

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Art Exhibition

Title: 18th National Art Exhibition  
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: May 24-June 12  
Time: 11-8pm (3-8pm on Fridays)



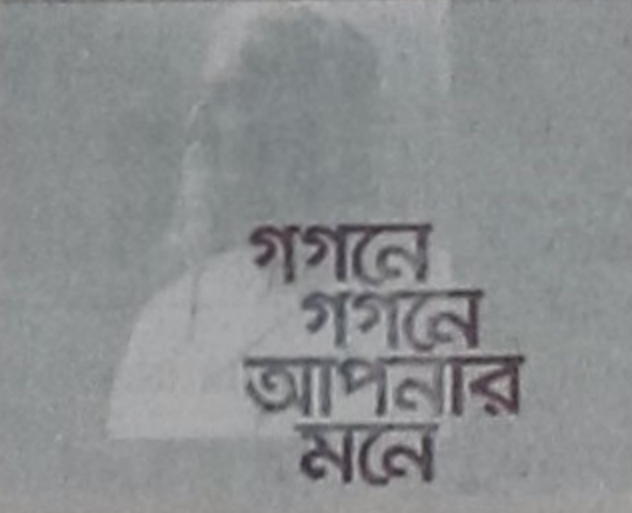
### Exhibition

Title: Sound of Weaving  
Organiser: Anjans  
Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattacharya Gallery, National Museum  
Date: June 8-16



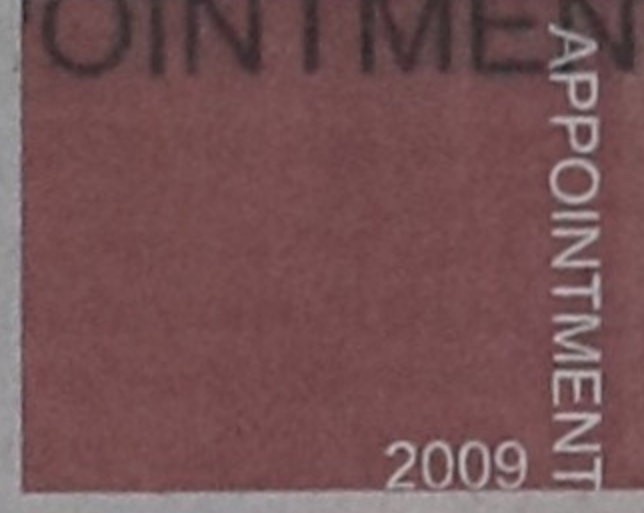
### Musical Soiree

Organiser: Dakkhini Rabintra  
Sangeetangan  
Venue: National Music & Dance Centre, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: June 13  
Time: 7pm



### Group Art Exhibition

Title: Appointment  
2009  
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H 26, Rd 3, Dhanmondi  
Date: May 28-June 12  
Time: 12-8pm



## A treasure-trove of ideas, forms and colours

### Group exhibition of 19 painters at Shilpangan

TAKIR HOSSAIN

A group art exhibition featuring works of 19 painters is now on at Shilpangan Gallery. Among the participating painters are those who place emphasis on the aesthetic element: Samarjit Ray Chowdhury, Hamiduzzaman Khan, Alakesh Ghosh, Chandra Shekhar Dey, Ranjit Das, Jamal Ahmed, Mohammad Eunus, Rokeya Sultana, Gulshan Hossain, Ifiat Ara Dewan, along with "contemplative" artists like Nisar Hossain, Wakilur Rahman, Mustaque Ahmed and Maksudul Ahsan, as well as the passionate, hardworking Anukul Chandra Majumdar, Javed Jalil and Rafi Haque.

The exhibition is certainly a must-see for art lovers in the sense that the featured painters belong to various generations and work with different mediums and themes. The themes are based on folk traditions, scenic beauty, inner visions, dreams, fantasies and a range of contemporary issues through realistic, semi-realistic, abstract and semi-abstract moods. Artists Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Alakesh Ghosh, Chandra Shekhar Dey, Ranjit Das, Jamal Ahmed, Rokeya Sultana, Kanak Chanpa Chakma, Javed Jalil and Anukul Majumdar carry their individual styles and unfailingly create something new, with refreshing themes and perspectives.

Samarjit Ray Chowdhury is the senior-most artist in the group. This prolific painter is known for his meticulous use of space and compositions. His canvases look more smart and free of rigidity. His works delve into



folklore, childhood memories and romanticism. Kites, fish, flowers and foliage emerge beautifully on his canvas. Highlighting folk culture is one of the central philosophies of his works.

Hamiduzzaman Khan is simultaneously a water-colourist, painter and scul-

tor, though he claims to lean more towards sculptures. Form is his prime concern. His quickly done watercolours add rustic beauty to their various mysterious phases.

Alakesh Ghosh is one of the most significant water-colourists in our country who plunges deep into diverse

aspects of our striking landscapes: jute and paddy loaded boats gliding on the river, moonlit nights with romantic horizons, bucolic beauty in splendour, and bullock carts in a meadow are recurring themes in his works. There is also a focus on the aspirations and lifestyles of the underpriv-



Clockwise (from top-left): Artworks by Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Alakesh Ghosh, Javed Jalil and Anukul Majumdar

ileged. His colours are vibrant, as demonstrated in the picturesque coastal areas of our country.

Chandra Shekhar Dey prefers to go into detail with resonant images, while his lines are provocatively stimulating. Various scribbled lines, hazy figures and unfamiliar

objects are noticeable. The pain of struggle, the power of desire and the strength of joy pulsate throughout his works.

Ranjit Das is celebrated for his suggestive lines, diverse forms, vibrant pigments and contemplative themes. He is mainly a figurative painter and his figures usually capture

agony and passion. Appearing in motion, his subjects have a realistic attachment with lines articulating sorrow and profound romanticism.

As for Jamal Ahmed, the artist has portrayed Bengali women in diverse moods, birds and horses, boats, gypsies, flood-hit people, fisher-

men and marine life. His works are in acrylic and charcoal and reflect tranquillity and aesthetics as he captures the struggle of people living on the fringes of our society like vagabonds and the homeless.

Mustaque Ahmed is a self-taught painter, who has been quite active in the Dhaka art circuit over the last few years. Two years back his solo exhibition was held at Chitrag Gallery and it was received with much accolades. Ahmed's works focus on his artistic journey into the core of human philosophies. Mellow shades and dotted forms make a striking visual synchronisation in his works.

Renowned painter and printmaker Rokeya Sultana's works articulate a poetic essence of life in blue, yellow and crimson. Sensual lines and expressive colours are prime characteristics of her creations -- mostly mixed media and gouache.

Maksudul Ahsan has not confined himself to any particular theme throughout his artistic career. Previously, he had worked on historical personalities and their achievements, and various socio-economic issues. In the course of time, he has concentrated more on abstract forms and compositions. Silence and mystery get the focus in his works.

Anukul Majumdar, a promising painter, likes to portray human emotions and adoration. The artist is seemingly keen on the relationship between mother and child. Vibrant colours and figures in motion are the noticeable aspects of his works.

The group exhibition, titled "Appointment," ends on June 12.

## Fatema Tuz Zohra on Gaanalap tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Noted Nazrul singer Fatema Tuz Zohra is tonight's guest on Banglavisian's musical programme "Gaanalap." She will be joined by lyricist and composer Shantanu Bishwas.

Hosted by artiste Nakib Khan, each episode of the programme features a leading singer as guest, accompanied by a lyricist or composer. On tonight's show, Zohra will perform some Rabindra and Nazrul Sangeet, including "Naach-er neshaye ghor legechhey," "Ei monihar amaye nahi shajey." The artiste will also render "Tumi ki bodley geccho," "Ke nibi phool," "Karey bolbo ami mon-er kotha" and more.

The programme is aired at 9:05 pm every Tuesday.



Fatema Tuz Zohra is the guest on tonight's "Gaanalap."

## New talent hunt for construction workers

### "Shah Cement Nirman-er Taroka" launched



Organisers and guests at the launch of "Shah Cement Nirman-er Taroka."

Shah Cement Industries Ltd. has launched an innovative talent hunt for construction workers around the country, says a press release. The event titled "Shah Cement Nirman-er Taroka," aims at promoting talented construction workers, providing them with an opportunity to make a name for themselves.

The programme was launched in Narayanganj recently. At the programme, Mohammad Shamsur Rahman, deputy commissioner (DC) of Narayanganj, was the chief guest. Police superintendent Bishwas Afzal Hossain was present as the special guest. Ferda Usul Kabir Chowdhury, general manager, finance and Dipan Kankan Chakrabarty, marketing manager of Shah Cement Industries Ltd. were also present at the event.

The talent hunt will be judged by Fakir Alamgir, Fakir Shahbuddin, Piaru Khan and Mina Salam.

## Movie Watch

## Away We go: A smart comedy for grown ups

Maybe marriage to Kate Winslet isn't all that bad.

After cruelly dissecting marital malaise in "American Beauty" and again, just six months ago, in "Revolutionary Road," Winslet's husband Sam Mendes takes a slightly more optimistic view of family life in the edgy comedy "Away We Go."

Not that he's offering a whole-hearted endorsement of the institution.

Burt and Verona (John Krasinski and Maya Rudolph) aren't legally bound -- she staunchly resists his repeated proposals -- but nevertheless they're a couple about to go nuclear: She's six months pregnant.

He sells insurance to insurance companies. She's an illustrator with a lucrative line in anatomical drawings. Nevertheless, they're struggling to make ends meet.

"Are we losers?" wonders Verona (only she uses a more colourful expression). "We have cardboard windows... I think we must be."

In so much as they have a plan at all, it hinges on the support they're expecting from Burt's dotting parents. So it's a nasty wake-up call when Jerry and Gloria (Jeff Daniels and Catherine O'Hara) announce they're taking off for a new life in Belgium -- yes,

even before the baby's out.

There is a silver lining: Realising they no longer have any reason to stay, Burt and Verona decide to widen their horizons. Their destiny awaits them, all they have to do is go out and find it. And away they go.

Although the couple racks up a good few miles in their search for home, the movie doesn't betray much interest

wood's vogue for shuffling snide satire and sentimentality (see "Juno" and "Little Miss Sunshine"), "Away We Go" presents its trepidatious travellers with half a dozen starkly contrasted parental figures, including Allison Janney's monstrously vulgar alcoholic, Maggie Gyllenhaal's radical earth-mother (who has shortened her name to "LN"), and Paul

manhood for size (with a beard for extra emphasis). Krasinski seems to have finetuned the performance to the point where he could very happily play it for the next two decades. Unlike his character, he's an actor who has found himself.

Maya Rudolph is the joy of this picture. Give or take her role in Altman's "Prairie Home Companion," the "Saturday Night Live" star hasn't made much impact in movies before now. With her frazzled, freckled face, she's not the glamour girl who would normally be shoe-horned into the romantic lead, but she seizes her chance and runs with it.

Mendes brings out a more thoughtful and nuanced presence than the brittle comedienne, and Rudolph makes you consider how rarely the audience sees a real woman at the centre of things. Even her occasional tentativeness works for the part. Verona is so fresh and alert, she can't help but doubt herself as they trail from one family disaster to the next and wonder what kind of parents they are going to make.

More often than not, and where it really counts, "Away We Go" hits home.



John Krasinski and Maya Rudolph in Sam Mendes' "Away We Go."

in location. Arizona is hot and arid. In Montreal they pour gravy on French fries. It's never explained how these stragglers can afford such speculative wandering, and when they do find their dream home it's mystifying that it hasn't occurred to them before.

In keeping with Indie-

Schneider as Burt's rawly dumped brother, who wonders aloud if it would be wrong to tell his daughter her mom has been murdered.

They may not be the most dynamic duo to hit the road, but the relationship between Burt and Verona feels touchingly true.

Burt is a boy still trying on

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent