

Artworks from the exhibition.

Masterful storytelling on canvas

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Renowned artist Anukul Chandra Mojumder traces his roots to a very remote area of Bagherhat. An in-depth observation of rural Bengal, simple harmonic patterns, pastoral motifs, a tranquil atmosphere, swimming, fishing or roaming around the village were regular mental sceneries from his childhood. Over the years, he has carved a niche in the realm of art. His paintings are characterised by symbolic images, experimentations and creative outlooks. He had a fascination for painting from his early age. His uncle helped him to pursue a career in painting. His current artworks dwell on the subject of relationship between humans and nature. He puts his subjective emotions into his paintings. The essence of his paintings is the expression of inner meaning.

About his ongoing solo exhibition titled, *Dawn of Black* at Edge Gallery, Gulshan 2, art connoisseur and critic Salahdin Irshad Imam wrote in the catalogue: The blacks of the

artist's line take on a softer, grandeur quality as he masterfully transfers the charcoal on the canvas. At the same time pulsating luminosity of colour, the classic medium of abstract art is rendered in partly translucent juxtaposition. The figurative is tempered with the abstract in perfect harmony. Anukul's stories echo like haikus, the Japanese art of capturing profundity in a minimalistic way, bringing out the essence of the moment – as intense as it is brief.

Master painters like Picasso, Moore and Rodin have been preoccupied with the human form. This artist too, plays with limbs, torso, hips and faces as if they were integral parts of some romantic dream, where the human anatomy floats though space and time.

Floating boats, flowing rivers and rain are included in his visualisation of man and nature. He longs for the wet grass and the chirping of birds, bringing in waves of lyricism to his dancing images. His depiction of figures face upwards, seemingly to flee for the eternity.

At times, he smudges the paints and the charcoal lines with his fingers, for a lyrical effect. Sometimes, he drapes his images in clouds of cobalt blue and vermillion, suggesting that these are the colours of dream sequences. Anukul portrays from his memories mingling with distant romanticism and timeless heritage of art, where he belongs. The voluptuous thighs, breasts, hips, floating hair and fingers curling like petals, are stylised shapes from his memories of gods and goddesses.

The figure drawings of SM Sultan and Zainul Abedin have influenced him greatly. So have the works of Rafiqun Nabi and Quayyum Chowdhury, who were his teachers. Matisse and Gauguin's exotic paintings and their raw, vibrant colours are also invoked through his work. The impact of *pata-chitra* and *lakkhishara*, along with the stylisation of Oriental Art, influence his work of bringing in nebulous female forms.

The exhibition is open from 10 am to 8 pm till May 18; and from 10 am to 7 pm until June 1.

"Jazz gave me an identity" – Imran Ahmed

Imran Ahmed is perhaps the most recognisable face in the very niche jazz scene in the country, doing regular shows both home and abroad with his band: Imran Ahmed Trio. The passionate musician opens up about his current projects, the state of jazz music in the country, and more.

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Your recently held concert in Jazz day was a huge success. Did you expect such an overwhelming response?

To be honest, I have noticed that people have picked up interest in the genre from February onwards. Earlier this year, we did a ticketed show at North Club Gulshan. The organisers weren't keen on the idea, as it was a relatively remote location, but we ended up selling 390 tickets. And of course, after the success of the recent jazz day, it is safe to say that there is a growing market for this genre. We couldn't even accommodate all the people that came in to see the show!

Tell us about your current projects.

We are planning a tour to a country in Europe, for which we will launch a crowdfunding campaign. We will sell videos of our studio performances in order to fill the crowdfunding goals. The tour will take place later this year, and we will announce the name of the country

very soon. We are very excited about it. You're a jazz guitarist, but are adept at many genres. Do you plan to be involved in a project outside of jazz?

Even though I've played a wide range of genres, jazz gave me an identity as a musician. However, I am not restricted to one genre, I'd play anything that sounds good. I've played in bands like Lalon, Blunderware and Eclectic. I even had a Megadeth cover band named Septentrions. For me, it's more about sounding unique, regardless of genre.

Name some of the other jazz bands in the scene that you like.

I love the Robert Russell Trio, and the Seesaw Quartet. We have played shows together, and they are great. However, I want to see some newer band step up in this genre.

What advice would you give to someone who wants to play guitar?

I would suggest any youngster to explore as much as they can, and to avoid restricting themselves to one genre.

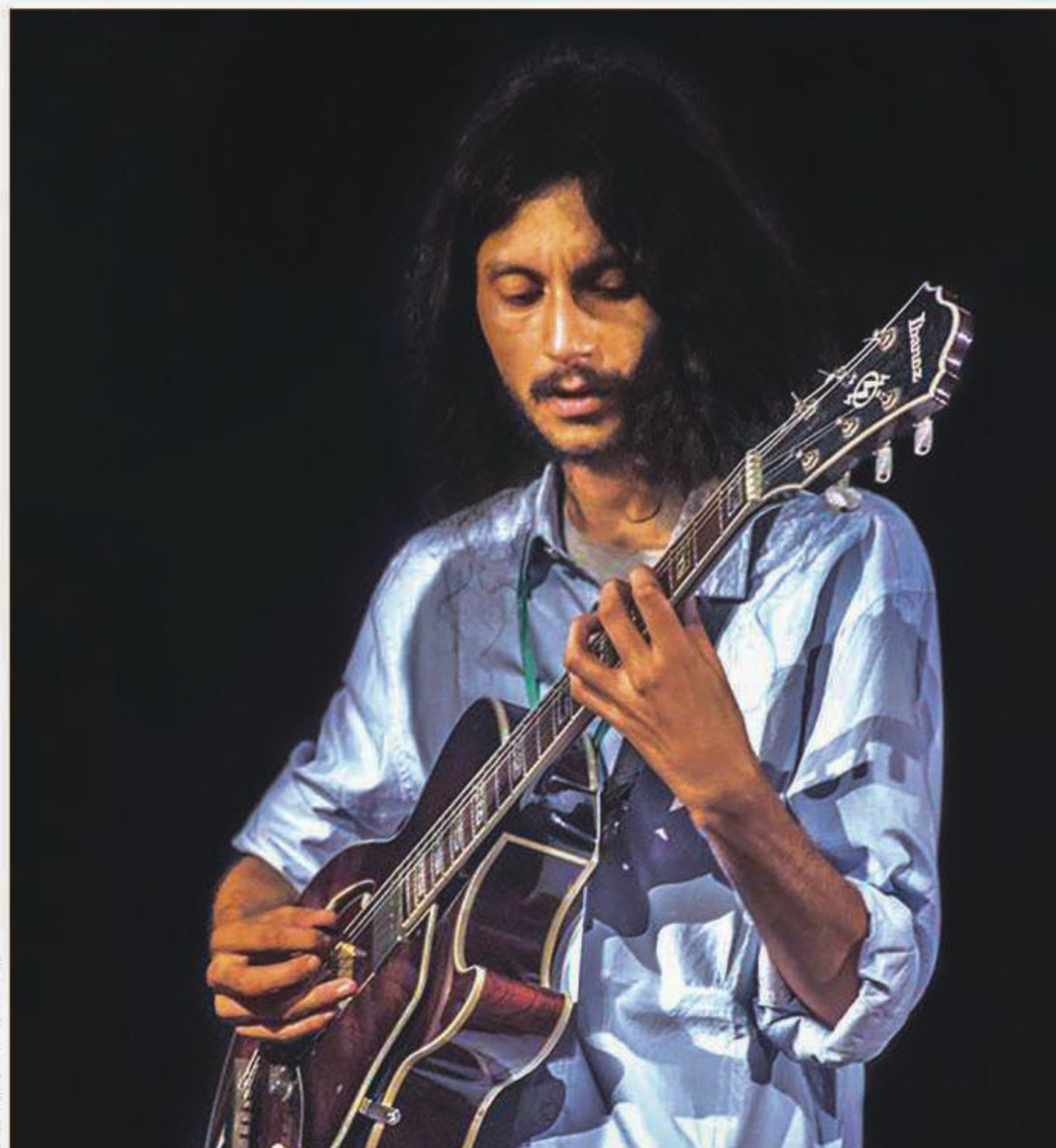


PHOTO: COURTESY



'Mayer Nei Kono Bikolpo' for Mother's Day

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

A star-studded musical tribute to Mother's Day will release today, with voices from Autumnal Moon, Kona, Elita, Imran, Konal, Kornia and Zoel. The song, composed by Autumnal Moon, will feature Deepa Khandoker and Nomrita Orleen in the music video. "For me, my mother has the highest place in my heart," says Autumnal Moon, the composer of the song. "My music comes from my mother, so this is a really special project for me." The lyrics for the song has been written by Dewan Lalon Ahmed. The music video, directed by Chandan Roy Chowdhury, will release under the banner of Dhruba Music Station's YouTube channel.

Bappa Mazumder's homage to the National Poet

First recorded Nazrul Sangeet in the offing

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Renowned singer-composer Bappa Mazumder is blessed with a uniquely melodious voice. The youngest son of the legendary Classical Music singer-couple Pandit Barin Mazumder and Ila Mazumder – the sincere musician never compromises with his melodic roots.

The fans of Bappa Mazumder have a great surprise ahead. Paying his musical homage to our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, the singer has, for the first time, recorded a Nazrul Sangeet. It will be released on his official YouTube channel, on the occasion of the National Poet's 120th birth anniversary on May 24. Though the artiste has performed many Nazrul Sangeet live on stage and TV channels, this is his first recorded song of Kazi Nazrul Islam.

"I am not going to disclose the name of the track right now. It should be kept as a surprise for my fans. I have used both Eastern and Western classical music blend for the record. It's a raga-based song, which portrays the nuances of clouds and rain," said Bappa Mazumder. "The song is set on Raga Kedar (meaning Krishna), who reminds us of many romantic imageries regarding relishing in rain with friends."

Bappa has used instruments like pakhawaj and tabla, santoor and ghungur as percussion along with an overall string-based orchestration to make the song a classical treat.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



PHOTO: ANNE HATHAWAY'S TWITTER

Anne Hathaway receives Hollywood Walk of Fame star

Actor Anne Hathaway was honoured recently with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, while promoting her latest film *The Hustle*. "I'm really very moved by every aspect of this," said Hathaway, 36, who thanked "the fans who showed up and gave me their time, and people who've been in my life for decades."

The multifarious actor rose to fame with her debut in *The Princess Diaries*. Hathaway attended the ceremony with her parents, her husband, actor Adam Shulman, and actor Rebel Wilson, who co-stars with her in *The Hustle*.

SOURCE: AFP