

WHAT'S ON



Group Art Exhibition
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre,
Dharmundi
Date: May 12-20
Time: 12pm-8pm



Film Festival
Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film
Society
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26,
Mirpur Rd
Date: May 12-21
Time: 4pm onwards



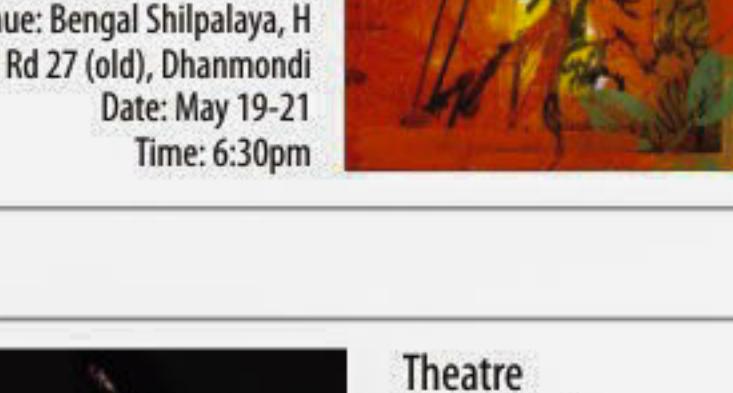
Solo Exhibition
Sculptor: Samiran Dutt
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery,
Dharmundi
Date: May 13-22
Time: 10pm-8pm



Solo Musical Soiree
Artist: Dr. Nasid Kamal
Venue: IGCC, H-35, Rd-24,
Gulshan-1
Date: May 20
Time: 6:30pm



Dhaka Int'l Theatre Fest
Organiser: ITI Bangladesh
Venue: Bangladesh
Shilpkala Academy
Date: May 21-30
Time: 7pm everyday



Tagore Birth Anniversary
Celebration
Organiser: Bengal Shilpashay
Venue: Bengal Shilpashay, H
275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dharmundi
Date: May 19-21
Time: 6:30pm



Theatre
Play: Lal Jamun
Troope: Shannan
Venue: Experimental Theatre
Hall, Shilpkala Academy
Date: May 20
Time: 7pm



Group Art Exhibition
Organiser: FFA and BGA
Venue: Bengal Gallery,
Dharmundi
Date: April 16-21
Time: 12pm-8pm



A Wonderland called NUHASH PALLI

The world of Humayun Ahmed

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Amidst the verdant landscape of Gazipur (Mirzapur Union), lies a wonderland called 'Nuhash Palli'. Humayun Ahmed's Nuhash Palli is a place where the eminent writer has built a retreat unlike any other.

Hundreds throng the site, which is also used as a shooting spot, each day to get a glimpse of the 'world of Humayun Ahmed'. No ticket required. All that needs to be done to gain entry is to convince the security personnel. The lucky ones visiting the site may also come face to face with the writer, who is never hesitant to strike up a conversation. If Lady Luck does not shine, there might still be a filming on inside the premises, which is open for viewing.

Humayun Ahmed introduces first-timers to Nuhash Palli with its wide variety of flora. Once, officials from the Forest Department came to visit, and were amazed by plants which were not even in their own collection. They later borrowed some tree samples from the writer and gifted an entire orange garden, recalls Ahmed.

Although it may sound strange to most people, Nuhash Palli has trees "specially designated for ghosts," according to Ahmed.

The site is built inside a forest of dense Shaal and Gojari trees. To come here, one has to get off the bus near Hotapara, on the way towards Mymensingh. The distance from Dhaka GPO to Hotapara is around 40



kilometers. From there, a Taka 150-200 ride on a CNG three-wheeler will take one to Nuhash Palli.

A sculpture of a woman standing with her child welcomes visitors. A few steps ahead a small pool with crystal clear water splashes a tempting invitation for a dip. A brick house which looks as it is made of mud, stands next. This is where Ahmed stays when he visits Nuhash Palli. A garden adds to the aesthetic

appeal of the house, while a living room-library acts as the centre of all adda.

Among the celebrities who have paid visits to Nuhash Palli are West Bengal writers Sunil Gangopadhyay (who took a dip in the pool) and Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay.

There is another small pond past the house, where lotuses float. After that, gardens of different varieties of plants follow. Those who saw the movie "Noy Number Bipod Shongket" will see many familiar places, as most of the shooting was done in Nuhash Palli.

Lawmaker and media personality Asaduzzaman Noor says that there was once a time when a journey to Nuhash Palli meant a long boat ride, but now the travelling is easier.

There is also a 'dighi' or a mini-lake inside the premises, which one can cross by a wooden bridge. A garden of herbs is another attraction of Nuhash Palli, where a stone plaque says 'Rashed Humayun Oushdhi Udayan'. Fairytale springs to life in the form of a statue of a mermaid, while there are brick elephants and tiger heads to entertain the young.

Special rooms for children also stand across the area. No one but Humayun Ahmed himself is allowed to film inside Nuhash Palli -- named after the writer's eldest son.

On his birthday a couple of years back, Ahmed said that he wants to be laid to rest at Nuhash Palli.



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Street theatre festival in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A two-day long street theatre festival in Moulvibazar ended on May 16. Sobuj Bangla Theatre of Moulvibazar organised the festival at Central Shahid Minar premises. Fifteen theater groups staged their plays during the two-day festival.

On the inaugural day, Sobuj Bangla Theatre staged the play "Bashumotir Petey Ashukh"; Khaoi Theatre staged "Ishwar-er Adalat"; Prantik Theatre staged "Ei Piriti Shei Piriti Noy"; Rajnagar Theatre staged "Swapno Chura", Naba Shikha Naya Dol staged "Akture" and Natyakol staged "Putul Khela".

Politician and freedom fighter Md Azizur Rahman inaugurated the festival. Azizur Rahman Sohel, president of the Sobuj Bangla Theatre, presided over the inaugural function.

On the concluding day of the festival, Subhechcha Theatre staged the play "Otripto Atmar Songlap"; Mela Natya Dol staged "Porinoti"; Shayestagonj Theatre staged "Digbaji" and Srimongal Theatre staged "Adda".

The festival witnessed a huge turnout.

Bengal Foundation's Tribute to Tagore



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking 150th birth anniversary of Kobiguru Rabindranath Tagore, Bengal Foundation has arranged a three-day celebration programme, titled "Tomas Srishtir Poth", that will kick off today at 6:30pm at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dharmundi in the city.

The programme featuring rendition, recitation and dance will zoom in on various artistic and literary faculties of the Nobel laureate poet.

At today's programme, noted Tagore singers Rezwana Chowdhury Bonnya, Lily Islam, Shama Rahman and Fahim Hossain Chowdhury will

perform Rabindra Sangeet (written by the poet during his stay at Shahzadpur, Shilladah and Patishwar), while Hasan Arif will recite from "Chhinnapatra".

On the second day (May 20), accomplished singers Mita Haque, Sadi Mohammad, Laisa Ahmed and Nandita Yasmin will present songs from Tagore's plays.

The concluding day's (May 21) programme will feature Tagore songs articulating bliss and sorrows, and a dance performance. Bulbul Islam, Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury and Ifat Ara Dewan will sing, while noted dancer Tamanna Rahman will perform.

The programme will start at 6:30pm every day.

Philip Roth wins the Man Booker International Prize



Time magazine included the work in a list of the best novels of the 20th century.

His 2000 book "The Human Stain" was adapted for the screen, starring Sir Anthony Hopkins and Oscar-winner Nicole Kidman.

"I hope the prize will bring me to the attention of readers around the world who are not familiar with my work,"

Roth said. The judging panel was chaired by writer, academic and rare-book dealer Dr Rick Gekoski.

"For more than 50 years Philip Roth's books have stimulated, provoked and amused an enormous and still expanding, audience," he said.

Source: BBC



Sobuj Bangla Theatre stages "Bashumotir Petey Ashukh" on the first day of the festival.



ITI Bangladesh Centre to hold 1st Dhaka Int'l Theatre Festival

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Centre of International Theatre Institute (ITI) will arrange a 10-day international theatre festival, starting from May 21. Titled "1st Dhaka International Theatre Festival", the event will take place at three performance venues -- National Theatre Hall, Experimental Theatre Hall and Studio Theatre Hall -- of Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy, and will continue till May 30. A total of 25 troupes, including five from overseas, will stage their plays throughout the festival.

Ministry of Cultural Affairs is providing funds for the festival. Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy is assisting ITI in arranging the events.

The organisers spoke about different aspects of the festival at a press conference held yesterday at the Conference Room of National Press Club, ITI Bangladesh Centre.

President Ataur Rahman; Secretary General of the institute Nasiruddin Yousuf and Secretary General of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation Nasrul Islam Chowdhury, among others, spoke to the press.

Kalakshetra Manipur will stage a Manipuri adaptation of the Tagore play "Daakghar". The organisers informed that the play will be a tribute to Tagore on the occasion of his



150th birth anniversary. The play will be directed by noted Indian theatre exponent Heisman Kanhaijal.

Kanhaijal will also conduct a daylong workshop at the festival.

Twenty Bangladeshi troupes, including four from outside Dhaka, will participate at the festival.

The five participating troupes from overseas are: Birds Theatre, Singapore; Natyabumi, Agartala and Kalakshetra Manipur (both from India); Theatre Mandala, Nepal and Palakar will stage their productions throughout the event. Popular folk artiste Islamuddin Palakar will stage a play as well.

Every day, shows will start at 7pm. The organisers said that they intend to hold the festival every alternate year from now on.

Jatra performances in Manikganj

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

Jatra (folk theatre) productions "Kajol Rekha" and "Shaheed Karbala" were staged at Purba Dashora Risipara in Manikganj town on Monday and Tuesday night.

Md. Ramzan Ali, Mayor of Manikganj Municipality, formally inaugurated the two-day Jatra programme on Monday night.

Local artistes Shahanaz Akter, Salma Akter, Kanon Rani Sarker, Khushi Akter, Nipa Akter, Sobrah Ali, Nazrul Islam, Lutfar Rahman, Moslem Molla, Rezaul Karim Bachchu, Abdul Barek, Saiful Islam, Nazim Uddin, Rafiq Mia and others

performed in "Kajol Rekha" and "Shaheed Karbala". The Jatras were written by Samsul Haque and directed by Rezaul Karim Bachchu. Around 3,000 people of all age groups attended and enjoyed the shows.

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