

RECOMMENDATIONS

Book Fair

Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela, a three-week long book fair at the premises of Bangla Academy is in progress. The fair is open everyday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Ghazal evening

A Ghazal evening will be held at the Best Western La Vinci Hotel at Kwaran Bazar in the city, on the occasion of Valentine Day on February 14 with solo live performance of Ghazal exponent Mesbah. The show will start at 7 p.m. to continue till 10 p.m. A second similar event will be held at the same venue on February 17 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Boutique exhibition

An exhibition of boutique items titled 'Ghorowa Poshak Prodorshoni' will be inaugurated today at Ali's Knitwear Bangladesh at Hse-49, Rd-15/A, Dhanmondi. Rehana Ali is hosting the event that includes display of traditionally designed saree, punjabi, shalwar kameez, indigenous apparels and handmade wax candle. The exhibition will remain open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. everyday till February 22.

Publication ceremony

A publication ceremony of a novel 'Nirban-er Niripito Kinaarey' by Nilima Aftab will be held at 37, Al-Amin road, Kathalbagan, Dhanmondi at 5 p.m. on February 14. Dr. Razia Khan will attend the occasion as Chief Guest and Dr. Rafiqullah Khan will be present as Special Guest. Eminent artist and writer Bulbon Osman will preside over the ceremony.

Seventh Solo

The 7th solo art exhibition of artist Samiran Chowdhury is being held at Divine Art Gallery in Hotel Sonargaon. Samiran's 25 works in water colour, mixed media and acrylic are on display. The exhibition will remain open for the visitors from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. till February 16.

Drama Festival

Nattyto Utsav 2002, the national festival of drama is going on at the Mahila Samity auditorium in the city. A drama of a particular group is staged everyday at 6:30 p.m. The festival will continue till February 20 organised by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation.

Art Exhibition

A 12-day painting exhibition by renowned artist Maruf Ahmed started at the Shilpangan Art Gallery in the city from February 7, 2002. The show will remain open for all till February 18, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. everyday.

Exhibition

Discovering a new form of expression

An exhibition of dry point prints by nine students of the Institute of Fine Arts is now being held at the institutes' gallery in the city

AZIZ AMIRUL

AN exhibition of print works by nine students of the National Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University is now being held at a gallery of the institute in the city. The exhibition showcasing a total of 51 works in dry point and collograph prints ends on February 15, 2002.

The exhibition is the upshot of an eight-day workshop on dry point where a large number of students participated. After their successful completion of the workshop course, nine of the participants decided to hold an exhibition with their workshop works.

The participating students of the exhibition are from different courses of the Institute and therefore a mixed thematic approach could be found among the works. With no specific subject in the works, most of the exhibits have turned out to be mere psychological expressions of the artists.

A semi-realistic and multi-dimensional world has emerged out of the thoughts of the young group of artists, many of who have just depicted their wishful thinking or perhaps have shown their affection to the childlike world once they desired to live in, during their days of infancy.



Isolet by Arifuzzaman



My Master by Golam Dastagir



Suky by Nusrat Jahan

Nargis Afroja Tania, a student of 2002 B.F.A (Hons) 3<sup>rd</sup> year, has discovered beauty of life in sunshine and nature. Most of her works have depicted a world full of natural energy where the marigold plants have flowered to present a rich and spirited scene to the setting.

Nusrat Jahan has still preserved her sincere love for Suky, a pet kitten she had reared up during her playful days. The cat had died recently, at the age of seven, and

has once again come alive through a series of portraits created by Nusrat who is a student of the batch of 2002 B.F.A (hons) 4<sup>th</sup> year.

Jashim Uddin Xecon in his works has presented Bhutanese religious rituals. Jashim, who had recently visited Thimpu, has introduced to the local viewers, some important aspects of the Himalayan traditional ideology through his subjects of the praying wheel and flag. These objects

are commonly seen in the mountainous regions of the subcontinent.

Bishal Man Shrestha from Nepal, Deepa Islam, Golam Dastagir, Mohammad Arifuzzaman, Syed Zahid Iqbal and Urmi Basak are rest of the artists who have displayed several of their elegant works, which are comprised of semi-realistic themes and often revealed the darker side of various social issues.

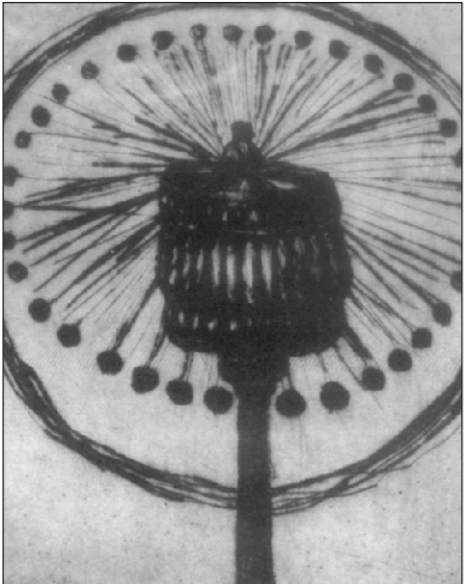
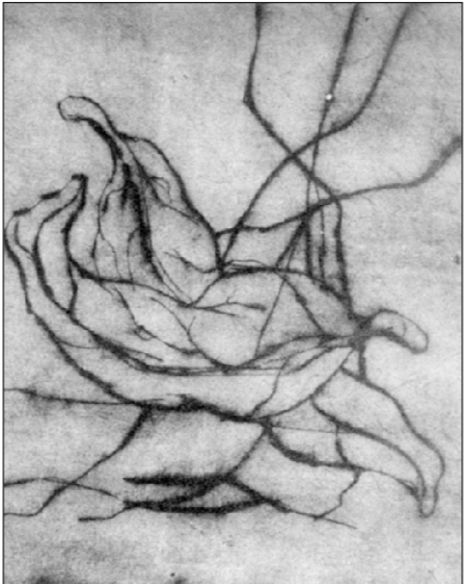


Image of Bhutan by Jashim Uddin



Leaf by Deepa Islam



Merry Gold by Nargis Afroja

Music

Dhaka welcomes Tamil jazz singer

Music lovers will savour jazz performance of Susheela Raman during her forthcoming tour of Bangladesh

CULTURE DESK

SUSHEELA Raman, a British citizen by birth to South Indian parents, will perform in Dhaka and Chittagong next month.

Born in 1973 in London, Susheela eagerly learnt the basics of South Indian classical songs and started attending schedules from an early age.

As a teenager, she developed further and gradually switched over to the blues type of music. During the nineties she took musical lessons from prominent Indian vocalist Sruti Sadolikar.

In 1997, Susheela started collaboration with UK-based musician Sam Mills, whose previous works with Bangla and African music gave the young singer opportunity to find bridge into her own heritage. With adaptation of Sam's insight and working experience, Susheela Raman created a fusion of jazz with South Indian music, hence opened up a relatively new area in the world of international melody.

A workshop of local musicians will begin in the city before the show of Susheela.

The first concert of Susheela will take place at



Susheela Raman

Chittagong on March 24, 2002 to be followed by a second one in Dhaka on March 27.

Tickets have already been released by the organizing authorities of the British Council and are available at the Council offices of Dhaka and Chittagong including the British Council Teaching Center at Dhanmondi.

Event

To develop a sense of patriotism

School children would gather at the National Museum premises in the city on February 15 to participate in a handwriting competition

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

BA NGLADESH National Museum will organise a Handwriting contest for children that would be held at 10 a.m. on February 15 at the premises of the museum in the city. The event is an annual affair of the museum authorities that is being held almost every year since the early nineties.

The event is held during mid-February to commemorate the occasion of the immortal Ekushey and this year it holds additional importance due to the celebration of the golden jubilee of Language Martyrdom and for observance of the International Mother Lan-

guage Day.

'We have sent invitation to 102 schools all over the country and sought application from the interested students who are eager to take part in the contest. Any child is eligible for participation provided he or she is a student between the classes of playgroup and standard ten', informed Niru Shamsunnahar, an education of the National Museum.

'Participants would be divided into four groups Ka, Kha, Ga and Gha in terms of their level of academic year', added Shamsunnahar, who is jointly in charge of coordination of the event, with other officials of the organisation. 'Children should be

taught about the historical issues of our language and of the sacrifices and movements done for our mother language'.

The previous event of handwriting contest was participated by over 2000 children and youth, most of who exhibited high degree of talent in the art of manual inscription. Two of the main motives of organising this event are to develop a sense of patriotism among the children and to improve their writing skill.

Last date of sending names of participants ends this afternoon. Interested guardians and children are requested to contact the office of the museum at Shabbagh in the city, within the stipulated time period.

Movies

Kevin Spacey to take a break from acting

AFP, Berlin

Hollywood star and two-time Oscar winner Kevin Spacey said Monday he plans to take a break from acting to focus on encouraging up-and-coming filmmakers with his new production company.

"I've been honored by being welcomed into this industry and I've have success in this industry and it is both my honor and my responsibility to send the elevator back down," he said.

After the European premiere of his new feature "The Shipping News" at the Berlin film festival, Spacey said he would devote the next several months to his company, Trigger Street Productions, which focuses on small-budget, independent films.

"Uncle Frank", a documentary about an 85-year-old man who tours New York nursing homes as a "rock star" and on which Spacey served as executive producer, was screened Sunday at the Berlin festival.

"This year in particular we're starting production on a number of films. The responsibilities I feel I have to take on as a producer over the next eight to nine months really mean that I cannot do the job in my spare time.

"I can't be off on location as I've been over the last two-and-a-half to three years and still run the company on a day-to-day business."

Spacey, 42, said he remembered the support he had received from mentors such as the late



Actors Cate Blanchett (L) and Kevin Spacey (R) smile for the photographers during a press conference in Berlin at the 52nd Berlinale international film festival, 11 February 2002.

Hollywood veteran Jack Lemmon and said he believed top actors were obliged to help talented people trying to break into the business.

"It's not that I've been driven away from acting," Spacey said. "It's more that I want to now focus on trying ... to help promote and encourage and shepherd younger talent and not-so-young talent and to having their dreams come true."

"To take a break is a healthy thing and also there's not been anything that's attracted me to want to go to work right away."

Spacey said he was particularly interested in helping young directors because it is even more difficult for them to find work and receive

financing than it is for actors.

"I think that in today's economy, particularly for an independent film, it is very, very difficult to raise money. And in fact it is more difficult to raise two million dollars or five million dollars than it is raise 20 million dollars. It's an odd concept but it seems to be true," he said.

"Some of the best experiences that I have ever had have been on movies that were done very fast on very low budgets."

Spacey has won two Academy Awards, for his supporting role in the 1995 sleeper "The Usual Suspects" and for best actor in the 1999 tragicomedy "American Beauty".

After sleepless night, Oscar officials to announce nominees

AFP, Los Angeles

AFTER a sleepless night locked in at their headquarters, members of the US Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences were due to announce early Tuesday the 112 people and films nominated for the 2002 Oscars.

The elaborate pre-dawn announcement was due to start at its traditional time of exactly 5:38:30am (13h38 and 30 seconds GMT) by last year's winner of the best actress award, Marcia Gay Harden, and Academy president Frank Pierson.

The unveiling, timed with nuclear precision to fit in with US television networks' morning show segments, marks the crescendo of Tinseltown's frenzied awards season and means make or break for actors and studios desperate to see their films recognized by their peers and the public alike.

Of the 248 films and people eligible in 24 categories, only 112 will win nominations -- which not only boost the box office performance of the high-budget pictures but can also propel the nominees to global stardom.

Of the 112 nominees, around 24 will go on to earn the coveted epithet of "Oscar winner" before their names when the golden statuettes are finally handed out at a glittering ceremony in Hollywood on March 24.

"A Beautiful Mind" and fantasy flick "The Lord of the Rings"



appeared to be the front-runners in the hard-fought race to win Tinseltown's highest kudos, along with lush musical "Moulin Rouge" and family drama "In the Bedroom."

The four films have all been enormous critical and box office successes and have also done well at many of the dizzying welter of Hollywood awards ceremonies that lead up to the Oscar nominations.

Other hopefuls vying for nods include the 1930s murder mystery satire "Gosford Park," the acclaimed Somali-based combat thriller "Black Hawk Down," the southern US racial drama "Monster's Ball" and the drama "Memento."

"This year has been very different from other years in that any Oscar favorites have been very slow to emerge from a very wide open and varied field," said Tim Gray of Daily Variety magazine. "It's been much more exciting."

Among the foreign-film contenders are France's "Amelie" and Bosnia's "No Man's Land," while a new animation category is likely to feature "Shrek" and "Monsters, Inc."

The clear front-runners for nominations in the top acting categories are Russell Crowe, for his role as schizophrenic maths genius John Nash in "A Beautiful Mind," and Sissy Spacek, for her portrayal of a distraught housewife in "In the Bedroom."

Other hopefuls include Denzel Washington, for his role as a crooked cop in "Training Day," and Gene Hackman, for his portrayal of

an outcast father in "The Royal Tenenbaums."

Trailing Spacek in the best actress category are Nicole Kidman for "Moulin Rouge," Halle Berry for "Monster's Ball" and Briton Dame Judi Dench for "Iris," the story of novelist Iris Murdoch.

The announcements will come after some 70 Academy staff spent nearly nine hours in an overnight lockdown on the top floors of the Academy's Beverly Hills headquarters scrutinizing the ballots -- closed last week -- of some 5,700 Academy members.

Nobody was allowed into or out of the secure area once the results of the balloting were wheeled out of a locked mailroom at 9:00 pm (0500 GMT) on Monday to allow staff to prepare for the announcement.

"This is the first time anybody other than the auditors will see the list of nominees, and from this point the phones and computer networks are shut down to ensure complete secrecy," Academy director of communications John Pavlik said.

"We trust our staff, but traditionally we worry that people who we don't know or who might be marginal to the process could sneak up and see the material and possibly leak it," he added.

This year's show, the 74th annual Academy Awards, will be held at a new venue in Hollywood, the first time in 40 years that the ceremony has returned to the place of its birth and that of the cinema industry.

Oscar nominations announced

From CNN Website

THE Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring led the way with 13 nominations, including best picture, as the nominations for the 74th annual Academy Awards were announced Tuesday morning.

The other best picture nominees are "A Beautiful Mind," "In the Bedroom," "Moulin Rouge," and "Gosford Park."

Nominees for best actor are Russell Crowe for "A Beautiful Mind," Denzel Washington for "Training Day," Will Smith for "Ali," Sean Penn for "I Am Sam," and Tom

Wilkinson for "In the Bedroom."

Sissy Spacek picked up a best actress nomination for "In the Bedroom." The other best actress nominees are Nicole Kidman for "Moulin Rouge," Halle Berry for "Monster's Ball," Judi Dench for "Iris," and Renee Zellweger for "Bridget Jones's Diary"

Best supporting actor nominees are Ben Kingsley for "Sexy Beast," Jim Broadbent for "Iris," Jon Voight for "Ali," Ethan Hawke for "Training Day," and Ian McKellen for "The Lord of the Rings."

Best supporting actress nominees include Jennifer Connelly for "A Beautiful Mind," Maggie Smith for "Gosford Park," Helen Mirren for

"Gosford Park," Marisa Tomei for "In the Bedroom," and Kate Winslet for "Iris."

Nominees for best director include Ron Howard for "A Beautiful Mind," Peter Jackson for "The Lord of the Rings," Ridley Scott for "Black Hawk Down," David Lynch for "Mulholland Drive," and Robert Altman for "Gosford Park"

The nominees were announced by last year's Oscar winner for best supporting actress, Marcia Gay Harden and Academy president Frank Pierson. The awards ceremony is scheduled to be broadcast on March 24 from the Kodak Theatre.

Actress Kirsten Dunst joins team of star Oscar presenters

AFP, Los Angeles

US actress Kirsten Dunst on Monday joined a growing team of stars, including Oscar winners Russell Crowe, Julia Roberts and Benicio del Toro, who will hand out the honours at the 2002 Academy Awards.

Up and coming Dunst, 19, whose film credits include "Crazy/Beautiful" and the 2001 drama "Virgin Suicides," was named as an Oscar presenter by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.

The Academy, which was Tuesday to name the nominees for this year's edition of Hollywood's most prestigious awards, is in the process of selecting a string of stars to hand out statuettes at the awards ceremony on March 24.

Dunst joins last year's winners Roberts -- best

actress for the title role in "Erin Brokovich" -- "Gladiator" star Crowe and del Toro -- best supporting actor for "Traffic" and Marcia Gay Harden, who won best supporting actress for her role in "Pollock."

Also presenting the awards in 24 categories will be actor Ben Stiller, of "Something About Mary" fame, but Academy officials say many more star presenters will be selected in the next two months.

Harden was Tuesday due to help announce the 112 nominees for the awards, which represent the sum of achievement in Tinseltown for winners.

This year's show, the 74th annual Academy Awards, will be held a new venue in Hollywood, the first time in 40 years that the golden man has returned to the place of its birth and that of the cinema industry.



Kirsten Dunst