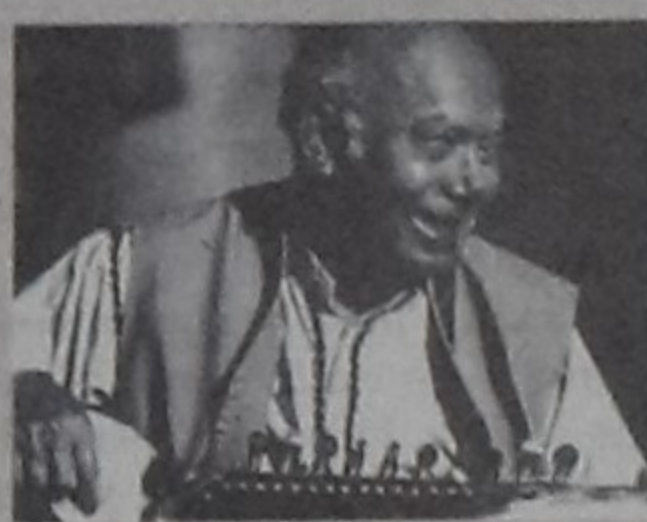


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Sarod Recital

In honour of Sarod legend Ali Akbar Khan, Artists: Rajrupa Choudhury and Ashim Choudhury Venue: Chhayanaut Sanskriti Bahaban Date: July 9, Time: 7pm



Musical Soiree

Title: Srojar Ashor Organiser: Chhayanaut Venue: Ramesh Chandra Dutt Memorial Auditorium, Chhayanaut Sanskriti Bahaban Date: July 10 Time: 7:30 pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Pahanya Pathay Artist: Shohag Parvez Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise of Dhaka Date: July 3-16 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



Who's Loving You?



KARIM WAHEED

"He created a comfort level where people that felt they were separate became interconnected with his music... Michael made us love each other. Michael taught us to stand with each other..."

-- Rev. Al Sharpton at Michael Jackson memorial

As I watched the Jackson memorial live on CNN Tuesday night (BST), several things were running through my head. Let me start by admitting, I haven't been a die hard Jackson fan when he was alive. As an admirer of good music however, I couldn't undervalue his songs. From early hits like "I'll be there" (my personal favourite) which he recorded with his brothers (Jackson 5) to "Black or white" (from the album 'Dangerous' in 1991), he had given the world a sizeable repertoire of classics. Go to Tokyo or Manila, and you'll find some karaoke bar where people are still singing his songs till passing out.

But it was not Jackson's ubiquitous presence (despite his physical death) or his personal legend that stopped me in my tracks on June 25. When the news broke out that the 'King of Pop' has died, I went back to my childhood. I recalled the

first non-Bangla song I heard in the early '80s: "Beat it." As my uncle hummed and swayed to the song, I looked in amazement. Anyone who has grown up in the '70s, '80s and early '90s probably had similar initiations to Jackson's music.

I received text messages from friends around the world that day. Some of them articulated what I had in mind: Our childhood (everything related to it, to be more precise) is coming to an end. In that sense, Jackson's death was a big jolt. I realised he was a significant part of my childhood, growing up and taste in music.

I started rummaging through my music collection, bought some Jackson CDs and DVDs (of music videos). As I listened closely, I was shocked, enlightened, euphoric, moved and puzzled. I didn't need music exponents or media analysts telling me that "Black or white" addressed racial unity and had white, black, Latino and Asian kids all over the world dancing to it. Want to call it 'pop'? Think again. The song's unbelievable introduction and main riff were played by Guns N' Roses guitarist Slash and Bill Bottrell.

"We Are the World" (written by Jackson and Lionel Richie, produced and conducted by Quincy Jones and recorded by a supergroup of 45 popular musicians billed as 'USA for Africa' in 1985) raised funds to help famine-relief efforts in Ethiopia. In "Earth song" (from the album "HIStory," 1995), Jackson sang about human civilisation in 'self-destruct' mode, long before Al Gore came up with his 'Inconvenient Truth.'

Jackson was accused of child abuse in 1993, the criminal investigation was closed due to lack of evidence and Jackson was not charged. This however, permanently tainted his image and career. The way he conducted himself around children was questionable, yes. But was he a paedophile? Let's consider his childhood: Jackson stated that he was physically and emotionally abused by his father from a young age, enduring incessant rehearsals, whippings and name-calling. However, he also credited his



Fans line up outside Staples Center on Tuesday morning for Michael Jackson's memorial. About 1.6 million people sought tickets to attend.

father's strict discipline as playing a large part in his success. In one altercation -- later recalled by his brother Marlon -- Joseph (their father) held Michael upside down by one leg and "pummelled him over and over with his hand, hitting him on his back." In 2003, Joseph admitted to the BBC that he had whipped Jackson as a child.

Jackson first spoke openly about his childhood abuse in a 1993 interview with Oprah Winfrey. He said that during his childhood he often cried from loneliness and would sometimes start to vomit upon seeing his father. Jackson recalled that Joseph sat in a chair with a belt in his hand as he and his siblings rehearsed and that "if you didn't do it the right way, he would tear you up, really get you."

At the age of 11, Jackson was hailed as a child prodigy and became a Motown phenomenon. Since then, he never had a

moment to himself; the whole world had become his stage. Could it be possible that Jackson was just trying to relive his childhood by always hanging out with kids and behaving like them (offstage)? His obsession with cosmetic surgery and enhancements goes to validate what many claim as his relentless effort to become "Peter Pan."

Perhaps, Rev. Al Sharpton put it the best way possible at the memorial, when he told Jackson's children that their father "wasn't strange, it was strange what he had to deal with."

The memorial, more like a 'wake', was truly fit for a king. The lucky 17,500 who had won, begged or bought tickets entered Staples Centre, where the memorial was held. Those who couldn't, watched it on big screen and TV. What Jackson wanted to achieve with the London shows (it is being speculated that

the gruelling rehearsals and anxiety to live up to the expectation of his fans killed him) did come true, on a grander scale, but after his death.

Live performances made the memorial unforgettable. Though Mariah Carey's shaky rendition of "I'll be there" sounded avoidable, the rest were incredible, moving tributes. Stevie Wonder singing, "I never dreamed you'd leave in summer," truly hit home for fans. Jennifer Hudson's cover of "Will you be there," despite the distracting dancers, was outstanding -- marked with emotional vulnerability and inner strength at the same time. John Mayer's stylish guitar interpretation of "Human nature" gave all an opportunity to hum the song.

But it was Paris, Jackson's 11-year-old daughter, who emerged as the surprise voice of the memorial.



Jackson's daughter Paris Michael broke down in tears as she spoke about her father at the memorial.

"Ever since I was born, daddy has been the best father you could ever imagine," she said, fighting back tears as her aunt Janet consoled her. "And I just want to say that I love him so much," she said as she burst into tears and sought refuge in the embrace of family members. That, perhaps, was the most humanising moment.

According to Motown records founder Berry Gordy, "the title of King of Pop was not big enough for Jackson." He called Jackson "simply the greatest entertainer that ever lived." No one in the world would disagree now.

As I listened to one of Jackson's earliest hits, "Who's loving you," I received a text message from a friend in Los Angeles that said, "We are the world" -- from LA to London, to Dhaka, Tokyo and everywhere else." The whole world is loving Michael Jackson.

A visit to Thyssen: An enlightening experience



"The Thaw at Vetheuil" by Claude Monet

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Works of masters like Vincent van Gogh, Picasso, Rubens, Monet, Dürer, Klee, Mondrian, Hopper, Gauguin and Rosenberg have enriched the collection of Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, one of the biggest museums in Madrid. The museum opened its doors to public in 1992. It is located in front of Prado Museum and very close to another noted museum, Rania Sofia. Thyssen's specialty is its open spaces, ventilation system and lighting.

Noted Spanish architect José Rafael Moneo Vallés designed the museum. The collection ranges from the 13th to 21st century. Calibre of the artist, their fame and value of the paintings seemingly get priority in the museum's art collection process. The museum is also famed for its preservation system.

During my recent visit to Madrid, I went over Thyssen's collection and enjoyed the various styles of the 19th and 20th century collection, which

includes works of van Gogh, Monet, Chagall, Pollock, Kandinsky and Hopper.

Impressionism

Impressionism was a 19th-century art movement that was initiated by a group of Paris-based artists exhibiting their works openly (in the 1860s). Noticeable brush strokes, compositions focusing space, prominence of light and transformation are the main characteristics of Impressionist paintings.

Thyssen boasts a unique collection of some major impressionist painters like Edgar Degas, Camille Pissarro, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Alfred Sisley, Paul Cézanne, Claude Monet, Paul Gauguin, Joaquín Sorolla, Whistler and others. Their works plunge deep into scenic beauty, romanticism, aestheticism and sometimes, everyday chores. Some of their still life are also included in the Thyssen collection.

Some of my favourites impressionist works at the Thyssen are:

Vincent van Gogh's "The Potato Eaters" is another famed work. The painting shows five figures sitting

around a square table, eating (as the title suggests) potatoes. Four of them are females, and one, male. The painting provides an impression of their intimate conversation. Dim, low-hanging light creates mystery, yet maintains a sense of vibrancy.

Gauguin's "Figure on a Road, Rouen" (oil), with its luminous scenic beauty and tall trees. There is also a lone figure in misty shade.

Claude Monet's "The Thaw at Vetheuil" portrays winter -- snow forming on the water of millpond. It's a serene blue-white scene. In the painting, trees seem frail and the atmosphere gives an impression of silence and tranquillity.

Edgar Degas's "Swaying Dancer, Dancer in Green" shows angelic ballerinas and children seemingly drawn in to them. The water is so clear that the dancer's feet are clearly visible.

Camille Pissarro was another impressionist who focused on landscapes. His "Afternoon on the Rue St Honore, Effect of Rain" is a view of Paris streets. The streets are appar-



"Waterloo Bridge" by Andre Derain

ently waterlogged and the painter has chosen a vision of the city after relentless rain.

Pierre-Auguste Renoir's "Woman with a Parasol in a Garden" (oil) features a variety of flowers in a garden. Two young girls, under umbrellas, are seen plucking flowers.

Expressionism, another major art movement, originated in Germany in early 20th century as a reaction to positivism, naturalism and impressionism.

Some of famed expressionist paintings at the Thyssen are:

"Waterloo Bridge," an Andre Derain masterpiece dominated by green, blue and purple. The colours are thick and brush strokes are lively. A blue bridge over the river is the main feature of the painting.

Edvard Munch's "Encounter In Space" (coloured lithograph), portrays a single figure taking a plunge. A fish is also visible in the image. Munch's works mainly delve into love, fear, death and melancholy. He

is regarded a symbolic painter.

Wassily Kandinsky's "Murnau: Houses on the Obermarkt" (oil), shows a silent street with some houses. The street seems quiet and shady. Some trees are also seen in the painting. Lines, architectural and geometric forms define the work. Kandinsky is credited with painting the first modern abstract work.

Christian Schad's "Portrait of Dr. Haustein" shows a seated gentleman in a sombre mood. A menacing shadow is seen behind the image. Schad's portraits are very dynamic and give the viewers a taste of realism. As an expressionist, his close association with the Dada movement also made him well recognised in European Art.

Erich Heckel's "The Brick Factory" demonstrates a building with a kiln. Smoky air adds a touch of reality. Red, yellow and blue have been extensively used in the work. Bold brush strokes and vibrancy of colours are the prime characteristics of Heckel's works. His style is quite similar to van Gogh's.

New Drama Serial Khoj on Banglavisision

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Banglavisision will air the drama serial, titled "Khoj," tonight at 8:15 pm. Jointly written by Rajibul Islam and Shojol Chowdhury and directed by the former, the serial will be aired every Thursday.

The plot centres on Mumu, a Bangladeshi working in Thailand. Mumu's mother

died the day she was born, and her father left her, blaming the newborn for his wife's death. Mumu was raised by her uncle. Rimi is Mumu's close

friend and is about to get married. One day Rimi requests Mumu to contact a man called Saiful and collect some photographs from him. According to Rimi, Saiful is a vicious person and has some compromising photographs of her. Rimi is afraid that Saiful might blackmail her. Mumu, however, finds Saiful to be totally different from what Rimi had made him out to be.

The cast includes Abul Hayat, Chitrakha Guha, Abul Kalam Azad, Tanima Hamid, Intekhab Dinar, Naznin Hasan Chumki, Shatabdi Wadud and others.

Asif on Rtv tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Popular artiste Asif is tonight's guest on "Basudha Tomar Jonyo Amar E Gaan," a live music programme on Rtv. The show will be aired at 11pm tonight. The first solo album of Asif, titled "O Priya Tumi Kothay" earned him huge popularity as a singer. Later, a film was also made, based on the song.

Asif's solo and mixed albums have been huge hits. On the show, the artiste will perform several of his chart-topping songs, as well as some numbers from his most recent album. He will also respond to audience requests.

The show is produced by Tanif Mahmud.



On the show, Asif will perform several of his chart-topping songs.