

MAHNAZ KARIM

A new voice of Rabindra Sangeet

NAZIBA BASHER

Mahnaz Karim Hossain grew up in a musical household. With influences of her culturally-involved father and her paternal grandmother who mastered the piano, sitar, esraj and also vocals, her home had a very musical atmosphere, and Rabindra Sangeet was everyone's most popular choice. She learned basic classical music from Ustad Barkat Hossain, and has currently been training in Rabindra Sangeet under Salma Akbar for the past couple of years. In a recent interview with The Daily Star, Mahnaz spoke about her music and upcoming work.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Why did you choose Rabindra Sangeet as your preferred discipline?

Mahnaz: Listening to Rabindra Sangeet while growing up accustomed my ears and voice to it. Listening to Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya always inspired me; the desire to sing Rabindra Sangeet actually stemmed from listening to her. And then, his lyrics are something I was closely drawn to. It's how people say Rabindranath's lyrics can read everyone's minds.

When did you give your first performance? What other works have you done?

Mahnaz: At the age of two, I performed

one of Rabindranath's poems - a rather long one, at the Officer's Club programme. Everyone was surprised that a toddler was performing a Tagore poem. My maternal grandmother did a wonderful job in teaching me the poem thoroughly. Around 2012-'13, I felt like I should do something with my music; leave behind something for others to cherish and remember me by. My friend, also a singer, Nandita Yasmin helped me contact people in Kolkata and in 2014, I released a CD titled "Tumi Je Amare Chao". I have some major work in the pipeline, in collaboration with a singer from Kolkata, but nothing is

finalised yet. I have done some shows, and private functions. I have a solo show today, July 14, at the National Museum.

You entered the music scene later in life than most do. Why is that?

Mahnaz: I am a very shy person. My cousin Mehreen is a well-known pop singer, and has always had the most confidence among us. I always sang for myself. From the belief that one should not come forward without enough practice, I held myself back. I just waited until I was ready. I believe music is something that requires a lot of love and passion.



A double dose of Bubly on Eid-ul Azha

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Albeit a relatively new face, Bubly's debut role was lauded with much praise and brought her the Meril Prothom Alo Award for "Bossgiri". Her popularity continued to grow since, and currently the actor has wrapped up shooting for two films: "Rongbaj" and "Ohonkar." The new ventures are scheduled for release during Eid-ul Azha, and in a recent interview with The Daily Star the actor spoke about her upcoming films.

"There are four songs in 'Rongbaj', shot in Europe and in India. We wrapped up shooting for the film in Bangladesh. The work was very strenuous as we worked in extreme conditions in the freezing cold in Switzerland, that too at high altitudes. I was wearing only a gown to protect me from the cold, and it took two days to finish working on the song scene."

"From Switzerland we made our way to

Milan, Italy, which was a much more pleasant experience. We wore Bangladeshi traditional costumes, which drew a large crowd and many requested to take pictures with us. At least it wasn't cold."

"I believe viewers will enjoy watching the film, and it is the kind where you could take your family members to see in theatres. The songs are beautiful, and are shot in various breathtaking locations around the globe. The start of my career saw the release of two films -- 'Shooter' and 'Bossgiri', both of which had me paired up with Shakib Khan. This year I am teaming up with him once again in both films, and it evokes the same memories I had during my debut releases."

"Ohonkaar" was a very challenging venture as I play two characters simultaneously. But the crew was highly organised, and shooting went without a hitch. I hope viewers will enjoy the films, as their appreciation is my only motivation to work," she said.

Rare unreleased Michael Jackson album goes up for auction



An album containing nine unheard Michael Jackson songs will be auctioned off by New York auction house Gotta Have Rock and Roll later this month, reports Rolling Stone. The album, which appears as a blank disc with the word "Bible" written in pen, is one of many Jackson items available to preview before a public online auction that lasts from July 19-28.

The unreleased songs appear on a CD that was in Jackson's possession. Alternate mixes of the three songs on the recording have already surfaced: "Monster", "Breaking News" and "Keep Your Head Up" all appeared on "Michael" in 2010. The other nine tracks, all of which are reportedly master quality, have not been released.

The starting bid on the unreleased album is \$50,000, though organizers tell Rolling Stone that they expect the final price to go as high as \$1 million. Whoever takes home the CD will not own rights to the music, so the winning bidder cannot distribute the recording. According to the auction house, the album was obtained by "the personal friend and personal assistant to Michael whose family was very close to Michael for many years, traveling all over the world with him." When reached for comment, a representative for Gotta Have Rock and Roll said Jackson's friend wished to remain anonymous.

The latest Jackson album is one of many items of pop memorabilia obtained by Gotta Have Rock and Roll for the upcoming sale. Other Jackson items include hand-drawn self-portraits, clothing, his "personally owned teddy bear" and a "Best

Daddy in the World" Oscar statuette given by his children.

The auction will also include the handwritten letter Tupac sent to Madonna while in prison in 1995 in which the rapper discusses the reasons for their breakup. That letter is expected to sell for over \$100,000.

Two albums of Jacksons' songs have come out since his death in 2009. The first, "Michael", was a source of controversy: several longtime Jackson associates believed that the vocals on some songs - notably "Breaking News", included again on this album for auction - did not actually belong to the King of Pop. In an interview with Rolling Stone, Will.i.am, who worked with Jackson during the 2000s, said the new record was "not Michael Jackson," before adding flatly, "it disgusts me." Jackson's brother Randy also questioned the authenticity of the vocals.

In response to these concerns, Howard Weitzman, a lawyer for the Jackson estate, went so far as to release a statement saying that "one of the best-known forensic musicologists in the nation" - Weitzman did not name the investigator - had determined that the vocals belonged to Jackson.

The follow-up album, 2014's "Xscape", did not set off as many high-profile arguments. A-list producers like Timbaland, Stargate and Darkchild filled out tracks that Jackson started between 1983 and 1999. Lead single "Love Never Felt so Good" climbed to Number Nine on the Hot 100.

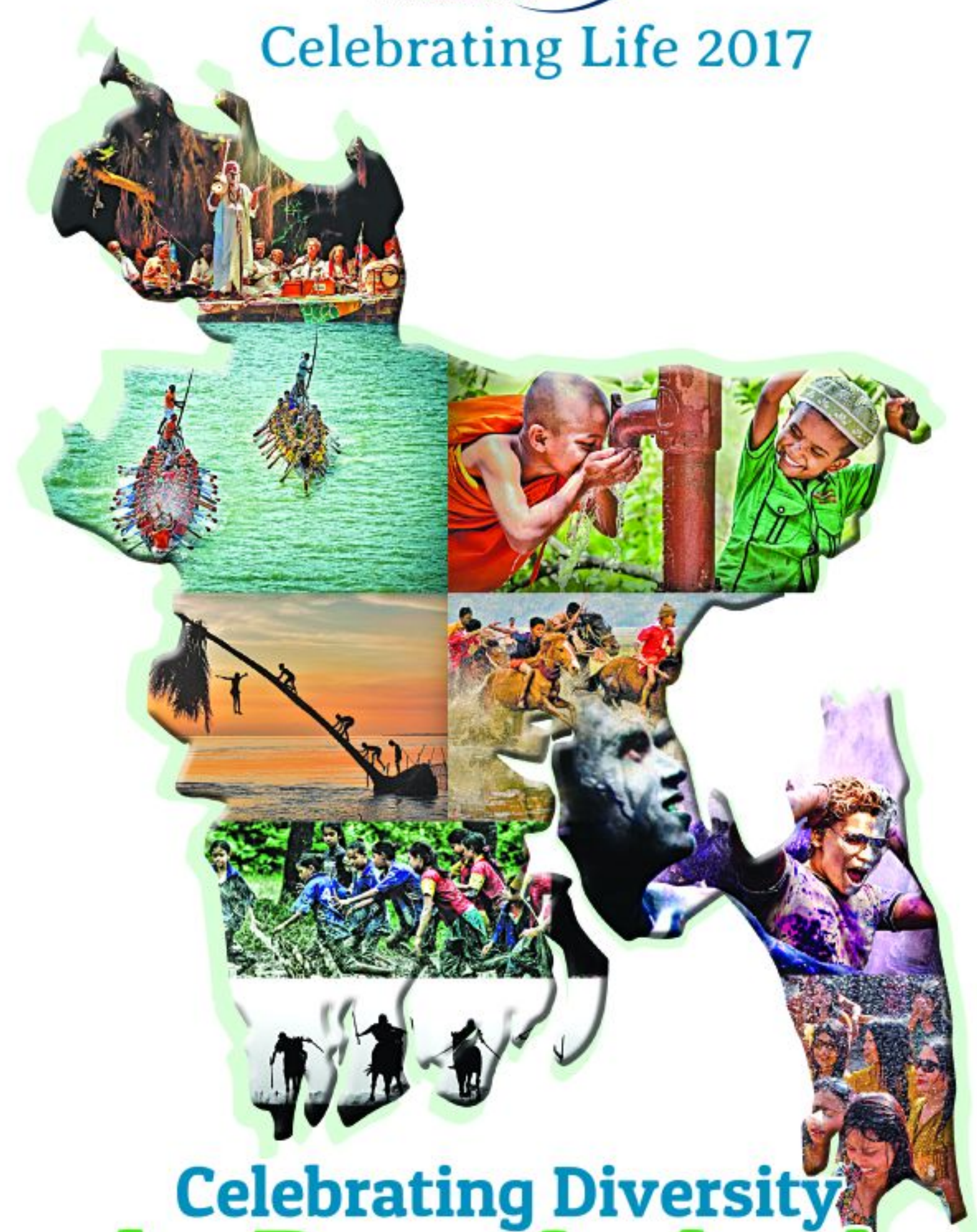
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The Daily Star



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