highlight songs of Victory from the Liberation War.

"I don't present TV programmes or on stage, and when I was asked to do so, I requested to host on my own way. I have been enjoying it immensely, and I hope viewers will too," stated Shaheen Samad.

The programme features young, contemporary singers, and the noted Shaheen Samad stated that she is quite impressed by their performances, "They have performed beautifully, and music can only be preserved if the youth choose to practice it.



The young artistes with Shaheen Samad and Shujeyo Shyam.

Hopefully this programme will encourage today's generation to do so."

Singer Sabbir performed the song "Je Maatir Bukey Ghumiye Achhe", while Rashed demonstrated the number "Ma Go Bhaabna Kano" and Ronty Das sang "O Maajhi Nao Chhaira De, Majhi Paal Uraiya De." The programme will also

feature a choral number where the singers perform "Bijoye Nishan Urche Oi". Shujeyo Shyam, who composed the iconic Victory song, was also present during filming.

"Shadhin Bangla songs will never be forgotten," stated Shaheen Samad. However, the singer also laments at the

lack of effort taken towards the initiative by the government. "We have requested them many times over the year, but nothing to that extent has yet been done. We have recorded 14 songs under the album titled 'Rupanto'er Gaan', and have sent 16 more songs to Kolkata, which will be recorded soon," she said.

Korea-Bangladesh cultural exchange

Violin and cello delight

AMIR HASAN SHAHRIAR, Chittagong

Strings of a violin were touched with a bow. A gentle but shimmering sound emerged. The phone of some other strings of viola plucked with fingers joined behind. A cello began to deliver a galloping groove as the bowing ascended. The reeds of a piano did the rest! The precise dance of fingers on the black and white keys of the king of instruments brought a unity to the whole sound, and a night with a hall full of spectators was mesmerised with the sound of music.

"Ensemble Forever", a Korean Western Classical music team brought such delight to listeners' ears in a programme titled "Korea- Bangladesh Cultural Exchange 2017" on Wednesday night at Shah Alam Bir Uttam Auditorium in Chittagong.

The event enabled the audiences of Chittagong to listen to Western classical music performance live. The group started their performance with their rendition of "Four Seasons", a famous classical piece by Antonio Vivaldi.

With several movements of the piece to showcase four different seasons through music, the performer's action with his instrument helped the audiences



The visiting artistes perform at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

to relish the fragrance of the seasons through the sound.

Then came down- Johann Sebastian Bach. The seventeenth century composer's precious music "Air" was performed by the violin front-man Bang Hyojoon.

All these musical nuances reached their prime while a beautiful soprano vocal immersed in the scene. Kim Eun Soo, dazzled listeners by performing 'Lacia Chio Pianga'- an Italian opera by

George Frideric Handel and 'Summer Time'- a standard song performed by jazz and classical musicians.

As the spectators were getting immersed in the sophisticated form of music, suddenly everyone bounced on their seats- from where Tom Cruise came!

The group had a real sense of humour indeed! As they finished performing some of the famous classical pieces, the theme of "Mission

Impossible" exploded with the strike of bows on the four strings. It was really a marvellous attempt to remind the audience about the music-- it is not just a movie score, it is a famous piece by Argentine pianist Lalo Schifrin.

The night went by with such other performances. Mentionable of these was the singing of Park Day Young, a baritone voice.

He came down from the stage and walked the spectators' aisle while singing 'Toreador Song', a song of a bull-fighter.

A vocal duet was also performed by Kim Eun Soo and Park Day Young as they sang and danced over the stage with the music of piano.

The team finished the night with a rendition of the famous Bengali song "Ami Banglay Gaan Gai. A breeze of emotion blew over the listeners as the tune was played on a violin.

Bengali Sufi band "Aswad", who performed at the first phase of the night joined the last song. It was as if music of two different regions merged together and brought gratification to the souls, which were paying their entire attention to the melody.

The Ambassador of Republic of Korea to Bangladesh Ahn Seong-doo was present at the programme.

Badhan's first Liberation War play

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Azmeri Haque Badhan has been in the show business for 11 years, working as a model and TV actress, but had never worked in a Liberation War-based TV play. This year, she did her first work on the subject matter, titled "Oprokash". The miniseries will air for six consecutive days starting Victory Day, at 6pm every day on Deepto TV.

"Oprokash" has been written and directed by renowned TV director Golam Sohrab Dodul, and casts Intekhab Dinar opposite Badhan. The series has been filming in Gazipur's Pubail.

Badhan plays a young girl, Koli, who studies in a college in 1971 while staying at her uncle's house. While her cousin becomes a Shanti Committee (the organizational name of Razakars) member, Badhan secretly helps out the Mukti Bahini, or freedom fighters. As Koli's cousin finds out about her intentions, he tries to forcefully marry her, and Koli runs away into a jungle where the Pakistani military follows her.

"This is one of the best works of my entire career," Badhan tells The Daily Star. "I don't think I have ever worked this hard in my acting life. The scenes of me running through the forest were really challenging."

The actress added that she put in the extra mile for the role. "I took a lot of preparations for this play. I tried to embody the character before I stood in front of the camera. It felt like I was transported to 1971 while shooting for this series."

The actress also said she would like to do more work on the theme. "I have gained a lot from my career on television. Through performances like this I want to give back to the media."



The actress in a still from the series.