

## 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



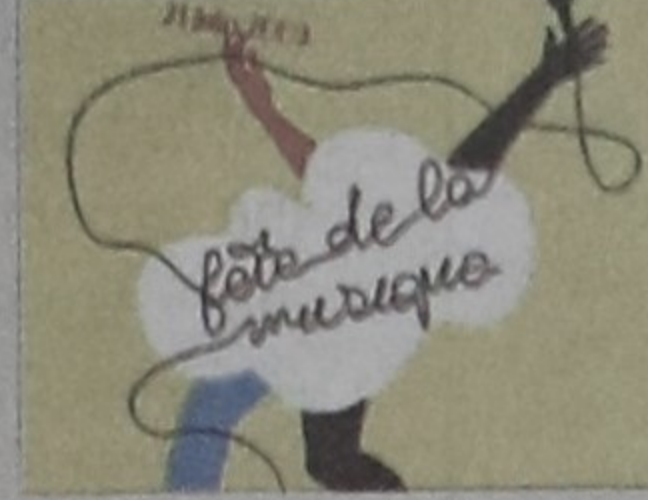
### 5th Int'l Children's Art Biennale

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 de Dhaka (AFD)  
Venue: La Galerie, AFD, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 21-July 2  
Time: 6:30pm onwards



### Film Screening

Film: Rabeya  
Filmmaker: Tanvir Mokammel  
Venue: Bangladesh Film Centre, 160, Lake Circus, Kalabagan  
On July 2 at 6pm



## Down memory lane with Mahbuba Rahman

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Mahbuba Rahman with her golden voice captured many a heart in '50s and '60s in the then East Pakistan. She made her mark in the radio, television and films and received accolades, particularly for her debut playback in the first Bangla film made here, "Mukh O Mukhosh" (1955).

In recognition to her contribution as an artiste, Rahman received the Ekushey Padak (in 1998) and the Golden Jubilee Film Audience award (2006) for Best Singer.

The otherwise reticent Mahbuba recently spoke to The Daily Star about her past and present:

The Daily Star (TDS): Are you still involved with the music industry?

Rahman: Right now my world revolves around my son, daughter, and grandchildren. My present priorities are to spend time with them, listen to music and read novels. I quit the music industry long ago.



PHOTO: MUMIT M

### Mahbuba Rahman

TDS: Were you always musically inclined?

Rahman: Yes, of course. I began singing when I was only eight-years-old.

TDS: Tell us about your first recording experience...

Rahman: It was a remarkable experience. The recording was at All India Radio (in

1946). I was nervous but music composer Samar Das and my mentor Shambhu Pal were there to encourage me.

TDS: Some of your memorable songs...

Rahman: "Agun jalaish na amar gaye" from the film "Saat Bhai Champa"; "Amar mon bhalo na go pran bhalo na" an

adhunik song; "Moner bon-dola lagey" from the film "Shurjo Snan" and "Amar golar har" from the film "Aasia" were big hits. Though initially I started with Nazrul Sangeet, I gradually shifted to bhajan, kirtan and much later to folk songs.

TDS: Who were your main

sources of inspiration?

Rahman: When I was a child, my maternal uncle took me to a local music school in Chittagong. Apart from him, my parents were major sources of inspiration. My husband, eminent music composer Khan Ataur Rahman had always been supportive of my career. Without his encouragement, I could not have come this far.

TDS: Who was your role model?

Rahman: I was greatly influenced by my contemporaries Anjali Roy and Afsari Khanum.

TDS: What are your views on the current trends in music?

Rahman: There is a huge difference between music back then and now. In our time, the vocalist was considered the focus, but now instruments get the limelight. However, I do see this in a positive light. The world is progressing by leaps and bounds and we should also do so. Having said that, inane lyrics do not stand the test of time.

## Nrityanchal to perform at 'Bango Shammelan'

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A 12-member troupe representing the reputed dance organisation Nrityanchal -- led by Shamim Ara Nipa and Shibli Mohammad -- has left Dhaka for San Francisco, USA yesterday.

Nrityanchal has been invited to perform at the North American Bengali Conference (NABC), popularly known as 'Bango Shammelan.'

The conference starts from today and continues till July 4 at San Jose McEnery Convention Centre. Apart from 'Bango Shammelan,' the Nrityanchal troupe will also

perform in Dallas and New York.

Eminent Bangladeshi singers Runa Laila, Rezwana Chowdhury Banya and Khairul Anam Shakil are also invited to the event, along with artistes from West Bengal, Lopamudra Mitra and Srikant Acharya. Kolkata-based Tanusree Shankar Ballet Troup will also perform at the event.

NABC is a platform for Bengalis from West Bengal living in USA and Canada. Non-resident Bangladeshis are also involved in NABC activities.

The Nrityanchal team will be back in Bangladesh by the third week of July.



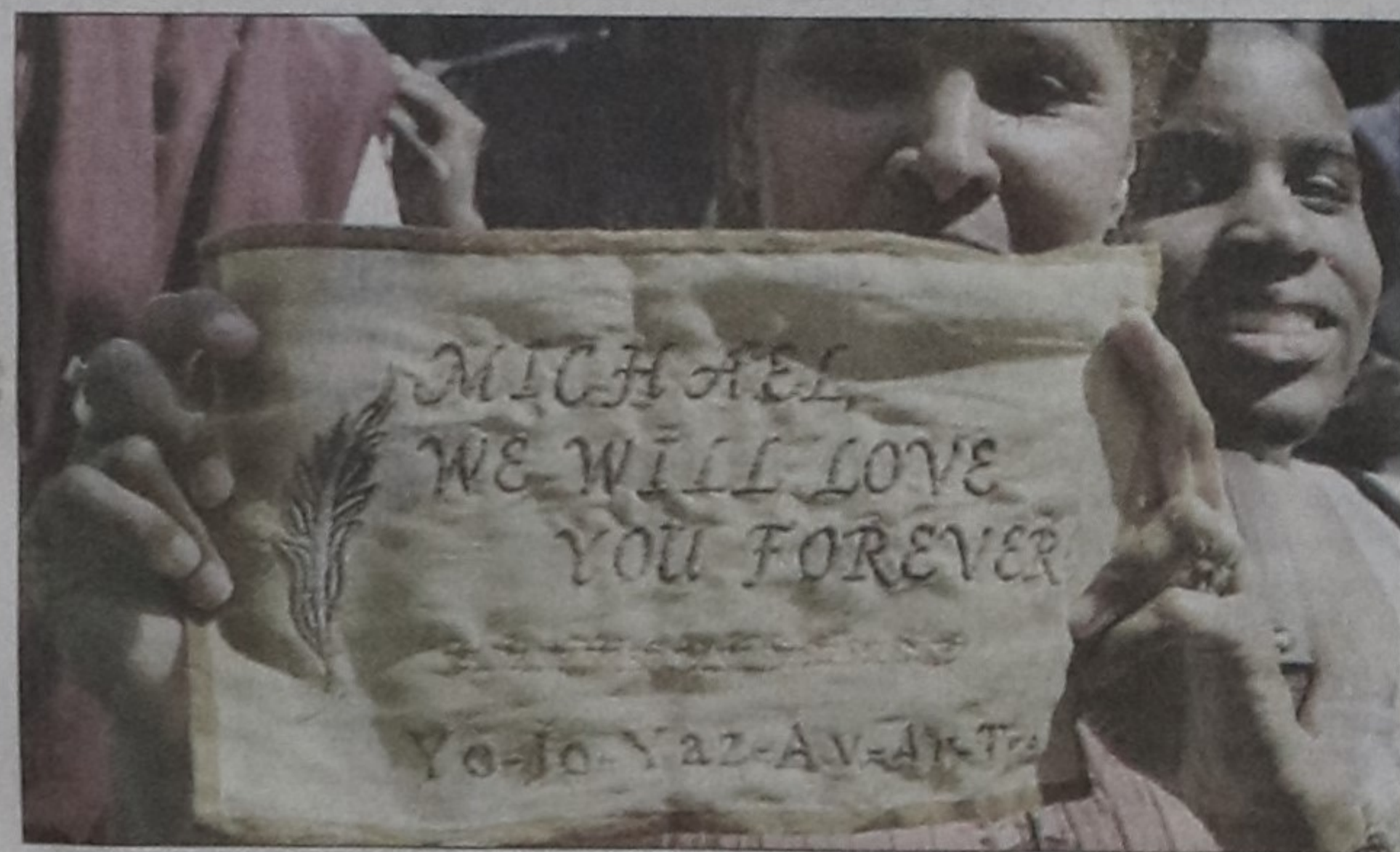
Dancers Shibli and Nipa are leading the Nrityanchal team.

## Homage to the 'Man Who Moved Like No Other'

Fans gather for Apollo Theater's Jackson memorial



Fans sing and dance to the music of Michael Jackson during a tribute to the late singer at Harlem's Apollo Theatre last Tuesday.



A woman holds a homemade tapestry as she waits to join the Jackson memorial.

AP, New York

Thousands of Michael Jackson fans gave the late pop star a raucous yet respectful send-off during six hours of public memorial services celebrating his life and music at Harlem's Apollo Theater.

Some 600 fans crowded into the Apollo Theater for each of the services that began shortly after 2 pm Tuesday. The last crowd of

fans were in high spirits despite standing in line for hours in the rain.

Apollo historian Billy Mitchell welcomed them by asking, "Who are we here for, family?" The response was a deafening roar: "Michael!"

At the final tribute service, Mitchell told fans: "I don't think we're ever going to get Michael Jackson out of our system. And we shouldn't."

The crowd of fans waved

white flags with Jackson's image printed on them, held up photographs of the star at different stages of his career and cheered and danced to his many hits, including "Thriller," and "Billie Jean."

A video tribute resembled home movies, starting with Jackson's cherubic childhood pictures and morphing into clips from his videos.

Reflections of disco light patterns swirled over the

crystal chandelier anchored in the centre of the landmark theatre's plaster ceiling.

A black fedora with a white glove draped across its brim sat on a lone stool on the theatre's stage, flanked by arrangements of white lilies.

At one of the services, the Rev. Al Sharpton told fans: "Michael made young men and women all over the world imitate us."

Sharpton led the crowd in a moment of silence at 5:26 pm, the time East Coast fans learned of Jackson's death.

Film director Spike Lee joined Sharpton on stage and urged the crowd to remember Jackson's accomplishments and not what he characterised as past negative news coverage.

"Let's not wallow in the negativity that they're trying to drag us down into. We're not having it," Lee said. "It's all about the love."

"He knew he was loved, but he didn't know he was this loved," said Rosiland Sargent, 59, of West Orange, New Jersey.

At the end of each tribute, fans placed their gifts on the stage. They included small stuffed teddy bears, balloons, homemade posters, a hand-knitted baby blanket and letters, including one addressed to "The Man who moved like no other."

Fans began assembling at the Apollo soon after Jackson died last Thursday in Los Angeles. His ties to the theatre go back to 1967, when The Jackson 5 won the Apollo's Amateur Night contest.

Jackson last appeared at the Apollo in 2002, invited by former President Bill Clinton for a Democratic National Committee fundraiser.

## Indigenous students in Dinajpur receive musical instruments from PM's fund

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

The indigenous community of Hakimpur upazila under Dinajpur district received musical instruments allocated from the Prime Minister's Office with the hope to encourage and nurture the local artistes.

A programme was held on the occasion recently at Hakimpur UNO confer-

ence room. Md. Aknur Rahman, UNO of Hakimpur upazila, was present as chief guest and Md. Azizur Rahman, Hakimpur upazila chairman, was present as special guest.

Around 50 indigenous students of different educational institutions received musical instruments from the UNO at the programme.

The students expressed their delight

and hoped that such initiatives would encourage them more into traditional cultural practices.

Among others, Shahinur Rahman Shahin, upazila vice chairman; Alhaj Akhter Hossain Munshi, president, Hakimpur upazila AL; vice president Mokhesur Rahman; general secretary Syed Mostafizur Rahman and Abdur Razzak spoke at the programme.

## Musical talent hunt to go on air

"Sur Doria Epar Opar" commences on Channel i

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Channel i, in association with Kolkata-based satellite channel ETV Bangla, is set to launch a musical talent hunt titled "Sur Doria Epar Opar." The pageant features 30 artistes-- 15 each from both sides of the border. The programme will be aired Thursday to Saturday at 5:30pm.

Each episode will feature five to six contestants of which one will be eliminated in the next episode. Four contestants are to reach the final round.

Renowned musicians and composers will be judges. Among them, Bappi Lahiri and Rezwana Chowdhury Banya are to anchor the show. Mustafa Zaman Abbasi, Sheikh Sadi Khan, Rafiqul Alam, Abida Sultana, Fakir Alamgir and Fatema Tuz Zohra along with Kolkata-based artistes such as Haimanti Shukla, Suvamita and Antara Chowdhury will appear as guest judges.



(From left) Actor Razzaq, singer Rezwana Chowdhury Banya and music director Bappi Lahiri are among the judges on the show.

## Exhibition featuring Bangladeshi photographers in Nepal

An eleven-member troupe from Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association (BPJA) left for Kathmandu to take part at a three-day photography

exhibition, according to a press release.

The exhibition, titled "Ruposhi Bangla Photo

Pradarshani," will be inaugurated on July 3, and has been organised by Nepal Forum of Photo Journalists.

Nepalese Foreign Minister Sujata Koirala will inaugurate the exhibition, featuring works of several photo journalists.

A.K.M. Mohsin, president of the organisation, will lead the BPJA team that also includes general secretary Nuruddin Ahmed; former president A.B.M. Rafiqur Rahman; vice-president Khaled Hyder and joint secretary Anisur Rahman.

The exhibition will highlight culture and heritage of Bangladesh. The Bangladesh delegation will meet the Nepalese president and attend an international seminar organised by South Asian Photo Journalists' Association during the trip.



The Bangladeshi delegation to Nepal.