

WHAT'S ON

International Nazrul Conference 2011... Venue: Nazrul Institute... Date: June 24-25... Time: 5pm onwards

National Recitation Festival... Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy... Date: June 26-27... Time: 4pm onwards

Sufia Kamal Birth Anniversary... Venue: Bengal Shilpakala, H-42, R-16, Dhamondi... Date: June 24-29... Time: 12pm-8pm

Solo Musical Soiree... Singer: Dia Chakravarty... Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, 35, Rd 24, Gulshan 1... Date: June 25... Time: 6:30pm

Theatre Play: Apod... Venue: Dhaka Padatik... Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy... Date: June 25... Time: 7pm

Solo Art Exhibition... Artist: Mustapha Khalid Palach... Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7 A, H-66, Dhamondi... Date: June 17-July 1... Time: 11am-8pm

Film Festival... Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society... Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhamondi... Date: June 17-25... Time: 4pm onwards

Musical Soiree... Organiser: Nandan... Venue: Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhavan, Dhamondi... Date: June 24... Time: 6:45pm

Musical Soiree... Organiser: Sirjon... Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbagh... Date: June 25... Time: 6:30pm

A Treasure-trove Revealed Exhibition at Alliance Francaise featuring previously unseen images of Tagore and Shantiniketan



The photos were shot by French historian, musicologist Daniélou and Swiss photographer Raymond Burnier.

On the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Alliance Francaise de Chittagong and Embassy of France in Bangladesh have jointly arranged a photo exhibition titled "Tagore, the



Universal Message". The exhibition is now on at the gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka in Dhamondi. The exhibition has been curated by Dr. Samuel Berthet, director of Alliance Francaise de Chittagong. The exhibition features some rare and previously unseen photos of the bard and Shantiniketan, collected by Alain Daniélou and Raymond Burnier. The exhibition opened on June 18. Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith was present at the opening programme as chief guest. Leading economist and Governor of Bangladesh Bank, Dr. Atiur Rahman, and Mijaral Quayes, secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, were present as special guests. Rajet Mitter, High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, and Charley Causseret, Ambassador of France to Bangladesh, were also present as guests of honour at the event. The exhibition is part of a yearlong celebration by Alliance Francaise to celebrate the

Tagore birth anniversary. Apart from the photo exhibition, the celebration includes musical soirees, dance recitals, discussions, film screenings and more. The exhibition displays a selection of 97 images. The photos were discovered by the Dr. Samuel Berthet in August 2010, just a few months before the 150th birth anniversary of Tagore, in Zagarolo near Rome, Italy. The photos were shot by French historian, intellectual, musicologist and Indologist Daniélou, who was a friend of Tagore, and Swiss photographer Raymond Burnier. The photos were taken between 1932 and 1940, when Daniélou and Burnier were in Shantiniketan, and will likely leave a long lasting impression of Shantiniketan on the viewers. The photos show Tagore at several locations. The serene, verdant setting of Shantiniketan has also been highlighted. The exhibition ends on June 25.

THEATRE Nagarik Natyangan stages Tagore play "Muktir Upaye"

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Nagarik Natyangan staged its latest production "Muktir Upaye" on June 21 at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Directed by Lucky Enam, "Muktir Upaye" is an adaptation of Rabindranath Tagore's short story with the same title. Tagore wrote both a play and a short story with the title "Muktir Upaye". Instead of choosing the play, the director chose to dramatise the short story, as she thought that it would give her more freedom to deconstruct the narrative. The play is a satire that shows two individuals in search of freedom, from two different points of view. Fakirchand is a bohemian in ideology, with a family and Makholnal is smart and progressive, but can't acclimatise well with family life. One day, both individuals leave their respective homes, in search of freedom. Apart from direction, Lucky Enam also donned the role of Haimabati, wife of Fakirchand. Sajjad Reza and Habibur Rahmani enacted the roles of Fakirchand and Makholnal respectively. The cast also included Proloy Zaman, Sharmin Akhtar, Asma Debjani, Kanta Zaman and Zubayer Hillol. Ali Ahmed Mukul designed the set. Mohammad Jasimuddin was the light designer. "Muktir Upaye" is Nagarik Natyangan's 19th production. The play premiered on June 9. It is one of the 14 plays that received government grants this year on the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.



Apart from direction, Lucky Enam (left) also donned the role of Haimabati in the play.

Ustad Kamruzzaman Moni passes away



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Veteran tabla artiste Ustad Kamruzzaman Moni passed away on June 21 at Labaid Hospital in the city. He was 85. He was buried at the Mirpur Intellectuals' Cemetery. Moni was born in 1972 in Comilla. On the music front, he was a student of Ustad Barin Majumdar, Sudhir Kumar Saha and Golam Mostafa Warshi. Later, he took lessons from Indian musician Ustad Shawkat Ali Khan Kadri. Moni taught at Music College, Nazrul Academy and Altaf Mahmud Music College. He established a music school in 1972 and won several prestigious awards for his immense contribution to music. He has to his credit a number of publications on tabla.

Ninety Years of "Bidrohi" Two-day International Nazrul Conference begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Celebrating 90th anniversary of the publication of Nazrul's "Bidrohi", a two-day International Nazrul Conference kicks off today at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). Arranged by Nazrul Institute, the conference will begin at 5pm today. The two-day conference will feature seminar, cultural programme and a book exhibition. Chaired by National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, the opening day's programme will have Dr. Russel Sell McDermott, Bernard College, New York, USA; Yung Weing Ming, editor and presenter, China Radio International and Dr. Peter Custers, writer and journalist from the Netherlands as guests of honour. Poet Mohammad Nurul Huda will speak at the inaugural programme. The second day's (June 25) programme will be presided over by Professor Emeritus Sirajul Islam

Chowdhury, Professor Winston E. Langley, International Relations and Political Science, University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA and Professor Pabitra Sarkar, former Vice Chancellor of Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, India will be present as guests of honour. Professor Mohit Ul Alam will take part in a discussion at the event. Chairman of Nazrul Institute's Trustee Board, Dr. Rafiqul Islam, will present vote of thanks at the end of the two-day conference. Each day's cultural programme will include Nazrul Sangeet performances by eminent artistes of Bangladesh and India, recitation, dance performance and staging of a Nazrul play. A three-day (June 24-26) exhibition featuring Nazrul's books and publications on the poet by others will be held at Nalinikanta Bhattashali Gallery of Bangladesh National Museum, Shahbagh, Dhaka. The exhibition is open between 10am to 5pm everyday.

DS Café



DS Cafe will buzz as glam-our girl Sumaiya Shimu drops in to take your calls. Call 8126155 on Tuesday, June 28, between 3 and 4 pm to speak to Shimu!!! The countdown has begun!!!

Table with TV and radio program listings for ATN Bangla, Channel I, ntv, and Rtv.

Table with radio program listings for abc radio FM 89.2, 92.0, and 100.0.

Bekar Shomadi On Desh TV at 09:45pm Single Episode TV Play Cast: Mir Sabhir, Nadia

In the Line of Fire On Star Movies at 10:15pm Genre: Crime/Drama Cast: Clint Eastwood, John Malkovich

Baba On Rtv at 07:40pm Single Episode TV Play Cast: Litu Anam, Dipa Khandaker

Table with program listings for BANGLAVISION, Desh TV, Boishakhi TV, Diganta TV, and ETV.

Table with program listings for DRAMA SERIAL.

Table with program listings for NEWS BULLETIN.

Table with program listings for TALK SHOW.

Expectant Aishwarya, elated Amitabh



The Bachchans PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Four years into her marriage with actor Abhishek Bachchan, Bollywood beauty Aishwarya Rai is expecting. The news about 38-year-old Aishwarya's pregnancy was broken by her father-in-law and actor Amitabh Bachchan on social networking site Twitter on Tuesday night. Amitabh's tweet was: "News News News. I'm going to become grandfather. Aishwarya expecting. So happy and thrilled!" The test to determine her preg-

10th Dhaliwood Film and Music Awards to be held in Washington DC

A CORRESPONDENT

A large number of Bangladeshi film, TV and music artistes are attending the 10th Dhaliwood Film and Music Awards, to be held in Washington DC, USA on July 2 and 3 this year. Kumar Bishwajit, Arun Chowdhury, Chayanika Chowdhury, Bari Siddiqui, Dolly Sayontoni, Baby Naznin, Kanakchapa, Tisha, Mosharrar Karim, Chanchal Chowdhury, Apurba, Nawshreen, Mila, Balam, Arfin Rumeey, Nancy, Bindu, Sarika, Arefin Shuvo, Nirob, Mim, Nipun and singer Mitali Mukherjee (from India) are attending the award ceremony. Alamgir Khan has been planning and arranging this event for a decade.

WHAT TO WATCH So You Think You Can Dance

RAISAA TASHINOVA

If you have been completely unaware of this show and come across it by sheer coincidence, you might be mesmerised by the perfect pirouettes, powerful lifts and remarkable swivels by the participants. The truth is "So You Think You Can Dance", the title of this show, does not apply to the contestants (because they clearly can and how!) but to the viewers who are religiously inspired by the moves and grooves on screen. Telecast on AXN every night at 9:30pm (except Fridays) the show's popularity has soared in Asia since it started airing here some four years back. This reality show/talent hunt works like all others, having multiple stages of auditioning and selection before a group of top 20 dancers is selected to perform choreographed numbers. Each week one contestant leaves the show, based on audience votes. The show is highly technical in style; minus all the emotional bond building and manipulated drama other reality shows have a tendency of incorporating. It is pure 45 minutes of dance. Saying that the show is "only



about dance" may make it sound bland, but dealing with something as creative and spirited as dancing never allows the show to be dull. A great variety of dances -- ranging from hip-hop to jazz to salsa to samba to African and even Bollywood -- are performed on every episode; it is truly global in essence. Each dance routine lasts some 4-6 minutes and is preceded by a short clip on the rehearsals for that particular number, and is followed by critique of the three judges (all well recognised choreographers/exponents). Despite the lack of bond building drama, the show gets you hooked to one or few of the dancers because of their sheer talent and personality or because you want to see them perform again and again. Maybe that is why this show commanded the highest number of voting-calls for its season 4 finals, beating reality

show royals such as "American Idol". Interestingly, the host of the show, Cat Deeley is another irreplaceable characteristic making the show what it is to its fans and collecting more and more fans every season. Her unshakable hosting makes the few minutes between the dance performances worth listening to and her genuine enthusiasm towards the contestants and their performances is contagious. The season being aired on AXN at the moment (season 7) features some change in format. Instead of a Top 20 this season they selected a Top 11 -- each of whom are paired with an "All-Star" (top contestants from previous seasons) -- and are required to perform a composition belonging to the genre of their All-Star partner, unlike picking a random style. Moreover, each week only one contestant is dropped from the show unlike previous seasons where two contestants left each week. So if you know you can't dance but would love to see others who can do the steps you can only dream of, tune in and watch the show. It's entertaining, educational and inspiring.