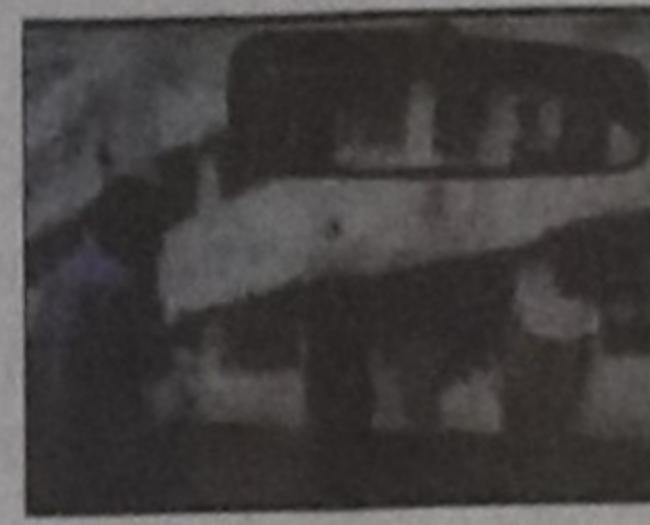


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Int'l Ibsen Seminar and Theatre Festival
Title: Ibsen Through New Eyes
Venue: Shilpkala Academy & Jahangiragar University
Date: November 12-23
Time: Everyday 5:30pm onwards



Art Exhibition
Artists: Sanjida and Emon
Venue: Chhobir Haat (opposite Faculty of Fine Arts)
Date: November 21-24
Time: 10am-8pm



Poster Exhibition on HIV/AIDS
Title: Empathize
Organiser: IUB Art Club
Venue: IUB, Campus 1, DoSA, House 3, Road 10, Bandhara, Dhaka-1212
Date: November 22-23
Time: 10am-8pm



Theatre Festival
Organiser: Dept. of Theatre, University of Dhaka
Venue: TSC Auditorium and Natmandal, DU
Date: November 17-23
Time: 6:30pm onwards



Nora at the crossroads

LaMusica Independent Theatre Group performs at BSA



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Through rhythmic flow and powerful expressions, the story of a woman trying to earn her individual identity is portrayed in the production.

NUSRAT JAHAN PRITOM

contemporary Egyptian life, society and individuality have been highlighted.

Ibsen's "A Doll House" contemplates the position of women. Nora Amin and the team had done full justice to this idea, folding and unfolding the various facets of it.

"Nora is an epitome of revolution, that's what appeals to me" said Nora Amin. "I have been active in the theatre scene from an early age. Well, it was basically dance in the beginning, and then when I got to delve deeper into acting, I became fascinated with both these worlds and wondered if I could possibly blend the two to bring about a profound effect. Dance has a special meaning to me -- a language to express something beyond the lin-

guistic limits."

Amin wanted to break away from the "taboo of narrating". "This took a lot of courage but movement and dance helped a lot. I wanted it to be a production where all the performers could sparkle in their respective roles."

"Although I am Nora, and the central character is also called Nora, I barely conform to the 'Doll' image," she added with a hint of laughter.

The USP of the performance was choreography that required immense restraint and skills, with ballads every now and then. Each posture had a subtle message -- either addressing a prejudice or articulating hope to emancipate oneself. The part where

the girl (Nora) constantly falls and is helped by the man needs no explanation or interpretation (as it was in Arabic). As Nora Amin put it, "The man has to carry her as if he doesn't she would fall. It is an image of what she expects herself to be, and what the society wants her to be."

"The obstacle is not that the man is dominant, but that both are catering to the problem of inequity. The man becomes weaker, not stronger, because he is depending upon the woman to appear stronger."

The lighting also had a special part in the production. There were no lights from above, just from around, signifying that we are just reflections of what we have been and what others want us to be.

This is the first time an Egyptian troupe is in Bangladesh and Amin said, "We are elated with the cordial response. The people here are so welcoming and the spirit is so affable that at times I feel like I am home. But then I had to remember not to start a conversation in Arabic."



'Jarigaan' to generate awareness against human trafficking

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Traditional folksong "jarigaan" and a discussion to generate awareness against human trafficking was held on November 21 at the Arpara High School playground in Shalikha upazila. The programme was the commendable initiative of 'Rights' a Jessore-based human rights organisation.

Leading Baul artistes Khapa Osman and Abu Zafar Boyati rendered songs at the event.

Earlier, a discussion on the vital issue of trafficking was held at the same venue.

With Munshi Shariful Islam in the chair, Shuvoranjan Sarkar, Shamim Khan and Biren Mukherjee, among others, addressed the gathering.



PHOTO: STAR

An artiste performs 'jarigaan' at the event.

Michael Jackson Moonwalk glove auctioned for \$350,000



A rhinestone-encrusted glove worn by Michael Jackson the first time he performed the Moonwalk has been sold at auction for \$350,000 (£212,000).

The glove, among 70 items belonging to the late singer, which went on sale in New York, was sold for nine times the expected price.

A jacket worn by Jackson on his 1989 "Bad" tour was sold for \$225,000 while a fedora hat went for \$22,000.

The auction in New York attracted thousands of bidders around the world.

Auctioneer Darren Julien said the 1983 television appearance when Jackson first displayed the Moonwalk -- wearing the glove -- had been his "most historical performance".

Julien said he had no idea the sale would be so big.

Prices for Michael Jackson memorabilia now outstrip those for items belonging to Elvis or Marilyn Monroe, he added.

"It's a tribute to his life and career -- he's truly an amazing artist," said Julien.

The glove was bought by Hong Kong businessman Hoffman Ma on behalf of a hotel in Macau China, where it will now go on display.

Including taxes and fees, the final amount paid was \$420,000.

Michael Jackson died at his home in Los Angeles in June at the age of 50 after a drugs overdose.

Source: BBC

The glove sold for nine times the pre-auction estimate.

PHOTO: STAR

Kabir Suman unplugged



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Kabir Suman during a recent performance in Dhaka.

KAVITA, New Delhi

Kabir Suman -- singer, musician, songwriter and activist -- is a showman par excellence. At a recent concert in New Delhi, titled 'Bijoya Sammelan: Adhunik Bangla Gaan', Kabir (originally Suman Chatterjee) effortlessly switched from guitar to piano and vice versa as he rendered a variety of Tagore songs and modern songs with strong socio-political overtones, otherwise known as 'Jibonmukhi Gaan'.

The largely Bengali audience were transfixed by his rendition of 'Rabindranath-er Gaan', mostly accompanied with the piano: "Shudhu tomor bani noy", "Pothohara tumi pothik", "Biroho modhur holo aaj", "Aaji je rojoni jaye" and "Noyonimele dekhi".

Inequity, clearly makes his blood boil as was evident in hard hitting songs about subjects ranging from child labour, the plight of adivasis -- reduced to helpless bystanders as their land and forests are grabbed in the name of development, to police atrocities. Ekushey February and an adaption of Bob Dylan's timeless song "Blowin' in the wind".

The audience loved it. Many raised loud requests for his famous song, "Tomakey chai", which he describes as a "love song that is also a political song."

"I am the only Indian to write, sing and commercially record a song on Bangladesh's Ekushey February," says Kabir, talking about "Je matir jonye". In fact, the then 22-year-old Kabir and his brother strongly considered migrating to Bangladesh in 1971 in the aftermath of the Liberation War. Explains Kabir, "I would love to be in a country where my language is the mother tongue and the official language. I would be elated to see my language on my

passport." However, he hastens to add, "By no means am I a chauvinist, nor can I lay claim to being a great patriot either."

There is another stronger Bangladeshi connection. He is married to Sabina Yasmin, whom he describes as "one of the most popular singers".

"I met her on a trip to Dhaka and there we fell in love. That was in 1998," says Kabir smilingly, going on to add that, "Sabina is a very busy vocalist. Whenever she finds time, she comes over to Kolkata where I live, or I go over."

Over the last three years Kabir has also been very active politically. He has been elected as a Member of Parliament, representing the Trinamool Congress.

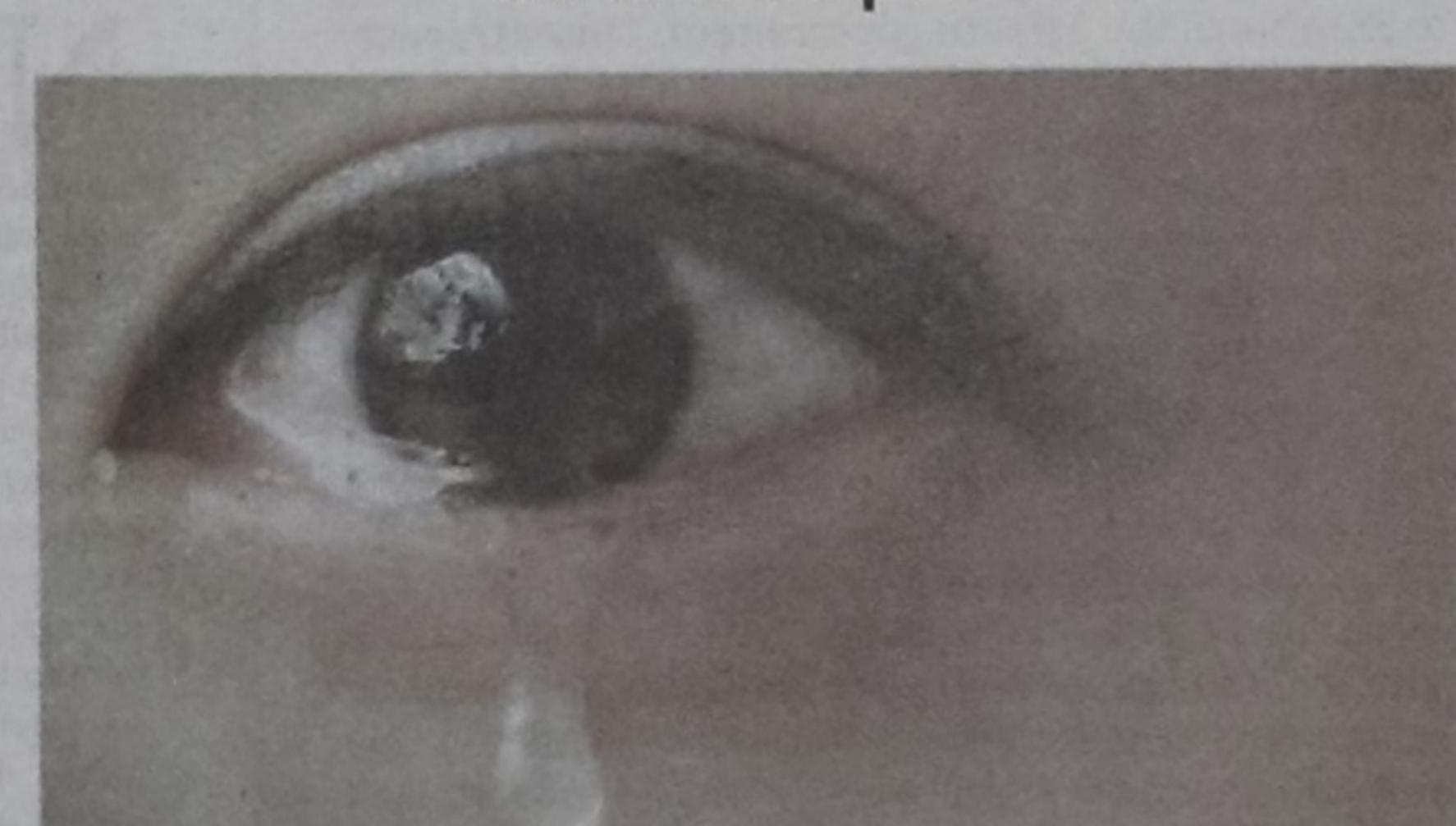
However, music is evidently still his passion. What's he recently been up to in the domain of music and what does he have up his sleeve?

Over the last three years, he has recorded albums like the profoundly political "Nandigram", "Protirodh" and another album called "Rizwanur Britto", which recounts the real life story of the Muslim Rizwanur Rahman, married to a Hindu woman by the name of Priyanka Todi. Apparently the couple were hauled in by the police who ordered them to end their marriage. An outraged Priyanka protested that she had entered into marriage legally. The end was bitter for the couple: She disappeared and he was found dead along the railway tracks in Kolkata.

Nevertheless Kabir dares to dream: "I wish I could write my songs in Hindi so that they could touch many more people. I have seen that the Punjabis, Biharis, Maharsatrians, Kannadigas, Tamilians, Telugus and Malayalis are all very musical, at times more responsive to music than many Bengalis I have known."

A viewpoint with which most Bengalis would beg to differ.

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