

WHAT'S ON

Sculpture Exhibition
Sculptor: Faruq Rashed
Title: Dialogue of Nature
Venue: Shilpanjali Gallery, Dhankundi
Date: Sep 21-Oct 2
Time: 10am-8pm

Photography Exhibition
Title: Rahman's 71
Photographer: Abdul Hamid
Venue: 44-60, B-7/A, Dhaka Art Centre
Date: Sept 22-30
Time: 3pm-8pm

Bharatnatyam & Kuchipudi Dance Recital
Organiser: ICC, High Commission of India, Dhaka
Artist: Malabika Sen
Venue: Main Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum, Shalabagh
Date: Sept 27-28

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: RGM
Artist: Bangal Das
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1
Date: Sept 7-28

Silk Prints Exhibition
Title: Silk Story
Venue: Gallery Chitra, H-4, R-6, Dhankundi
Date: Sept 27-Oct 5
Time: 10am-8pm

Musical Soiree
Marking Kameel Dasgupta Birth Centenary
Organiser: Gersuata
Venue: Chayanand Auditorium, Dhankundi
Date: Sept 28

Watercolour Exhibition
Title: Welcoming Borsha
Venue: Gallery Cosmos-2, New DOTS, Mohakhali
Date: Sep 26-Oct 4
Time: 10am-8pm

Photography Exhibition
Photographer: Anil Advani
Venue: Sadia Centre, Gulshan-1
Date: Sep 21-Oct 12
Time: 10am-8pm

DID YOU KNOW?



"Kanjush"

- The play is the most staged theatrical work in Bangladesh. Loko Nattyadal (Siddheswari) and Loko Nattyadal (Banani) are regularly staging the play at present.
Loko Nattyadal (Siddheswari) has held over 600 shows of the play, which is a record, while Loko Nattyadal (Banani) has held 595 shows so far.
The play premiered on May 8, 1989 as a production of Loko Nattyadal. Back then Liaquat Ali Lucky was the director. When the troupe was divided, Lucky continued with the Siddheswari faction, while the Banani wing found a new director -- Kamrun Noor Chowdhury.
The original Loko Nattyadal was divided into two factions after 470 shows of the play.
Adapted by Tarique Anam Khan, from Moliere's "The Miser", the play narrates the story of people from old Dhaka. The actors often improvise on stage to keep the play contemporary and interesting.

In the city of Alexander and Cleopatra



Library of Alexandria

KARIM WAHEED

When Alexander the Great arrived here, around 331 BC, I reckon he saw and experienced what I did -- brilliantly clear sky, the deep blue Mediterranean and the ever-soothing breeze it brings. Anyone in his/her right mind would immediately fall in love with this place. Naturally, the conqueror did too and thus founded a city by the sea and named it after himself.

Around 48 BC, Julius Caesar arrived here, then Egypt's capital. It was here where the Roman general met Cleopatra and fell in love. The modern world may know Cleopatra as the 'ultimate seductress' [largely, thanks to Hollywood], but ancient accounts say otherwise. Greek historian Plutarch insisted that while she was not as striking as legend would have us believe, she possessed an "irresistible charm".

This "irresistible charm" is what characterises Alexandria, the second largest city in Egypt.

What sets Alexandria, or Al-Iskandariyyah [in Arabic], apart from the rest of Egypt is its Greco-Roman character. The Greeks embraced the Pharaonic traditions and left a heritage that proudly shows off that identity. All this was later assimilated into the Islamic Egypt. This fusion is apparent everywhere. Take the ubiquitous Greek key pattern on street dividers with palm trees and oleander bushes, for example.

What to see
This is an archaeology/ history/ art/ food/ photography enthusiast's paradise. For me it was "so much to see, so little time". There are the obvious tourist attractions. However, if you're adventurous, you'll find yourself in places and spot things that are not listed in brochures but are awe-inspiring nevertheless.

The Corniche: Alexandria's main artery, running along the Mediterranean. Perfect place for a waterfront stroll. The breeze...the shimmering blue sea...the wide sidewalk. There are many restaurants and cafes [both traditional and hip] on the Corniche where you can relax, smoke shisha, have Turkish coffee or enjoy fresh seafood.

Montazah Palace: The summer palace of a hunting lodge -- the Salamlek Palace -- by Khedive Abbas II. The larger Al-Haramlik Palace and royal gardens were added by King Fuad I in 1932. The architecture combines Turkish and Florentine styles. The palace has two towers, one



Al-Haramlik Palace

rising distinctively high above, and long open arcades facing the sea. President Anwar El-Sadat renovated the original Salamlek Palace as an official presidential residence. The expansive royal gardens [on 150 acres] are open to the public. If you want romance and ambiance, that is "the" place to be.

Library of Alexandria: Not the largest and most significant library of the ancient world, which was lost in antiquity, but a commemoration of it. And a grand commemoration it is! This colossal library and cultural centre -- officially inaugurated on October 16, 2002 -- is located on the shore of the Medi-

terranean Sea. It's an attempt to rekindle the brilliance that the original library represented. The Library of Alexandria or 'Bibliotheca Alexandrina' is trilingual -- containing books in Arabic, English and French. The architecture is striking. The main reading room stands beneath a 32-metre-high glass-panelled roof, tilted out toward the sea like a sundial. The walls are of grey granite, carved with characters from 120 different scripts, including Bengali. To me, it looked like an alien spacecraft. The complex also houses a conference centre; specialised libraries for

Hatshepsut. The second floor displays artefacts from the Greco-Roman period, during which Alexandria flourished, such as figurines of Greek women and a majestic bust of the bearded god Serapis. Also on this level are finds from underwater excavations conducted around Alexandria. The top floor displays Coptic and Islamic treasures. There are icons of Christ and the Virgin Mary, carved tombstones and clothes embellished with silver and gold thread work. Notable among the Islamic objects are 162 coins minted in Alexandria, incense burners, chandeliers and pottery.

Fouad Street: A walk down this street, considered one of the oldest in the city, can take you from one era to another without the hassles of time travelling. To my surprise I saw buildings -- practically rubbing each other's shoulders -- flaunting Ottoman, neo-Hellenic and Florentine influences.

There's more. There's the Citadel of Qaitbay -- a 15th century fortress located on the Mediterranean coast, built upon/from the ruins of the Lighthouse of Alexandria. There's Abul-Abbas Mosque in the Bahari area -- Alexandria's largest and one of the most important Islamic monuments. Arguably, the best kofta kebab and the freshest seafood...kashari [a mix of rice, lentils, chickpeas and macaroni topped with tomato sauce and fried onion] that is as popular in Egypt as kachchi biryani is here...List of attractions can be endless.

Alexandrians are generally laid back and high-spirited. This city sleeps late. In summer, apparently it doesn't sleep at all.

Like all cities, Alexandria has its blemishes -- accumulated trash on some street corner, crazy driving, frustrating traffic... These flaws were not a deal breaker for me though; I'm from Dhaka. If anything, I felt more connected...the city of Alexander and Cleopatra, with its uber exotic facade, seemed more accessible.



View of the Mediterranean from Montazah Royal Gardens



Inside Alexandria National Museum.

Ahsan Habib Nasim: Multi-tasking comes easy



SHAH ALAM SHAHUZ

Ahsan Habib Nasim has made a name for himself by performing in a variety of plays based on short stories by Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam. He has worked in adaptations of Tagore's stories: "Konkal" and "Shesh Puroshkar". Besides, Nasim has also performed in "Drishitidaan", "Shesher Ratri", as well as TV adaptations of Kazi Nazrul Islam's "Shiulimala", "Byathar Daan" etc.

The actor had his first film experience when he worked with Tauquir Ahmed in the movie "Jaijatra". This was soon followed by performances in Shamim Akhtar's "Kal Purobi" and "Oniket Alam's "Out of Box". However, both the films are still awaiting release. Nasim became an enlisted BTV actor after auditioning in 1997. But it was only in 2000 that he made his debut in "Kostori Mrigo Shomo", produced by Mahubul Alam.

Acting became his fulltime career since 2003; since then he has worked tirelessly to create a strong foundation for himself. Nasim's turning point was the serials -- "Tin Purush" by Soheli Arman; "Bibiron Bhalobasha", "Daarkaak" by Murad Parvez; "Neer" by Ezaz Munna; "Ditiyo Jibon" by SA Haq Alik and "Ojana Gontoboy" by Saiful Islam Mannu. The actor says these projects helped shape his career, as each and every one brought him recognition among the audience.

Before becoming a regular face of TV, Nasim took his first acting steps on the stage, in 1992. Working with the group Subochon Natya Sangsad, he acted in "Khudhito Pashan", "Rashtro Bonam", "Khandani Kissa", "Khona" and more. He also worked on background scores for several plays.

Asked about how he arrived on the acting scene, Nasim says, "I used to sing before. At one point, I decided to join a theatre troupe. Mamunur Rashid was

holding a workshop at the time and he cast me in a small role for 'Rashtro Bonam', a play directed by him. I had two lines and a song. Later, however, my Baul character was developed and made prominent. Mamunur Rashid praised me for my acting. Since then I've been in love with acting and became a regular."
Nasim is now busy with Eid special plays. Among his current projects is a play by Dima Nefartii, which is an adaptation of Anwara Syed Haq's story "Shopno Dekhar Shahosh", converted for the screen by Syed Shamsul Haq. Shooting is on for Ashraf Mithu's serial "Pauruti Omelet", written by Anisul Haq. Other new works by Nasim are serials -- "Ashe Din Jae" by Ripon Nabi and "Ondho Tirondaaj" by Murad Parvez. Ongoing serials featuring the actor include "Ladies First" on Bangladesh; "O Amaar Chokkhu Nai" and "Palabar Poth Nai" on ATN Bangla; "Oditiya" on

BTV; "Patla Khan Lane" on Diganta TV and "Apon Apon Khela" on Channel 9. Nasim has also worked as a model, earning fame for his performances in commercials for Grameen Phone, Pran and Radhuni. He says, "I am only interested in doing commercials which have some scope of acting."
On a different note, Nasim says, "My initial aim was to work only on stage. But I started doing TV plays to earn a living. However, I didn't discard the spirit of an artist. I wish to maintain my commitment to acting and keep on working with my artistic sense intact."
Nasim has also partnered with Maksudur Rabbi to open a production house called 'Akriti'. The house already shot into the limelight for producing the serial "Manojomoin", which was taken from a Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay novel. Nasim informed that a new serial would soon be made under the banner of Akriti.

Helen Mirren returns to play the Queen

Dame Helen Mirren will revisit her Oscar-winning role in "The Queen", playing Elizabeth II in a new play from Peter Morgan, called "The Audience". "Billy Elliot" director Stephen Daldry will direct Dame Helen in the West End production next February.

The play, at London's Gielgud theatre, reunites the 67-year-old star with playwright Morgan, author of "The Queen". "The Audience" depicts the weekly meetings between the Queen and some of the 12 Prime Ministers of her reign. Morgan has imagined some of the pivotal conversations that have become a very private part of British political life.

"From Churchill to Cameron, each Prime Minister has used these private conversations as a sounding board and a confessional -- sometimes intimate, sometimes explosive," reads the press release. Morgan's previous work includes the critically acclaimed play "Frost/Nixon", which transferred to Broadway and was later adapted for the big screen. His screen-play credits include "The Last King of Scotland", "The Damned United" and the forthcoming Hugh Hefner biopic, "Playboy".

Dame Helen won the best actress Oscar in 2007 for her role in "The Queen", which recreated the days following the death of Princess Diana.

Peter Morgan won a Golden Globe for writing "The Queen". She was nominated for an Oscar again in 2010, for her role as Tolstoy's wife in "The Last Station", and is tipped to pick up another nomination this year playing Hitchcock's wife opposite Sir Anthony Hopkins, in "Hitchcock".

Director Daldry began his career at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, and oversaw the redevelopment of the Royal Court. The hit musical "Billy Elliot" -- adapted from Daldry's original film -- has toured around the world, picking up 10 Tonys in 2009. "The Audience" opens on February 15, 2013.

SOURCE: BBC



Dame Helen won the best actress Oscar in 2007 for her role as the Queen.

An evening of Rabindra Sangeet in Magura

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Sammilon Parishad's (JRSSP) Magura unit and Kanthabithi, an organisation of elocutionists in Magura, jointly organised a programme, titled "Rabindra Sandhya" on September 26.

The programme was held at the temporary office of Kanthabithi and featured Tagore's songs and recitation of the bard's poems.

The programme began with recitation by artistes of Kanthabithi from Tagore's poems like "Banshi", "Sandhya o Probbhat", "Banshivala", "Ononto Prem", "Sadharon Meye" and "Paye Chola Path". Rashedul Islam, Reaz Ahmed, Mita Biswas, Anisur Rahman, Roza-bin-Farzana and Selim-al-Ehsan recited poems that enthralled the audience.

At the second session of the programme, artistes of JRSSP's Magura unit rendered Tagore's songs. Rakibul Haque Dipu, Kakoli Kundu, Nazli Shamima Akhter Laboni, Priyanka Das, Tapos Biswas, Mitul Das, Mokhlesur Rahman and Tuskar Prusun rendered the songs.

Urban Youth Festival at Goethe-Institut



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Goethe-Institut Bangladesh is holding a four-day festival for urban youths. The "Urban Youth Festival" opened yesterday and highlights views of the young -- what they see as the issues that the country faces, how they feel about their lives, what they believe in, their greatest fears, what they hope for and so on.

Filmmaker Mostofa Sarwar Farooki; Abdu Salam, chairman and CEO of Ekushey Television Limited; Judith Mirschberger, director of Goethe-Institut Bangladesh; Holger Michael, German Ambassador to Bangladesh were present as guests at the opening of the festival.

On the occasion of the festival, Goethe-Institut Bangladesh has brought together

talented young Bangladeshi artists to present their works, to exchange ideas and to provide material for reflection to the wider public.

The artists have presented their works in the form of art exhibitions and digital stories, video screenings, slide shows and audio clips. Interactive sessions will be held in the evenings, where discussions on relevant subjects will be held at the Berlin Hall of the institute.

A highlight will be a concert on the last day (September 30 at 6 pm) of the festival, where German rapper Amewu, together with his colleague DJ Werd and Bangladeshi musicians Shaqil and band Arbovirus, will perform in the auditorium of Goethe-Institut. The festival ends on September 30.

Advertisement for the 66th National Book Fair. It features a large image of a woman in a blue and white sari, with text in Bengali: 'ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশের রূপকার বঙ্গবন্ধু কন্যা প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার ৬৬ তম জন্মদিনে এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড-এর সকল কর্মকর্তা-কর্মচারী এবং সহযোগী প্রতিষ্ঠান সমূহের পক্ষ থেকে মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রীকে আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন'. It also includes the logo of edcl and KLP.

Table of TV channels and their programming: ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL 1, ETV, BANGLAVISION, RADIO.

Table of radio stations: abcradio FM 89.2, 93.30, 96.30, 98.30, 100.30, 102.30, 104.30, 106.30, 108.30, 110.30, 112.30, 114.30, 116.30, 118.30, 120.30.

Advertisement for 'Dhol On ETV' featuring a couple in traditional attire.

Advertisement for 'Paranormal Activity 3' featuring a scene from the movie.

Advertisement for 'Bela Obela Sarabela' featuring a man in a suit.

Table of TV channels and their programming: ntv, Rtv, Star World, Desh TV, Boishakhi TV.

Table of drama serials: ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL 1, ntv, BANGLAVISION, ETV, BANGLAVISION.

Table of news bulletins: BTV, BANGLAVISION, CHANNEL 1, BANGLAVISION, BANGLAVISION, BANGLAVISION.

Table of talk shows: ATN Bangla, CHANNEL 1, Boishakhi TV, BANGLAVISION.