

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Poush Mela '09
Organiser: Poush Mela Ujjapan Parishad
Venue: Ramna Batomul
January 9: 7am-11am
January 10: 4pm-9pm



Group Drawing Exhibition
Title: Rhythmic Lines
Venue: Asiatic Gallery of Fine Arts, Nimtoli, Ramna
Date: January 3-15
Time: 12pm-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Stimulated Luminescence
Artist: Juneer Kibria
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27, Dhanmondi
From January 5-14 at 12-8pm



Photography Exhibition
Condolence for the people of Gaza
Organiser: Iranian Cultural Centre
Venue: ICC, H 54, Rd 8/A, Dhanmondi
From December 30-January 9 at 9am-5pm



“Shunagoriker Shondhaney” staged at RU

Call to revive cultural practices



PHOTO: STAR

The programme at RU was well attended by teachers, students and noted cultural personalities.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Anushilon Nattyadal of Rajshahi University staged “Shunagoriker Shondhaney” (in search of ideal citizens) at the Shaheed Minar Mukto-mancho on campus last Saturday.

Activists of Anushilon took part in the show that was followed by a congregation of cultural activists.

The show highlighted the slogan, ‘Lets reach out to people, and abandon the culture of unjust take-over.’ RU teacher Moloy Bhoumik, who directed the show, told the audience that the

programme was their first attempt to “revive the campus from an almost dark era for cultural activists.”

“Cultural practices had been greatly hampered in the last few years following the rise of militancy and influence of religious fanatics on campus,” said Bhoumik, as he was going over the background of staging the play.

Religious extremists had unleashed terror on RU campus, threatening cultural activists, he said.

Eminent litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque and journalists were present on the occasion.

Nashid Kamal’s solo concert in LA

On January 3, noted Nazrul singer Dr. Nashid Kamal had a solo concert in Los Angeles, USA, says a press release. Organised by Bangla Academy, the first half of the show was dedicated to National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and his versatility; the second half featured a repertoire of folksongs.

The seasoned artiste started her performance with a rendition of “Dilo dola ogo.” The ever-familiar romantic Nazrul Sangeet “Laili tomar eshechhey phirira” was next. Among other Nazrul creations, Dr. Nashid Kamal sang “Srijon chhondhey anandey,” “Phuley puchhinu bol orey” and “Nodir naam shoi Anjona.”

In the second half of the concert,

the artiste sang a duet with her daughter Armeen Musa. The latter presented three songs written and composed by her. The show also saw Nashid narrate a story of love, punctuated with classic folk songs “Arey ki kono kam nahi tar,” “Prano shokhi rey,” “Haldi kuti mendi bati,” “Oki o bondhu kajol bhromora,” “Oki gariyal bhai” and more. The audience seemed engrossed in the performance marked with verbal and vocal dramatics.

Nashid was accompanied by a talented US-born Bangladeshi ‘tabla’ player Piyal. Sama Dewan was on ‘mondira’. The programme ended with a brief ‘Kathak’ piece by Aashna Musa, Nashid’s other daughter.



Dr. Nashid Kamal performs at the concert in LA.

Sur Shambhar on BTV tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Musical programme “Sur Shambhar” will be aired tonight at 10:30 pm on Bangladesh Television. The programme features an interview of and performances by popular singer Fahmida Nabi.

At the programme, Fahmida will perform four songs -- “Achor,” “Ghumao,” “Jatil Baro” and “Lukochuri”. Fahmida received a National Award for “Lukochuri” from the soundtrack of Enamul Karim Nirjhar’s acclaimed feature film “Aha!”. Throughout the programme, Fahmida will also share personal experiences with the audience.

Lycrist Kabir Bakul hosts the show.



“Sur Shambhar” features four songs by Fahmida Nabi.

Oscars 2.0 The film academy revamps its Web site

Want to hear Cameron Crowe’s thoughts on winning an Oscar or see how king-sized movie posters are assembled? How about a sneak peek at some of the exclusive exhibitions held at the film academy’s Beverly Hills headquarters?

It’s all at Oscars.org, the newly revamped Web site of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, officially launching Tuesday. Film fans of all kinds are welcome, said AMPAS Executive Administrator Ric Robertson.

“It’s for almost anyone with an interest in movies,” he said. “Depending on the level of interest, there’s something there for just about everybody.”

The site is more than an extensive homage to the Academy Awards. Visitors can learn about the academy’s vast film and script archives (both open to the public), discover educational programs for young filmmakers, glimpse artwork from upcoming academy exhibitions (Fellini’s sketches are on view now) and meet the people who vote on the Oscars via video.

There’s also a link to Oscars’ YouTube page and a chance to

receive automated Oscar trivia questions each day from now until the Academy Awards are presented Feb. 22.

“The Academy Awards is this wonderful, huge phenomenon, and you’d be hard pressed to find anyone who doesn’t know what that is,” Robertson said. “In a way, that makes it difficult for us to let the world know all the other stuff the academy does.”

That’s one of the reasons the organization embarked on an eight-month effort to overhaul its site. The group aims to spread the word about its year-round events that encourage appreciation of movies and the folks who make them in a way that appeals to film fans and filmmakers alike.

“We really serve very distinct constituencies: the research community, journalists and the industry,” Robertson said. “But the academy is also an incredibly dynamic organization dedicated to movies, and it has an incredible amount to offer to those who just love movies.”

Source: Internet

70th episode of Talking Point



“Talking Point” is hosted by Munni Shaha.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

ATN Bangla will air the 70th episode of “Talking Point,” a talk show highlighting contemporary issues, tonight at 11:30 pm.

Hosted by Munni Shaha, the show is produced by Tarek Ripon. “Talking Point” features renowned personalities discussing a range of national and international issues and recent developments as well as explanations and alternative solutions.

Siddiqua Kabir’s Recipe on ntv



Each episode of “Siddiqua Kabir’s Recipe” features a celebrity or a guest cook, who prepares a dish.

Hugely popular cooking show “Siddiqua Kabir’s Recipe” will be aired tonight on ntv at 8:15 pm.

The show, jointly directed by Sara Zuckerman and Abdullah Rana, has attracted a wide audience thanks to eminent nutritionist and food connoisseur Siddiqua Kabir’s easy approach to cooking, and the spontaneous presentation of Sharmin Lucky.

Each episode features a celebrity or a guest cook, who prepares a recipe of his/her own.

Movie Watch

Doubt High moral stakes in shades of grey

The air is thick with paranoia in “Doubt,” but nowhere as thick, juicy, sustained or sustaining as Meryl Streep’s performance as a distrustful nun in John Patrick Shanley’s screen adaptation of his stage play. Wearing flowing black robes, a bonnet that squats on her head like an upside-down Easter basket, and glasses, Streep blows in like a storm, shaking up the story’s reverential solemnity with gusts of energy and comedy.

Although the play, which pivots on accusations of child molestation, was first staged in 2004 -- two years after the Roman Catholic Church sex-abuse scandals erupted in America -- it unfolds at a historical remove in 1964. Sister Aloysius (Streep), the principal of a Catholic school in the Bronx, comes to suspect that her supervisor, Father Flynn (a tamped-down Philip Seymour Hoffman), has developed a certain kind of interest or worse in one of their charges, Donald (Joseph Foster II), the school’s first and only black student. Shored up by the tentative suspicions of a younger nun, Sister James (an unsteady Amy Adams), Sister Aloysius begins circling Father Flynn, going in for the kill. Sister James has doubts. Sister Aloysius has, well, none.

As its title announces, “Doubt” is not about certainty, but ambiguity, that no man’s land between right and wrong, black and white. This grey zone paradoxically can be easier to grapple with on the stage, where ideas sometimes range more freely because they are not tethered to representations of the real world. Mainstream moviemaking, with its commercial directives and slavish attachment to narrative codes, by contrast, is not particularly hospitable to ambiguity. It insists on clear parameters, tidy endings, easy answers and a world divided into heroes and villains, which may help explain why Shanley’s film feels caught between two mediums and why Streep appears to be in a Gothic horror thriller while everyone else looks and sounds closer to life or at least dramatic realism.

“Doubt” essentially boils down to a shell game: You think you see the pea under this or that shell, but the prize (answer) remains tauntingly out of reach. So does Father Flynn, a character who for a long stretch appears above reproach: a good, caring, forward-thinking man whose only crime seems to be tolerance. When he suggests that the school add a secular song to its Christmas lineup as a way of reaching out to the commu-



Meryl Streep as Sister Aloysius, a distrustful nun, in John Patrick Shanley’s “Doubt”.

nity, Sister Aloysius reacts as if he had suggested human sacrifice instead. That he seems to embody the spirit of reform handed down by the Second Vatican Council, which ended in 1965, makes him all the more sympathetic. Shanley has nothing deep to say about the church and its scandals, and he is still largely using words and more words, despite the tilted camera angles and pretty pictures. But the words are good, solid, at times touching. His work with the actors is generally fine,

although it is a mystery what he thought Streep, with her wild eyes and an accent as wide as the Grand Concourse, was doing. Her outside performance has a whiff of burlesque, but she’s really just operating in a different register from the other actors, who are working in the more naturalistic vein of modern movie realism. She’s a hoot, but she’s also a relief.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent