

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Solo Sculpture Exhibition

Title: Sensibility Objectified  
Sculptor: Sarban Roy Chowdhury  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi  
Date: June 26-July 5  
Time: 12-8pm



### 5th Int'l Children's 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



### Album Launch

Title: Tomar Bibhaley  
Mugdho Ami  
Organiser: War Crimes Facts Finding Committee  
Venue: Auditorium, Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhaban, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 26  
Time: 7pm



## Hanif Sanket: A vision for progress



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Hanif Sanket, the witty, multi-talented columnist-artiste-actor-TV host is well-known both at home and abroad. His clever satires hit hard social flaws and unfair practices that have often gone unnoticed. The variety show "Ittyadi" hosted by Sanket has been a huge hit with the TV audience for over two decades. Starting from June 5, ATN Bangla has started airing plays by Sanket (as part of a drama festival) every Friday at 8pm. The programme has generated much interest among Sanket's fans. The Daily Star recently caught up with the TV personality.

**The Daily Star (TDS): What are the main features and objectives of the drama festival?**

**Hanif Sanket:** These are not new plays. They were aired on BTV on

special occasions like Eid (from 1998 onwards). They have not been released in DVD or VCD format yet. Upon frequent requests from the audiences, especially expatriate viewers of ATN Bangla, I gave my consent to this arrangement. The festival is expected to continue for three months.

**TDS: How many plays have been aired so far?**

**Sanket:** Three plays -- "Putrodaya" on June 5, "Shodhbodh" on June 12 and "Gharer Khabor Porer Khabor" on June 19.

**TDS: Tell us about the upcoming plays...**

**Sanket:** The next play to be aired is "Kingkartabyo" (What should be done) on June 26. The story follows interaction between two families. Mobarak and Rahman have been neighbours for years, but are always in conflict over trifling matters, though in

general the respective families are in good terms. As in my other plays, there is a strong social message in this one.

Others plays to be aired are "Biporeete Hith," "Onto Bashanto," "Tathabrito Jathakar," "Bhut-Odbhut," "Shunyosthan Purna," "Sheshey Eshey Abosheshey," "Phirey Ashey Phirey Asha," "Durghot" and "Kusum Kusum Bhalobasha."

**TDS: The titles of your plays are rather uncanny. Can the same be said about the stories?**

**Sanket:** I suppose so. When I come up with a story, I also incorporate a message in it that I want to convey to the viewers. For example, "Durghot" reflects on the bizarre trends related to the fashion shows that have now become so popular in our urban areas. At the end of the play, the characters are convinced that we should take pride in our own traditions and not borrowed ones. "Gharer Khabor

Porer Khabor" features a young expatriate Bangladeshi returning home with all intentions of going back. But through a turn of events, he goes to a village and starts farming, and motivates the people of the village.

**TDS: What is the USP of your plays?**

**Sanket:** My plays are basically everyday stories. I try to portray the subtle psychological aspects of the characters centring on a problem in a higher, middle or lower-middle class setting. I always try to uphold our own culture and the serenity of village life through my plays. Commitment to the society is the focal point and I make plays from that context.

**TDS: Why are your plays and other shows aired predominantly on BTV?**

**Sanket:** BTV is a terrestrial channel that covers the whole Bangladesh. I don't make a lot of plays, and I want to draw the most number of viewers. I did make an Eid-special play for ATN Bangla last year.

**TDS: You had also done some acting years ago...**

**Sanket:** In 1981 I acted in a play called "Nongor." My character's name was Amin.

**TDS: Future plans?**

**Sanket:** I don't really spend a lot of time planning for the future. Future is uncertain, my concern is the present. I'll continue working on "Ittyadi" and documentaries. If I get time and opportunities, I'll make more plays.

**TDS: Any message for your fans?**

**Sanket:** The warmth and love I've received are overwhelming. I've been actively involved in making TV shows for the last 23 years. I'll quit when my viewers stop accepting my work. Their well wishes keep me going and I want to contribute more to the country.

At present, the plays aired on different channels are mostly serials that basically run for 15 to 20 minutes (each episode). Due to encroachment by ads, predictable stories, annoyance of mobile phones etc. viewers lose concentration and interest. I believe this festival will, to some extent, satisfy the TV play enthusiasts. ATN Bangla deserves credits in this regard.



PHOTO: MUMIT M

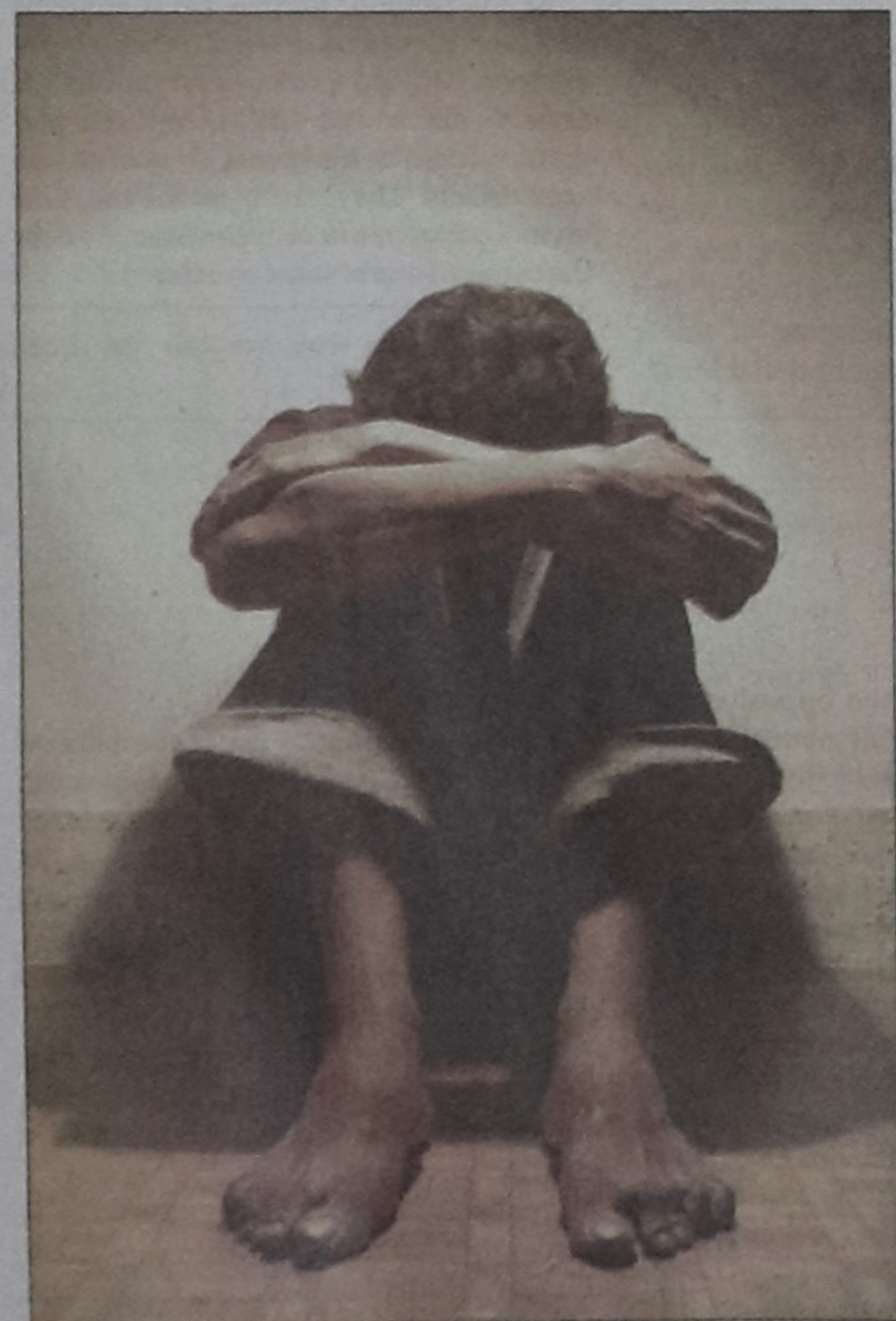
Department of Production, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy staged Rabindranath Tagore's dance-drama "Chitrangada" at the National Theatre Stage on June 24. The story revolves around the warrior-princess Chitrangada who falls in love with legendary hero Arjun during the 11th year of his exile. However, the attraction is one-sided. A distraught Chitrangada prays to the gods to bless her with physical beauty so that she can attract Arjun. Her wish is granted and Arjun falls in love with the beautiful princess. However, with each passing day Chitrangada feels more ill at ease. The day of reckoning arrives when Arjun asks her about the warrior-princess Chitrangada, whose tales of gallantry have amazed him. The production was planned and directed by noted dancer Kabirul Islam Ratan.



As part of Fete de la Musique, the festival celebrating World Music Day, students of Ecole de Musique (School of Music), Alliance Francaise of Dhaka performed at La Galerie on June 24. The musical programme featured performances of piano, guitar, violin and cello. On piano, students played classics of Mozart and Bach. They also performed folk music compositions. On guitar, students interpreted Spanish masterpieces, including Isaac Albeniz, Heitor Villa Lobos and Julio Salvador compositions. On violin and cello, students performed compositions of Schumann, S. Foster and H. Smart.

## The art of portraiture

Photo Exhibition by Pathshala



Clockwise (from top-right): Photos by Fariha Karim, Ferdous Uddin Ahmmad, Md. Farhad Rahman and Shahrear Kabir Heemel.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Portrait photography has been around since the invention of the camera, in that sense it is as old as the medium itself. It is cheaper and often more accessible than portrait painting, which has been used by nobility and royalty before the popularity of the camera.

Pathshala, South Asian Institute of Photography, organised a 10-day workshop earlier this year. The workshop titled "Art of Photography" was well attended by students of Pathshala as well as photographers who have completed a basic course in photography from other institutions.

As part of the workshop, participants did some portraiture. From those, 20 portraits (by 10 photogra-

phers) were selected. Pathshala, in association with the participating photographers, held an exhibition of the portraits at Galerie Zoom, Alliance Francaise in Dhanmondi. The exhibition ended on June 24.

Portraits by Shahrear Kabir Heemel, Kazi Moinul Hoque Sumit, Ferdous Uddin Ahmmad, Md. Farhad Rahman, Fariha Karim, Navida Ameen Nizhu, Md. Sazzad Hossain and others -- in colour and black & white -- provide an insight into a gamut of emotions, states of mind and settings.

Sumit's photo, titled "Dristi," shows a seemingly newly married couple -- Proshun and Rimi. The image (colour) does not stand out; it's rather mundane but what is apparent is the affection for each other in the subjects' looks.

Heemel's self-portrait (colour) has a melancholy feel to it. Slouched head, face hiding behind arms

that wrap around the knees, and aura-like lighting behind make this an interesting image.

"Amar Bondhu Atiq" (black & white) by Farhad is an intimate portrait of a hip young man. The subject, the photographer's friend, more or less "posing" adds a touch of kitsch to the work.

Fariha's portrait "Mannan Nana" (colour) is perhaps one of the most intriguing works in the collection. It's a portrait of an affable elderly man with a disposable camera in hand and a mischievous smile.

"Babu Selam Bare Bar" (colour) by Sazzad shows a security guard saluting (as the title suggests). What makes the portrait tick is a hint of irony.

The collection highlights some emerging photographers. Hopefully, the exhibition provided them with some much needed exposure.

"Dhaka Fashion Week 2009," showcasing creations of the leading local designers, is being held at Dhaka Club, says a press release. With an aim to promote Bangladeshi designers and labels as globally recognised brands, this edition of Dhaka Fashion Week kicked off with the 2009 fall collection on June 24. This year's theme is 'Rejuvenation,' as the designers feel that the nation needs to be rejuvenated in almost every sphere of life, which includes adapting an environment-friendly lifestyle. The event has been organised by Tupa and Associates. The event, ending today, featured a total of 16 fashion shows directed and choreographed by Kawshiki Nasser Tupa. Fashion houses Pride, Shadakalo, Paera, Moon's Boutique, Virgo, Blusa Stitch along with designers Shahrukh Shahid, Kuhu, Roxana Salam, Farzan Yusuf, Shabana Ali and others displayed their collections at the event.



## Curious Case director to join Facebook movie project

David Fincher, the director of "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," circles around a new movie project "The Social Network." Entertainment Weekly reported that the Oscar-nominated filmmaker is currently in advanced negotiation with Columbia Pictures to direct the movie about the founders of the popular social networking site Facebook.

If the talks went well, 46-year-old Fincher is likely to get behind the lens the end of the year. For the project, he will bring up to the big screen the script written by "Charlie Wilson's War" scribe Aaron Sorkin that centres on the drama behind the Harvard dorm room

creation of the popular social networking site by Mark Zuckerberg and his roommates.

A feature and music video director, David Fincher is known for his dark and stylish movies, such as "Seven," "Fight Club," "Zodiac" and "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button." The latest film has given him his first Academy Award-nomination for Best Director. Beside up for "The Social Network," Fincher is also attached to direct "The Goon" and "Heavy Metal" among several other future projects.

Source: Internet