

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Theatre

Play: Koinna
Troupe: Prachyanat
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: September 13
Time: 8pm



Solo Crafts Exhibition

Artist: Mahmud-un-Nabi
Venue: Zainul Gallery-1, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU
Date: September 1-7
Time: 12-8pm



Theatre

Play: Raarang
Troupe: Aranyak Natyadal
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: September 11
Time: 8pm



Iranian Film Festival

Film: Gabbah
Director: Mohsen Makhmalbaf
Venue: Alamgir Kabir Film Centre, 62 Science Laboratory Road
Date: September 11
Time: 5pm



Nobel's reflections on Ramadan

NUSRAT JAHAN PRITOM

Most people know of the aristocratic, glamorous Nobel. It may be his boyish smile or twinkle in the eyes that suggest a carefree, accomplished young person. Whichever facet you know of the model, this Ramadan The Daily Star brings to you his spiritual side. Nobel is religious at heart. He says, "We have to remember Almighty who created us. From our birth till our death, whatever we may be, no matter how successful we are, we cannot forget God." He also said, "Your work, the networking-these are all habitual and part of life. But you should also have a bit of time for your self. The chaotic city life can pull one apart."

Nobel tries to spend most of his Iftar's with his family, his wife, mother, father and his two adorable kids. "It's a magical moment when we do Iftar together at home." About Ramadan, he says, "It's a little hard this time of the year. For one thing, we can barely sleep in Ramadan. In the full length of the night we go for Ibadat, like Tarabi, Telwat, etc. Then we catch a wink of sleep say around 3 am. But again we have to be up at 4.30 for Sehri.



"At one point, no matter where we go, what ever depths, we still come around to our spiritual side."

However, I like this time of year and never miss a fast."

When Nobel was young, he dreamt of being a doctor, engineer, professor or pilot. He ended up as a supermodel. How does he feel about that? "I feel content and thrilled. People respect us, they open their doors to us. For my accomplishment, I must thank all my friends."

This Eid although Nobel won't be appearing much as he plans to give most of that day to his friends and family, however he will come on the popular TV show "Ittadi".

"Eid is now different only in the sense that in the childhood it was more interesting. We had to compete for our dresses and our uncles used to shower us with gifts. It's not the same now as now it means more responsibilities. We are always focused on as well."

In the end Nobel says, "On many occasions we are going out of track. We don't think much about our metaphysical existence. When we are in trouble, only then do we remember God. But this does not and cannot last. At one point, no matter where we go, what ever depths, we still come around to our spiritual side."

The writer is a freelance contributor

Fuad and Mila on Amar Ami tonight



The duo will share snippets from their personal lives in the show.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Banglavisian's weekly celebrity talk show "Lizan Mehedi Amar Ami" will feature Mila and Fuad as guests tonight. The programme will be aired at 9:05 pm.

Mila is one of the top pop singers of our time. Fuad, on the other hand, is a leading music composer and has done most of the compositions for Mila's albums including her latest solo "Redefined", released recently for Eid. In the programme the duo will talk about their musical career, share experiences of working together, future projects and snippets from their personal lives. They will be joined by Nawshin as host in the programme. Anonto Zahid is producer of the show.

Venice Film Festival

A glimpse of Italy beyond the gondolas

The picturesque Italian city of Venice (located in Northern Italy and best known for its gondola and canal cruises) is playing host to the prestigious 10-day Venice Film Festival which concludes on September 12.

The fest will show some 80 films from 32 countries. US and Italian films dominate the glamorous event with 17 and 22 entries respectively. In the competition section are 24 films which will run neck to neck for the festival's prestigious Golden Lion prizeto be awarded by a jury headed by Taiwanese-born director Ang Lee. The director himself won the Golden Lion in 2005 for "Brokeback Mountain".

Some interesting side-lights:

The festival opened with "Baaria", Italian director



The festival opened with the film "Baaria".

Giuseppe Tornatore's epic autobiographical film. The cinematic work is Tornatore's heartfelt tribute to his Sicilian hometown. "Baaria" could be about anyone's hometown as long as it's the centre of their universe, says the director.

Nicholas Cage, Charlize Theron and Val Kilmer are among the stars attending the 66th Venice Film Festival.

Only five of the 24 films entered in the official competition at the Venice Film Festival are American. There are also four each from Italy, France, the rest of Europe and Asia, along with two from the Middle East.

Leading the American contenders is the new Michael Moore documentary, "Capitalism: A Love Story". Moore won

the 2002 feature documentary Oscar for "Bowling for Columbine" and contended two years ago for "Sicko".

Two films creating the biggest buzz at this year's Venice Festival, "The Men Who Stare at Goats" and "The Informant" are being screened out of the competition section. George Clooney and Matt Damon, voted as the Sexiest Men by People magazine, are starring in these comedy-dramas. The good friends worked together on the "Ocean's" trilogy as well as "Syriana" which won George Clooney the 2005 supporting actor Oscar.

The Venice Film Festival is the oldest film fest still to take place. Certainly a treat for film buffs and cine critics.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

Henna

The herb for all seasons

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Amidst the opulence of the ancient Egyptian and Assyrian royal courts the herb henna reigned supreme, along with incense and perfume. The women adorned themselves with its reddish brown tint to beautify themselves. Today, throughout the subcontinent, henna is used as an integral part of embellishment for festivities like weddings and Eid. Women use it on their palms, fingernails and sometimes up to their elbows. One has known our women to even decorate the upper part of their feet with minute henna designs of rows of dots, lines, and floral designs.

Henna is basically plucked leaves that are ground and sometimes mixed with lemon juice, sugar, coffee grains and tea leaves. When crushed between stones it is put on carefully with narrow sticks. The shapes of flowers,



Henna is used as an integral part of embellishment for festivities like Eid.

leaves, tendrils, paisley patterns, geometrical shapes and starbursts go to make the designs on the hands.

Today, in Dhaka, in

different shops, just before Eid, young women apply the henna in limitless designs. At home women spend hours making the patterns on the hands. It is not only at Eid that women apply henna to their hands and feet but also during other festivities such as weddings. Then an integral part of decking the bride includes making delicate motifs on the palms of the bride. This is applied amidst music and feasting. The henna is put on amid dancing and music in the bride's house and it is believed that if the henna hue registers well the mar-

riage will be a success.

Henna is also an integral part of everyday toilet accessories. Women colour their hair with the herb to add lustre and camouflage premature greying hair. If they cannot get the tiny green leaves from places such as New Market, they use the powdered form, mixed with water. Today, for the hands, henna is available in cellophane cones in which the basic leaf mixture is combined with other chemicals. It is then easy to apply and dries up faster. Some of this is also imported.

Naseeruddin Shah and Ratna Pathak: A well matched couple

Naseeruddin Shah has been much heard of lately. Apparently though in the past the actor refused to dye his hair for a film, he has just done that plus shaved his beard and lost a great deal of weight to provide a foil as a 40-year-old eligible bachelor against Vidya Balan in "Ishqiya". According to reports, the veteran actor says he is having the time of his life shooting the movie.

Against this backdrop we have the chronicle of the no-frills yet exceedingly talented actor couple: Naseeruddin Shah and his wife Ratna Pathak Shah who are making their imprint felt in what has come to be known as "meaningful" or "alternative" Indian cinema.

Here's the lowdown on them: As a schoolboy, Naseeruddin was so impressed with Geoffrey Kendal's (a British actor-manager whose Shakespearana company toured India and the Far East for nearly 20 years performing the works of Shakespeare and other classics) that he joined the

Pune Film Institute. He caught the attention of director Shyam Benegal who offered him a role in his upcoming film "Nishant". The latter was so impressed by Naseeruddin's acting ability that the actor landed roles in most of Benegal's succeeding films.

Naseeruddin also made waves with the Benegal movie "Junoon" (1978) which was followed up with "Aakrosh" (1980) directed by Govind Nihalani. Then followed a number of successful films such as "Masoom",

"Khandar", "Paar", "Katha", "Pestonjee", "Tridev", "Mohra" and "Vishwatma".

Recent acclaimed works are "Monsoon Wedding", "Sarfarosh" and "Iqbal". New films on the line include "Valley of Flowers", "Paraznia" and "Ek Dhun Banaras Kee". This year will see the release of films such as "Allah Ke Bandey", "Ishqiya", "Firaq" and "Barah Anna".

In her turn, his wife Ratna Pathak Shah has left her mark on TV serials. She appeared as a wife in "The Perfect Murder" and recently

acted in "Sarabhai vs Sarabhai", two hit comedy serials on Indian TV. In July 2008, she enacted the role of the mother of the hero in the highly successful film "Jaane tu ya jaane na". Naseeruddin played her husband as a deceased character who talks to her from a portrait. She has also acted in several Russian plays.

The daughter of the late veteran Bollywood actress Dina Pathak, Ratna will be seen in a role in "Aladin", a film featuring Amitabh Bachchan. In this film, she will play a small but important role. Ratna has been quoted as saying, "I play someone who is like a mother figure to Ritesh. Since he is a parentless boy, he is quite a loner and a shy boy. He trusts me though and there is quite a strong bond between us."

Why has she made such few film in the past? "I am quite selective about films," she says.

Naseeruddin and Ratna-- A well matched couple indeed.



Ratna and Naseeruddin Shah

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

পবিত্র রমজানে মাসের বাজার করুন
বাজারের চেয়ে কমদামে!

রমজানের প্রয়োজনীয়
৬০টিরও বেশি পণ্যে
উপভোগ করুন বিশেষ ছাড়

১. গুড়া দুধ ১ কেজিতে ৮২০ হ্যাডে এখন ৮৩৮৮

২. গুড়া দুধ ৫০০ গ্রামে ৮১০ হ্যাডে এখন ৮১৯৫

৩. গুড়া দুধ ৪০০ গ্রামে ৮৮ হ্যাডে এখন ৮১৫৭

৪. গুড়া দুধ ২৫০ গ্রামে ৮৫ হ্যাডে এখন ৮১০৫

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চলুন এগিয়ে যাই