

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Story of Stitches: The Art of Nakshi Kantha

Exhibition celebrating 30 years of Aarong  
Venue: Plaza, National Art Gallery, BSA  
Date: July 16-29  
Time: 11am-7pm, (Fridays 3pm-7pm)



### Photo Exhibition

Manul Hasan Abhi's 1st solo exhibition  
Venue: Galerie Zoom, Alliance Francaise de Dacca, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi  
Date: July 10-23  
Time: 9am-12pm and 5pm-8pm, (Sunday to Friday) 5pm-8pm (Saturday)



### Solo Exhibition

Title: Striking Thoughts of a Silent Soul  
Artist: Poet Farah Deeba Zaman  
Venue: Russian Center of Science and Culture, House 510, Road 7, Dhanmondi  
Date: July 13-21 (Except Friday and Saturday)  
Time: 12pm-8pm



### Photo Exhibition

Title: 400 years of Dhaka  
Sponsored by HSBC  
Venue: Drik Gallery, 58, Dhanmondi 15/A (new)  
Date: July 13-22



## Sayed Ahmed's book with its cultural gleanings

FAYZA HAQ

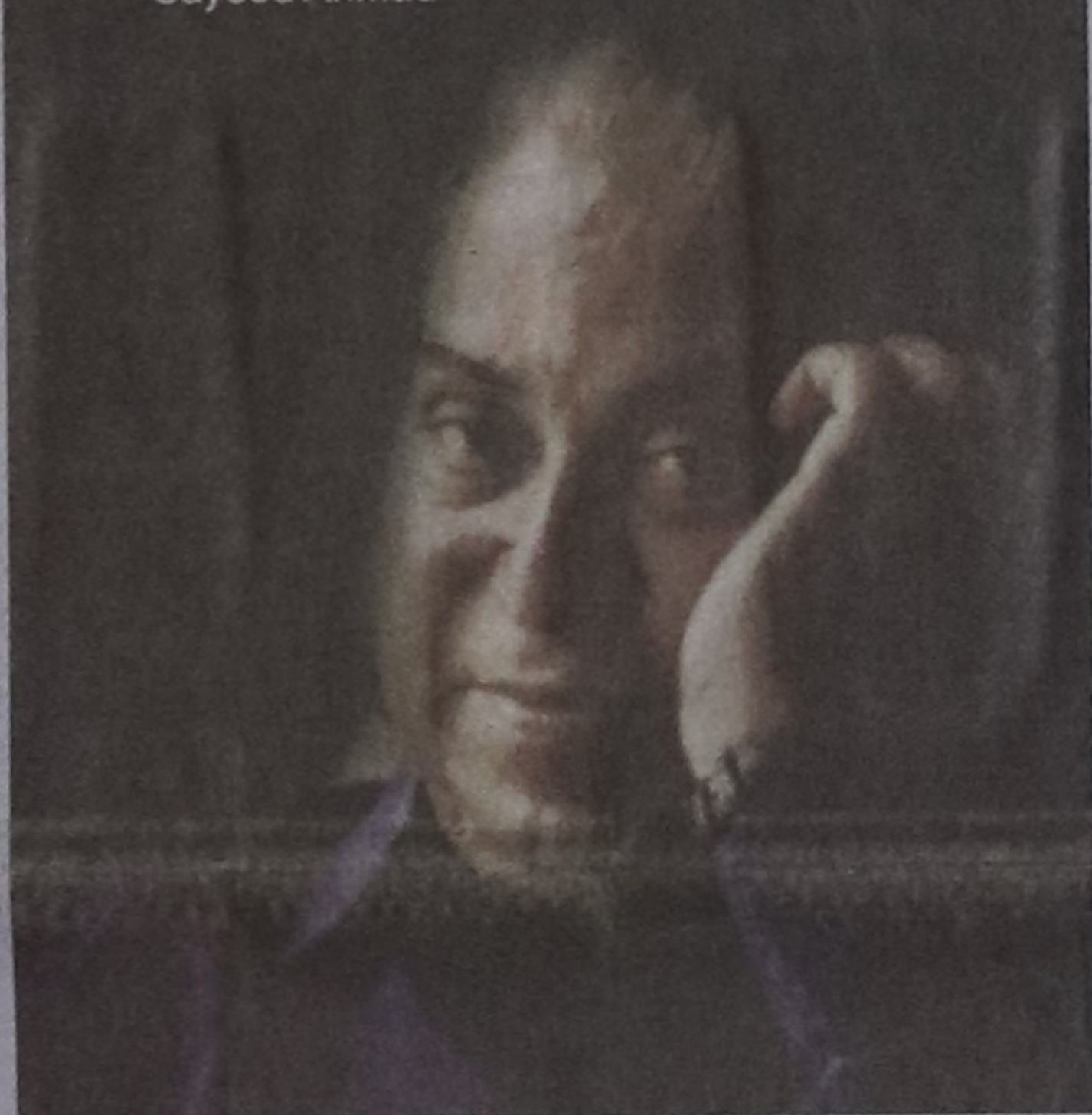
About his book "In Pursuit of Culture", which was launched at "Etcetra" on July 18, Sayeed Ahmed speaking to *The Daily Star* said, "I tried to use my visits to not only see the countries but to dwell deep into their cultural and traditional aspects. When I went to Moscow, for instance, I linked up the experience of ballet with the famous British ballerina Margot Fonteyn with that of Maya Plisetskaya so that this was a presentation of a long chain of cultural events. In Nepal I met a famous writer and poet Balakrishna Sama and in the midst of the intellectual contributions, I brought out their traditional behaviour and ways of life in the simplest of words."

"I introduce personalities like Khatir Ghaznavi of Pakistan, and other individuals of international fame, like the Russian poet Syed Akhmet, with whom I've had cross cultural exchanges. When I took the Bangladeshi cultural delegation to Tashkent, along with Bobita, we met famous Russian actresses so that there was a human link."

"In my writings I brought in Boris Pasternak and Yevtushenko, who are dear to the hearts of the freedom loving Bangladeshis, along with the sending of the Russian astronauts into space, which had an appeal even to the common man. I tried to punch human interest and humour into the travelogue, as when we got theatre tickets in Russia by bribing with ball point pens."

## In Pursuit of CULTURE

Sayed Ahmad



The cover-jacket of the book.

Hasnat Abdul Hye, critique and litterateur, said "In his book Sayeed Ahmed has given some of his views of literature, fine arts, archi-

itecture, plays and about personalities, whom he met in a lucid style. He has, in the process, also given an explanation of various concep-

tual issues like the Noh theatre to those who are not initiated in these arts. The main attraction of the book is that complex subjects and different issues have been explained in a very simple way. What comes out in the book is Sayeed Ahmed's passion for culture. Wherever he goes he is always in the look out for cultural institutions, personalities and activities."

Aly Zaker, media personality, said, "Sayeed Ahmed brings to life difficult things in a simple language. He looks into the fascinating and varied cultures of different countries without making the book heavy reading. When he discusses the fate of the Buddhist statues in Afghanistan he deals with the subject with compassion but does not run down anyone."

"He is an individual who can discuss absurdity in plays with authority and alacrity. Similarly he can talk about abstraction in fine arts as about traditional art. His knowledge of music too is profound. His presentation of Brecht's personal life is also fascinating too."

Iftekharuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said, "Sayeed Ahmed has been a renaissance man, a public servant, actor, critic and playwright. His recounts of his travels are passionate and emotional as that of his realising that the poet Mashima in Japan had committed suicide. He was a transmitter and receiver of culture. Incidentally, his wife Parveen Ahmed has been of a source of great support for him in writing the book."

## Discussion and cultural programme at BSA

## 90th birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela celebrated



Discussants at the programme (top). Fakir Alamgir (3rd from left) leads a chorus at the event.

MAINUL HASSAN

July 18 marked the 90th birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela. On the occasion, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) organised a discussion and a cultural programme in association with the Wishiz Shilpi Gosthi at the Department of Dance and Music, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The programme kicked off at about 5:45 pm. A group performance by Wishiz marked the opening of the event. Artists rendered the song *Mandela Mandela Nelson Mandela* written by Asaduzzaman Noor.

A discussion followed. National professor Kabir Chowdhury was present as the chief guest. Asaduzzaman Noor and Golam Kuddus, general secretary of Sommito, Shangkritik Jote were the special guests at the programme. Among others, Habibullah Khan, the first ambassador of Bangladesh to South Africa (1995-96) and Mofidul Haque were also

present.

The welcome speech was given by Fakir Alamgir.

The discussion was presided over by Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam, director general, BSA.

The speakers at the discussion focused on Mandela and his works, while others mentioned anecdotes involving this towering personality.

Kabir Chowdhury recited a poem titled *Nelson Mandela*, that he wrote when he met Mandela.

Recalling Mandela, Chowdhury said, "When we went to meet him we didn't even have an appointment. However when he heard that we were from Bangladesh he cordially gave us time. Mandela has a soft corner for the people of Bangladesh and I found him to be a man of very great personality and morals."

Speaking of Mandela, Habibullah Khan said, "When I first met Mandela, I found him to be very friendly, specially after he heard that I was from Bangladesh."

"Many Bangladeshi doctors work in South Africa. Mandela said



that the medicines were very kind and helpful. I felt really happy when I heard these words," recalled Habibullah.

The cultural programme comprised of song, recitation and a documentary screening. Artists of Wishiz and Kranti Shilpi Gosthi performed songs. Recitations were presented by Shahadat Hossain (Gorad bhangar shongramira jago written by Mahbulul Alam

Chowdhury); Belayet Hossain (Mandela Tomar Jonyo penned by Zahid Mostafa) and Rafiqul Islam (Neel Kontho of Premendra Mitra).

Fakir Alamgir performed five songs including - *Chokh duti jeno durbin*, *Kalo kalo manusher deshey*, *Naam taar chhilo*, *Ora amader gaan gaiety dey na*. The event wrapped up with the screening of a documentary on Nelson Mandela.

## TV Watch

## New Drama serial "Ishkool" on Ekushey TV

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Conceptualised and designed by Abdus Salam, chairperson of satellite channel Ekushey TV, new drama serial *Ish-kool* will be aired on every Sunday at 8:15 pm. The serial is written and directed by Shakhawat Al Mamun.

The story of the serial brings forth such issues as flaws in the educational system, village justice system and religious convention. *Ish-kool* was shot in different locations of the village Maona in Shripur, Gazipur.

The cast of the serial includes Abul Hayat, Aslam Sani, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Murad Parvez, Nabila Alam Pauline, Pathik Nabi, and others. A group of child artists also play roles in the play.



Nabila Alam Pauline and Murad Parvez in the TV play.

## ntv offers audience chance to be playwrights

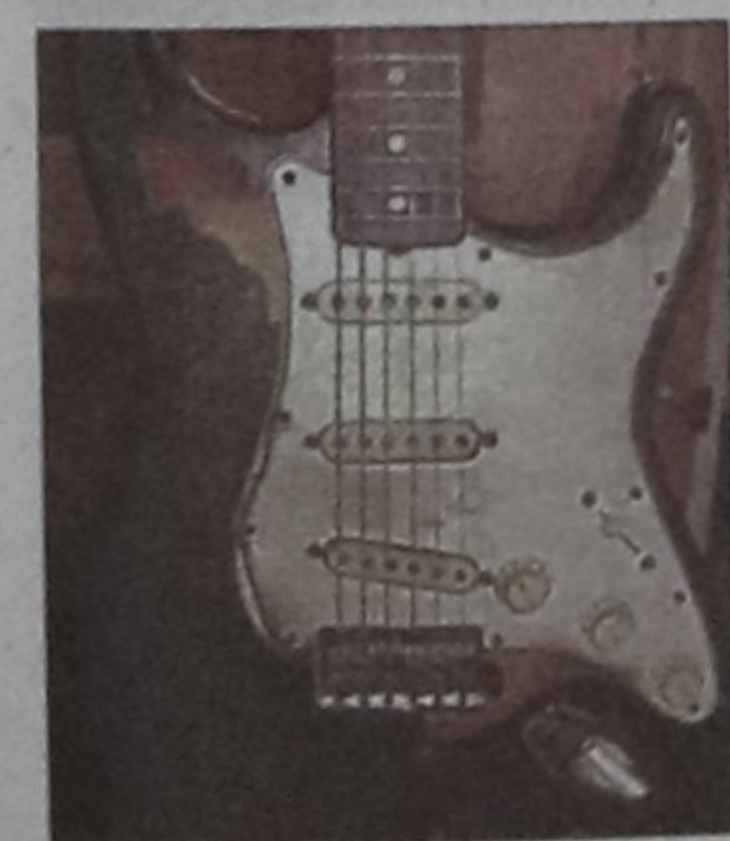
CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Popular satellite channel ntv is to make a new drama serial based on stories sent by the audience. Designed by Mustafa Kamal Syed and Dipankar Dipon, the serial will be directed by Dipankar Dipon.

Usually, playwrights draw on materials for a play both from their fantasy and real world experiences. But there are people and their stories, which cannot reach to the small-screen and remain unknown. This serial intends to bring those stories on ntv.

Viewers can send their stories to the channel within September 30. A moderated version of the story will be given to the selection panel, which will include noted screen-playwriters of the country. They will make screenplays from the selected stories. The writer of the story will be honoured monetarily. The theme of the TV play will be interpersonal relationship that exists within the family.

## Torched Hendrix guitar to be sold



The guitar was burnt across its surface, but remained intact.

The guitar torched by late rock legend Jimi Hendrix during a live performance in London is expected to fetch \$500,000 at auction in September.

The 1965 Fender Stratocaster was doused with lighter fuel and set on fire by Hendrix at the London Astoria in 1967.

It was the first time Hendrix had set his guitar on fire. He later repeated the stunt at the Monterey Pop Festival.

Hendrix was taken to hospital following the Astoria stunt, where he was treated for minor burns.

The guitar was recovered by the rock star's press officer and close friend, Tony Garland, who stored it

at his family home, where it was rediscovered last year.

"When Hendrix set this guitar alight it marked a watershed in live performance," said Ted Owen, director of acquisitions at the auction house, The Fame Bureau, which is holding the sale on 4 September.

"He raised the bar of what could be expected and paved the way for a series of imitations and pastiche that exist to this day."

Another guitar set alight during a concert in Miami in 1968 failed to sell at auction in 2002.

That guitar was previously assumed to be the same guitar that was set alight at the London con-

cert, but experts now favour Garland's guitar.

The guitar is the subject of a 21-page feature in this month's *Guitar & Bass* magazine. Its distinctive face can be seen in film footage of Hendrix at the Marquee club taken two days before the Astoria concert.

Also included in the sale are a Led Zeppelin drumkit, Doors star Jim Morrison's last notebook of poems and a song-sheet for USA For Africa's *We Are The World* - signed by Stevie Wonder, Bob Dylan and Michael Jackson.

Source: BBC

## A cornucopia of music

### Keya Chattopadhyay's concert

KAVITA CHARANJII, New Delhi

From the nostalgic Irish number *Should old acquaintance be forgot* to the catchy Bangla song *Elo barsha jey* to the captivating Hindi rendering of *Jaane kya* -- it was all in a day's work for Keya Chattopadhyay. At a recent concert in New Delhi, the internationally reputed vocalist, music teacher and composer did justice to her entire repertoire. As she pointed out at the outset, "Inspired by the original English, Scottish and Irish music, Tagore used similar tunes in Bengali numbers."

Among her unforgettable renditions at the concert, titled "Nostalgia -- Golden melodies", were the English *Drink to me only with thine eyes*, *Naaich mayuri* (in Bangla, originally recorded by Asha Bhosle) and the Hindi *Aye dil mujhey* (originally recorded by Geeta Dutt).

Explains Keya, "The aim was to promote Bangla and Hindi numbers, using Eastern and Western music and international folk fusion. While the words and tunes were kept intact, the style, presentation and musical arrangement were different."

Keya's co-singer Arunava Chatterjee too gave a stellar performance of Bangla and Hindi



Keya Chattopadhyay

numbers of S.D. Burman, R.D. Burman and Hemanta Mukhopadhyay. Particularly moving was his rendering of *Maine tere liye hi saat rang ke sapne chune* (a famous song which can be traced back to Kishore Kumar).

Keya is active on many fronts. She performs all over North America, Europe and India. True to her Bengali roots, she has also performed in North American Bengali Conferences in New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Washington DC, California and Toronto.

She is also a major presence on the small screen. Apart from her performances on the Namaste Asia TV programme in Virginia, USA, she has appeared on Kolkata Doordarshan, ETV Bangla, Tara Bangla and ATN World.

Besides performing regularly she guides young singing talents in North America. Her music school, called Geetanjali, sponsored by Sarba Bharatiya Sangeet-O-Sanskriti Parishad in California, USA and Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, aims to spread Indian music and culture overseas. She grooms her students to take part in multiple dance-dramas and musicals. "The goal of Geetanjali Music School is to help students of all ages sing virtually any song they enjoy by using scientific voice-training methods," says a profile of the singer.

Currently she is stationed in Kolkata to share her experience as well as to go back to her roots. Her recent releases in the city are *Mon Meteche* (which aims to promote the unforgettable songs of Tagore) and *Roopsagoray*, a collection of Tagore songs with classical components, accompanied by Pandit V.G. Jog.