

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Japan Cultural Festival '09

Organiser: Embassy of Japan and BSA
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: March 4-7
Time: 10am-1.30pm, 2.30pm-7pm



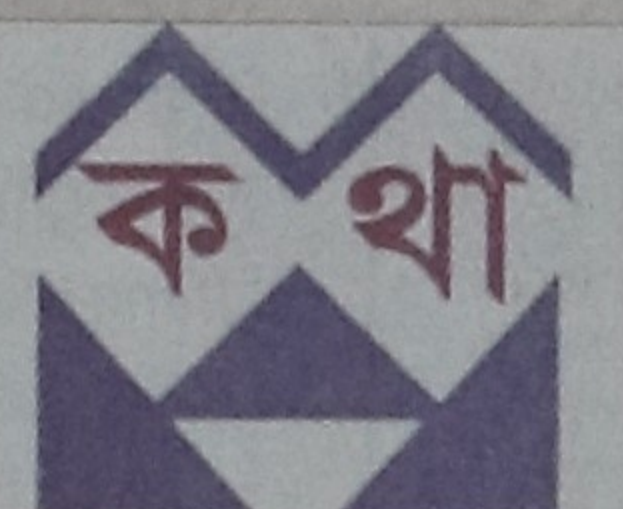
Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Mind Out of Time
Artist: Mustafa Zaman
Venue: Bengali Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: March 8-17
Time: 12-8pm



Recitation

Title: Purano Shei Diner
Kotha
Organiser: Kotha Abritti Charcha Kendra
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbag
Date: March 12
Time: 7pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Reminiscence in Blue Black
Artist: Md. Shaiful Islam
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU
Date: March 4-10
Time: 12-8pm



Special programme on March 7 Ekti Bhashon-er Jonyo on ATN Bangla



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On March 7, 1971, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered a historic speech at the then Dhaka Race Course Maidan, which inspired the nation to fight for freedom. To mark this occasion, ATN Bangla will air a special programme, titled "Ekti Bhashon-er Jonyo," tonight at 10:40 pm.

The programme will feature Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury, eminent journalist and poet, as the guest. As a journalist, Chowdhury attended Bangabandhu's March 7 speech. He will share his experience and talk about history in the making as he saw it.

"Ekti Bhashon-er Jonyo" has been directed by Zillur Rahman and hosted by Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul.

Film Screening | "Otoshi Mami": Manik Bandopadhyay's first published story comes to life

NADIA SARWAT

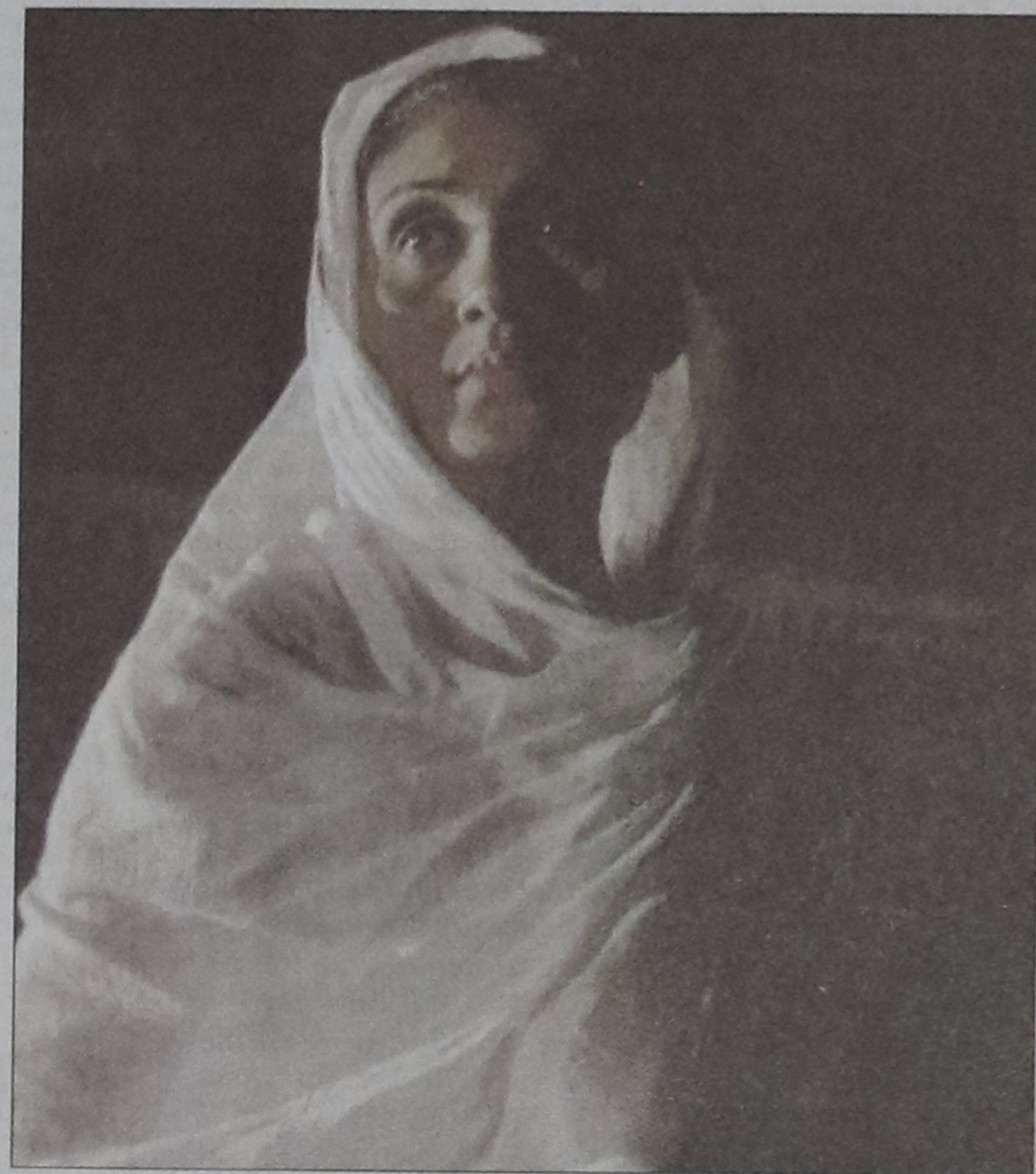
On the occasion of pioneering Bengali litterateur Manik Bandopadhyay's (1908-1956), birth centenary, Production house Splendor premiered the telefilm "Otoshi Mami," an adaptation of Bandopadhyay's short story with the same title, on March 5. The film was screened at Bengal Shilpalay. It should be mentioned, "Otoshi Mami" (1935), was the first published story by the author.

Simon Zakaria adapted the story for the film. Humayun Kabir Himu and Parvez Amin jointly wrote the script and directed the 72-minute film. Bannya Mirza plays the titular role while Ahmed Rubel, Jhuna Chowdhury, and Shoeb play other important characters in "Otoshi Mami".

The story deals with a group of people who believe that art is larger than life. The film begins with young Suresh (Shoeb) playing flute. His uncle, Horen (Jhuna Chowdhury), discourages him, telling him the story of his flutist friend, Jatin. According to Horen, if one heard Jatin play the flute,

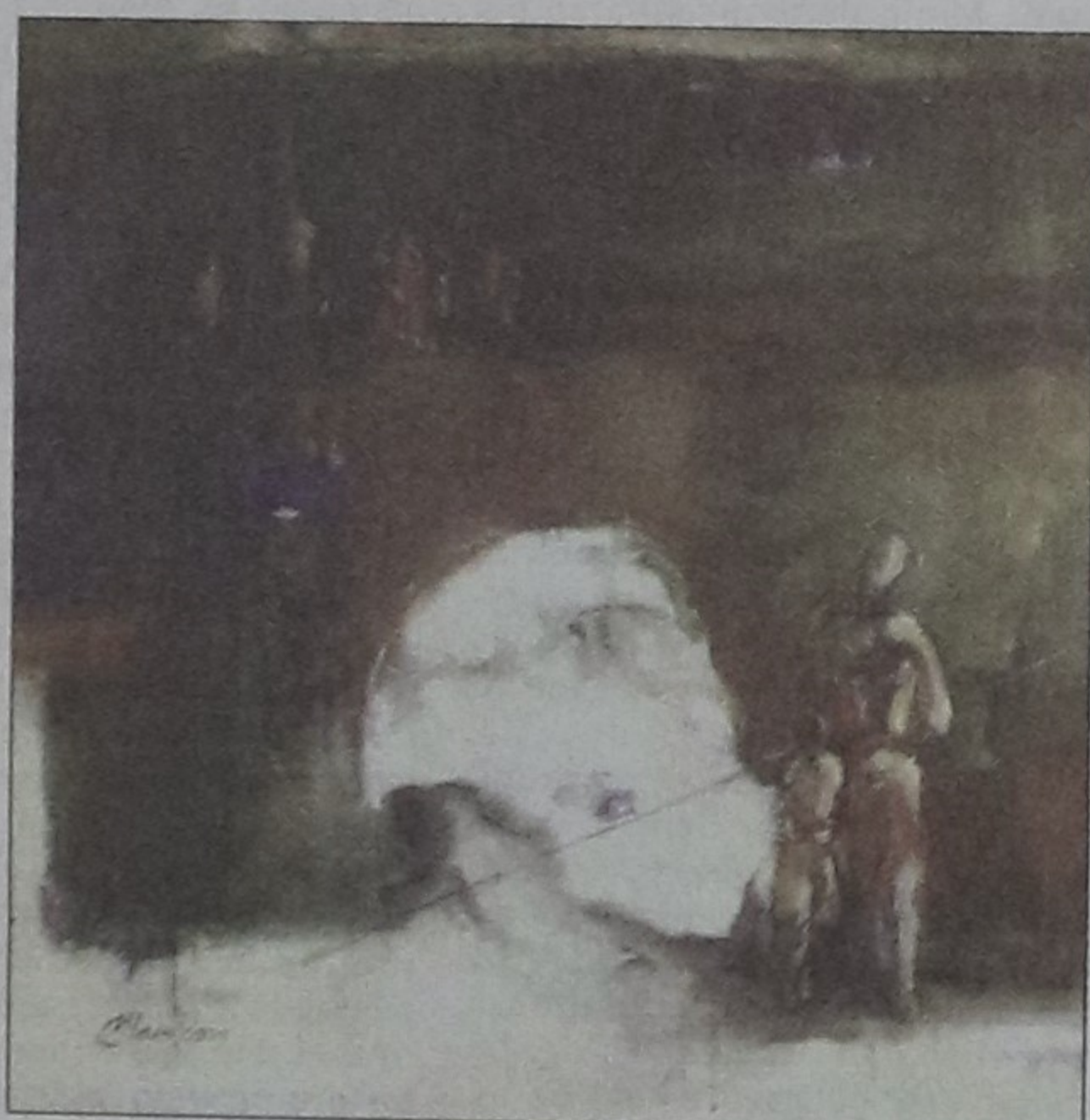
he would never wish to play the instrument again. Curious, Suresh sets out for Jatin's place. At Jatin's, Suresh meets a man who is ready to sacrifice his life in the pursuit of his craft. A devoted artiste, Jatin (Ahmed Rubel), is dying from tuberculosis and every time he plays the flute, he has to pay a heavy price with blood-tinged cough. Suresh also meets the flutist's young, beautiful and devoted wife. The woman, whom he calls "Otoshi Mami," particularly impresses Suresh and he is strongly moved by her determination to prevent her husband from playing flute. Years later, Suresh comes across Otoshi again, this time on a train, garbed in all white.

With strong performances by the actors, the telefilm becomes a poignant narrative. The directors seem quite aware of each and every detail. Background score by Komol Khaled is complimentary to the production. In certain scenes, however, the audience found the film a bit dawdling. Sheikh Saiful is the cinematographer of the tele-



Bannya Mirza plays the titular role in "Otoshi Mami."

Exhibition | Monirul Alam: A chronicler of contemporary times



Paintings by Monirul Alam

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Monirul Alam portrays the despair, struggles and yearning of the masses. The artist believes that society is now becoming inhospitable. And to demonstrate his impression, Monirul has documented contemporary times through his artworks. His current solo exhibition titled "Influence of The Time" is now on at Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi.

Monirul's works neither indicate the realistic nor the abstract. His works feature the semi-abstract but the message is very tangible and significant. Colour is an important aspect of his canvas. The effects of his colours are soothing and moving. Occasionally, some forms mark a vague presentation and they are not properly placed on his canvas.

An exhibition should be based on a certain theme and the works should main-

tain a correlation with each other. Monirul has tried to maintain this link. But the artist should focus more on maintaining a balance between themes and compositions.

Sometimes geometric shapes and architectural forms are scattered in his works. There are times when these compositions appear irrelevant to his central theme. The artist should have concentrated more on figures.

Observing Monirul's works closely, one gets the impression that his acrylic delivers the typical water-colour tonalities -- appearing subtle and translucent. The artist tries to express himself through simple compositions and hues.

Silence is a noticeable characteristic in his works. The figures appear to be steady. As a young painter, Monirul has clearly attempted to make a personal hallmark.

The exhibition continues till March 10.

"Swapnodanay" goes to Asian Film Festival

Golam Rabbanai Biplab's internationally acclaimed film "Swapnodanay" (On the Wings of Dreams) will be screened at the Asian Film Festival 2009, which starts today in Jeddah, says a press release.

"Swapnodanay" follows the lives of three individuals living in a remote village in the Northern part of the country. The protagonist Fazlu (played by singer Mahmuduzzaman Babu) is a peddler -- pushing items like ointments and herbal remedies. One evening he returns home with a used trouser for his son. While washing the trouser, Fazlu's wife (Rokeya Prachy) finds some foreign currency in the

pockets. The couple gets over-excited at the possibility of acquiring a sizeable amount

of cash. Fazlu and his pal Siraj (Fazlur Rahman Babu) roam around the rugged locales of

'Barendrabhumi' on a beat-up motorbike, trying to exchange the foreign currency for taka. Greed surfaces and the characters -- Fazlu, his wife and Siraj -- start weaving their individual dreams.

Noted author Anisul Huq has elaborated the story and written the dialogues. Since its release in 2007, the film has received several international awards and has taken part in many prestigious international film festivals. The film was produced by Impress Telefilms Ltd.

"Swapnodanay" will be screened on March 16 at the festival. The festival ends on March 19.



Mahmuduzzaman Babu and Rokeya Prachy in a scene from "Swapnodanay."

Michael Jackson's final curtain call, really

Michael Jackson has returned to the spotlight after eight years marked more by scandal than by music and told a crowd of screaming fans that he would play a series of London engagements -- his first concerts since 2001.

Wearing his trademark sunglasses and a silver-embroidered black military-style jacket, the King of Pop said his series of shows in July will be his "final curtain call" in the British capital.

"This is it," Jackson said in a brief statement punctuated by the squeals of fans who gathered inside the massive O2 Arena in southeast London on Thursday. "And when I say this is it, I mean this is it."

Although Jackson said the shows would be his last in London, his statement left the door open for further concerts elsewhere. Promoter AEG Live told the BBC the shows might be part of a bigger, final world tour.

An hour and a half later, Jackson appeared at the O2 -- where the series of 10 concerts are due to be staged this summer -- to announce the gigs.

More than 300 journalists had been marshalled to capture the event, even though news of the concerts had leaked out to the media days before. A telegenic army of screaming fans was there to greet their star -- although

many in the crowd said they were there to catch a live show due to play shortly after the announcement.

The hours spent waiting frayed some tempers and a few fans shouted obscenities at journalists being escorted in ahead of them for the announcement. But most were just happy to catch a

"Thriller" is still the best-selling album of all time, but Jackson -- who has sold more than 750 million albums and won 13 Grammys -- has not performed a major concert since 2001.

Tickets priced between 50 pounds and 75 pounds (\$70 and \$105), are expected to sell quickly for the shows, despite

public rarely since being acquitted of child molestation in California in 2005, and he has struggled to pay his debts -- last year, he was forced to give up the deed to Neverland, his 2,500-acre (1,000 hectare) ranch and miniature amusement park in California.

On Wednesday, Jackson launched a lawsuit against an auction house to stop the scheduled sale of more than 2,000 personal items from Neverland, including platinum and gold records, a customized Harley Davidson and a Rolls Royce limousine.

The concerts -- possibly followed by other gigs and a 3-D movie based on "Thriller" -- could end up netting Jackson more than \$400 million, Randy Phillips, the chief executive of AEG Live, was quoted by the BBC as saying.

A video of Jackson trying to record a new single, screened at a British court last year when Jackson was being sued for breach of contract, showed him struggling to keep up his powerful vocals.

Rebecca Kellner, 17, said it didn't matter really matter how Jackson sang -- the fans would come. "He's not the greatest singer and maybe not the greatest person," she said. "But he's Michael."



Michael Jackson announces that he is set to play ten live concerts in London in July, at a press conference at the O2 Arena in the city on March 5, 2009.

glimpse of Jackson.

"I've always been a fan ever since I was really little -- his music and the way he moves," said 21-year-old student Shellie Watson. When asked if Jackson -- who was almost Watson's age when he released "Thriller" in 1982 -- still had star power, she said "100 percent."

concerns the 50-year-old star may not be up for a return to the spotlight.

The King of Pop has been plagued by financial, legal, and medical woes for years, and a previous attempt to relaunch Jackson's career collapsed amid reports of ill health and court action.

Jackson has appeared in

Source: Internet