

### WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

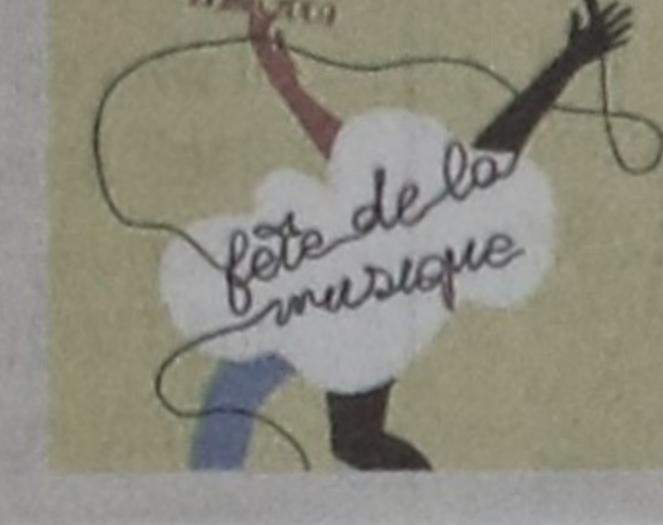
**Album Launch**  
Title: Tomar Bibha Te  
Mugdha Ami  
Organiser: War Crimes  
Facts Finding  
Committee  
Venue: Chayanaut  
Sanskriti Bhaban  
Date: June 26  
Time: 7pm



**5th Int'l Children- Art Biennale**  
Organiser: Bangladesh Shishu Academy  
Venue: Auditorium of Bangladesh Shishu Academy  
Date: June 21-July 5  
Time: 11am-6pm



**Fete de la Musique**  
Organiser: Alliance Francaise of Dhaka (AFD)  
Venue: La Galerie, AFD, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 21-July 2  
Time: 6:30pm onwards



**Theatre Festival**  
On Rabindranath Tagore  
Organiser: Sanglaap Group Theatre  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage  
Date: June 18-24  
Time: 7pm



## Music unbound

Fete de la Musique begins with Farida Parveen performance

JAMIL MAHMUD

Fete de la Musique, the festival celebrating the World Music Day, began at the La Galerie, Alliance Francaise of Dhaka (AFD), Dhanmondi on June 21. The festival began with a solo musical performance by internationally renowned Lalon singer Farida Parveen. This year, the ten-day festival will take place at different venues around the city where several local troupes and artistes along with a Kolkata-based choir will perform.

Ambassador of France Charley Causerset delivered the inaugural speech, highlighting the traditional music of Bangladesh. "The 2009 edition of the festival will give us the opportunity to discover or rediscover the opulence and diversity of Bangladeshi music," said Causerset. His message will likely reflect throughout the festival as it features the major music genres of Bangladesh like 'Lalon Geeti' and 'Bhawaiya.'

Since its inception in 1982 in France, the music festival now takes place in more than 100 countries and 350 cities all over the world. In Bangladesh, the festival has been organised by AFD since 2000.

As a beginning of a festival, it doesn't get better than songs of Lalon performed by



Farida Parveen sings at Alliance Francaise, Dhaka on June 21.

Farida Parveen. Parveen is widely credited to have taken Lalon's music and philosophy beyond our borders. In 2008, Parveen won the 'Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize,' a prestigious Japanese award for upholding traditional music in Asia.

Although, Parveen has become synonymous to 'Lalon Geeti,' she is also an accomplished 'adunuk' singer. Parveen started her performance with a rendition of a patriotic song 'O pakhi

rey ekbar aye,' a home to freedom fighters. She sang two more compositions -- the patriotic 'Ei Padma, ei Meghna' and her hugely popular 'adunuk' 'Tomra bhulei gechho Mallikadi'r naam' -- before moving on to Lalon's songs.

"Music is divine. It has the ability to satiate human soul. At present, the whole world is traumatised. It is divine music that can help the world to overcome this suffering," said Parveen.

Accompanied by the able playing of 'tabla' and bamboo flute by Debendranath Chattopadhyay and Gazi Abdul Hakim respectively, Parveen took the audience on a journey to the mystical world of Lalon, as she rendered songs from the bard's collection.

"Khamo, khamo oporad," a plea to the Almighty to absolve sins, was her first rendition of Lalon's songs. She gradually sang compositions that belong to 'Deha

Tatwa' -- "Khanchar bhitor auchin pakhi"; 'Nabi Tatwa' -- "Roop kather ei nauka khani" and 'Jati Tatwa' -- "Jaat gelo jaat gelo boley" and "Shob lokey koy Lalor ki jaat shangsharey."

The artiste also rendered lesser-known songs like "Jeneyshuneyrakheyemon-e" and "Shei kala chand nadey eshechhey" alongside popular numbers "Barir kachhey aarshi nagar" and "Tin pagoley holo mela."

A wonderful interplay of Parveen's vocals and Gazi Abdul Hakim's flute during the songs "Asha puron holo na" and "Shomoy geley shadhon hobey na" caused a musical high. Daulat-Ur-Rahman on keyboard, S.M. Reza Babu on 'dhol' and Delwar Hossain on 'dotara' and mandolin accompanied Parveen throughout the programme.

French Music Party featuring performances by teachers, students and staff of AFD will be held this evening at AFD, Dhanmondi. The festival will also feature a concert by folk-fusion band Bangla (on June 27) at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre and Calcutta String Quartet (on June 28) at the AFD, Dhanmondi.

Fete de la Musique will end on July 2.

## World Music Day celebration in town

MAINUL HASSAN

Throughout the globe, June 21 is observed as World Music Day amidst much enthusiasm and fanfare.

On Sunday, singers, musicians, songwriters, composers and music enthusiasts celebrated World Music Day through a programme at Shaheed Minar premises, Dhaka University campus. The event was organised by Bangladesh Sangeet Shangathon Shomonnay Parishad (BSSP). This was the second programme on World Music Day by the organisation.

The slogan of this year's programme was, "Esho Gaaney Praney Praney Bandhan." Children in Baul attire added colour to the event.

"Music has a tremendous power over the human mind. A special day for music gives us all an opportunity to celebrate its significance in our lives. People associated with music are part of a big family; today we have tried to bring together all members of the music community on the same stage," said Biswajit Roy, joint general secretary, BSSP.

The programme started at 5pm with solo performances of 'Bhawaiya' and patriotic songs. A.K.M. Mustafizur Rahman, Anima Mukti Gomez and Shaiful Alam Raza sang at the

programme.

A group rendition of the ever-familiar D.L. Roy song "Dhono dhanya pushpey bhora" followed.

A one-minute silence was observed in memory of the recently deceased sarod artiste Ustad Ali Akbar Khan and Language Movement veteran Gaziul Haque.

Leading artistes and representatives of several cultural organisations stood united against piracy. Royalty issues were also discussed at the event.

Jhuna Chowdhury, secretary general, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation; Bulbul Moholanobish, Mahadev Ghosh, Kursid Alam, Mohammad Rafiquzzaman, Shahin Samad, Fatema Tuz Zohra, Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, M.A. Mannan, Abdul Jabbar, Dr. Mridul Kanti Chakrobarty and others spoke at the event.

Veteran singer-composer Ajit Roy was present as the chief guest.

Cultural organisations Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha, Nazrul Sangeet Parishad, Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA), Mandira Shilpi Gosthi, Nibedita, Rabirashmi, Udichi and Obbyuday attended the celebration.

The event concluded with a rally brought out from Shaheed Minar.



PHOTO: MUMIT M

## New Acropolis Museum opens: Greece wants missing marble works from Britain



Photos of the so-called Kritios Boy statue are projected onto the walls of the new Acropolis Museum in Athens, Greece. The ancient Parthenon temple is seen in the background.



Visitors admire a sculpture at the new Acropolis museum in Athens on June 21, 2009.

AP, Athens

reclaim a cherished part of its heritage from Britain. The digital animated display on the museum walls ended years of delays and wrangling over the ultramodern building, set among apartment blocks and elegant neoclassical houses at the foot of the Acropolis hill. The nearly euro 3 million

(\$4.1 million) opening ceremony was attended by some 400 guests, including European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, UNESCO Director-General Koichiro Matsuura, and foreign heads of state and government. Conspicuously, there were no government officials from Britain, which

claimed a part of its

heritage from Britain.

The digital animated display on the museum walls ended years of delays and wrangling over the ultramodern building, set among apartment blocks and elegant neoclassical houses at the foot of the Acropolis hill. The nearly euro 3 million

impressive buildings in the world.

Despite its burning by invading Goths in 267 A.D., conversion into a Christian church in the early 6th century and Ottoman occupation from the 15th century -- when it served as a gunpowder store -- it survived largely intact until a Venetian cannon shot caused a massive explosion in 1687. Elgin, a Scot, removed about half the surviving sculptures between 1801-04, when Greece was an unwilling part of the Ottoman Empire.

The British Museum has repeatedly rejected calls for their return. It says it legally owns the collection it bought from Elgin, who sold it to stave off bankruptcy, and that it is displayed free of charge in an international cultural context.

With about 150,000 square feet (14,000 square meters) of exhibition space, the museum holds more than 4,000 ancient works, many of them never displayed before due to lack of space in the cramped old museum that sat atop the Acropolis hill.

Now visitors can walk among freestanding statues and reliefs with surviving traces of paint; view fragments of sculptures and coins still bearing scorch marks from the Persians' sacking of the city in 480 B.C.; gaze through three stories of glass floors straight into the foundations, where construction revealed an entire neighbourhood of ancient and early Christian Athens.

The museum opened to visitors on Sunday. Entry is at a nominal charge of euro 1 (\$1.40) until the end of the year, when it will increase to euro 5. The first four days are already completely sold out through internetsales.

## Poet Nirmalendu Guun's 65th birthday celebrated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

The 65th birthday of poet Nirmalendu Guun was celebrated on June 14 at the Barhatta Auditorium in his native Netrakona district. The event was organised by Nirmalendu Guun Janmo Jayanti Upazila Parishad (NGJJP), Barhatta-2009.

A daylong programme was chalked out on the occasion. The celebration programme included poetry recitation, discussion and more.

Khairul Kabir Khokon, chairman of Barhatta

Upazila Parishad, inaugurated the function.

The event was presided over by Girindra Chandra Sarker, president of NGJJP. Among others, Amol Krishna Mondol, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Barhatta; Jyotish Chandra Sarker, principal of Barhatta College and Papia Jahan, vice chairman of Barhatta Upazila Parishad spoke at the programme.

The speakers discussed Nirmalendu Guun's contribution to contemporary Bangla poetry and journalism. Later, local artistes performed at a lively cultural programme.



PHOTO: STAR

## Celebration of Tagore, Nazrul and Monsoon in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Shishukantha Khelaghan Ashor, Magura district unit celebrated Rabindra and Nazrul birth anniversaries at the auditorium of Syed Ator Ali Public Library on recently. Apart from a cultural programme, the celebration included a competition on Tagore and Nazrul's songs and poetry recitation. Around 120 children participated at the competition in two groups.

Shilpkala Academy, Magura held a cultural

programme at the Asaduzzaman auditorium to welcome the season of 'Barsha' (monsoon). The programme featured songs, dance and recitation.

With solo and group performances of Rabindra and Nazrul Sangeet on rain, artistes of local Shilpkala Academy welcomed the season. Members of Udichi Shilpi Gosthi performed dances, while BM Sujon recited several poems.

Deputy Commissioner of Magura, Dilwar Bakht, formally inaugurated the programme.