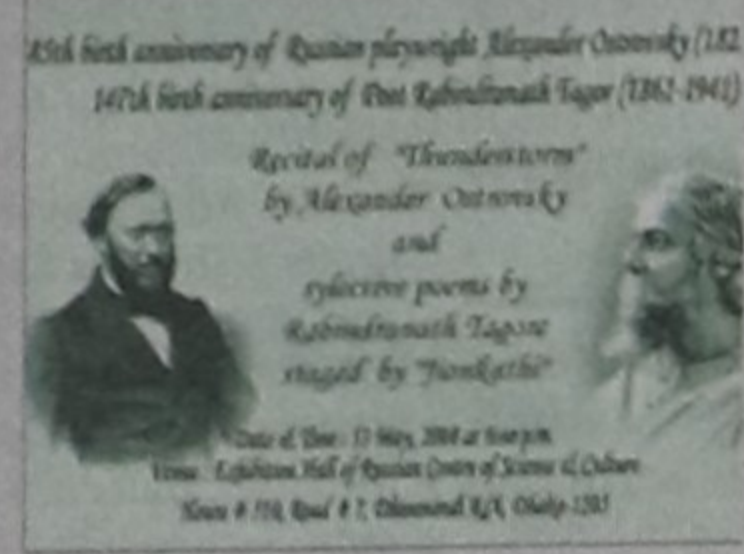


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Poetry Recital

Celebrating 155th birth anniversary of Russian Playwright Alexander Ostrovsky and 147th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. Organiser: Jyon Kashi. Venue: Exhibition Hall of Russian Centre for Science and Culture, House 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi. Date: May 13, Time: 6pm



Film Screening

To celebrate 22nd anniversary. Title: Films from Africa. Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society. Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H 10, R 9, Dhanmondi. Date: May 18-22



Art Exhibition

Title: Symphony In Drawing. Artist: Ranjit Das. Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H 26, R 3, Dhanmondi. Date: May 14-28. Time: 10am-1pm and 5pm-8pm



Solo Ceramic Exhibition

Title: Innovative Beauty In Ceramics. Artist: Afroja Chowdhury Happy. Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, DU. Date: May 10-16. Time: 12pm-8pm



Nandan celebrates Rabindra Jayanti with music



Artistes perform at the programme organised by Nandan

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore's 147th birth anniversary, cultural organisation Nandan arranged a musical soiree titled *Toma majhhey ashimer chirobishshoy* at the Ramesh Chandra Dutt Memorial auditorium, Chhayana Sanskriti Bhavan on May 10. The event was Nandan's 19th arrangement since its establishment in 2003.

The evening began with a recitation by artiste Joyonto Ray, who was present at the event as special guest. His performance set the mood of the evening that featured around 15 songs.

Rita Majumdar's rendition of *Shei tho ami chai* was the first song of the evening. She presented another song *Diner porey din je galo*.

Nandan tries to include at least one performer from outside Dhaka. Artiste Shukla Dutt from Rangpur was invited to perform at the programme. She rendered two songs, *Jogot jurey udar shurey* and *Nitya tomar je phul photey*.

Joyonto Ray then read out from the memoirs of Tagore. The extract depicted Tagore's childhood memories, travelling with his father Maharshi Debendranath Tagore.

Saiful Islam Khan's rendition of *Amar shokol niye boshey achi,*

accompanied by *setar, esraj* and harmonium, was well appreciated by the audience. Next was Tanzina Parvin Toma's performance of *Ei je kalo matir basha*.

Bishnu Mandal, Farzana Rahman Bony, Farhin Khan Joyita and SM Khaled Piyal also sang at the programme. Mritunjoy Majumdar, Asit Biswas, Firoz Khan and Nazmul Alam were on *tabla, esraj, setar* and *mandira* respectively.

Nandan arranges musical soirees featuring traditional songs once every three months, providing several promising artistes a platform to demonstrate their skills.

Rabindra Sangeet and Poetry Recital at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad of Rajshahi University recently organised a "Rabindra Sangeet and Abhriti Utsab" at Shahidullah Arts Building to celebrate the 147th birth

anniversary of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore. Eminent litterateur Professor Hassan Azizul Haque was present as the chief guest. Professor Haque spoke on the life and works of the great bard.

Later, students presented songs and recited poems of

Rabindranath Tagore. Hundreds of teachers, students and visitors attended the programme.

Sammilito Sanskritik Jote of RU also organised a daylong cultural programme yesterday at the Folklore Department premises.

Pachishey Baishakh celebration at Shahzadpur

GOLAM MOSTAFA JIBON, from Shahzadpur

A three daylong programme marking 'Rabindra Jayanti' was held at the auditorium of Rabindra Kacharibari in Shahzadpur, Sirajganj district.

The event included discussion on Rabindranath Tagore and his literary works, recitation and cultural

programme. The programme began on Pachishey Baishakh (May 8).

Mohammad Abdus Salam Khan, secretary, Establishment Ministry, inaugurated the programme, while Ashraf Ali, deputy commissioner of Sirajganj presided over the programme.

Among others, Hafizur Rahman Bhuian, divisional commissioner of Rajshahi; Alamgir Rahman, superin-

tendent of police, Sirajganj; M.A. Kamal Billah, UNO of Shahzadpur and Halimul Huq Miru, chairperson of Shahzadpur Municipality spoke at the programme.

Artists of local cultural organisations, including the Zilla Shilpakala Academy, performed songs and plays in memory of Kabiguru Rabindranath Tagore.



Musical performance at the Tagore Kacharibari in Shahzadpur

PHOTO: STAR

Zoglu Alam passes away



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Young theatre talent Zoglu Alam passed away yesterday. He had been suffering from cancer. He was 35.

Jaglu Alam worked with several popular troupes such as Dhaka Padatik, Theatre Centre, Anya Dal, Dhaka Theatre and Theatre. He was a member of Theatre. Zoglu's work in *Meraj Fakir Ma* (a Theatre production), *Madhobi* (a Theatre production) and *Kahar* (a Theatre Centre production) received plaudits from the audience as well as theatre enthusiasts.

Apart from acting, Zoglu was also a back stage activist -- as a music composer for theatre productions. He had written and directed plays as well. Zoglu has successfully introduced a new trend in music composition in Bangladesh.

Zoglu composed music for over 50 theatre performances. His compositions for productions such as *Khandani Kissa*, *Chhoy Beharar Palki*, *Golap Bagan*, *Meraj Fakir Ma*, *Mukti*, *Mudra Rakkhosh* and *Amina Shundori* generated warm response from theatre enthusiasts.

Moreover, he composed background scores for TV plays and jingles for TV commercials. He also composed music for live and recorded recitations.

Zoglu received several prestigious awards including Zakaria Smriti Padak in 2007.

Tagore birth anniversary observed in Pabna



Artistes take part in the cultural programme

PHOTO: STAR

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR, Pabna

A discussion and cultural programme titled *Rabindra Shandha* was held in Pabna Town Hall premises on May 9. The programme marked the 147th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore. The Ekushey Book Fair Celebration Committee, Pabna, organised the programme.

Zakir Hossain, convener of the committee, chaired the discussion. Among others, Principal of Pabna Government Bulbul College, Professor Shubojit Nag, advocate Mohammad Abdul Aziz, Mohammad Saidul Haque and Sultan Ahmed spoke at the discussion.

The speakers expressed the view that Tagore was more than a poet or a writer, but rather an institution. His verses encompassed every aspect of life.

In addition, Tagore was a social reformer, speakers said. His works depicted a contemporary picture of the society and protested the anomalies and superstitions. His evergreen verses are replete with philosophy and analyse human psychology beautifully, speakers said.

Later, a colourful cultural programme was held. The programme opened with a rendition of the song *Hey nuton dekha dik aarbaar*. Artistes performed songs, dance and recitation.

Prominent cultural activist Sarwar Khan Milon conducted the programme. Among the artistes performing at the programme were -- Nasima Ashraf, Asraf Hossain Rabi, Abul Hassem, Sabbir, Musa, Suvra, Mithila and Moushumi.

Suchet Malhotra: Percussion unlimited

KAVITA CHARANJI, New Delhi

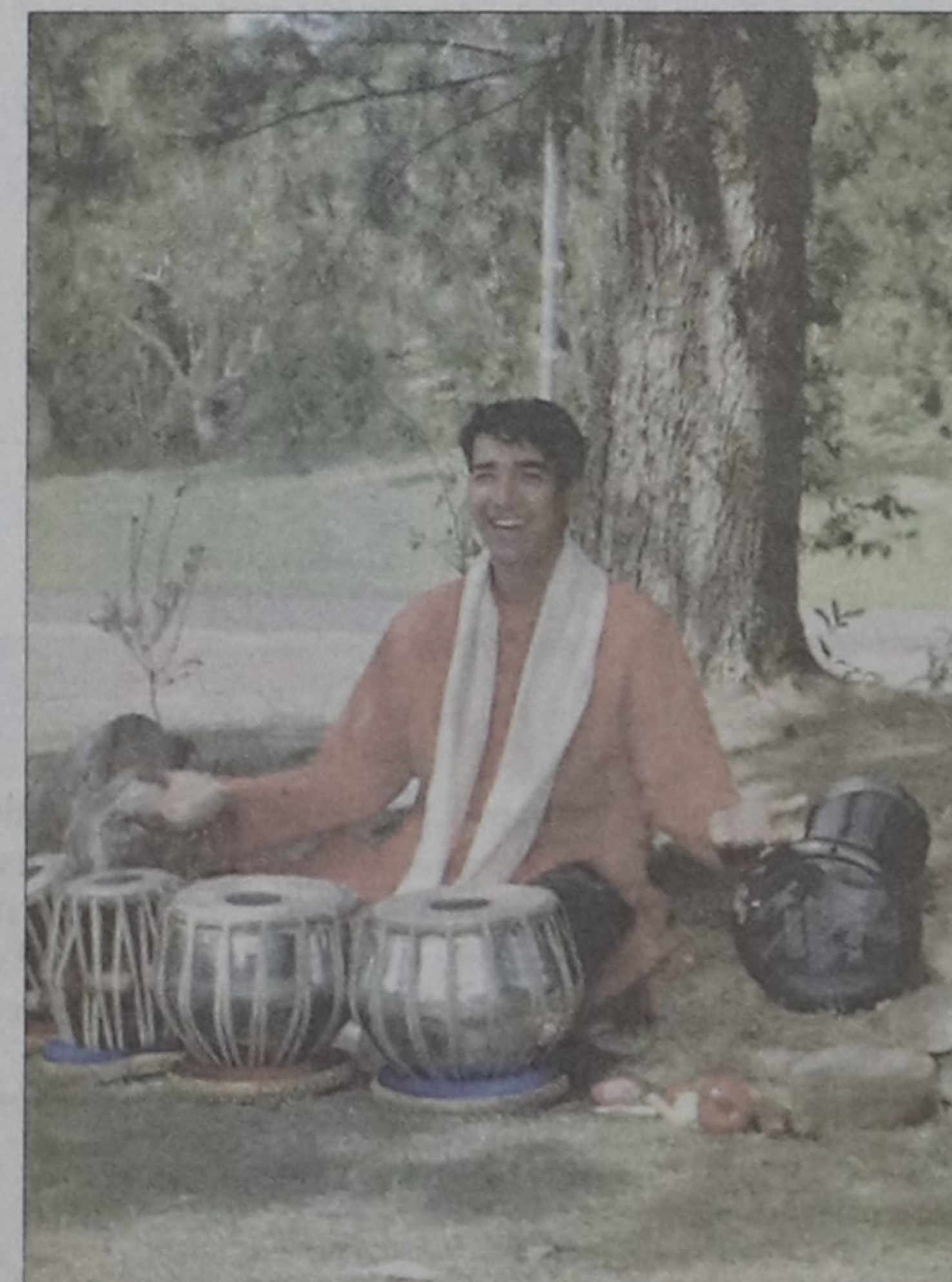
It was a musical evening like no other: imagine instruments that recreate the eerie sounds of a jungle, or the gentle yet rough ocean waves breaking in. And turning from the introspective and surreal to just having fun with a variety of percussion instruments. That was a round up of a recent performance in New Delhi by percussionist Suchet Malhotra, who plays an amazing array instruments ranging from the *zab* and *def* from Iran, *cajon*, *caxixi* and *paxixi* from Latin America and the *tabla* from the subcontinent.

Malhotra opened the show with a piece called *In the jungle*, which evoked a dark and dense jungle complete with the distinctive sounds of birds, snakes, monkeys, crickets, frogs, toads and some unknown creatures. His main instrument was the *didjeridu* from Australia.

Setting the tone for the rest of the evening was a piece called *Balladi* with Malhotra performing on the *darbouka* (a drum from Egypt).

Third came *On the shore*, evoking all the magic of the ocean on a native flute, ably played by Malhotra. Accompanying him on the ocean drum (from native America) was a student Rakesh. As the audience watched wonder struck, the latter conjured up the feel of the untamed ocean. In an interesting sidelight, Malhotra pointed out that the ocean drum is made up of thousands of ball bearings and replicates a wonder of nature.

For the last piece, *Groove it*, Malhotra played on the *Looper* (from America) as the audience clapped along.



Suchet Malhotra

Last on the evening's agenda was Malhotra's fixture, Forum, which enabled curious people to touch and play his instruments. A delighted audience became jammers and played on instruments such as the lava flute (as its name implies it is made out of an active volcano in Mexico), the flute from *Bastar* (India) and even the pipes of a washing machine! Explaining the last

instrument to the lively audience, Malhotra pointed out that as air passes through a hollow tube at high velocity, it makes a whistling sound.

When this correspondent visited the percussionist at his Delhi home, he was busy trying out his latest instrument called the *Cach Thao Lap* from Vietnam, which is in effect a bamboo xylophone. Although he says he finds

it difficult to specialise, his forte are *djembe* (from Ghana) and *didjeridu*.

Malhotra says he owes his firm grounding in music to Ustad Chhanna Khan (*tabla*) and Pandit Kishen Maharaj who taught him the intricacies of rhythm, with particular reference to the *didjeridu*. He trained with the latter for 40 days in Banaras in 2005, prior to which he had been to Australia to gain insights into the instrument. "The basic principle of percussion is the same: The knowledge that by spending time with the instruments, the musician will learn new techniques and refine them to suit his or her tastes," says Malhotra.

June promises to be a busy month for the upcoming instrumentalist. He will be off on a tour of Europe, one of the three Indians invited by the Swedish government to perform at Ethnosweden, a music fest in Rattvick. Along side, he will perform for a trauma therapy group in Brussels. In Malhotra's view music facilitates the healing process of victims of domestic violence, physical violence and children of drug addicts, among others. "Music carries a message across. If the therapist engages in a dialogue, it is heard only by the ear. Music, however, is felt all over the body," he says. Another stopover is Greece, where he hopes to let his hair down.

In the meanwhile he has concerts in Mumbai (May 16 and May 20). Clearly the 32-year-old percussionist has the potential to be a fixture on India's music firmament --- and an inspiration to other musicians from all over the world who dare to dream.

Bob Dylan artwork to go on show

An exhibition showing singer-songwriter Bob Dylan's artistic talent will open in London in June.

The show will feature drawings and sketches from Dylan's time on the road between 1989 and 1992.

Dylan fans will also be able to see a number of paintings in the exhibition called *The Drawn Blank Series* at the Halcyon Gallery in Mayfair.

The gallery said the art expressed a sense of loneliness and displacement as Dylan constantly moved about.

"Feelings of anonymity, transience, rootlessness and sometimes loneliness pervade these representations of the people, objects and places that Dylan has seen and drawn," added the gallery.

Its president Paul Green said: "This is an incredible opportunity for viewing this powerful body of work which gives an insight into the artist's soul and which have already been the subject of widespread critical acclaim."

The first exhibition of Dylan's work opened in the eastern German city of Chemnitz last year.

It came about after the 66-year-old musician was approached by Ingrid Moessinger, a curator of the Kunstsammlungen Chemnitz museum.

Dylan said at the time, "I was fascinated to

learn of Ingrid's interest in my work, and it gave me the impetus to realise the vision I had for these drawings many years ago.

"If not for this interest, I don't know if I even would have revisited them."

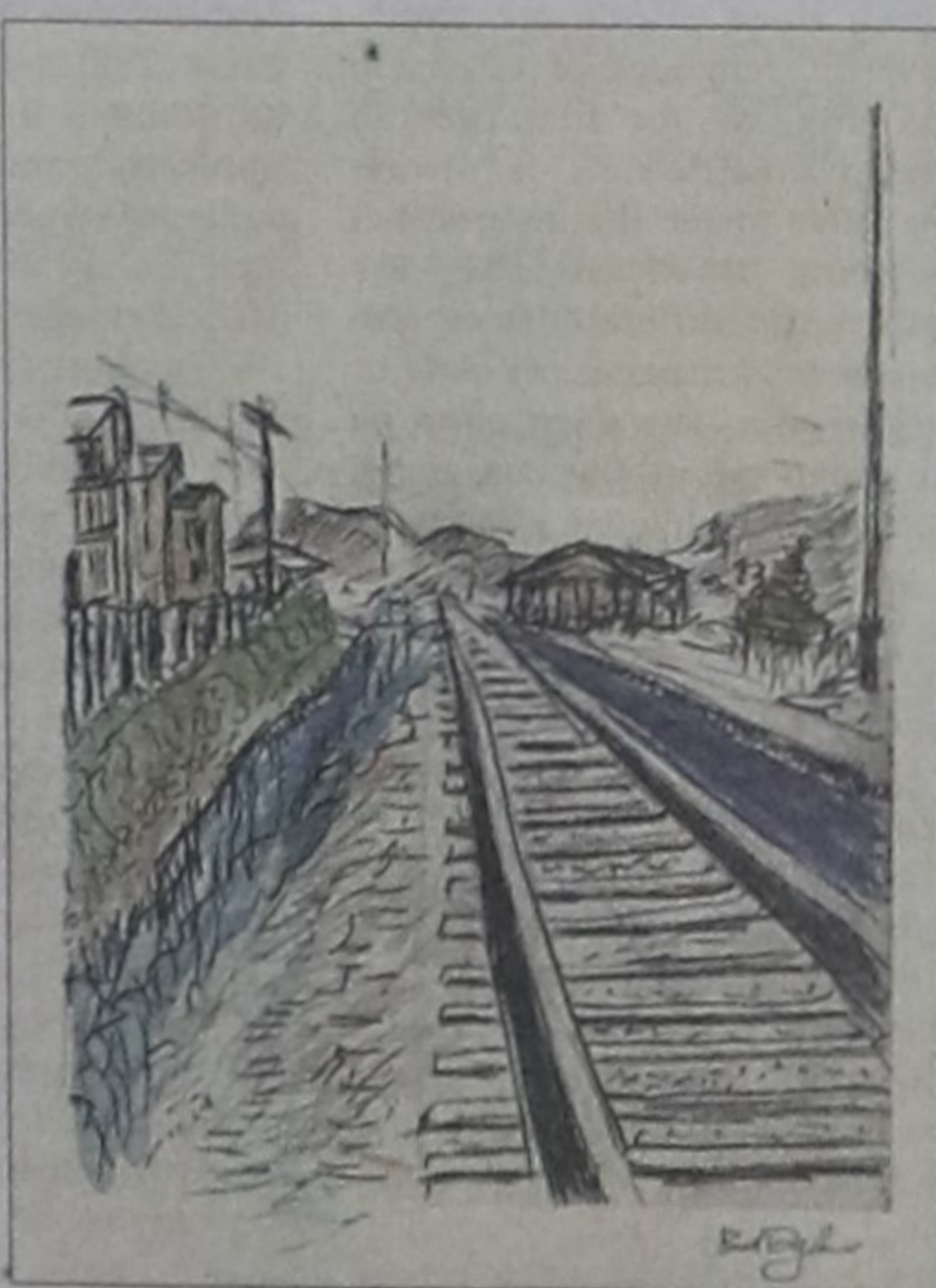
The London show will open on June 14 and a collection of limited edition graphics, signed by Dylan will also be available through selected UK galleries.

Dylan is one of the world's most acclaimed songwriters, musicians and performers. He has sold more than 110 million albums and performed thousands of shows around the world in a career spanning five decades.

His most recent album *Modern Times* entered the Billboard Top 200 Albums chart at number one, and debuted in the top five in 21 other countries.

In April, Dylan was awarded a special Pulitzer Prize for his profound impact on popular music and American culture, marked by lyrical compositions of extraordinary poetic power.

In 2001, he won a Golden Globe and an Academy Award for best song from a motion picture for *Things Have Changed* from *Wonder Boys*. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1988 and the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1982.



Bob Dylan's painting *Train Tracks* was featured at his first-ever art show in Germany

Source: BBC