

# Celebrating World Music Day

A gift of ghazals at Alliance

KHALID-BIN-HABIB

ALLIANCE Française (AF) de Dacca is organising a 10-day music festival, as part of the Fete de la Musique '06 (World Music Day) at their café premises from June 21. Fete de la Musique has long been a tradition for the people of France. In France, every year on this day, thousands of musicians, both amateur and

professional, gather and perform at public places to celebrate the spirit of music.

The AF Dacca opened its doors to musicians who were free to register and perform—be it vocal or instrumental, classical or folk, contemporary or reggae. An important feature of this year's celebrations is the encouragement given to amateurs to participate. The events are dedicated to pro-

moting French language and culture and to further promote friendly relationships between Bangladesh and France. Alliance Française de Dacca is at once a language school, a cultural centre, an art gallery, a bookshop, a cultural events organiser, a resource centre and a typical French café.

On June 23, the packed hall of the AF was evidence enough that ghazal is a popular musical genre. The singer Jhon Sumit was in top form as he rendered some popular Bangla and Hindi ghazals such as *Chandi jaisa roop hai tera, Rafta rafta, Peyer bharey do sharmiley* and *Tomar oi hashitey*. He set the pattern for the evening by beginning with some couplets before launching full flow on to a ghazal, letting the audience experience his superb vocal range. Sumit is a talented singer of modern songs and ghazals. He has performed several times in Fete de la Musique in Alliance Française de Dacca. A Hindi ghazal about childhood memories and a Bangla song *Keu jodi kichhu boley, money kichhu korona* rendered by him, went down well with the audience. His songs were accompanied by tabla, guitar and harmonium. Connoisseurs and others in the audience alike appreciated the concert. The music festival will end on June 30.

A section of the audience at the Alliance Française

## CULTURAL FEAST

### Exhibition

Title: Tales of Pseudo Myths  
Artist: Ronni Ahmed  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts  
Date: June 21-30  
Time: 12am-8pm

### Book Fair

Title: Barshar Boi Mela  
Venue: Bashundhara City Shopping Mall  
Date: June 15-30

### The World Music Day

Title: Fete de la Musique  
Organiser: Alliance Française, Dacca  
June 25: 7:00pm Ahmed Mahbub ul-Alam (Mouth Organ)  
7:30pm Ustad Manik Sarkar (Classical Song)

June 26: 7:00pm Sheikh Omrob (Violin, Flute, Sarod)  
7:30pm Yasin (Pop, Rock, Metal)

June 27: 7:00pm Baul

June 28: 7:00pm Anup Barua

June 29: 7:00pm Anil Kumar Shaha/Goutam Bhattachary

9:30pm Music Night

June 30: 6:30pm Dance Performances

Venue: Alliance Française, Dacca  
Date: June 21-24, July 2

(L-R) Naushad Karim Chowdhury, Sanjiv Mehta, Enayetur Rahman and Aly Zaker at the event



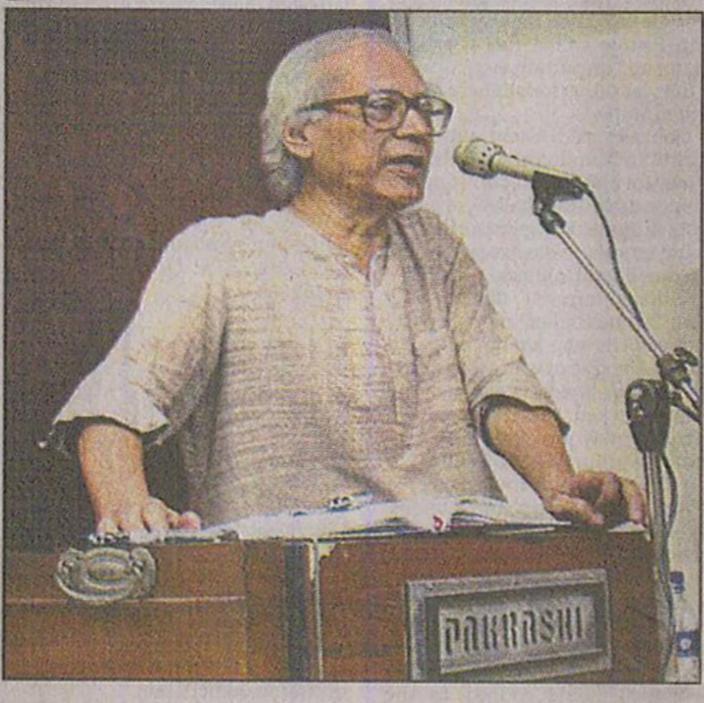
## Anisur Rahman Giving guidelines on voice training

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The Bishwa Shahitya Kendra had organised a two-month course on *kontha bigyan* or voice throwing, which came to an end yesterday. The students who had enrolled for the programme, got a unique and

exclusive experience, as Dr Anisur Rahman, who taught them, is an authority on this technique. Rahman is also a renowned exponent of Tagore songs and a highly respected economist of the country.

Speaking to the students on their



Dr Anisur Rahman speaks at the programme

experience of this latest form of voice 'throwing' in the country, they admitted that it was a new element and had never been tried before. According to student Nirob Shamu, "We all knew how to sing, but many of us were not aware of the scientific methods that were involved with singing. If we can apply these practically, our skills will definitely improve." Adds 15-year-old Akhila Shahi, who has been practicing Tagore songs for the past nine years, "We have come across many new techniques which will help us increase the range of our voice. That this kind of science exists is amazing."

Rahman has spent several years abroad and that is how he learnt about *kontha bigyan*. Extensive research has gone into this science in the western countries where it has evolved over the past 20 years. In the words of Rahman, "The art is definitely more important than the artiste. However, it is very sad to see that the singers of our country do not come forward to learn new methods. Indian singers are more open to the idea."

The Tagore exponent believes in bringing out the talent in students rather than spoon-feeding them. A true artiste is one who can be creative and invent something new. The students will be practicing the various aspects of this technique and will hold a concert in the future.

## Theatre Festival Chittagong Mrinaler Chithi to be staged today



Shubhra Das in a scene from the play

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

As part of the ongoing theatre festival in Chittagong arranged by Nandimukh to mark the 15th anniversary of the troupe, Chittagong-based theatre troupe Kalpurush will stage *Mrinaler Chithi* (Mrinal's letter).

*Mrinaler Chithi* is the dramatisation of Tagore's popular short

story *Streer Patra*, in which Tagore has dealt with women's issues. Mrinal's letter to her husband is not a mere means of communication rather a sage of oppression of women in a male dominated society. Shubhra Das gives a solo performance in the play.

*Mrinaler Chithi* will be staged today at 7 pm at Shilpkala Academy, Chittagong.

Kidman visits children's hospital on eve of wedding

Oscar-winning actress Nicole Kidman shocked medical staff when she paid a surprise visit to a children's hospital in Sydney, Australia, ahead of her wedding to Keith Urban in the city recently. The star took her children Isabella, 13, and Connor, 11, and mother Jane with her to the Sydney Children's Hospital, where they saw patients in the oncology, hematology and neurology wards. Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation CEO Elizabeth Crundall says, "I was stunned when she came in today. To actually take the time out from her own wedding for a couple of hours was stunning, extraordinary and wonderful."

Source: Internet



## Close Up 1 Talent Hunt

### On its way to a new journey

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

*Close Up 1* is back with the sequel to its talent hunt show titled, *Gao Bangladesh Gao*. *Close Up 1* was one of the biggest talent hunt competitions in Bangladesh. The seven-month long *Close Up 1 '05* search gave the nation a group of young promising singers who could strike a chord in the hearts of millions. In keeping with a philosophy of offering innovative and distinctive content, *Close Up 1 '06* was launched yesterday to scout for a fresh set of promising musicians.

At a press conference held at

Hotel Sheraton, Sanjiv Mehta, chairperson and managing director of Unilever Bangladesh Limited announced the launch of this year's programme. Enayetur Rahman, managing director of ntv, Naushad Karim Chowdhury, brands and development director of Unilever Bangladesh Limited and CEO of Asiatic MCL, Aly Zaker spoke on the occasion. Members from the press, musical fraternity and the glamour world were present at the conference.

The preliminary selection will be carried out at 11 different locations across the nation. The audition locations are: Chittagong, Comilla, Faridpur, Barisal, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Bogra, Mymensingh, Sylhet and Dhaka. Selected candidates will take part in the subsequent rounds, which will be held at Dhaka.

This year, non-resident Bangladeshis can also take part in the programme. They can register through a website [www.closeup1.com](http://www.closeup1.com). Two audition panels will be set up at New York and London.

Aspiring young Bangladeshi musicians between 16 and 30 years can participate in the competition. They can register by simply calling or logging onto the website. The last date of registration is July 10.

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