

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Sculpture Exhibition

Title: Sensibility Objectified
Sculptor: Sarbari 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



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Pahariya Pathay
Artist: Shohag Parvez
Venue: La Galerie Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Date: 3-7 July
Time: 9-12am, 5-8pm



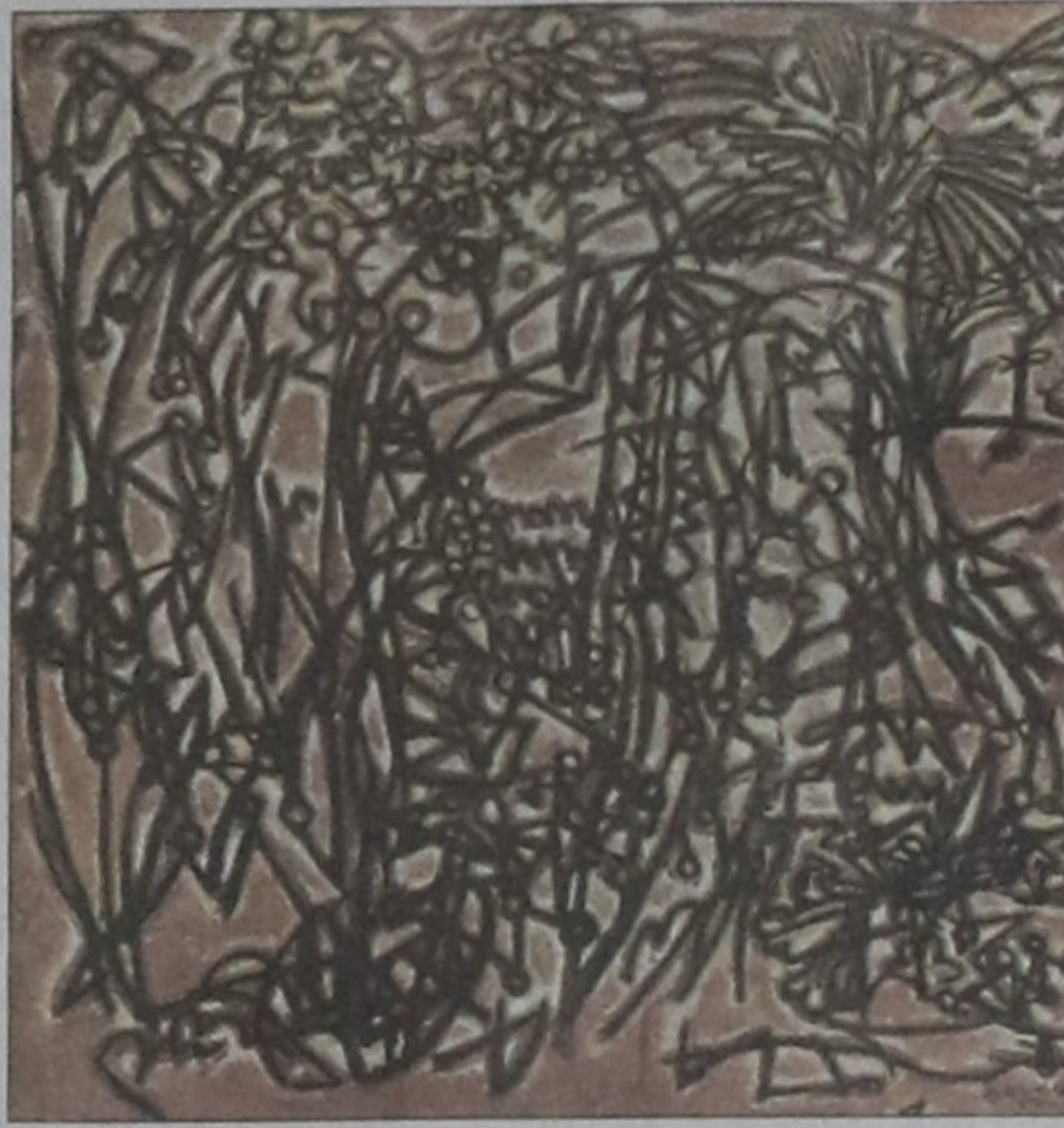
Photography Exhibition

Title: The Face of Bangla
Photographer: Nayeem
Venue: Drik Gallery, H-58, R-15/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka
Date: July 3-11
Time: 3-8 pm



Window to the inner wilderness

Shamim's solo exhibition at Gallery Chittrak



are also suggestive of his impatient soul. A mode of Chinese calligraphy and embellishment add further dimensions to his works. His works make a magnificent repertoire of diverse images, giving the viewer an impression of simplicity. The images are intentionally uncomplicated, as the artist wants his viewer to focus on everyday subjects often left unnoticed. Shamim is seemingly influenced by Jogen Chowdhury. Traces of Chowdhury's style are apparent in a number of Shamim's works.

Clockwise (from top-left) "Beautiful Moment," "New Crop" and "Adda" by Shamim.

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Jamil Akbar Shamim belongs to the group of painters who emerged in the Bangladeshi art scene in the '90s. The '90s was a time when artists in our country began exploring new grounds and focused on experimentation. During this period, promising painters also started retracing their teachers' footsteps. Shamim's solo exhibition, titled "New Crops" is now on at Gallery Chittrak, Dhanmondi. Shamim, considered a contemplative painter, delves into the melancholy side. His sweeping lines reach out to the unfamiliar depths of our

social structure. The artist seemingly observes the society with a profound passion. The lines are not overly polished or gentle. He sees the canvas as an unending piece of land, where he is trying to grow new crops (as the title of the exhibition suggests). Most of his themes refer to our environment and distorted social structure. He frequently works with a number of themes, which are quite unlike each other. His unbroken lines are emotive and suggest a contemplative process. Shamim has carefully studied sunlight making its way through bushes and foliage, and reflecting on the surface. The artist's sweeping lines

Shamim's works are dominated by black. The artist has worked with acrylic, ink, pen and mixed media. Humans are absent in his works, focusing only on nature. Some of his works denote deforestation and urbanisation. The paintings seem to belong to several series. Bush is the theme of one series. Adda (gossip) is another, where the painter has recorded his personal observations. Romanticism also figures in a number of works like "One Evening," "Smell Sucker," "Beautiful Moment" and "Window Plant." The exhibition, sponsored by Moshikul Azam Shajal, ends on July 7.

Suchitra Sen's ancestral house to be recovered

Cultural activists demand a museum at the venue



Suchitra Sen

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR
TOPU, Pabna

At long last the district administration has taken steps to recover silver screen diva Suchitra Sen's ancestral residence in Pabna town. Cultural activists of the district are demanding a museum here. The citizen committee of Pabna organised a meeting at Pabna Chamber of Commerce auditorium last Thursday and made the demand to set up a museum at the historic site in honour of the legendary actress.

Sen and her family stayed at the aforementioned house at the Gopalpur village under Pabna Municipality area. According to sources, Sen's father left Pabna with the whole family a few months prior to the Partition (1947). Later the house was declared 'government property.'

However, through a turn of events, a school called 'Imam Gazzali Institute' was set up at the house. Officials of the institute claim that the property was leased in 1985. Local cultural activists and enthusiasts have repeatedly opposed this possession and notified the authorities, but to no avail. A report, titled "Screen legend Suchitra Sen's ancestral home occupied," on this issue was published in The Daily Star on April 7, 2009.

The district administration has recently asked the school authority to shift their institution within July 8, according to official

sources. The district administration will not renew the lease this year, sources added.

"After much consideration, we have issued a notice to Imam Gazzali Institute this week. Earlier we have unofficially requested the school authority several times to relocate. This time the district administration has sent an official letter to the school authority, asking them to vacate the property," Md.

the Deputy Commissioner's office last Wednesday asking to have a museum at Sen's ancestral residence. Rezaul Haque Shahjahan, convenor of SSJ, submitted the memorandum while 20 cultural organisations of the district supported the request. The museum should be named after the screen diva, the memo says.

"Suchitra Sen is the pride of Pabna and this house bears



Imam Gazzali Institute, which has occupied Suchitra Sen's ancestral residence, has been served a notice by Pabna district administration to vacate the property.

Shahjahan, additional deputy commissioner (ADC, Revenue) said on July 1.

Meanwhile the school authority has submitted an application to reconsider the decision, official sources said.

Cultural activists would like the house to be turned into a museum. Shammito Shangskritik Jote, Pabna has submitted a memorandum to

memories of her early years. The occupying organisation should immediately vacate the property and the house should be turned into a museum, preserving memories of the legendary actress. This is the demand of all cultural enthusiasts and Suchitra Sen admirers of the district," said Md. Zakir Hossain, a local cultural activist.

Jackson had two albums in works

Michael Jackson had two albums in the works at the time of his death, Billboard reported last Thursday.

The singer was reportedly crafting a pop album with songwriter Claude Kelly and Akon as well as a collection of classical compositions.

"He was the 'King of Pop,' the biggest to ever do it, and the one thing you never lose -- whether known by the whole world or just 10 people -- is your love for music," Kelly told the music trade magazine. "That never goes away, and it never went away for him amidst his troubles."

Akon added that Jackson's upcoming sold-out "This Is It" shows in London had been an inspiration, as well.

"He said, 'My fans are still there. They still love me. They're alive,'" Akon said. "His kids were his first priority, and they had never seen him perform live. He was trying to create the most incredible show for his kids."

Billboard also reported that Jackson was working on an instrumental album, collaborating with composer David Michael Frank, who had previously worked with the singer on a 1989 TV tribute to Sammy Davis Jr.

"He had two demos of two pieces he'd written, but they weren't complete," Frank said. "For one of them, he had a whole section of it done in his head. He had not recorded it. He



The Black Eyed Peas frontman Will.i.am (right) was collaborating with Jackson on new songs.

hummed it to me as I sat at the keyboard in his pool house and we figured out the chords -- I guess this recording I made is the only copy that exists of this music."

And Jackson had more compositions in the works, including a jazz track.

"He mentioned more instrumental music of his he wanted to record,

including one jazz piece," Frank noted, adding that Jackson had called him to check in on the project several weeks ago. "I hope one day his family will decide to record this music as a tribute and show the world the depth of his artistry."

This wasn't the only music Jackson had in the works. When Access Hollywood visited Jackson for his last on-camera interview in Ireland in 2006, he was joined by Will.i.am, who himself was also collaborating with Jackson on new songs.

The Black Eyed Peas frontman told BBC News earlier this week that Jackson had held onto the recordings.

"He had all the hard drives because I didn't want to be responsible for that," Will.i.am said. "It's one thing to lose a Black Eyed Peas hard drive. I move around a lot and to make songs with Michael Jackson and risk me losing that music, I didn't want that responsibility. So he kept all the stuff that we worked on."

"It demanded all the people to the dance floor," Will.i.am said. "Of course, it was melodic. As he would say, 'juicy.'"

The status of these recordings, and whether they will see future release, remains unknown.

Source: Internet

Drama serial Eka on ATN Bangla tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

ATN Bangla will air the 25th episode of drama serial "Eka" tonight at 8:40 pm. Written by litterateur Imdadul Haque Milon, the serial has been directed by actor Zahid Hasan.

The story revolves around a crisis in a family. Recently widowed Hayat is at a loss with his son Munna. His sister-in-law Shumi takes all responsibilities of the young boy. Shumi, who is in a relationship with Mamun, starts living at Hayat's home to take proper

care of Munna.

On the other hand, Mamun's parents push him to marry Shumi. But Shumi cannot agree to marry Mamun right away, as taking care of her motherless nephew has become her priority.

The story gets a bizarre twist when Hayat is murdered and Mamun is considered the prime suspect. Mamun goes in hiding.

The cast includes Moushumi, Azizul Hakim, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Tamalika Karmakar, Diti, Shobhon and Zahid Hassan.



Shahiduzzaman Selim and Tamalika Karmakar in a scene from the serial.

Ashadhey Golper Khonjey on Rtv



(From left) Poet Asad Chowdhury and Selina Hossain with M. Hamid on the show.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Monsoon is the time for tall tales, anecdotes and non-stop adda, as relentless downpours forces all to stay indoors. There is no dearth of stories -- tales heard from mother, aunts and grandmothers, or some random eerie experience and more.

To bring some of these stories to the TV viewers, Rtv will air a programme titled

"Ashadhey Golper Khonjey." Renowned personalities including politicians Suranjit Sengupta and Hasanul Haq Inu; journalist Golam Sarwar; litterateur Selina Hossain and poet Asad Chowdhury shared some colourful, personal stories in an informal adda setting. Executive director of Rtv, M. Hamid, is the host of the show.

The first episode of the programme will be aired on Rtv at 9 pm tonight.