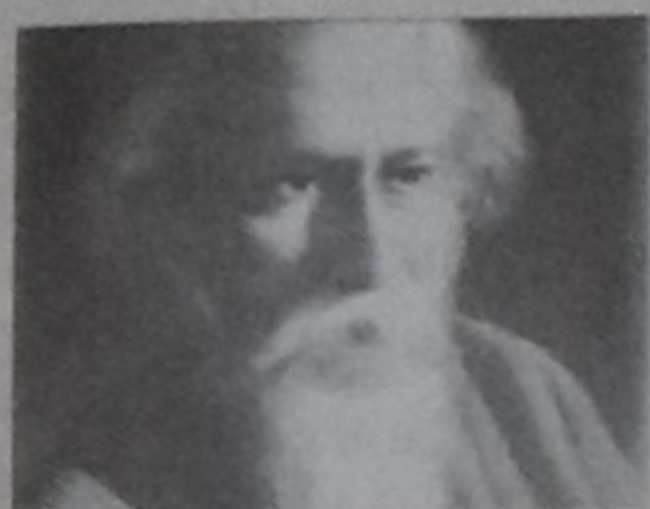


## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

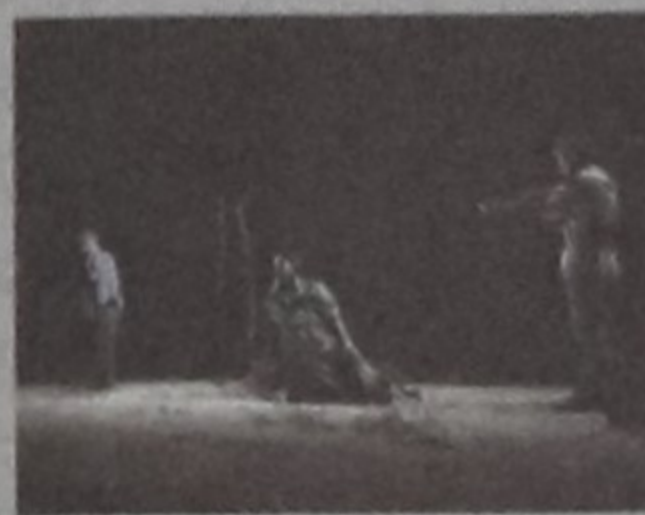
**Musical Soiree**  
Title: Jharichhey  
Srabono Dhara  
Organiser: Nandan  
Venue: Chhayanaut,  
Dhanmondi  
Date: July 24  
Time: 7:15pm



**Photography Exhibition**  
Title: Survivors  
Artist: GMB Akash  
Organiser: Alliance  
Francaise of Dhaka  
Venue: Alliance Francaise  
of Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road,  
Dhanmondi  
Date: August 14- 27



**Theatre**  
Play: Che'r Cycle  
Troupe: Bangla  
Theatre  
Venue: Studio Theatre  
Hall, Shilpakala  
Academy  
Date: July 24  
Time: 6:30pm



**Theatre**  
Play: Dhaboman  
Troupe: Dhaka  
Theatre  
Venue: National  
Theatre Hall,  
Shilpakala Academy  
Date: July 22  
Time: 7:30pm



## Prachyanat's Musical Ensemble to go to Nepal



PHOTO: MUMIT M

Prachyanat members perform at Mukto Mancho, Jahangirnagar University.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Prachyanat's much-acclaimed 'Musical Ensemble' is going to be staged in Kathmandu, Nepal. Titled 'Phul, Phaki O Nodi'r Gaan' (Music of the flowers, birds and rivers) for the show, the ensemble will be staged on July 26 at the HRSIN Nepal Academy Hall.

Distinguished guests will attend the event organised by the Bangladeshi Ambassador to Nepal, Imtiaz Ahmed. A ten-member Prachyanat troupe will leave Dhaka on July 24 for the five-day tour.

"It is an honour for Prachyanat to represent Bangladesh overseas," said musician Rahul Anand, one of the key members of the ensemble. Anand is the conductor and one of the vocalists of the ensemble, and usually plays bamboo flute and dotara.

Among others, the troupe will include Shakhawat Hossain Rezvi (lead vocals), Sahjida Shaheed (vocals and tara), Saiful Islam (percussion and vocals) and Kanak Aditya (dotara and vocals).

Anand informed that apart from the songs the ensemble performs usually, such as the Shah Abdul Karim number 'Jhilmil jhilmil' or his own composition 'Gulabi gulabi', the musical would feature a couple of new compositions at the upcoming show in Kathmandu.

The 'Musical Ensemble' was first staged in 2001, featuring a range of folk genres -- incorporated in their true styles -- of Bangladesh as well as Bakura, Nodia and Purulia of West Bengal. The songs were successfully featured in some of the troupe's popular productions such as 'Koinya', "Circus Circus" and "A Man for All Seasons."

According to Prachyanat members, music is synonymous to the troupe's theatre activism, yet the ensemble is not a rigid practice or a fixed arrangement as the featured members in the ensemble are mainly theatre activists and not professional musicians. Casual humming at get-togethers of friends or regular adda prior to rehearsals for new plays paved the way to form the ensemble.

## Songs for the masses

Mahbubul Haider Mohon's solo album launched

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Gano Sangeet artiste Mahbubul Haider Mohon has dedicated his life to singing for the masses, articulating their hopes, despair, demands, rights and protests through his songs. The artiste had his second solo album (VCD) launched on July 20. Organised by cultural organisation Kranti Shilpi Gosthi, the event was held at the Music and Dance Auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Produced under the banner of Laser Vision, the album "Lokkho Praan-er Binimoye" features music videos of seven songs by Mohon.

Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser

Chowdhury, acting secretary, Ministry of Information, was the chief guest at the programme. General secretary of Sammilito Sanskritik Jote, Golam Kuddus, noted Gano Sangeet artiste and president of Gano Sangeet Samannoy Parishad, Fakir Alamgir and freedom fighter Shahjahan Chowdhury were present as special guests. Chairperson of Laser Vision, AKM Arifur Rahman, presided over the event.

"Mohon is one of the few artistes who are trying to carry on the trend of Gano Sangeet in this day and age, when culture is often treated as a 'commodity'. He, along with his comrades have taken on a brave role in a movement to establish a secular society,"

said Golam Kuddus, felicitating the artiste for his new album. Mohon is the president of Kranti Shilpi Gosthi.

Fakir Alamgir said, "Mohon stepped into the cultural arena in the '80s. His songs reflect the conscience of the masses and speak of humanity, harmony and democracy. His commitment -- both as an artiste and as an organiser -- has made him a well-known figure in the cultural field."

"Mohon is one of the most talented Gano Sangeet artistes of this time. I hope the audiences will appreciate this album and inspire us to speak out against social injustice," said Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury in his speech.

The second part of the event featured solo performance by the artiste. Mohon presented a total of 13 songs -- including all from the album -- at the programme. The song "Kandte ashini," an adaptation of the first poem dedicated to the Language Movement by the late poet Mahbub-ul Alam Chowdhury is a highlight of the album. Among other songs featured in the album are "Lokkho praan-er binimoye," "Ami dhormer kachhey," "Prithibir jekhaney joto" and "Bolte paroshurjo-takey."

Shankhachil Srutichitra made the music videos. Amzad Hasan, Jewel and SP Majumder composed the music.



PHOTO COURTESY: BANGLARCHOKH.COM

Mahbubul Haider Mohon (centre) sings at the album launch.



Young actors Tanvir, Jhumpa and Dishi are seen in the play "Emon Jodi Hoto" staged recently at the ongoing 10th National Theatre Camp for Children and Adolescents. The event is being held at Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library in Shahbagh. The play was directed by Hanif Khan.

## Guide on ntv tonight



Tauqir Ahmed and Runa Khan in a scene from "Guide."

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Guide" will be aired on ntv tonight at 9:45 pm. The serial is written, scripted and directed by Arun Chowdhury. The cast includes Tauqir Ahmed, Runa Khan, Apurba, Shojol, Nova, Bindu, Arefin Shuvo, Hillol, Nafiza and others.

The storyline: Elias Ali, a tourist guide, escorts a group to various places. Among the tourists is a newly married couple. Each individual in the team has a story. As the serial moves forward, tension builds up in the group. Elias plays the role of a go between in easing the frayed tempers of the group. The serial is aired every Wednesday and Thursday.

## Jackson's father suggests foul play in son's death



This video frame grab released by CNN/Larry King Live shows Larry King (left) interviewing Joe Jackson on July 20, 2009.

AP, Los Angeles

Joe Jackson said in a televised interview Monday that he has taken his son Michael's death "very hard" and believes the doctor who took care of him could be behind the singer's demise.

The patriarch of the Jackson family appeared on "Larry King Live" and

implied his son's personal doctor, Dr. Conrad Murray, may be to blame for the death.

"The doctor gave him something to make him rest, and then he don't wake up no more. Something is wrong there," Jackson said. He did not refer to Murray by name.

A phone listing for Murray could not be found, and two messages left with his

attorney, Edward Chernoff, on Monday night were not immediately returned.

The family is awaiting the coroner's toxicology report to determine how Michael Jackson died at the age of 50. The results are expected next week.

Investigators obtained a search warrant and removed several bottles of the powerful anaesthetic Propofol from Jackson's home, according to a person with knowledge of the investigation. The person is not authorized to speak publicly and requested anonymity. Jackson suggested Murray couldn't be found following his son's death on June 25.

"This doctor, he ran away. They had to look for him three days to find him. To me that is foul play," Jackson said.

Police interviewed Murray two days after Jackson's death. Authorities say he is a not a suspect, though the cardiologist is a key figure in the investigation because he was with Jackson in the mansion and tried to revive him. His car has been seized after police said they believe the vehicle may contain drugs or other evidence.

Wearing a black fedora and a gold medallion of Africa hanging around his neck, Jackson appeared on the show with promoter Leonard Rowe. When asked by King how he's dealt with his son's death, Joe Jackson replied, "I took it very hard."

Jackson added he didn't know where his son's body is being kept and hasn't seen the results from a second autopsy performed on Michael Jackson at the family's request.

## Bruce Lee's siblings authorise Chinese biopics

Bruce Lee's older sister and younger brother have authorised a Chinese company to make a series of biographical films about the late kung fu icon, saying they want to produce a historically accurate account of their brother's life.

Phoebe Lee and Robert Lee appeared at a signing ceremony with J.A. Media in Beijing on Monday, 36 years to the day after Bruce Lee died in Hong Kong at age 32 from swelling of the brain.

Lee became a source of Chinese pride by portraying characters who defended the Chinese and the working class from oppressors in films like "Return of the Dragon."

It wasn't immediately clear who will play Lee in the film series.

Producer Manfred Wong said the company plans at least three instalments, with the first to tackle Lee's teenage years, adding he wanted to focus more on the late actor's personality.

"There will be kung fu...But more

importantly, we want to portray the real Bruce Lee. What was the real Bruce Lee like? He was very humorous. He was very obedient to his parents. He was very kind to his family," Wong said, according to footage of the ceremony on the Chinese news Web site Sina.com.

Robert Lee said he wanted to give an authoritative account of his brother's life.

"We've read many books and seen many movies about Bruce Lee, but there are many inaccuracies in them. They made up things," he said, without referring to specific works or factual mistakes.

"I'm more than 70 years old. I want to do something for my younger brother -- to promote Bruce Lee's life story," Phoebe Lee said.

Most recently, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV aired a 50-part prime-time series about Lee last year.

Source: Internet



## Cultural function in Manikganj Encouraging tree plantation

ZAHANGIR ALAM BISWAS, Manikganj

To encourage tree plantation, the District Administration, Department of Agriculture Extension and Department of Forests have jointly organised a weeklong cultural function at a tree fair being held at Government Boys' High School ground in Manikganj.

On an average 2,000 people, including women and children, turn out every day for the cultural function where local artistes stage dances, songs, poetry recitation and plays.

On Sunday, Manikganj Shahitya O Sangskritik Sangsad and Victoria Club artistes put up cultural performances. Among the distinguished guests attending the event were Khokan



PHOTO: STAR

Local artistes perform at the cultural show.

Chandra Nandi, deputy director, Department of Agriculture Extension; Asadul Haque, assistant commissioner; cultural personality Romeza Akter Khan Mahin. The cultural programme is to run till July 22.

## Meghbondhu on Banglavisision

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial 'Meghbondhu' will be aired tonight at 8:15 pm on Banglavisision. The serial is written by Shafiqur Rahman Shantonu and directed by Shokul Ahmed.

Mahfuz ahmed, Mosharraf Karim, Bijori Barkatullah, Romana, Challenger, Maznun Mizan and Tania play the central roles.

Synopsis: Rakib, Sohan and Mamun have been friends since their student days, and are now colleagues. They have been working for a software firm for three years.

Bored of their routine life, they unanimously decide to take some time off from work. But there have been lay offs recently, so taking time off might mean losing their jobs. So, they tell work authorities that Mamun is severely unwell and it might be cancer. They announce that they are going to accompany Mamun overseas for medical treatment. The trio take off for Nepal but do they have a fun time?



Mosharraf Karim and Romana in "Meghbondhu."