

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Solo Sarod Recital

Artist: Shahadat Hossain Khan  
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1  
Date: November 13  
Time: 7pm



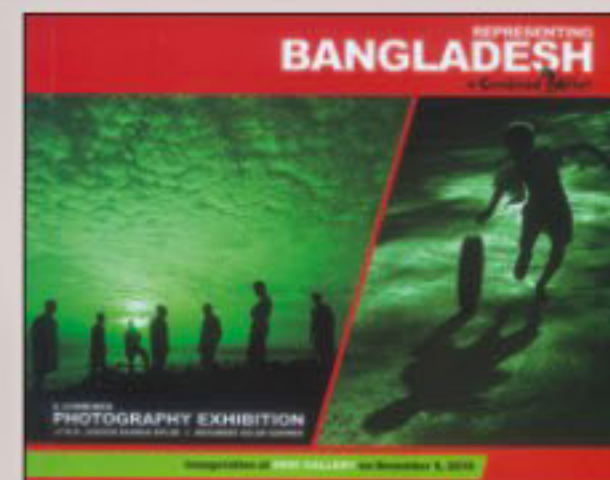
### Duet Art Exhibition

Artists: Tajuddin Ahmed and Syed Iqbal  
Venue: Tivoli Art Gallery, DCC Market, Gulshan-2  
Date: November 5-15  
Time: 10am-8pm



### Photography Exhibition

Title: Representing Bangladesh  
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi  
Date: November 5-11  
Time: 308pm



### Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Khurshid Alam Saleem  
Venue: Shilpangan Art Gallery, H-26, R-3/A, Dhanmondi  
Date: October 31-November 10  
Time: 10am-8pm



## A songster speaks

Up close with Robi Chowdhury

SHAH ALAM SHAZU



Singer Robi Chowdhury had an early initiation into the world of music. Over the passage of years, he has cut several hit albums and has many other achievements to his credit, such as recording the first duet album in Bangladesh with Sabina Yasmin.

The Daily Star (TDS) talked to Chowdhury on a range of issues. Excerpts:

**TDS: How did you begin your career in music?**

**Chowdhury:** I was into music since childhood and eventually the dream of bringing out my own album cemented in my mind. I took great care when I released my first album "Prem Dao" in 1990, which was a superhit. Although my second album failed to fulfill expectations, I regained ground with my third album "Ekjon Priyojon" (1993). Music for the album was directed by Pronob Ghosh and production was done in Kolkata.

**TDS: Did you expect your first album to be popular?**

**Chowdhury:** It was beyond my imagination that listeners would embrace me this graciously for my debut effort.

**TDS: What are you currently working on?**

**Chowdhury:** I am working on a genre of music that is in great demand among the youth. An album for the masses, a melody-based one and a *ghazal* album are also on my to-do list right now. Groundwork on another album with Indian artiste Nachiketia is also on.

**TDS: What about your stage appearances?**

**Chowdhury:** That goes on yearlong. I recently came back from America and have plans to perform in Qatar soon. Offers for shows at home are also coming in. Performing on stage is something I always enjoy.

**TDS: What was your last album?**

**Chowdhury:** My last album "Ronger Bondhu" received much praise from the audience.

**TDS: An eponymous movie is supposed to be made on your**

famed song "Putro Jokhon Poishawala". Can you tell us more about it?

**Chowdhury:** Nargis Akhter will direct the movie under the banner of ATN Bangla. Casting for the film is still on. I'm hoping shooting will begin soon.

**TDS: You're also the music director of the film?**

**Chowdhury:** Yes, this will be my debut as a music director for the silver screen. I will sing the title song as well. There will be nine other songs in the film.

**TDS: The country's first duet album was recorded by you and Sabina Yasmin?**

**Chowdhury:** Working with an artiste of such calibre was a great honour for me; the thrill was greater as "Dujone Miley" was the first duet album in the country. Another first in the country: an album featuring 10 famed female singers and one male vocalist, me. The album's name was "Ei Shei Mon".

**TDS: You've composed songs for other artistes too. Can you**

name a few?

**Chowdhury:** The artists for whom I've composed songs are Dolly Shayantoni, Baby Nazneen, Shakila Zafar, Samina Chowdhury and Momtaz.

**TDS: How many playbacks have you done?**

**Chowdhury:** I have performed for hundreds of movies till date.

**TDS: Counting solo, duet and mixed albums, how many of your compilations are out in the market now?**

**Chowdhury:** At least 250.

**TDS: Name some of your most popular numbers.**

**Chowdhury:** "Rimjhim Ei Brishti Jokhon Jhore re", "Bedonar Shobtuku Amake Diye", "Khub Beshi Mon-e Pore Tomake" "Akash Harae Nil", "Prithibi Ke Chini Aar Tomake Chini", "Tumi Dukkho Pao", "Shada Kafon-e", "Ek Noyone Kando" and "Kal Nagini".

**TDS: Whose songs do you love listening to?**

**Chowdhury:** I love *ghazals* of Ustad Ghulam Ali, Jagjit Singh and Mehdi Hassan.

## Aneela's deshi couture wins over Colombo fashion enthusiasts



Sri Lankan models display Aneela Haque's designs.



Aneela at the show.

Aneela Haque unveiled her "Deshi Colours" couture collection at Taj Samudra Hotel in Colombo, Sri Lanka on October 28, 2010, according to a press release.

According to the Sri Lankan media, this is the first time a fashion designer presented a strong graphic, high-end show in red, black and white as a "trendsetter of own country's heritage" in Sri Lanka.

Haque was highly praised for using traditional Bangladeshi fabrics like *Muslin*, *Jamdani*, silk and *Khadi* in her ensembles displayed by Sri Lanka's top models. She presented 20 women's and 15 men's designs -- highlighting saris, fusion of eastern and western formal, casual wear with a touch of calligraphy.

Each design was 'wearable art' with a *deshi* touch. Haque's 'Maduli' jewellery brand accessorised the models. The designer decided to go with red as the theme, symbolising the indomitable spirit of Bangladesh.

The exclusive show was part of an event by Sri Lanka Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industries.

The fashion show was assisted by Eastern Bank Limited of Bangladesh as the main sponsor, and was co-sponsored by Square Group.

The fashion show was attended by several dignitaries, including the Bangladesh High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Mahbubuzzaman and Sri Lanka High Commissioner to Bangladesh W.A. Sarath K. Weragoda.

Haque's 'poetic travel journal' collection has previously been showcased in Delhi, Mumbai, Karachi and Kathmandu.

## Michelle Obama boogies to "Rang De Basanti"



US First Lady Michelle Obama danced barefoot to Bollywood tunes as she visited a charity in Mumbai.

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

US First Lady Michelle Obama's date with India's entertainment capital Mumbai began on Saturday with a Bollywood number from the Aamir Khan-starrer hit movie "Rang De Basanti" as she danced barefoot to the song during a visit to a charity helping orphans and street children.

Michelle, who is accompanying her husband, US President Barack Obama, took off her shoes within minutes of arriving at the University of Mumbai library in the south of the city to join children in a game of educational hop-scotch.

She joined the 30 or so children aged eight to 13 as they danced to the theme song from "Rang De Basanti" whose music has been set by composer

A.R. Rahman who won two Oscars last year for the hit film "Slumdog Millionaire".

The film, released in 2006, has the theme of tackling government corruption.

"I love dancing. Oh that was fun!" Michelle, the mother-of-two, told the children before giving a five-minute motivational speech about the importance of education.

"I didn't grow up with a lot of money," she told the youngsters. "I never even imagined being the First Lady of the United States. But because I had an education, when the time came to do this, I was ready."

## New Michael Jackson music hits the web

Is Katherine Jackson trying to take the wind out of Sony's sails? As the label gears up to release "Michael", the long-awaited posthumous Michael Jackson album on December 14, the late star's mother has authorised a free leak of her own: a track called "Opis None" which was plucked from the library of the Michael Jackson Secret Vault, the company that released the book "Never Can Say Goodbye", curated and narrated by Mrs. Jackson.

This 12-minute long "song" featuring a mostly hushed Michael, meanders and saunters through lush soundscapes -- guitars, strings, the sounds of children -- while a driving beat keeps the tempo steady and groovy. Remixes are already popping up all over the web. What's missing? A proper vocal with lyrics.

Considering the archive claims to own over 300 unreleased tracks, one would think there would be at least one complete song in the mix.

Sony released a teaser for a forthcoming single called "Breaking News" earlier this week -- the song premieres on November 8. The only thing about it that screamed Michael Jackson was the scream at the 41 second mark. The clip cuts off a second later.

No matter which way one slices it -- tiny snippet or desperately-in-need-of-an-edit -- the hunger for new Michael Jackson music seems to be at an all-time high, and that's something Sony can take to the bank.

Source: Internet



Detail from the Kadir Nelson cover painting for Michael Jackson's new album, "Michael".



A nine-member Bangladeshi cultural delegation recently performed traditional dances at the fifth Kagoshima Asian Youth Arts Festival held in Kagoshima, Japan. Their performance featured Bharatanatyam, mixed ballet, snake dance and folk dance of Bangladesh. Kagoshima city mayor Hiroyuki Mori invited the Bangladeshi team to join the festival.

## Cultural event on Prothom Alo's anniversary

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Prothom Alo Bandhushobha, Pabna organised a day long programme last Thursday marking the 12th anniversary of Prothom Alo. The programmes featured discussion, cultural show and painting exhibition at Pabna Edward College campus.

The Principal of Pabna Edward College, Professor Md. Habibullah Miah inaugurated the programme. In his speech he stressed on building awareness against eve teasing.

"Sexual harassment is a social curse today. We should generate awareness against it and it should be launched from educational institutions," the principal said.

Among the speakers, Professor Akhteruzzaman, Matiur Rahman Gazzali, president of Pabna press club Rumi Khandaker, noted physician Dr. Sarwar Jahan Fayed, public relation officer of Pabna University of science and technology Faruk Hossain Chowdhury cultural activist Gopal Shannal and Prothom Alo journalist Sarwar Morshed spoke on the occasion.

The speakers emphasised Prothom Alo's contribution to various social causes. The members of Bandhushobha stand beside the acid victims, flood-hit people and against dowry, drugs and the oppressed people of the society, they noted.

Artists of Prothom Alo Bandhushobha performed patriotic songs on the occasion. President of Prothom Alo Bandhushobha Pabna, Shamsunnahar Borna and secretary Mustafizur Rahman Russell conducted the programme.

A photography exhibition was held on the college campus as a part of the celebrations. Over 50 valuable pictures of the Liberation War were displayed at the exhibition.