

## WHAT'S ON

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhamondi  
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: Samran Dutt  
Venue: Shilpakala Gallery, Dhamondi  
Date: May 13-22  
Time: 10pm-8pm

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

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

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

**Theatre**  
Play: Lal Jamin  
Troupe: Shunnon  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: May 20  
Time: 7pm

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



# A Wonderland called NUHASH PALLI

## The world of Humayun Ahmed

SHAH ALAM SHAHZU

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 Oushodhi Udyan'. Fairytale spring 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.



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

# 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 Shilpakala 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 Shilpakala Academy is assisting ITI in arranging the event.

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 Yousuff and Secretary General of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation Jhuna Chowdhury, among others, spoke to the press. ITI Worldwide President Ramendu Majumdar will inaugurate the festival, while Abul Kalam Azad, minister, Information and Cultural Affairs will



Ataur Rahman speaks at the conference.

grace the opening programme as chief guest.

The festival will commence through staging of the Manipuri Theatre monodrama "Kohey Birangana". The opening show will be only for invited guests. The five participating troupes from overseas are: Birds Theatre, Singapore; Natyabhumi, Agartala and Kalakshetra Manipur (both from India); Theatre Mandala, Nepal and Asian PEF and FM Theatre Power, Hong Kong.

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 Kanhaiyal. Kanhaiyal will also conduct a daylong workshop at the festival. Twenty Bangladeshi troupes, including four from outside Dhaka, will participate at the festival. Theatre, Aranyak, Theatre Art Unit, Nagarik Natya Sampradaya, Desh Natak, Theatre (Arambagh) and Palakar will stage their productions throughout the event. Popular folk artist Islamuddin Palakar will stage a pala 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 Rishipara 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 Shahana Azter, Salma Akter, Kanon Rani Sarker, Khushi Akter, Nipa Akter, Sohrab Ali, Nazrul Islam, Lutfar Rahman, Moslem Molla, Rezaul Karim Bachchu, Abdul Barek, Saiful Islam, Nazim Uddin, Rafik Mia and others



performed in "Kajol Rekha" and "Shaheed Karbala". The Jatrass were written by Samsul Haque and directed by Rezaul Karim

Bachchu. Around 3,000 people of all age groups attended and enjoyed the shows.

# 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"; Khoai Theatre staged "Ishwar-er Adalat"; Prantik Theatre staged "Ei Piriti Shei Piriti Noy"; Rajnagar Theatre staged "Swapno Chura"; Naba Shikha Natya Dol staged "Atkure" and Natyalok staged "Putul Khela". Politician and freedom fighter Md Azizur Rahman inaugurated the festival. Azizur Rahman local, president of the Sobuj Bangla Theatre, presided over the inaugural function. On the concluding day of the festival, Subhecchha 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.



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

# 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 "Tomar Srishtir Poth", that will kick off today at 6:30pm at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhamondi 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 Bonnyya, Lily Islam, Shama Rahman and Fahim Hossain Chowdhury will

perform Rabindra Sangeet (written by the poet during his stay at Shahzadpur, Shilaidah and Patishar), while Hasan Arif will recite from "Chhinnapatra". On the second day (May 20), accomplished singers Mita Haque, Sadi Mohammad, Laisha 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, Mohiuzzam Chowdhury and Ifrat 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

US writer Philip Roth has been announced as the winner of the fourth Man Booker International Prize. The award and £60,000 prize money is presented to a writer for their "achievement in fiction on the world stage", organisers said. Roth, 78, said: "This is a great honour and I'm delighted to receive it." His body of work includes the 1997 novel "American Pastoral", for which he received the Pulitzer Prize. The award will be presented at a formal dinner in London on June 28, however a spokeswoman said Roth would be unable to attend. Born in Newark, New Jersey in 1933, Roth's controversial 1969 novel "Portnoy's Complaint" brought him worldwide attention for its graphic depiction of sexuality.



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

## CANNES 2011

# Finnish filmmaker mocks migrant paranoia



A scene from "Le Havre".

AFP, Cannes

Aki Kaurismaki's surreal comedy about refugees in France premiered at Cannes on Tuesday, with the irreverent Finn sticking his fingers up at the irrational fear of foreigners sweeping Europe. "Le Havre", in competition for the Palme d'Or, is set in the French port of the same name and tells the story of African child migrant Idrissa (Blondin Migue) trying to reach his mother in London while being hunted by police. Idrissa escapes from the port when police -- in riot gear and toting machine guns as per interior ministry orders -- turn up to detain migrant families discovered starving in a cargo container. Police try to find the child, suspected of Al-Qaeda links according to the local newspaper, but he is rescued by former author Marcel Marx (Andre Wilms), a Bohemian who now works as a shoe-

shiner in self-imposed exile from Paris. Marx and his friends from the docks come together to help Idrissa, including through organising a concert by local ageing rocker Little Bob (aka Roberto Piazza). Le Havre is the Memphis, Tennessee, of France and Little Bob is "the Elvis of this kingdom," said Kaurismaki. The film is in French, a language that Kaurismaki doesn't understand, and played by mostly French actors, who he "trusted to say their words right," the maker of "The Man Without a Past" told journalists. Jean-Pierre Darroussin is the sympathetic policeman Monet, while Marx's sick wife Arletty is played by Kaurismaki favourite Kati Outinen, who had to dub her voice twice to get the French right. The actors' stripped down performances tell a simple story, lit from the

side in typical Kaurismaki style that is also homage to such French directing greats as Robert Bresson and Melville. Despite the film being set in the 21st century, almost all props are vintage, with everything from record players to sweet tins harking back to the 1950s, as well as classic cars. The movie is also shot on a 1974 camera that was used by Swedish master director Ingmar Bergman, Kaurismaki says: "He shot two films with it, we shot 18, so it's not his camera any more." "It could have been in any other European country except maybe Finland or Sweden because nobody is in such despair" that they want to go there, Kaurismaki said. "The problem (of immigration) is of course huge and I honestly don't have an answer," said Kaurismaki who started research on the film the last time he was in Cannes to present "Lights in the Dusk" in 2006. "I drove along the coast in Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, and Le Havre was the last hope," he told a press conference. "There is beautiful architecture but it was bombed down by the allies in the war. This is a nice city but I cannot shoot in modern architecture, my camera don't like it." Kaurismaki, who admitted to becoming softer in the "old age" of his 54 years, finally managed to find part of the city unscathed by bombs and then filming could begin. "The more sceptical and cynical I get the more softer are my films," Kaurismaki said. "I can't help it. I start to be tender in my old age. I even start to like my characters."

The Daily Star

Standard Chartered

Have you sent your film, photographs & lyrics entry for the Celebrating Life Competition?

This year's theme

**Celebrate the Gifts of Nature and the Rivers of Bangladesh**

Deadline for submissions  
**June 30, 2011**

For more details, log onto  
**www.celebratinglifeibd.com**

Partners:

<b>BTV</b>	10:05 Quiz Quiz	09:05 Shudhui Gaan
	12:35 Shukhi Paribar	11:05 Shokal Belar Roudur
	03:05 Bangla Feature Film	02:20 Cinebit Shadkalo
	07:00 Rupali Porda	06:05 Syamal Bangla
	08:35 Ontorey Ontorey	09:05 Media Bhobon
	09:00 Drama	11:25 Talk of the Week
<b>ATN BANGLA</b>		
10:40 Bangla Feature Film	10:30 Bangla Feature Film	
03:45 Shunder Jhon-er Jonno	04:15 Shorashori Doctor	
04:25 Location	05:15 Boishakhi-CNN	
05:15 Islami Sawal O Jawab	08:30 Sharabiswa	
10:45 Bihango Kotha	10:50 Reporters Dairy	
11:00 Drama	11:30 Boishakhi Binodon O Sanskriti Shangkha	
<b>CHANNEL I</b>		
01:05 Ekong Cinemar		
Gaan		
03:10 Hridoye Mati O		
Manusher Daak		
04:30 Shantir Pothe		
06:20 Chhayashongkar		
07:50 Khude Gaanraj		
09:35 Shera-der Mahajuddha		
<b>Z Studio</b>		
04:40 The Village		
07:10 Meet the Parents		
09:30 Walking Tall: The Payaso		
12:00 Meet the Fockers		
<b>HBO</b>		
02:15 American Pie: The Wedding		

<b>RADIO</b>	
abc radio FM 89.2	My Time
06:00 Bhorer Janajay	09:30 No Tension
09:00 Mukhorito Jiboney	04:00 Dhaka Calling
12:00 Duran Durany	09:00 Night Rider
05:00 Duran Durany	09:00 Back to Back music
05:00 Shondhara	<b>RADIO TODAY FM 89.6</b>
07:00 Shajer Maya	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
09:00 Raat-er Akashy	12:00 Today's Adda
11:00 Gogor Shesh Nei	04:00 U turn
Radio Fornti	07:00 Toley Lai Hok
10:00 Morning Express	10:00 Rock the Station

**Oloshpur**  
On Rtv at 09:05pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Chitralekha Gula, Aivi

**A Knight's Tale**  
On Star Movies at 11:05pm  
Genre: Action/Romance  
Cast: Heath Ledger, Mark Addy

<b>ntv</b>	10:05 Kichu Kotha	05:45 The tournament
	09:00 Kichu Gaan	09:30 Carriers
	11:00 Agonar Jiggasha	11:15 Rush Hour 2
	01:05 Shastha Pristidin	
	04:10 Janar Achhey Boler Achhey	<b>Star Movies</b>
	06:10 Shubho Shondhaya	11:35 Fieffles in the Garden
	11:30 Shur Bhoru Nilima	03:30 X-Men Origins: Wolverine
		07:00 A Few Good Men
		09:20 Adam
		11:05 A Knight's Tale
<b>Rtv</b>	12:35 Tawheed-er Murshid	<b>Discovery Channel</b>
	03:30 Amaal	02:30 Destroyed in Seconds
	01:10 Bangla Feature Film	09:30 Man vs. Wild
	05:00 Protidinjan Gaan	10:30 I Shouldn't Be Alive
	05:30 Ananda Dhara	11:30 Air crash Confidential
	08:20 Cookery Show	
	11:30 Tomar Jonno Amar E Gaan	<b>Star World</b>
		03:30 The Good Guys
<b>ETV</b>	11:30 Ekushey-er Business	08:30 Two And A Half Men
	04:30 The Aim	10:30 Dexter
	05:35 Shandent Shomachar	12:00 Family Guy
	09:30 Ekushey-er Chokh	<b>National Geographic Channel</b>
	10:10 Drama: Facebook	02:30 True Stories
		07:30 I Didn't Know That
<b>DeshTV</b>	03:30 Karl Marx	09:30 Big, Bigger, Biggest
	04:30 Durpath	11:30 Nat Geo Wild
	06:30 Sanskriti-er Sharadesh	
	07:45 Style and Fashion	<b>BBC World</b>
	10:30 Desh E Galpo	11:30 BBC World News
	11:55 Drama: Khon	11:30 World Business Report
		02:30 HARD talk
		11:45 Sport Today

<b>ATN Bangla</b>	09:05pm Oloshpur
08:00pm Rut Out	09:50pm Hese Jonayabo Kalo Saap
08:40pm Ognorsh	
<b>CHANNEL I</b>	
08:15pm Shimana Chharye	09:45pm Dyrectaar
ntv	09:45pm Gulshan Avenue
08:15pm Ruvuili	
09:45pm Shobuj Nakkhoto	09:45pm Galaxy
Rtv	06:00pm Mohallur Bhai
	08:10pm O Chand

<b>NEWS BULLETIN</b>	
<b>BTV</b>	<b>BANGLAVISION</b>
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am	News (Bangla) at 7:30am.
2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.	1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm.
News (English) at 10:00am,	10:30pm.
4:00 pm, 10:00 pm.	
News Headlines (Bangla) at	
Late Night News (Bangla and	10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.
English) 11:30 pm. (To be	
telecast on all Bangla	News (English) at 6:00pm
channels).	Rtv
<b>CHANNEL-I</b>	News (Bangla): 2:30 pm,
News (Bangla): 7:00 am,	4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm,
9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm,	10:30 pm, 12:30 am
10:30 pm, 12:30 am	ntv
<b>ATN BANGLA</b>	News (Bangla):7:30am,
NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 am,	12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm,
10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm,	10:30pm, 1:00am
10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00	<b>ETV</b>
am, 4:00 am,	News (Bangla): 9:00am,
01:00pm, 3:00pm, 1:00pm, 3:00pm,	11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm,
News (English): 9:00 am,	5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm,
6:00 pm.	11:00pm

<b>TALK SHOW</b>	
<b>BTV</b>	ntv
10:25pm Ghure Darasor	12:10am E Shomoy
Bangladesh	
Rtv	
07:40pm Our Democracy	
<b>ATN BANGLA</b>	
12:30am Lead News	
01:00am Vision 2020	
<b>CHANNEL I</b>	
09:45am Trilo Mata	12:05am Ekushey-er Raat
12:30pm Taroka Kothon	
06:20pm Bolshahullo	12:00am Zens Hour