

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Sculpture Exhibition

Title: Sensibility Objectified
Sculptor: Sarbani 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: July 3-7
Time: 9-12am, 5-8pm



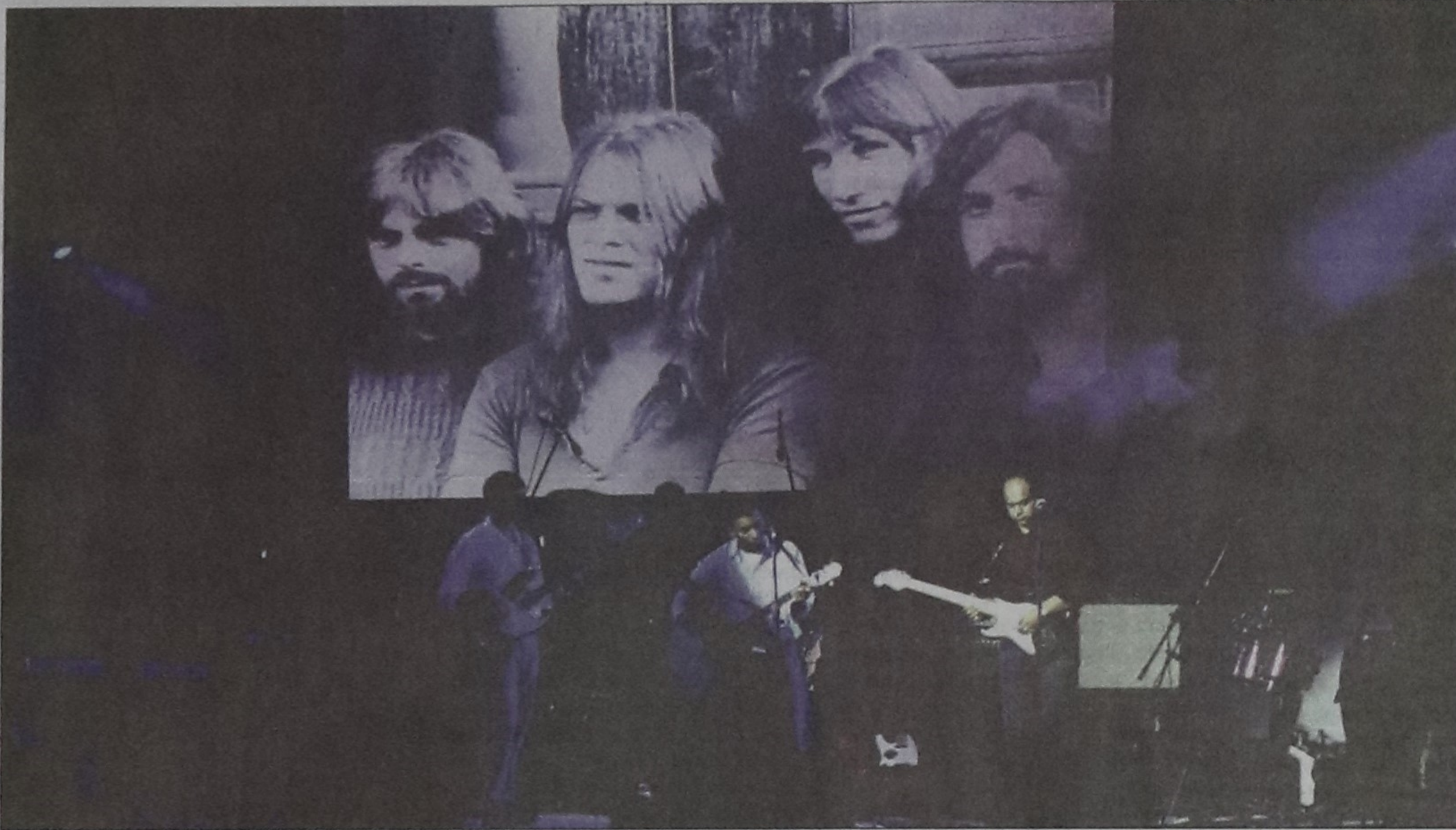
Photography Exhibition

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



Not just Another Brick in the Wall

Stone Free presents Pink Floyd



Stone Free covers Pink Floyd classics.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

JAMIL MAHMUD

"Soya thought ya might like to go to the show."
To feel the warm thrill of confusion, that space cadet glow.
I got me some bad news for you, Sunshine.
Pink isn't well, he stayed back at the hotel.
And he sent us along as a surrogate band."

-- From the song "In the flesh"

The history of psychedelic rock is almost as old as that of rock 'n' roll. Bangladeshi rock music scene is well aware of the sub-genre but psychedelic rock does not get much exposure compared to the other styles.

Heavily inspired and influenced by psychedelic culture that attempts to replicate and enhance mind-altering experiences, psychedelic rock emerged in the mid 1960s in Britain and in the United States. The sub-genre bridged the transition from early blues-based rock to progressive

rock, art rock and experimental rock.

On July 3, Dhaka music aficionados had an opportunity to sway with classic psychedelic rock, as Bangladeshi band Stone Free covered some classics of Pink Floyd, considered one of the most influential bands in the history of rock music. The concert, organised by Excalibur Entertainment, was held at Winter Garden, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Pink Floyd is widely praised across the globe for its highly philosophical lyrics, sonic experimentation, innovative album cover art, and elaborate live shows.

The stage at Sheraton had elements that could be associated with the psychedelic cultural. To replicate Pink Floyd shows, psychedelic and surreal art from the legendary band's album covers were well placed. The wings of the stage were made to look like a brick wall and obviously there was a flying pig.

On stage, seven performers, a rather unusual feature for a Bangladeshi band, were ready to make the evening memorable for the nearly

packed venue.

The musical extravaganza commenced with the much-anticipated intro "In the flesh" from the 1979 rock-opera "The Wall." One after another, the vocalist, Chhotu Khan, sang the first five tracks along with "Mother" from "The Wall." Chhotu was accompanied by Emon (drums), Nabeer (percussions), Mishu (bass guitar), Arshad (keyboard 1, guitar and backup vocals), Saad (keyboard 2) and Fahim (lead guitar). Chhotu himself played lead and acoustic guitar at times.

Stone Free also covered "High hopes" from Pink Floyd's last album "Division Bell" (1994). "Pigs on the wing, part 1 and 2" from the album "Animals" (1977) and "Cymbaline," an acoustic medley by former member Roger Waters from the album "More" had the audience on a high.

The audience were soon shouting for more and Stone Free unleashed another Floyd classic, "Shine on you crazy diamond." Waters composed the song as a tribute to the then

estranged band-member and friend Syd Barrett.

The members also performed several tracks from the history-making album "The Dark Side of the Moon" (1973), including "Speak to me," "Breathe" and "Time." The album became the band's first number 1 on US charts and is one of the biggest-selling albums of all time. The album stayed on the 'Billboard Top 200' for an unprecedented 741 weeks including 591 consecutive weeks.

It would've remained an incomplete performance, had the Stone Free decided not to present "Echoes" (from the album "Meddle"). But the band didn't disappoint. The 23-minute masterpiece, featured towards the end of the show, completed the psychedelic experience.

The current Pink Floyd line up features David Gilmour (vocals and lead guitar) and Nick Mason (drums). Roger Waters (bass) left the band in 1985, while Syd Barrett (lead guitar and vocals) died in 2006 and 2008 respectively.

TV Watch

Last episode of Bhangon to be aired on Desh TV tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The last episode of drama serial "Bhangon" will be aired tonight on Desh TV at 9:30pm. Written by Touhin Hasan the serial is directed by Parvez Amin.

The Plot: The central character in the serial is Rahman, an octogenarian. Once a government official, he has been bedridden for twenty years due to paralysis. All his savings went to building a house and he is now cared for by his sons. Mobin is the eldest, who is now the decision-maker of the family. A middle-aged man with a strong personality, Mobin is childless. Shafiq, the second son, has been missing since his wife Nira, married his younger brother, Rafiq. Rafiq and Nira left the country, leaving Topu and Tithi -- Nira's children with her former husband -- behind. Mobin



Azad Abul Kalam in a scene from the drama serial.

looks after Topu and Tithi as his own children. Asgar, the youngest son of the family is a workaholic, which causes issues in his conjugal life. Romana is the only daughter of Rahman, who is married to a well-off family. Romana

often visits the family and likes to lecture her brothers on taking care of their father.

The cast includes Afroza Banu, Azad Abul Kalam, Chandni, Hillol, Tinni, Shojol, Elora Gauhar, Shamsul Alam Bakul and others.

Naksha on ATN Bangla tonight



The conflict between the old and new generations of Old Dhaka is the crux of the serial.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

ATN Bangla will air drama serial "Naksha" tonight at

9:20 pm. Written and directed by noted theatre and TV personality Mamunur Rashid, the serial features ATM Shamsuzzaman,

Nazneen Hasan Chumki, Joyraj, Sujata, Lutfur Rahman George, Azad Abul Kalam, Tushar Khan and others.

The serial centres on Lalchan Sardar, a resident of Old Dhaka and his family. Lalchan has been married thrice and has 18 offspring. None of Lalchan's sons and daughters has gone in for higher education, but a granddaughter Nuri is a student of Dhaka University. A grandson, Chan, has graduated in architecture and works in a firm. The conflict between the old and new generations of Old Dhaka is the crux of the serial -- reflected through the everyday events that take place in Lalchan's family.

A complete musical experience

In conversation with Nasima Shaheen

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

With her commitment and devotion to her craft, Nasima Shaheen has carved a niche for herself as an accomplished Nazrul Sangeet and adhunik singer. After successfully completing courses in Nazrul Sangeet and classical music from music school Chhayanaaut in 1988, Shaheen started her professional life as a teacher (of Nazrul Sangeet) at the institution in 1990. Shaheen is an enlisted singer of both Bangladesh Betar (radio) and Bangladesh Television. Recently in an interview with The Daily Star, the singer talked about her career, passion and more.

Solo albums featuring Shaheen released so far are: "Pathik Eshechho Naki" (2002), a collection of Nazrul songs; "Ke Tumi Amarey Dako" (2003), a collection of old Bangla songs; "Shanjher Pakhira" (2006), a collection of Nazrul songs; "Akashey Bhorer Tara" (2007), a collection of Nazrul songs and "Keno Phirey Geley" (2009), a collection of adhunik songs.



Nasima Shaheen

The last album was launched both in Bangladesh and Kolkata, India. The album features 12 adhunik

songs. Eight of the songs have been composed by Kolkata musicians, while Dhaka composers have done

therest.

Eminent lyricists K.G. Mostafa and Mohammad Rafiquzzaman have penned the songs featured in the album. Eminent music personalities of Kolkata, including Jatilleshwar Mukhopadhyay, Abhijit Bandopadhyay, Atanu Chakrobarty and Srikant Acharya have written some of the songs. "Srikant is one of my favourite singers. When he agreed to write a song for me, I was overwhelmed," said Shaheen.

Though she is a distinguished Nazrul singer, Shaheen is also comfortable rendering songs belonging to other genres. "Apart from Nazrul, I've sang adhunik songs since childhood. I'd like to continue pursuing both genres," said Shaheen.

As a teacher at Chhayanaaut, Shaheen finds many inspirational aspects of practicing Nazrul Sangeet. She is determined to teach Nazrul Sangeet in the accurate way. She said, "There are confusions regarding the authenticity of some Nazrul Sangeet 'swaralipi' (notations). However, at

Chhayanaaut, we always try to go with the original/authentic swaralipi."

At present, Shaheen finds a positive change regarding Nazrul Sangeet as music students are becoming more interested in learning songs of our National Poet. "Not that long ago, majority of the students enrolling in Chhayanaaut took the Rabindra Sangeet course. Gradually this trend is changing and more students are now keen on Nazrul and his songs," said Shaheen.

Shaheen is a regular performer at Chhayanaaut but she understands the need to promote young, emerging talents. "We should encourage young talents. It'd be nice if veteran artists sometimes decide to let young singers/musicians perform in their slots," said Shaheen.

Shaheen wants to continue rendering and recording memorable songs, regardless of the genre. Her plans also include an album featuring songs of the pancho kobi (Tagore, Nazrul, DL Roy, Rajnikant and Atul Prasad).

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

It is not often that a writer makes an announcement about publication of his/her book four years ahead of schedule. But when the author in question is Vikram Seth, one can always expect something different.

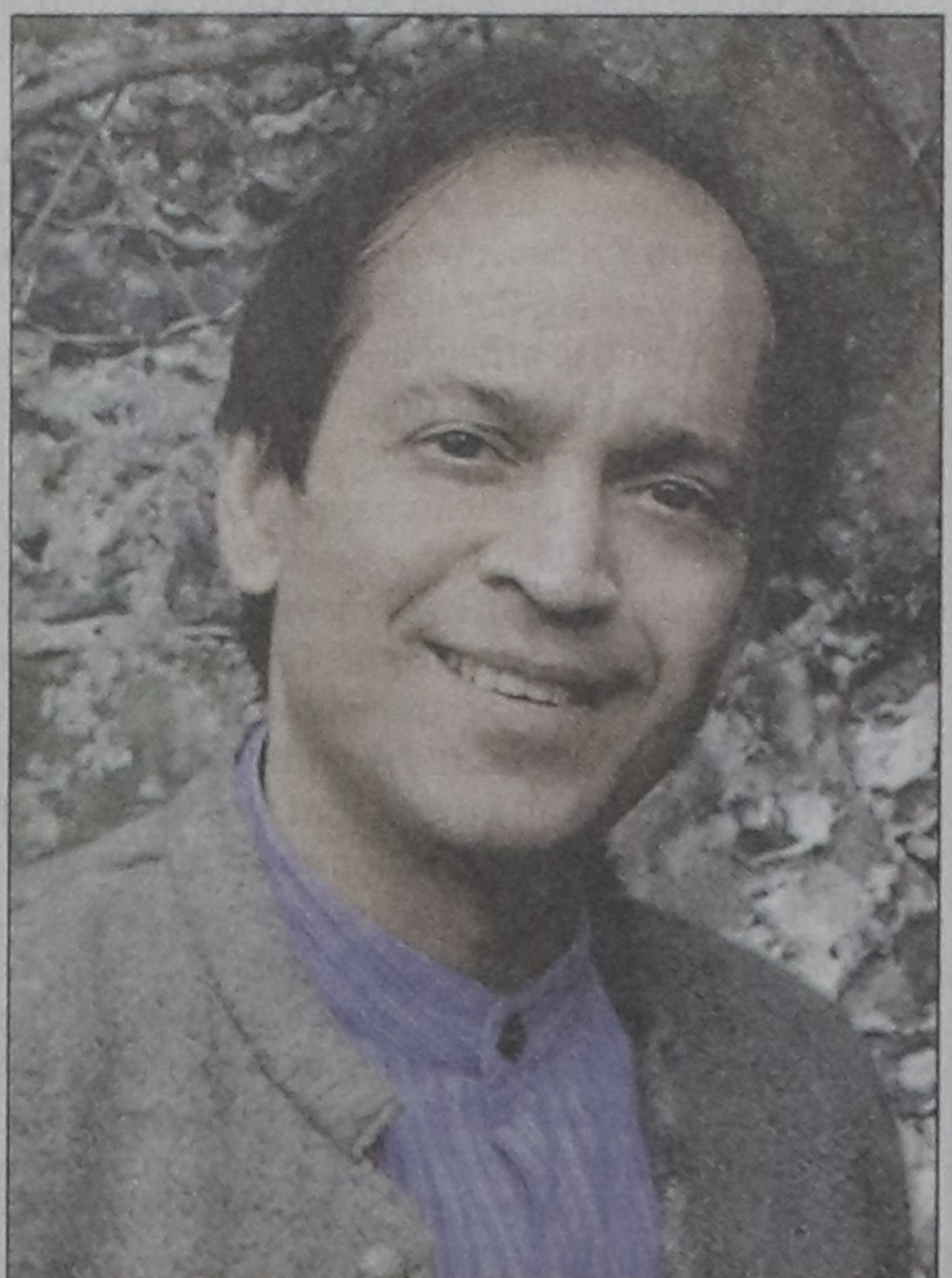
The good news for admirers of Seth's literary works is that he is going to come out with a sequel to his hugely popular novel "A Suitable Boy," published 16 years ago.

The London-based writer went public on Thursday that the sequel "A Suitable Girl" is going to be published by Penguin imprint Hamish Hamilton in the year 2013.

The setting for "A Suitable Boy" was the 1950s in the newly-independent India after the Partition of the sub-continent and the novel followed the lives of four families across several cities as the central character Lata Mehra's mother Rupa goes around looking for a suitable groom for her daughter.

Fast forward to 2013, "A Suitable Girl" would pick up the thread from where "A Suitable Boy" ended -- Lata searching for a bride for her grandson -- in the 21st century India, says Seth.

The novel, says the Pen-



Vikram Seth

guin, will cover the enormous socio-economic changes India has undergone in the 60 years since Lata's mother was looking for a groom for her.

Seth says he is not clear how "A Suitable Girl" would shape up as he has penned only bits and pieces of the proposed novel.

The author acknowledged

he did not feel inspired enough to write a sequel to "A Suitable Boy" but his publishers had been after him, and "I'm happy that the muse has returned."

"A Suitable Boy" had turned out to be a big hit with quarter of a million copies sold in hardback edition and over a million in paperback.