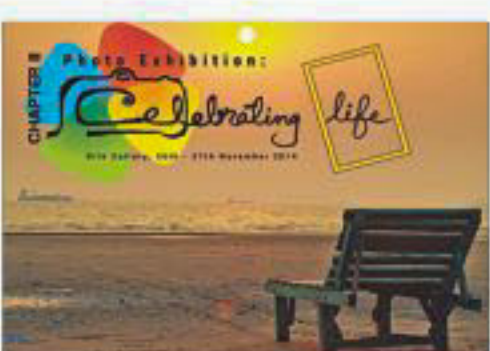


WHAT'S ON

Sound Reasons
Organiser: Goethe Institute
Venue: German Club Dhaka
Date: November 10
Time: 6pm



Photography Exhibition
Celebrating Life Chapter II
Organiser: BMSS
Venue: Drik Gallery
Date: Nov 26-27
Time: 3-8pm



Theatre
Play: Raktakarabi
Troupe: Prangoney Mor
Venue: National Theatre Hall,
Shilpakala Academy
Date: November 13
Time: 7pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Syed Hasan Mahmud
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya,
Dhamondi
Date: Oct 24-Nov 15
Time: 12-8pm



Album Launch
Artist: Karim Hasan Khan
Venue: AS Mahmud Auditorium,
The Daily Star Centre, 64-65, Kazi
Nazrul Islam Avenue
Date: November 14
Time: 5pm



Claire Denis to conduct lecture in Dhaka

French master filmmaker Claire Denis is visiting Bangladesh on the invitation of online forum Filmy-Bahas, says a press release. Palme d'Or nominee of Cannes and winner of "Golden Leopard" in Locarno, Claire Denis is the second master filmmaker invited to Tareque Masud Master's Class to be held in December this year. Kamar Ahmad Simon, the winner of the Grand Prix of Festival Cinema Du Reel in Paris and Golden Conch in Mumbai, will direct the main discourse with Claire Denis.

The two-day programme aims at bringing parallel narratives of world cinema to young film enthusiasts. The event will take place on December 8 and 9 at Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhaban in Dhanmondi. The



programme will start at 9am every day and will feature screening of six films by Claire Denis along with discourse with the master.

The programme, jointly organised by Embassy of France, Bangladesh and Beginning Production, Institut Francais, is supported by UniFrance Films and American International University Bangladesh (AIUB).

Interested participants are requested to register on facebook.com/Filmy.Bahas by November 22.



BEAUTY, GLAMOUR and GLITZ

Nadia Afrin crowned Lux-Channel i Superstar '14

The top 10 at the grand finale; (below) A new superstar is crowned.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The glitzy and glamorous grand finale of Lux Channel i Superstar 2014 was held at the Bangabandhu International Convention Centre on November 8. Jointly put together by Unilever Bangladesh's brand Lux and Channel i, the highlight of the event was the announcement of the 'Superstar' of 2014. The event also featured performances by the finalists as well as popular singers and models.

This year the Lux-Channel i Superstar title went to Nadia Afrin. Showcasing her beauty and intelligence coupled with the judges' scores and on the basis of online votes, she became the new face of Lux. She was crowned by last year's winner Samia Sayeed. Nadia was awarded a brand new car and a cheque for Tk 10 lakh. Javed Akhtar, Unilever Bangladesh Limited's brand building director and Faridur Reza Sagor, managing director of Impress Telefilm Limited handed over the car keys to her. Zahir Uddin Mahmud Mamun, director of Channel i and KSM Minhaz, brand director of Unilever Bangladesh Limited were present.

Nazifa Anjum was announced the first runner up. She received a cheque for Tk 5 lakh while the second runner up Nilanjana Neela received a cheque for Tk 3 lakh.



Emerging out from the 10,000 beautiful girls, Supriya Shabnam and Fahmida Tasnim Prema too tied for the crown among the top five finalists.

Apart from these, three special awards - "Pond's Miss Beautiful Skin", "Sunsilk Miss Perfect Straight Hair" and "Close-Up Miss Beautiful Smile" -- were conferred on the occasion to Nazneen, Novaira and Nadia respectively. Beautician Kaniz

Almas, Kona Reza and Mononita Syed Haq, human resource Director of Unilever Bangladesh Limited handed over awards, crests and bouquets to all three recipients.

At the beginning, the top 10 contestants performed live, following which the best five appeared on stage. Next, the contestants took part in the catwalk round. Video clips of Lux-Channel i Superstar '14

came next.

Kaniz Subarna set off the event through singing. Popular band artiste James rocked the audience with his hit numbers while Shanu, Momo, Chaity, Mehzaben and Faria danced to the songs. Another major attraction was a dance performance by former Lux-Channel i Superstars - Shanu, Momo, Chaity, Mehzaben and Samia at the event.

Faridur Reza Sagor spoke at the event. He said, "The beautiful girls emerged from the competition will use their potentials for the entertainment of all, and seek your blessings."

One of the key parts of the event was the Q&A session, where the finalists had to face the judges' questions. Judges of the grand finale were eminent actor and cultural personality Aly Zaker, singers Shakila Zafar and Tahsan, actress Aupee Karim and model Nobel.

The title winner Nadia vibrantly yet judiciously replied to the questions of Aly Zaker who also said, "I have been living with Lux for many years. The beauty pageant contest, named after the brand, is empowering women. We are getting beautiful, confident and intelligent girls who are not only becoming Lux-Channel i Superstar, but also will become icons of our society."

Channel i aired the programme live.

IT'S TRUE!



Marion Cotillard is also a talented singer and often sings under the name "Simone" with musician Yodelice. As a matter of fact, she performed at the Olympia with the rock band Yodelice. Marion always believed that she would be a singer and that she became an actress by fluke. However, she is the second French woman to bag the Best Actress Oscar. Simone Signoret was the first. She won it in 1960.

Building bridges through hip-hop

Next Level launched in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh chapter of Next Level, a cultural exchange programme of USA, was launched on Saturday evening at EMK Center, Dhaka. US Ambassador to Bangladesh, Dan W. Mozena officially launched Next Level, which includes a two-week workshop on hip-hop music and dance.

In his introductory speech, Mozena said, "This share and exchange programme will feature great music by great musicians. Next Level aims at building bridges by sharing music."

A four-member team of hip-hop musicians will conduct the workshop which will be attended by nearly 50 Bangladeshi youths. The four member team -- comprising Gabriel 'Asheru' Benn, a veteran hip hop artist, educator and youth activist; Amirah Sackett, dancer and choreographer;



The Ambassador introduces the artistes.

PHOTO: STAR

JocElyn Ellis, vocalist, songwriter and music producer and André "DJ A-Minor" Barden, an educator, DJ, and producer -- will work with dancers and musicians in Bangladesh and demonstrate and participate in a number of programmes. Following the workshop, the

team will hold their presentation at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy at 6:30pm on November 17.

Next Level is an initiative of the US Department of State and the University of North Carolina's Department of Music

that promotes international cultural exchange and conflict resolution through hip-hop music and dance. Next Level fosters cross-cultural creative expression and exchange in diverse communities and supports the professional development of artists in those communities.



Chhayanaut's Classical Dance Festival featured a number of solo and group dance display zooming in on the five forms of classical dance -- Manipuri, Odissi, Bharatanatyam, Kathak and Gaudiya Nritya. Apart from Chhayanaut artistes, noted dance troupes and soloists from and outside Dhaka and Kolkata, India took part in the festival. Artistes articulated their devotion to the Creator, gurus and the audience through their performances. Here are the highlights of the concluding day.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

HAY FESTIVAL to begin November 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Curtains to the Hay Festival Dhaka are set to rise on November 20, for the fourth time on the historic grounds of the Bangla Academy in Dhaka.

Founded in 1987, Hay Festival has become one of the world's top literary festivals and has emerged as a significant literary platform in the country for Bangladeshi writers, especially those writing in English.

"Taking inspiration from Bangladesh's great literary tradition while broadening its horizons, creative thinkers from the region and 13 different countries will engage with the vibrant, energetic and politically savvy audience of our country," said Sadaf Saaz Siddiqi, a director of Hay Festival Dhaka.

The themes of this year include multiple ways of story-telling, intersections of the personal and the political, and pushing the boundaries of the mind, she added.

The three-day literary festival will feature local and international writers, poets, artists, philosophers and journalists, including Aamer Hussein, Abeer Hoque, Asif Farrukhi, Daman Singh, Fatema Hassan, Gideon Haigh, Joelle Jolivet, John Ralston Saul, Jung Chang, Kaiser Haq, Kanak Dixit,

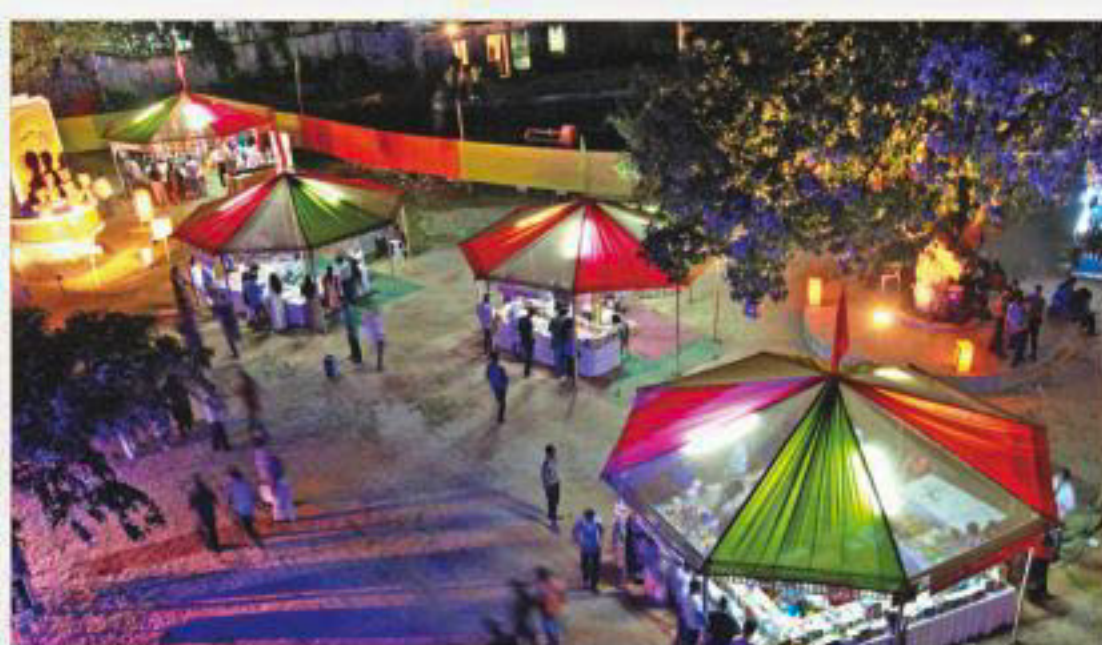


PHOTO: DARSHAN CHAKMA

Karthika Nair, Lucy Hawking, Manju Kapur, Marcus Du Sautoy, Maria Chaudhuri, Michael Puett, Mimi Khalvati, Mirza Waheed, Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, Muneza Shamsie, Namita Gokhale, Patrick French, Rafiq Azad, Rana Das Gupta, Selina Hossain, Shaheen Akhter, Shashi Tharoor, Syed Shamsul Haq, TJ Dema, William Dalrymple, Zia Haider Rahman.

Hay 2014 will highlight interactive panel discussions, book launches, and creative sessions for children, poetry performances, medleys of Shakespearean plays in translation, unplugged Bengali rap and much more.

Among other sessions, in celebration of the 25th anniversary of The Great Indian Novel and its first Bangla translation, award-winning author and politician Shashi Tharoor will discuss his literary journey; academician Firdous Azim will converse with Bangladeshi-born writer Zia Haider Rahman to uncover the intricacies of his debut novel In the Light of What We Know; author Lucy Hawking will explore the universe in interactive sessions for children, based on her books co-written with her father, world-famous cosmologist Stephen Hawking.

Entry to the festival is free.

Jennifer Lawrence baked as life-sized cake

A woman whose life-sized Johnny Depp cake made headlines around the world believes she has gone one better by baking a full-size version of actress Jennifer Lawrence. Lara Clarke, 28, from Walsall (UK), won gold at the Cake International competition in Birmingham in 2013 with her 5ft 5in (1.65m) Jack Sparrow creation.

Clarke said she received some criticism about her 2013 entry, which was made of crisped rice. Her latest creation is a sponge cake. "People said my crisped rice Johnny Depp cake wasn't a proper cake, so I wanted to show them I could make a life-sized sponge cake," said Clarke.

She said she had chosen to bake a replica of Lawrence - in full Hunger Games mode - because she was a 'massive fan' of the films. During her two-and-a-half months of working on the cakes, Clarke researched the actress's height, waist and bust measurements online and claims the 5ft 10in cake is exactly life-sized.

She is entering the life-sized cake, alongside a cake of her favourite Game of Thrones character, Tyrion Lannister, in the large decorative exhibit section of the competition at the National Exhibition Centre - the same section in which she won gold in 2013.

Since her success with her Johnny Depp creation, which made the news in the US and China, Clarke has received a number of commissions for giant cakes, including one from Jaguar Land Rover and one from ITV's This Morning.

Source: BBC

