

information • communication • entertainment

DECEMBER 2014 Tk.100

# ICE TODAY

P.20

**Trophies From  
Your Travels**

**Around  
the World in**

**30 Pages**

Trendy fashion  
collections

**Past Summer Nights' Dream**

A stunning photo story  
by Saadul Islam





P.30



# Contents

**P. 12 ICE Tunes: Local Perspective**  
Renowned local musicians share their thoughts on Bengal Classical Music Festival

**P. 14 ICE Invents: Explore!**  
Things to keep in mind when vacationing

---

## ► ICE Must Knows

**P. 18 Feature: Forget Me Not**  
Last minute packing check-list

**P. 20 Feature: Trophies From Your Travels**  
What to bring back from your holidays abroad

**P. 22 Your It List Health: Of Genes and Genesis**  
Mohammed Uddin talks about his discoveries and autism

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## ► ICE Glamour

**P. 28 Beauty Q and A: Packing Pretty**  
The essential beauty products you should travel with

**P. 30 Style: Around the World in 30 Pages**  
Latest collections in fashion

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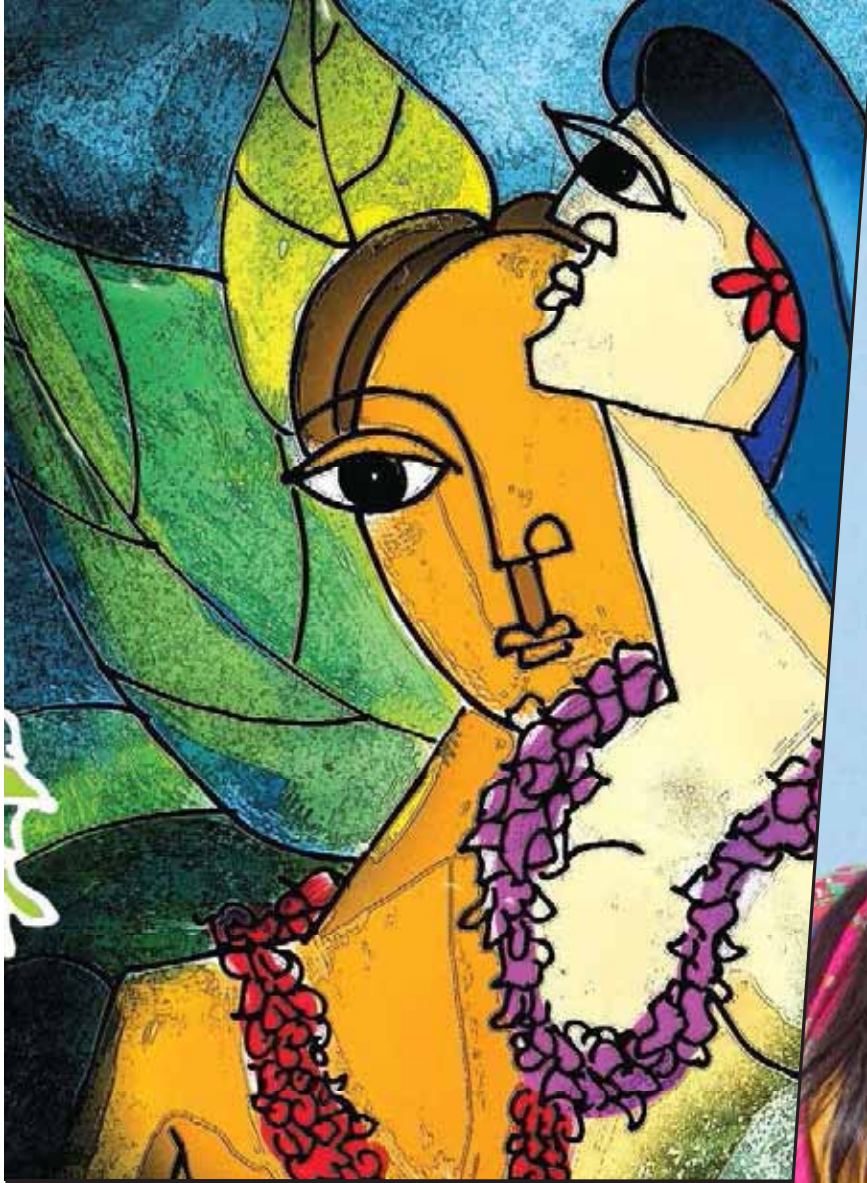
## ► ICE Cover Focus

**P. 64 Photo Story: Past Summer Nights' Dream**  
Saadul's travels across USA told through photographs

**P. 74 Feature: Losing Ourselves in Québec City**  
Sazia Sharmin walks you through the highs and lows of Québec

**P. 78 Travel: Travel Bites**  
A travelogue of Myanmar and Vietnam

**P. 80 Cover Story: Voicing the Vacation**  
Mehrin talks about her Eurotrip



# Contents

## *ICE Your Space*

- P. 92 Recipes:** Feasting on the Fest  
Recipes from select food stalls of the Bengal Classical Music Festival
- P. 100 Review:** Livin' It Up  
A review of Hotel Amari
- P. 102 Feature:** Ink on Paper  
Four new releases from Bengal Publications
- P. 104 Entertainment:** Tales of a Gutsy Ninja  
Why you must watch the anime, Naruto!
- P. 106 The Creative Nook:** Telling Stories  
Paintings and poems from local talents

---

## *ICE Your Roots*

- P. 112 Events**  
Reviews and news of numerous events and openings



**Rajrupa Chowdhury**

Of course playing classical music requires a lot of commitment, but so does listening to it. When I started learning to play as a child I was told that only playing and practising was not enough, but that it was vital that I listened to music as well. I did not stick to the methods my teacher showed me but I tried out the different ways I heard other musicians use. This also stimulated my creativity. If I have nothing original to add then I'm not contributing anything but rather just playing my guru's music. Through BCMF I got the opportunity to interact with many different types of people - architects, musicians and even ones from corporate circles. When I spoke to an architect I met there, who listens to classical music to some degree, he shared how he actually waited for the Fest to take place again, for November to arrive. Another gentleman I met had a very busy schedule; he went out of his way to arrange his routine so as to accommodate time for the Fest. This other time I had a conversation with a lady who told me that she would finish work quickly so she could attend the Bengal Fest. In the morning she would go home and attend her duties there and eventually return to work before attending the next evening's program. This is an incredible occasion where people from different walks of life leading vastly different lifestyles can come together to attend a festival on common grounds – the music itself. This is only possible because of the Bengal Classical Music Festival.

**Local Perspective**

As Bengal Classical Music Festival returns for the third time, Dhaka is once again in a state of exuberant celebration. Who would have thought that the classical genre will be able to generate this level of enthusiasm here in Dhaka? Many prominent musicians of Bangladesh along side young, up and coming ones have attended BCMF. A few of them share their opinions regarding the event with *ICE Today*.



**Samina Husain Prema**

Simply attending the festival reduces stress. The meditative qualities are sort of obvious to us who have grown up practising classical music. But general listeners weren't aware of it. Classical musicians and dancers have to struggle a lot in order to reach even a semblance of success in Bangladesh. But ever since the Fest started, it has given us hope. It sort of gives meaning to all our struggles. The Fest represents a proper platform to witness, learn and seek inspiration.



**Labik Kamal Gaurob of *Ajob***

There are two aspects I'd like to discuss. The first - there are musicians like us who play contemporary music. We don't

play to make catchy tunes but rather approach the serious side of music, as in playing not solely to make it to the charts. We always complain that we aren't doing it right and enough people aren't listening to us unless we "rock" things up a bit. However, Bengal Foundation proved us wrong by showing us how thousands of people can sit together and listen to music in complete silence. It's not even about the music, the mere fact that twenty five thousand people gathered together in a single venue without causing a ruckus, in itself is a huge deal. This showed contemporary musicians a number of things including that there is a serious audience base in Dhaka.

The second matter is that there are many in Bangladesh who are actually resistive to classical music. It's become a stereotype of sorts that classical music induces "sleep". The younger generation of musicians in our country always focus on speed improvement and instrument techniques from a very "Western" standpoint. Making this group of people listen to such performances, whether live or even on YouTube, would've been extremely difficult for us. Bengal Foundation has opened a whole new door for the "uninitiated," letting them explore a whole new aspect of music. This one fellow I met during the last festival showed up on the first day entirely out of curiosity, and he did get bored by the end of the night. He showed up the very next day with a friend, regardless of his own complaints. His dissatisfaction subsided on the third and ultimately he ended up attending all four days, along with his family and friends. I think this is a fantastic enterprise as well as an awesome opportunity for the audience.



### Saadul Islam

Azizul Islam, my uncle, is a renowned classical musician of the country and when I was young, every time he would have a show he'd invite us. I would always dread those shows, thinking that they were boring. I bet many would understand my sentiment. I haven't had the opportunity to properly experience Indian classical music before this festival started. I, personally, never expected myself to enjoy it this much. I never would have thought that I would ditch work and take all my friends to go be part of such an event. It was very inspiring for me. My family isn't all that much into music, much less classical music, except my sister. But even they are excited about this event. It has become sort of like a culture and I think that's amazing. Props to Bengal Foundation for making it happen!

### Pinto Kumar Ghosh of *Chirkutt*

Even though Bangladesh has a rich history of classical music, throughout the years, the influence and practice of classical music has taken a back stage to make way for more 'easy to get' music. The hard work, commitment and struggle it requires discouraged many. What the Bengal Classical Music Festival has done so far is to make classical music accessible to the general audience. During the Fest of 2013, around twenty five to thirty thousand people stayed until dawn listening to the various performances. As a musician, I think that presenting such a niche genre of music in such a significant way is a praiseworthy endeavour. Many musicians, like me, are getting to experience something new by learning fresh methods. Watching the gurus live teaches us a lot about on-stage presentation, techniques, playing and performance. Watching a video of the same performance on YouTube is not enough to bring about this level of inspiration. In Bangladesh, I think this is the only event that can do this.



### Buno

The most exciting thing about the Fest is that it goes on for four to five nights on an end and the audience turns up for each of those days and stay back until the break of dawn. Whether they're listening to music or simply hanging out, they go and stick around for the entire night. And the best part is that Bengal provides transportation. This is extremely considerate of them. I can listen to music until two in the morning without much thought because I know that there is a sure way to go back even during those hours. I didn't have to concern myself with safety issues or finding public transports. When I watch great musicians, like BB King, perform abroad at international festivals, I'd be awestruck. Most people in Bangladesh do not get a chance to see great musicians like that. Festivals like this actually give a sense of how big the world is. This exposure was much needed and I'm glad it's occurring in this scale in Dhaka now. Whether one plays music or not, most people in Bangladesh have never been exposed to music on this level, ever.

### Sharmin Sultana Sumi of *Chirkutt*

We've all been frustrated with the music scene of Bangladesh for a while, not that we aren't anymore, what with all the piracy, no royalty, etc. The first time the festival took place my band and I were performing in Delhi. This was the first time we got to play music on an international level. We read about it all on Facebook and other social media sites. It had clearly become a big deal in a very short time. It genuinely felt like we were missing out on something extraordinary and that too in Dhaka. But thankfully we were able to attend the second one. The much needed success of BCMF is an inspiration for Bangladesh and hopefully someday we'll be attending other such music festivals of different genres. The concept of a festival concert is still very fresh in Bangladesh and it has effectively stirred general audiences. ICE



# Explore!

ICE Invents gives travel tips for different cultures, the importance of discovery and making the most of your trip



Drawing and illustration: Jason Sabbir Dhali

## Travel Etiquettes

When visiting a culture different from yours, it is important to keep in mind the 'different' part. Many aspects will be unlike what you are used to. Behaviour that is regular in your part of the world may even offend somebody living elsewhere.

**Touching:** The concept of personal space changes from country to country. It's offensive to touch somebody (like a simple pat on the back) in Korea, Thailand and China unless you are a family member or close friend. In countries like Qatar and Saudi

Arabia, among other Middle Eastern countries, men and women are prohibited from interacting, let alone touch or show public displays of affection.

**Eating with your left:** Many cultures still prefer the traditional methods to eat by using fingers, specifically of the right hand. In places like India, Morocco, Africa and the Middle East, the locals may take offence in the action if you'll be partaking in a communal meal.

**Refusing lei in Hawaii:** Leis are garlands made of flowers that are worn in the Hawaiian Islands. They aren't just pretty, floral neck wear that people there just give out. They're considered a cultural symbol of welcome, friendship and appreciation. You can see why it would be disrespectful if a lei is refused or removed shortly after receiving it.

**Making eye contact:** It's an absolute 'no' in Korea and Japan. Prolonged eye contact is sure to make locals from these countries uncomfortable.

**Not removing your shoes:** When entering a home in Asia, Hawaii or the Pacific Islands, it is essential that you take off your shoes. Not only does it keep sand and dirt out but it's also a sign that you're 'leaving the outside world behind.' Considering how diverse cultures around the world are, it is important that you do not appear disrespectful when visiting a foreign land. Observe the locals and their lifestyle so you can try and adapt. If unsure of something, ask.

## Rules to live by when on vacation

When you're travelling overseas, it should be with the expectation that things are going to be different. An anticipation of change in scene and lifestyle is bound to add to the excitement. Nevertheless, most tourists take measures to stay guarded when it comes to food and local customs. There is nothing wrong with that, but going overboard with 'safety' can cause more harm than good. Here are some things to keep in mind to make the most out of your trip.

### Make the most of the limited time you have

This applies for life too but that calls for a whole other article in itself. When you go to a foreign land on vacation, it is never for more than a month or two. Waking up early is advised so you can take in more of the seemingly alien place you are in. Plan ahead so you can manage time efficiently.

### Get to know the locals

The one thing every place in the world has in abundance is people. The locals of your retreat destination are bound to be different from the ones you usually associate with. Start a conversation with them instead of other tourists. Such interactions can be an interesting experience and can help you know more about the local culture.

### Do NOT miss out on local food

Taste a little bit of everything when on holiday. There is no other way to know what will suit your palate. Ask the locals

for recommendations. Eat street food especially from vendors who cater to long lines of customers. Instead of walking in to the nearest KFC for lunch, go to a restaurant the locals go to. Statistically, the chances of you falling sick for eating food that everyone else does is very slim.

**Break out of your comfort zone from time to time**

Be a little adventurous and do things that you normally wouldn't do back home. A foreign land always has something to offer that you've never experienced before. A strange vehicle? Take a ride on it. An exotic beverage? Take a sip. These modest risks will help you get to know yourself a little more.

**Wander off into the unknown**

As poetic as it sounds, this is actually practical and can turn out to be fun. Get out of your hotel and choose a direction to walk off into. The best way to discover the lifestyle and trends of the locals is to do it on foot. Carry a contact card of your hotel in case you get lost; you can simply hop on a taxi and return. Don't be too worried about stumbling in to dangerous neighbourhoods as the locals will usually warn you before you get that far.



Photos: Stock

**Take notes and snap as many photos as possible**

With the technology available these days, this one is possibly the easiest. You'll meet new people, find new places and eat different food – chances are that you may do these things only once in your life. The photos you take will forever remain a memory of things you experienced, good or bad.

**DIY: Twig Frame**



Photos: Mahmuda Tuli



**What you'll need:** A bunch of twigs, jute yarn and tacks to attach photo.

**Step 1:**

Cut the twigs according to the dimensions of the photo.

**Step 2:**

Place the twigs in accordance to your preferred size.

**Step 3:**

Tie up the four corners using the jute thread in a criss-cross fashion.

**Step 4:**

Use the tacks to attach photo to the frame.



Digital Painting : Jason Sabbir Dhali

# ICE Must Knows

- P. 18 **Feature:** Forget Me Not
- P. 20 **Feature:** Trophies From Your Travels
- P. 22 **Your It List Health:** Of Genes and Genesis

# Forget Me Not

The absolute musts to keep in mind for the ones who put off packing until the last minute



**T**he bags are empty, its potential contents are strewn all over the bed and floor, and the flight is in just a few hours while you have no idea what you must take with you. You're panic-stricken and end up packing everything lest you miss the flight. Do you always plan ahead and have everything packed at least a week before the imminent flight

date? Then what follows from here on is not for you - you should just flip the page and read the next article. On the other hand, plenty of people struggles with packing the absolute must-haves before flying out to a different country or even a nearby city. A lot of the things you'll consider carrying can be bought from stores abroad so it

is better to leave them out unless you have extra space. It is important to keep it light and only pack things that are absolutely useful and irreplaceable. The following is a list that is sure to come in handy when you're about to travel and are a little confused about what to pack. The items are listed in no particular order.



**Passports and tickets.** There is no way you'll be able get too far without your passport. Passports, tickets and other important documents should never be left behind. In fact, it is recommended that photocopies of such documents be carried along too. It is also important to check the expiry dates of passports and visas.



**Compact first aid kit.** The kit should be light-weight and comprise of only emergency items like band-aids, antibiotics, antiseptic cream or ointment and painkillers.



**Camera.** One does not simply go on vacation and not snap photos. Photos make for the best memories whether they are taken using a DSLR camera or your smart phone. Make sure you pack the camera and extra memory cards in case you need them later.



**Devices that play music.** You would realize the importance of music if you were ever to sit in a moving bus for a few hours without your favourite tunes to keep you company. Be it your iPod, smart phone or even your ancient Discman – it is most important that you have a personal device that can play music of your choice. Carry an extra pair of earphones as an added measure.



**Wet wipes.** This one may seem a little out of place but when travelling you will realize that wet wipes are the

Universe's way of balancing out all that is wrong with the world. Not only can you wipe sweat off your face and neck to get added freshness but you can also tend to minor cuts and scrapes, mop dust off your clothes and shoes, and list goes on.



**Money.** Traveller's cheque, cash or ATM cards – whatever you plan on carrying, it is vital that you do not forget to pack them. It is impossible to travel without money, to state the obvious. The extra cash you were planning to take with you should be packed away well in advance in case it slips your mind during the last minute rush.



**Mosquito repellents.** No matter where you travel to there is a good chance that you'll encounter the annoying little, blood-consuming pests. If by some miracle you return home without a single mosquito bite after your trip, you should be grateful but it doesn't hurt to stay prepared.



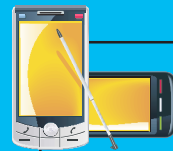
**Torchlight.** This, like the mosquito repellent, should be treated as an extra precaution.



**Chargers and extra batteries.** This is not optional. Almost all the appliances you bring to the trip with you will need to be charged. Imagine your cell phone running out of battery power eight hours after you land and there is not a store for a few hundred kilometres where you can purchase a charger. Or worse still, your iPod runs out of charge. Take batteries too, for the torchlight.



**Medicines and prescriptions.** Always double check to see if you have your meds in order along with the doctor's prescriptions. Sometimes, the brand of whichever drug you require might not be available overseas, therefore, be sure to take a full set for as long as the trip may last.



**Cell phone.** You have to carry your cell phone. In this day and age, your cell phone is your best friend when abroad. Not only do you get to stay in touch with your family and friends back home but you also get to access your social media accounts, keep updated on daily news, have access to Google maps if you can't find your way and instantly back up photos to your cloud drive and share them on Facebook. The list can be endless but you get the picture.

**It is important to keep it light and only pack things that are absolutely useful and irreplaceable**

These items are considered to be the most vital of things to carry when travelling. Most things included here are pretty obvious but what is important is that you remember to have them packed. Furthermore, it is necessary that you double check before leaving the house lest something slipped your mind. ☺

## TROPHIES FROM YOUR TRAVELS

Sazia Sharmin tells you what to bring back from your trip abroad

What did you bring back from your last travel? Wonderful memories and a few blisters on your feet? Thousands of pictures on your camera and phone? Yet another shot glass or a fridge magnet? If you love to travel, it means you like exploring the new and unknown. Your travels take you beyond the boundaries of your physical home and mental comfort zone. The souvenirs you bring back can be meaningful additions to your home and thoughtful gifts for loved ones. Perhaps you'll find these pointers useful in refining your souvenir shopping:



1

Buy something that combines utility with intrigue. If you can get something you can actually use, you will value it more than a plastic replica of a famous structure that soon becomes visual clutter in your home. A traditional piece of clothing that you can actually wear in your home town is always a hit.

2

Find what the place you are visiting is known for, best if it is something hand-made. Hand-made jewellery or Yak-wool blankets from Nepal are gifts your friends will truly thank you for.

3

Bring back a taste of your destination: local chocolate, cheese, any dry non-perishable food items such as dried fruits and nuts, even cookies. Stay away from bringing back fresh fruits and vegetables as they may introduce harmful pathogens to local plants and animals.

4. Focus on cultural objects rather than generic factory-produced souvenirs. Often you can create a collection of similar objects from different parts of the world, for example, handmade dolls.

5. Whatever you bring back, make sure it is small and portable. If you're getting it for your home make sure you actually have a place for it. Otherwise it only becomes a dust-gathering burden you feel guilty to get rid of.

6. Travel souvenirs don't have always have to be of the cool and cute variety, they can be intelligent and educational. Buy a good book or a poster that will help you learn more about your destination.

7. Find or collect something natural. One of the coolest ideas for kids is to collect

shells and sand from different beaches and make a collection in glass containers.

8. Ask yourself if this is something that can actually be bought somewhere for less. Tourist shops are often overpriced. Try to shop where locals shop if language and conditions permit.

9. If you are in a major urban centre, take the opportunity to shop for your next trip! Buy a foldable lightweight bag for taking back your newly acquired items. Buy comfortable walking shoes that will serve you on that and future trips.

10. Buy nothing at all! Save your ticket stubs and brochures, print a family picture taken on your trip and put them together for a one-of-a-kind souvenir. ☐

# Of Genes and Genesis

Nusrat Jahan Pritom discusses the origin of autism with Mohammed Uddin, a geneticist

Photo: Stock

**A**utism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. The origin of autism has puzzled people for years.

While the exact causes of autism are unknown, it is sometimes thought to be a result from a combination of several 'causes' such as genetics, babies in the womb being exposed to traffic pollution, etc. Autism Speaks, the world's leading autism science and advocacy organization, has

published that autism is one of the fastest growing developmental disability in USA. Autism has no cure and it affects 1 in 68 children. The report further said that autism costs a family \$60,000 a year on average! In Bangladesh, it is said that about ten percent people suffer from some kind of challenge or disability and that the number of autistic kids are rising over the years. In the recent decade, awareness of autism has increased here. Organizations were founded which work solely for the benefit of autistic children such as Autism Welfare Foundation established in 2004, Autistic Children Welfare Foundation established in 2007, etc. Certain schools only teach autistic



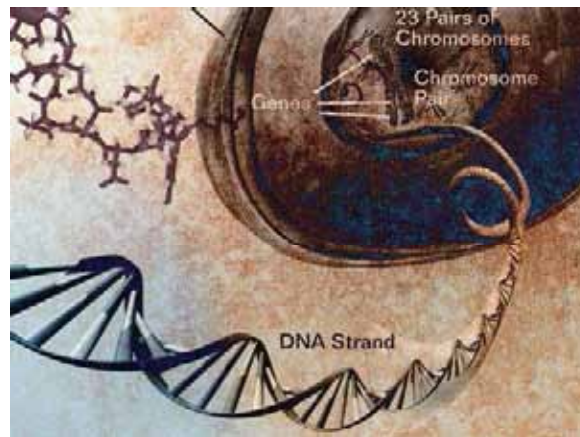
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In Bangladesh, it is said that about ten percent people suffer from some kind of challenge or disability

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children while there are other schools in Bangladesh where autistic children are taught along with others in a ratio of around 10:1. IEP or Individual Education Plan that has a student teacher ratio of 2:1 has also been implemented here in some schools for autism-stricken children to nurture and develop their talents and potentials. What most people don't realize is that being autistic and being disabled are not the same. HANS, an organization that holds an art exhibition every year recently held the sixth one by autistic kids titled "Emerge From Unknown VI" that lasted from November 7 to November 14. Through this event they aim to provide people with correct information regarding autism and autistic children; the fact that they are not disabled but very creative.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a lifelong neuropsychiatric condition affecting multiple domains of life



While most people are not even aware of autism, Mohammed Uddin has discovered a pattern to the genesis of autism. Although he has a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science he undertook a course in Computational Biology during his Master's that changed his career. The course introduced him to genetics. Since the blueprint of DNA came in the year 2000, scientists have been constantly analyzing the different aspects of it to understand what we, human beings, are really made up of. Mohammed's course of Computational Biology used computers to analyze living systems. Before that scientists used to hire a programming specialist to interpret the data locked in the genetic structure. As Mohammed was both a computer scientist and geneticist, he not only unlocked the data but had the knack to dig further. "Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a lifelong neuropsychiatric condition affecting multiple domains of life

i.e. communication, socialization and behavior. No cure is available yet and it is a devastating lifelong condition that manifests early in childhood. This harsh reality prompted me to understand autism better through research," says Mohammed. Though Mohammed started out dreaming of a career in Silicon Valley, after the course, he decided to do a PhD not in Computer Science but in human genetics. Mohammed was offered a fellowship under Dr. Stephen Scherer, Director of The Centre for Applied Genomics at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Toronto and in 2012 the dynamic scientist found himself there. Dr. Scherer is a world class geneticist and established leader in using genomic sequencing technology to improve the understanding of genetic risk underlying ASD, and how genomic discovery can be used to transform clinical practice. Using Mohammed's analysis, the team was able to identify thirty thousand exons in the human genome that were highly

expressed during brain development. Mohammed adds, "The research was conducted for a year. The research was done mainly in my institution (Sickkids hospital) and the scientific experiments were conducted collaborating with several other labs/institutions. We have used experimental data from various sites, including Allen Brian Institute, human sequencing resource from Washington, etc." He further adds, "New evidence suggests that hundreds of genes comprised with new mutations are susceptible to ASD. An interesting fact is that there was no pattern or common property between these genes. Through my work, published in Nature Genetics, I was able to crack that problem and found an exon level property between these genes and how they interact with the brain which shed new light to autism research. We have implemented our method in a way where we can test out other neuropsychiatric disease genes. Interestingly,

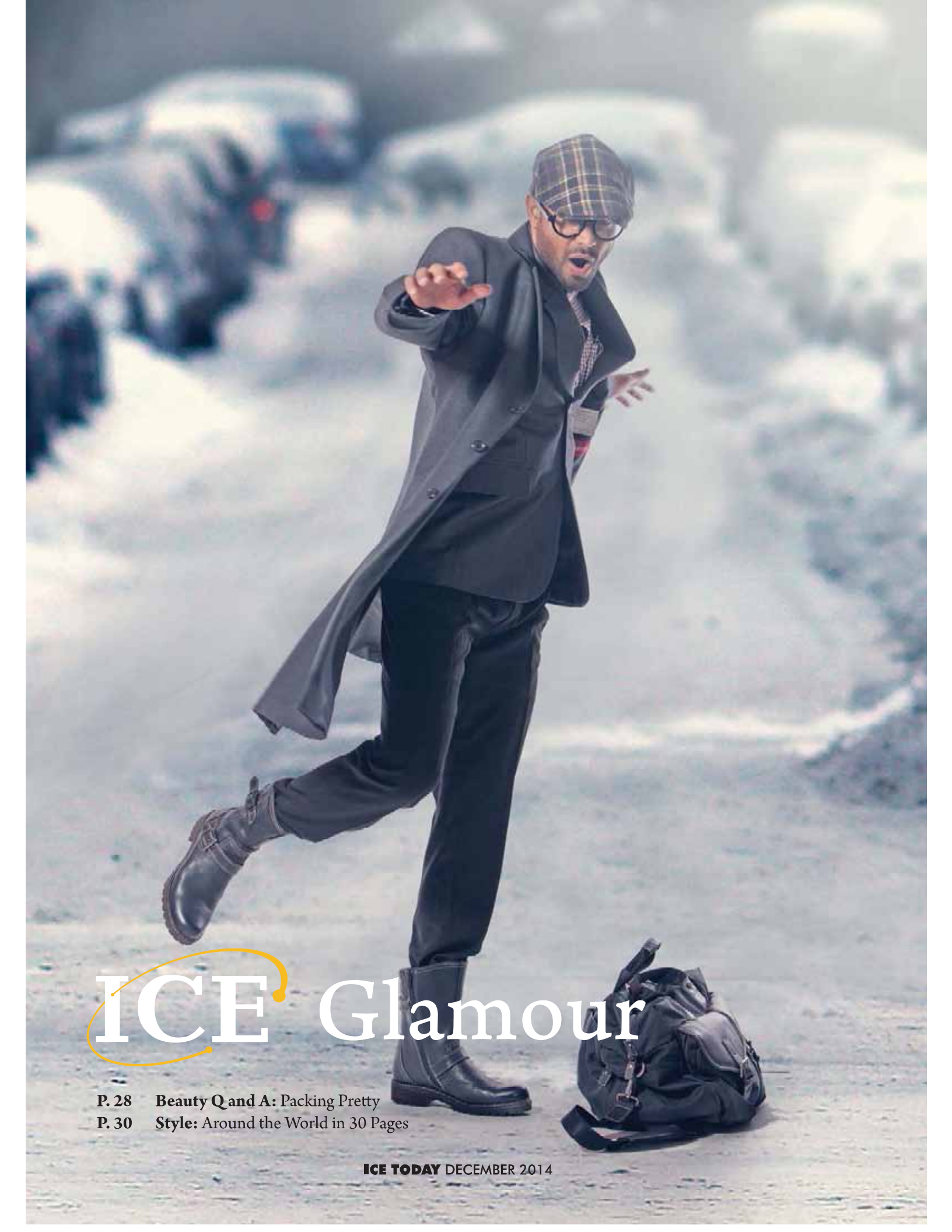
schizophrenia and intellectual disability genes also followed the same exon level pattern."

Mohammed's discoveries brought him recognition worldwide from the Discovery Channel to the cover of South Asian Focus, etc. He adds, "I always wanted to do something in Bangladesh but never could for different reasons. We, as a nation, need to grow aware. There are millions of autistic/intellectually disabled kids who we need to identify with and recognize their needs. They are not disabled, their ability is just beyond our narrow perception."

The next step for Mohammed would be functional characterization of these genes and use this property to infer the basis of human cognition. "I would love to use this model as a step forward to unravel the complexity of the human brain. This is a monumental task but I am sure it will lead to new, unexplored avenues."



Mohammed Uddin



# ICE Glamour

**P. 28** Beauty Q and A: Packing Pretty  
**P. 30** Style: Around the World in 30 Pages



# Packing Pretty

Fatima Faheem provides some beauty tips for when you travel

**D**riving out of town? Taking a train for a weekend getaway? Jetting halfway around the world? No matter what, travelling is fun albeit a little stressful. On top of that, it can get a little tricky since you cannot take every single beauty product perfectly placed in your dressing table. The following are some key tips to remember while travelling.

**Moisture to the max:** Make sure you apply sufficient moisturizer the night before flying out as airplane atmosphere is very dry. This will help increase hydration in your skin before it is exposed to the dehydrating effects.

**Keep your skin hydrated:** Travelling is fun, but it can take a toll on your skin. Remember, H<sub>2</sub>O is your best friend! Other than upping your fluid intake, there are several ways in which the skin can be kept hydrous. This includes face mists to sprinkling water on your face and of course hydrating masks. They are quite efficient and keeping the mask on for only 20-30 mins is enough.

**Forgo the foundation:** Foundation? Na-ah, too dry. Use tinted moisturizer. It more effectively prevents your skin from getting dehydrated. Use a blush stick to even out skin tone. After that, apply a little bit of powder to set the tinted moisturizer.

**Brighten up your eyes:** Do remember to grab your favourite white eye liner pencil in order to highlight the inner corner of your eyes. Also, line your lower lash line to make your eyes look less tired.

**Carry a Duo-shadow:** It doesn't



Photo: Mahmuda Tuli

matter what colour dress you've put on, just carry a duo eye shadow consisting of one dark shade and one light shade; preferably off-white and dark brown. Apply the light shade eye shadow to cover up your eyelid evenly. Next, use the darker shade to line eyes using a liner brush. This method is far easier and better than using a pencil or liquid eyeliner because the technique is more forgiving when it comes to making mistakes.

**Lift up your lashes:** You can use a mascara to lift up your lashes and make them look longer and fuller; however, it is not a very wise idea to apply mascara while travelling. The last thing you'd want to find is that the mascara has left a trail down to your cheeks after you took a little nap. Try an eye-lash curler instead to help you get fluttery eyelashes.

**A touch of lipstick:** It is preferable to carry less makeup and a lipstick can reduce the number of beauty products you're carrying by serving multiple purposes. Use a rosy coloured lipstick as a blusher too. Apply the lipstick on a brush, smile and apply on your cheeks.

After you're done with that, finish it off on your lips. If you want a darker shade, use a thin brush or the lipstick itself to apply another coat.

**Say NO to bright Nail polish:**

Avoid putting on brightly coloured nail polish when travelling. It chips too easily and leaves an unfinished look. It is better to apply a neutral, sheer colour that won't call for attention even if it does chip out.

**Beauty sleep:** If you're going to take a nap, make sure to dab some night cream around your eyes and wear a sleep mask. Both will help you look fresher and more relaxed after you wake up from your beauty sleep.

**Chill out puffy eyes:** Travelled a lot already? Guess what, here's a trick to reduce under-eye puffiness after a long trip. Put some crushed ice in a washcloth and apply it under the eyes. It's an automatic wake-up call that makes you look as well as feel fresher immediately.

Use wet tissues or cotton wipes to clean your brushes after use. While travelling, you might need some of

**it can get a little tricky since you cannot take every single beauty product perfectly placed in your dressing table'**

the following essentials, so make sure there is space for them in your makeup bag.

- Cotton buds and balls
- Sanitary items
- Tissue papers
- Body lotion

If you're travelling outside the country, make sure you bring your facial products along. Foreign products may be much more expensive and you may not find the type that you usually use. It is better to stick to one brand when it comes to facial products, because your skin might be allergic to certain contents in other products. However, as mentioned before, it is not also possible to bring over everything. Safe buys overseas usually includes body lotion, shower gels, soaps, talcum powders and fragrances.

In case you forget to take anything, don't panic. There's always a way and remember that almost all grooming items can serve multiple purposes. All you need to do is, think out of the box! Keep it simple but sophisticated. Look as if you deserve the vacation, not that you need one! ☺





# Around the World in 30 Pages

Who doesn't like to travel? Be it a relaxing resort vacation to neighbouring Thailand or an activity packed family trip to the States, holidays become heavenly when we leave the comfort of our homes and venture out to see the world. So, in the spirit of adventure hop in and journey through the world with us!



## Divas in Dubai

On Doyel: Linen dress

On Karishma: Tie-dyed top and box pleated skirt

Models: Karishma and Doyel  
Wardrobe: Armadio  
Makeup and hair: Farzana Shakil's  
Photos: Riyad Ashraf



On Doyel: Cotton, printed top with black fitted skirt

On Karishma: Polka-dotted palazzo with off-white full-sleeved shirt





On Doyel: Knee-length, black dress  
On Karishma: Full-sleeved red dress

## Road to Rajasthan



On Ruma: Blue dress  
On Zaib: Paisley printed scarf

Models: Ruma and Zaib  
Wardrobe: Noir  
Makeup and hair: Farzana Shakil's  
Photos: Riyad Ashraf





On Ruma: Red top  
On Zaib: Yellow and orange printed scarf





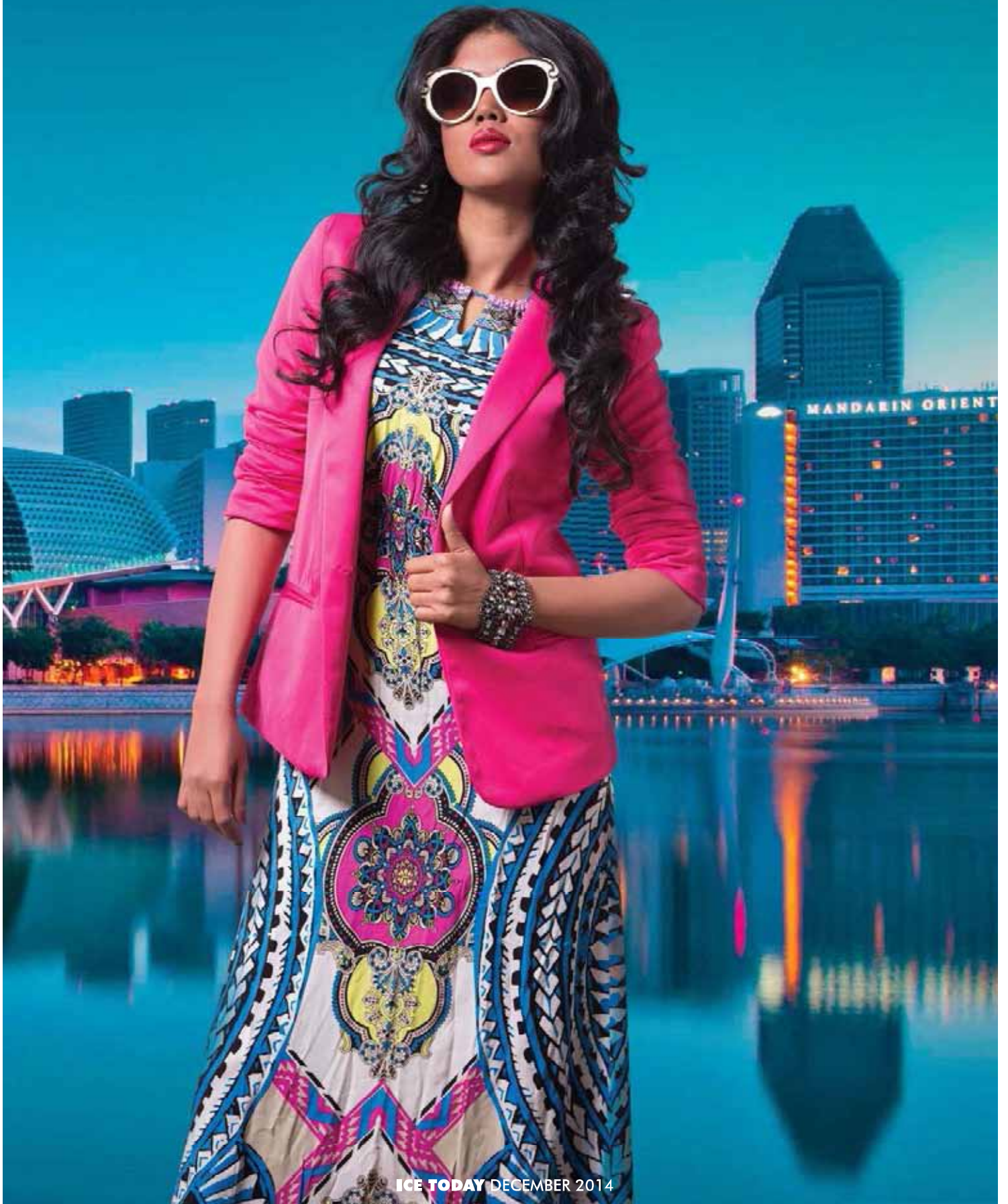
On Ruma: Printed, boat necked dress

On Zaib: Coral blue and peach prints on white scarf

## Always in Singapore

Bright, printed long dress with fuschia blazer

Model: Urmi  
Wardrobe: Sciccoso  
Makeup and hair: Farzana Shakil's  
Photos: Riyad Ashraf





Striped long dress with sky blue blazer





Geometric patterns on long dress with bright orange scarf

## Playful in Prague

On Xini: Yellow pullover with dark brown pants and printed scarf

On Raj: Gabardine pants, pale green shirt with red jacket

Models: Xini and Raj  
Wardrobe: Westecs  
Makeup and hair: Farzana Shakil's  
Photos: Riyad Ashraf







On Raj: Gray suit with a long overcoat





On Xini: Gray pants and white, printed shirt with a deep purple shrug

On Raj: Maroon gabardine pants, checked shirt and dark brown jacket



## Graceful in Giza

On Nahid: Leather jacket with black t-shirt

On Emily: Printed shirt and palazzo pants

Models: Emily and Nahid

Wardrobe: O2

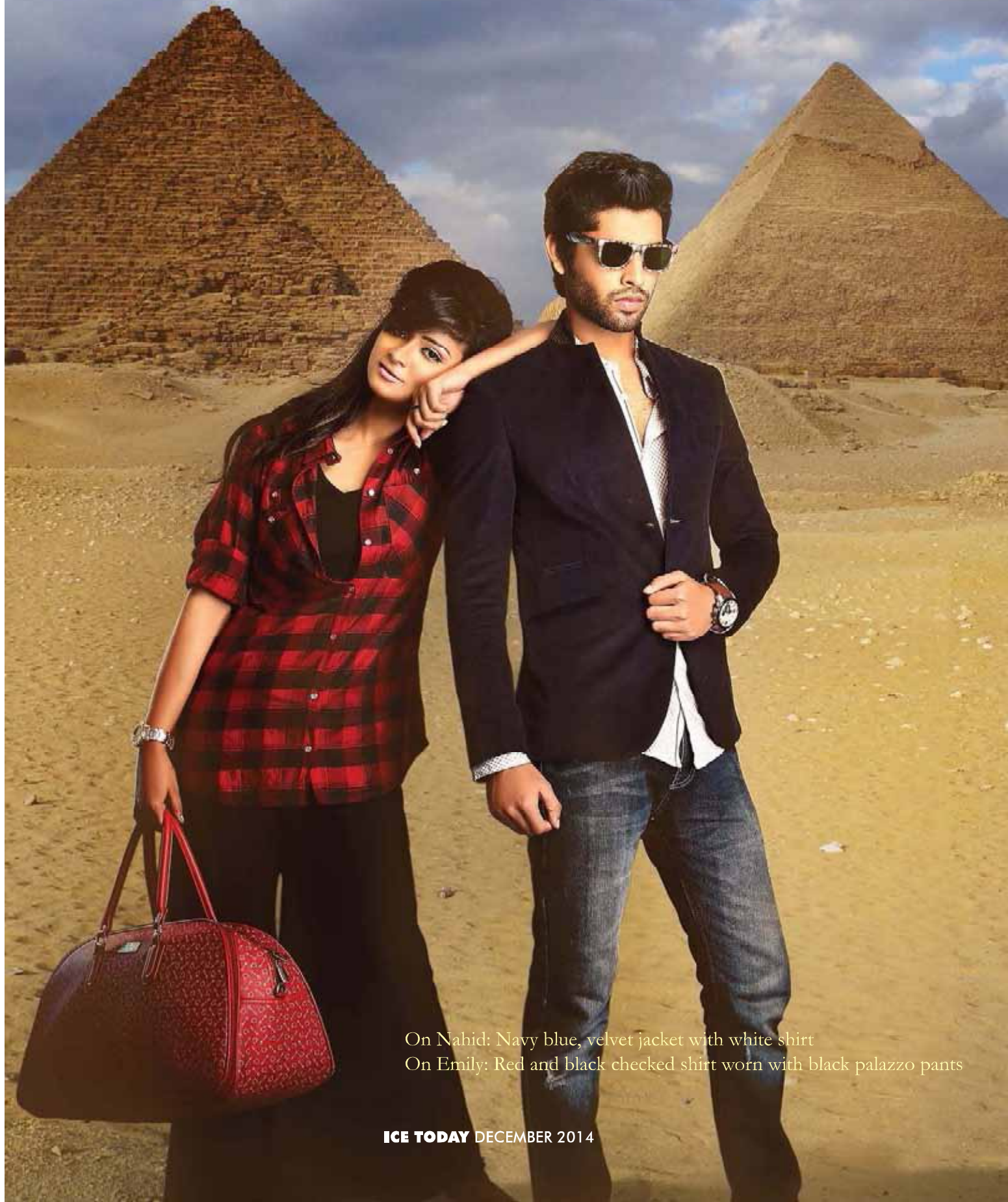
Makeup and hair: Farzana Shakil's

Photos: Topu Rehman



On Nahid: Leather jacket and maroon scarf

On Emily: Printed long dress



On Nahid: Navy blue, velvet jacket with white shirt

On Emily: Red and black checked shirt worn with black palazzo pants

## Never Bored in New York

On Azim: Full sleeved  
red polo shirt  
On Sabosti: Sleeveless  
red top and long,  
black skirt with a gray  
and black, woolen  
sweater

Models: Sabosti and Azim  
Wardrobe: Ecstasy  
Makeup and hair: Farzana Shakil's  
Photos: Topu Rehman







On Sabosti: Green jumpsuit

On Azim: White cotton shirt over a red t-shirt



On Sabosti: Sleeveless yellow top with black palazzo pants  
On Azim: Red t-shirt under black and red jacket



Photo: Saadul Islam

# ICE Cover Focus

- P. 64 **Photo Story:** Past Summer Nights' Dream
- P. 74 **Feature:** Losing Ourselves in Québec City
- P. 78 **Travel:** Travel Bites
- P. 80 **Cover Story:** Voicing the Vacation

# Past Summer Nights' Dreams

Sometimes we want to leave it all up to the road, letting it guide us forward. Saadul Islam's photographs capture a journey from the East to West of USA, with only one constant, a camera and the summer's sky.



**Saadul Islam** graduated in Professional Photography from Pathshala in the September of 2013. His work has been featured by international donor agencies such as USAid and Save the Children UK. He has also worked in remote areas of Bangladesh, documenting the different aspects of people, nature and disaster prone zones. Saadul is also a versatile and talented musician who has performed with prominent artists.





Empty balconies, fulfilled sunsets  
New Orleans, Louisiana, USA



Money, games or just blond locks?  
New Orleans, Louisiana, USA



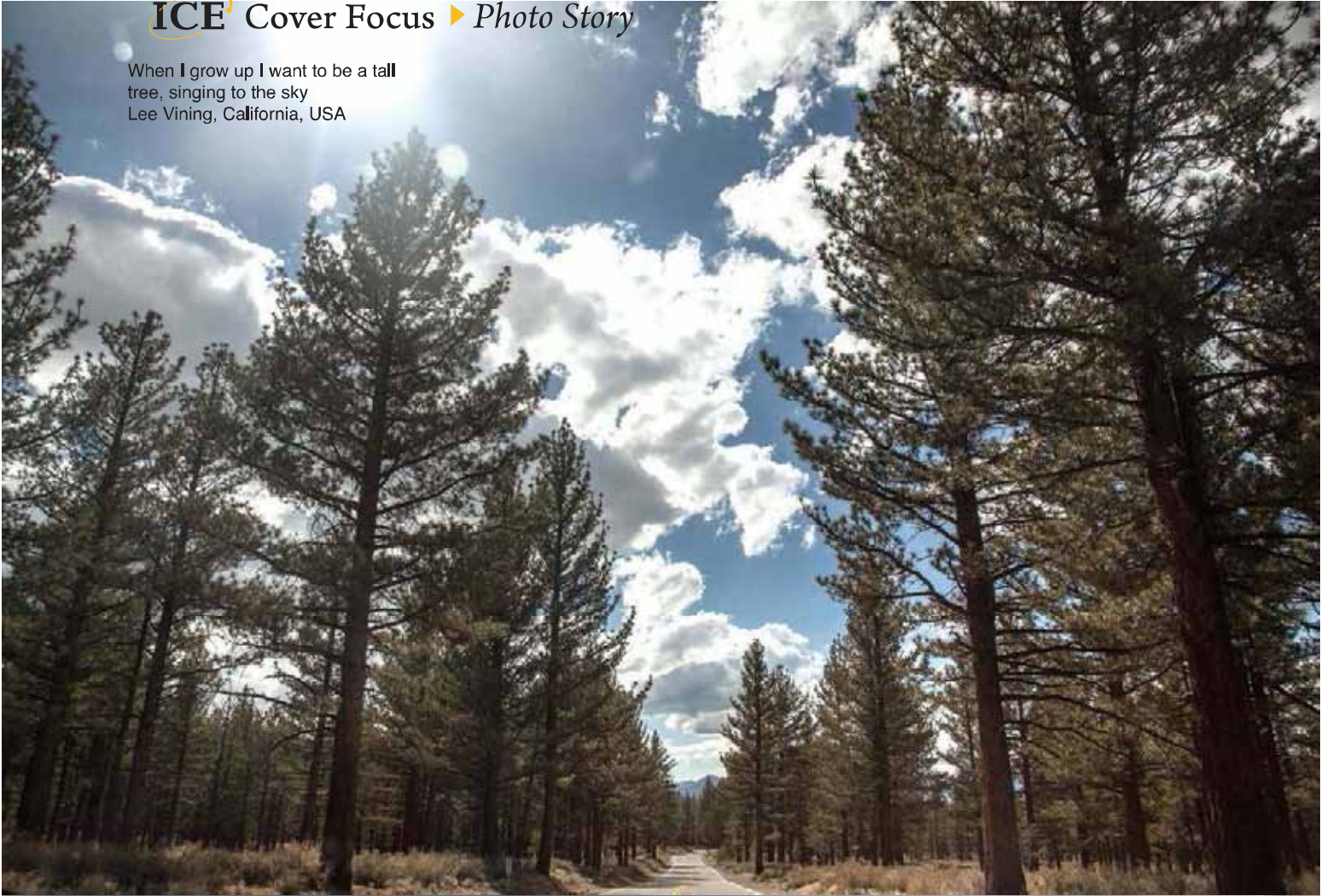
...but then again, some find shelter wherever they go...  
New Orleans, Louisiana, USA



And then he blew his horn  
New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

ICE Cover Focus ▶ Photo Story

When I grow up I want to be a tall  
tree, singing to the sky  
Lee Vining, California, USA



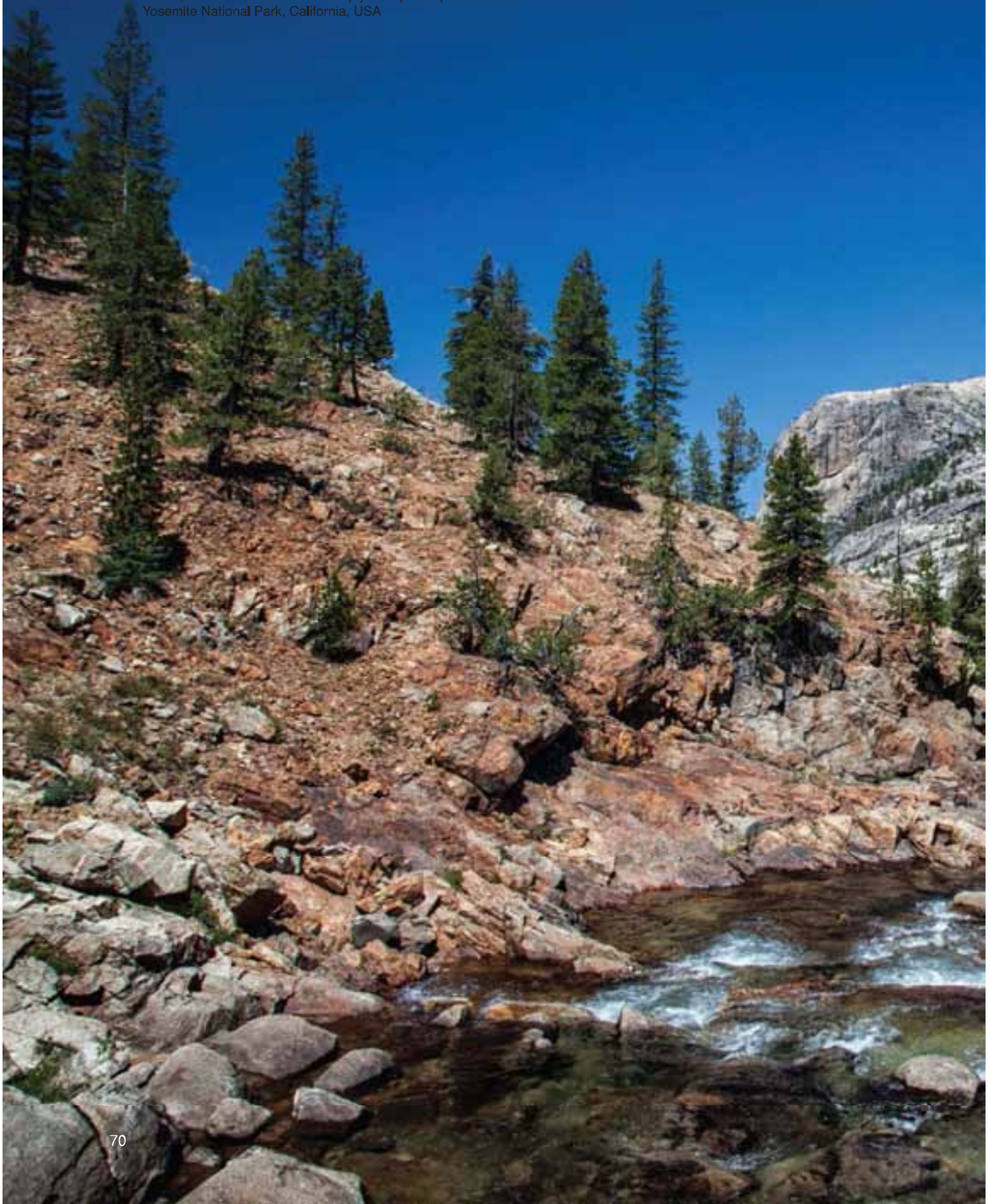
Deer bathing in the sunset  
Yosemite National Park, California, USA

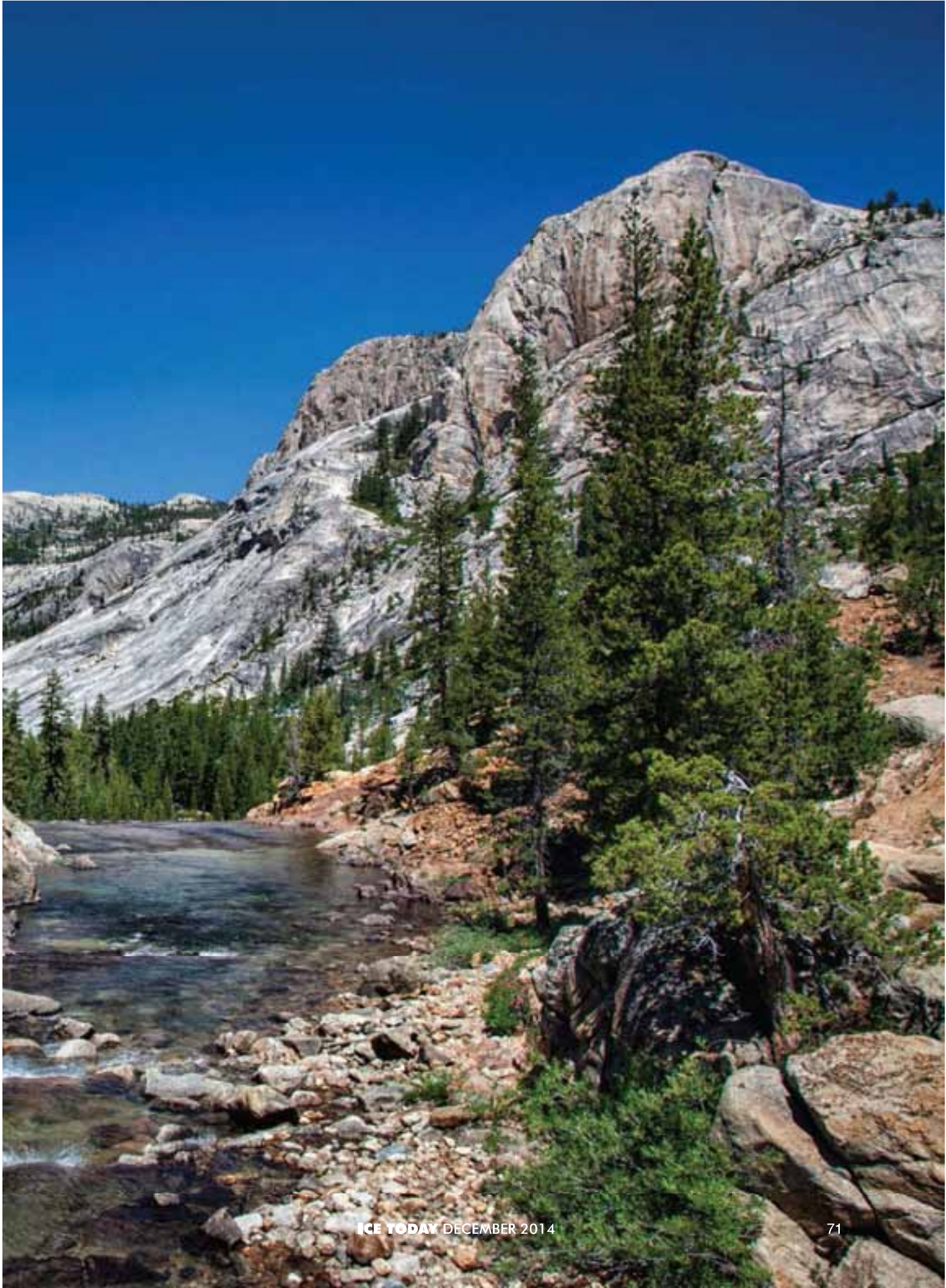


Conversations of clouds and hills, and the river in between  
Lee Vining, California, USA



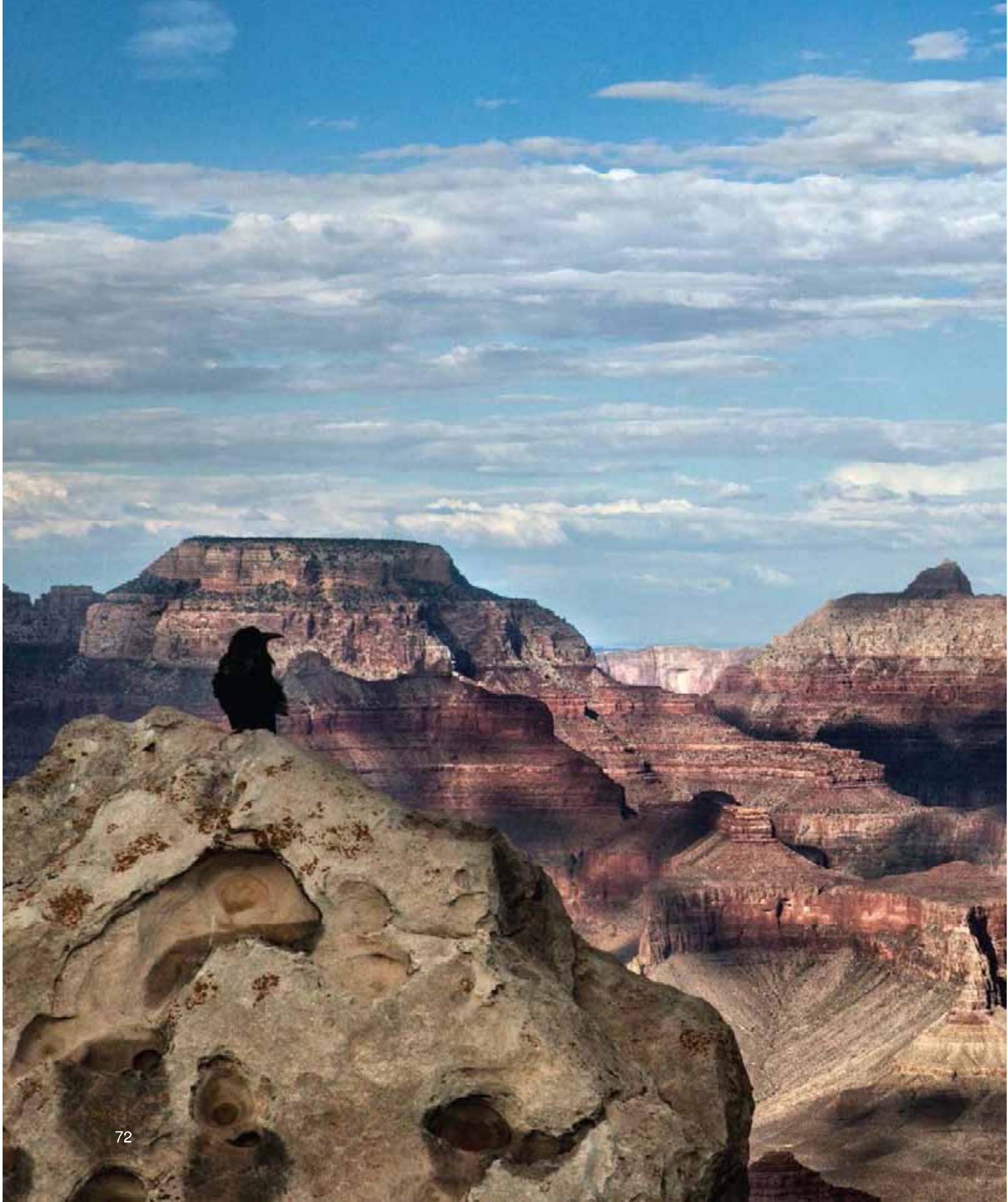
Rocks, creeks, mountains and the joy of unpaved paths  
Yosemite National Park, California, USA





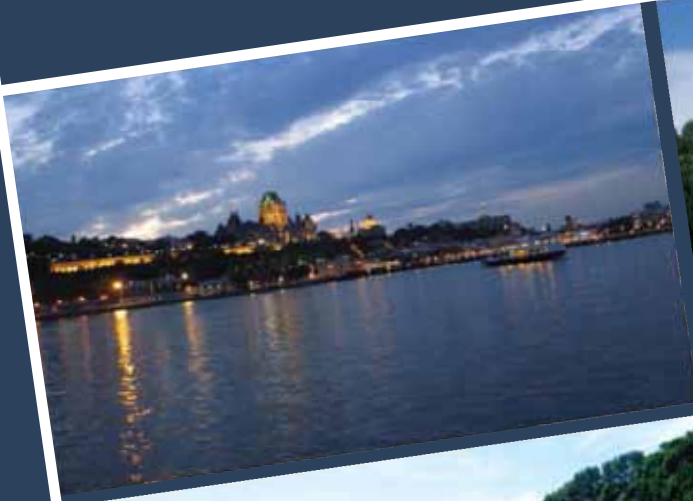
ICE Cover Focus ▶ *Photo Story*

The lone crow's moment of silence  
Grand Canyon, Arizona, USA



And the tree watched it all  
Grand Canyon, Arizona, USA





Sazia Sharmin visits one of the oldest European settlements in North America

Photos: Sazia Sharmin

# Losing Ourselves in Québec City

It was an epiphany on my tongue: a luscious sweetness balanced with the slightest hint of salt, topped with in-season strawberries that came aglow in the soft bistro lighting. In my ears was the melody of French musette accordion; in the air, the aroma of freshly brewed coffee. As I tasted the cheese pie at Le Petit Cochon Dingue on Boulevard Champlain, I was transported to Van Gogh's Café Terrace on that magical summer night. It's not France I went to; rather France had gone there four hundred years ago. Québec City is a historical site of contact between Europeans and the First Nations of Canada. Today, it is the heart of French Canada, the capital of the eponymous province and a UNESCO World Heritage site. The flight from Toronto is so short that it fools you into thinking why you didn't just drive. Yet, many of our friends who did do just that found the drive surprisingly long, having to deal with the traffic of both Toronto and Montreal en route. We, therefore, decided to take the delightfully short flight on a beautiful July day with our two and a half year old and six month old in tow. It was our first vacation as a family of four. We knew we needed the support of a good hotel. In Quebec City, choose none other than the iconic Fairmont Le Château Frontenac, renowned to be the most photographed hotel in the world. The hotel is a destination in itself. Over a hundred years old, it's painstakingly preserved and subtly renovated to bring the amenities up to date. It sits on a cliff by the St. Lawrence river with magnificent views from inside and out. What we loved most was the extras: milk and cookies for the kids before bedtime, free umbrellas when it rained and, mind you, not cheap plastic ones but elegant umbrellas with sturdy wooden handles. We even borrowed a good quality crib and a stroller for

the baby. Many tourists who don't stay at the hotel actually go to eat there and to take pictures, so the lobby was often crowded. To be honest, the crowds did not bother us much, possibly because we were constantly homesick for Dhaka. In fact, it made us feel festive. The beautiful boutiques and toy shop in the lobby and the open-air performances by acrobatic buskers right outside added to the joyful ambiance.

Even with a toddler in a stroller and a baby in a carrier, the cobblestone paths of Québec City are surprisingly easy to explore. We walked for hours without having to climb a single stair! Our hotel was in the Haute-Ville (Upper Town). To get to the Basse-Ville (Lower Town), we took the Funiculaire, a cable car that is designed to move up and down steep slopes. Nicely balanced by the car moving in the opposite direction, the view still gives you the chills, fearing

place is real! As we walked along the meandering paths of Petit Champlain, we embarked on a feast for the senses. Everywhere we looked, we were enchanted by art, crafts, music, food and drink, unique little boutiques with carefully curated accessories, scented candles and incense sticks for the home. There were benches at every corner welcoming us to take a moment to take it all in. The bright and bold primary colours on the Old World architecture give the place a fairy-tale character that lifts your heart. Never once did our toddler complain about being bored! Our baby was happy as a six-month old can be snuggled in the carrier, which we took turns to wear. Québec City is frequented by retirees who go on Atlantic cruises from the port. Many of them were very affectionate towards our young children and offered us much needed words of encouragement as a growing family.

## We did not have a single bad meal at any restaurant in Quebec

a free fall at any moment. Maybe because we got so spoiled by all the ramps, elevators and helpful strangers, one time we decided to climb down the L'Escalier Casse-Cou, the "breakneck" steps from the upper section of old Québec to the lower section. The experience was an anticlimax. We found no reason why anyone would break their necks on those steps. Then again, it was July. The sublime Canadian summer can make you forget how cold it is more than six months a year. Covered with treacherous January sleet or dampened by October rain, the same steps can become dangerous. Whether you take the Funiculaire or the Breakneck Steps, you arrive right into a riot of colour and the buzz of activity. Quartier Petit Champlain has the kind of European charm you find in postcards, but of course this

The Lower Town is also where the must-sees of the ancient Notre Dame des Victoires church and the Musée de la civilisation (Museum of Civilization) are. The difference between the early French settlers in Canada and their English adversaries was not only in the language, but also religion. French Canada was, and remains Catholic, whereas the English followed their own Anglican Church. The Notre Dame des Victoires is a stone church dating back to 1687. Its name refers to early French victories against the British army. We also visited the Plain of Abraham, where a pivotal battle in the Seven Years' War between the French and the British took place. Today, it is a peaceful vast green field with lovely play areas for children. The pieces of colonial history we kept on receiving during our trip reminded us of our own jagged

history of being colonized. The good food was certainly a big help to swallow it down. We did not have a single bad meal at any restaurant in Quebec. The breakfasts were gorgeous and the buffet at the hotel was luxurious and great value for money.

The third day into our trip, we decided to take a break from all the history and leave the old town for a trip to the Mega Parc. I know there are more amusement parks than the world really needs, but this one is exceptionally reasonably priced and accommodating to the youngest kids. We were able to safely ride several attractions with both kids. My toddler son had the time of his life and his first roller-coaster ride ever. The ice-skating rink was full of skaters even in July! The Parc is inside a major mall, so we did some touristy shopping. I was pleased to find unique children's clothing and accessories that were whimsical, colourful, and funny... perfect for Disney-detox. Quebec is no-doubt the hotbed of creativity in Canada where some of the best children's TV shows in the world hail from, such as Caillou and Toopy and Binoo. I have never seen Caillou stuffed toys or Toopy and Binoo t-shirts anywhere else!

Our other excursion outside of downtown took us to the Montmorency Falls at the mouth of the Montmorency River where it drops off into the Saint Lawrence River. Not far from the falls is the Îled'Orléans, one of the first parts of Canada to be colonized by the French. The tourism brochure described it as the "microcosm of traditional Quebec and as the birthplace of francophone people in North America." Note how the French are talked about, the literature exudes an oozing sense of pride and heritage. But who lived in Quebec before they came? What was here before Champlain built his habitation in 1608? It seems ironic that John Keats described human life

as "a poor Indian's sleep / While his boat hastens to the monstrous steep / Of Montmorency" because Quebec was an important site for the first Nations of Canada long before the French came. It's very difficult to find any traces of them in the old town. However, not far from downtown, there is Weandake, a Huron-Wendat reserve. For tourists, there is an interesting effort to reconstruct a traditional Huron village. Wendake hosts an active community of artisans and artists with many galleries and arts and crafts shops. We picked up some beautiful mushrooms carved from soft Oak wood. Another great source for local art to fit all budgets was the Rue du Tresor, literally Treasure Street not far from our hotel, a laneway where local artists display their work for sale without any pressure to buy.

Another must-do in Quebec City is the ferry to Lévis. We didn't have much time to explore the town, but we loved the wildflower meadow on the river bank. My son and I had a wonderful time chasing butterflies and dragonflies and getting to know the wildflowers: Hickory, Yarrow, Queen Anne's lace, Milkweed and many others we didn't know. On our way back, the Château was breathtaking against the indigo sky. We walked into our hotel room with a renewed sense of awe that we really are staying in a castle!

If you envision North America as the land of junk food, big-box stores, identical shopping malls and endless suburban houses, Quebec City will pleasantly surprise you. Chockablock with chic storefronts displaying one-of-a-kind items, unique local eateries, independent cafes with decadent pastries, you just can't get enough of this city. It's not only the home of the old France in Canada, but also the multi-ethnic new France, with immigrants settling in from all parts of the francophone world: Algeria, Lebanon, Haiti, Vietnam, Chad. On weekends, some

of the major streets of the old town are closed off to car traffic and there is a river of people from all over the world flowing through the city. While we were sometimes a bit unsettled by the excess of colonial pride, we got over it as we lost ourselves in the crowd. ☑



# Travel Bites

Tassafy Hossain reminisces about her exotic trips abroad



Photo: Internet

## Ho Chi Minh: A city of relics

Vietnam tends to remind me of the war. I guess I can blame it on the Hollywood movies I watched as a kid. My Ho Chi Minh itinerary included two major topics – war monuments and food.

To kick off our Vietnam adventures, we decided that trying out snake meat will be a perfect start. After some google searches we decided not to creep ourselves out by going to the snake alley. Instead, we decided to locate a street side restaurant which serves snake. Since snake was not on their menu, it was quite a task to explain what we wanted using hissing sounds and making gestures to show a snake head with our hands. We were almost ready to give up when a local client at the next table came to our aid. He

helped us choose a regular non-poisonous local snake and ordered it to be cooked in two different styles – minced meat to have with the crunchy pancakes and as soup. The minced meat is recommended if you are adventurous when comes to food.

The next days were spent walking and motorcycling around the city – the Reunification or Independence Palace is an interesting stop to get a picture of the South Vietnamese regime of the early 1970s. It was the site which marks the end of the Vietnam War during the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, when a North Vietnamese Army tank crashed through its gates. The War Remnants Museum was again another collection of war relics, but the best part of it would have to be the photography collection. I found the place fascinating – a showcase

of how wars can tear down all sense of humanity. The highlight of our trip was the day trip to the Cu Chi tunnels. The forested area was beautiful and the tunnel system used by the Viet Cong simply left me enthralled. It makes you realize how passion can fuel any society to thrive and find the power to defeat any force. The Cho Benh Thanh market and the Saigon Tax Center, as recommended by the locals and internet searches, turned out to be the best places for getting a mix of local tourist and interesting items ranging from clothes and handicrafts to regular household items. Try to get yourself the áo dài, the traditional women’s wear of Vietnam. The local shops cater to different sizes and looks, though a little bargaining is required.

Ho Chi Minh should be a

must on anyone’s travel bucket list. The city is beautiful and easy to roam around in. You will find yourself lost in its history through all the remnants that can be found scattered around.

### Some things to note:

- ▶ Try the iced Vietnamese style coffee – it is strong and sweet, and a perfect drink to wake you up.
- ▶ Motorcycles are one of the major transports around the city; you can use them to get around very easily, but also keep in mind that there are many zooming around making it a bit difficult for pedestrians.
- ▶ You can negotiate anything anywhere, but the female shopkeepers drive a harder bargain.
- ▶ Credit cards are not accepted everywhere, so keep cash handy. The currency gets tricky to account for since 1 USD is around 20,000 Vietnamese Dong.

To kick off our Vietnam adventures, we decided that trying out snake meat will be a perfect start



Photo: Taseefy Hossain

### Myanmar: Of lungis and beaches

In need of a quick relaxing break from my crazy schedule, I decided that I will start ticking off places to visit around Asia from my list. After looking at the easiest visa options, flight schedules and budget, I decided to take off for a week to our mysterious neighbour – Myanmar. Having heard all the different “experiences” from others, ranging from it being an underdeveloped, unexciting city with poor cuisine to an exciting, beautiful country with fabulous food, I really did not know what to expect. First note: if you thought lungis can never look formal or stylish, be prepared for the shock of your life! From the time we landed in Yangon, Myanmar was a land for reminiscing and thrills. Much of Yangon reminded me of the Dhaka from my

childhood – similar roadside footpaths, tall green trees lining the shaded roads, the absence of crazy traffic jams, and the earthy toned buildings with the grilled windows. There were sudden bursts of golden pagodas sticking out from among the cityscape. There were so many of them that you could spend days just visiting the beautiful pagodas. Instead, I spent my days walking around Yangon. I started from the Central Railway Station towards the Aung San Sports Ground Stadium and all the way towards the bank of Yangon River on Strand Road. We passed through what seemed like a commercial area of Yangon, just taking in the view of the old colourful buildings and busy working people. In the hot summer sun, we took a short break to have lemonade. We sat on low plastic chairs which seemed to be the norm for the roadside food

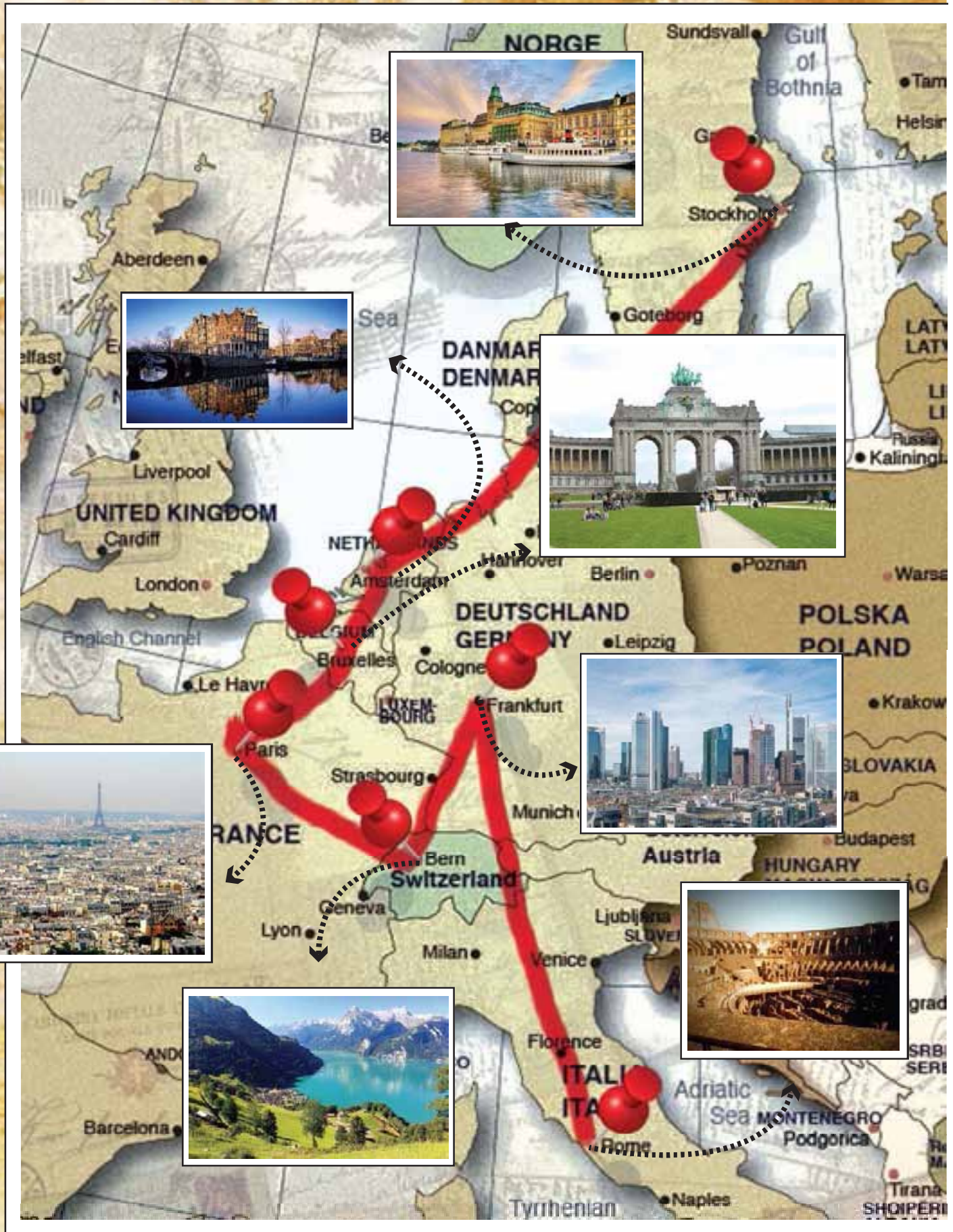
places. The day ended with a ride on a cycle rickshaw. Yangon has a great mix of old and new with different areas of the city encompassing different lifestyles. Bogyoke Aung Sun Market makes for a worthwhile visit if you are looking for local artifacts, lungis and paintings. A whole section is dedicated to precious and semi-precious stones and gems. The parks can be a relaxing outing where you can have leisure walks or eat out at the restaurants located there. The Yangon nightlife culture is an experience that consists of bars and cafes with live music – my favourite was the 50th Street Bar. There are also clubs that you can venture out to for a night of dancing. There’s also a big expat culture in Yangon, if you are looking to find English-speaking places to hang out at, check Facebook for recommendations. After two days in Yangon, we headed out towards the Bay of Bengal, the Ngwe Saung beach. The resort was green, with small cottages leading right on to the sandy beach. Ngwe Saung is a beautiful stretch of white sandy beach with gorgeous blue water. The best part is that the beaches were empty. You

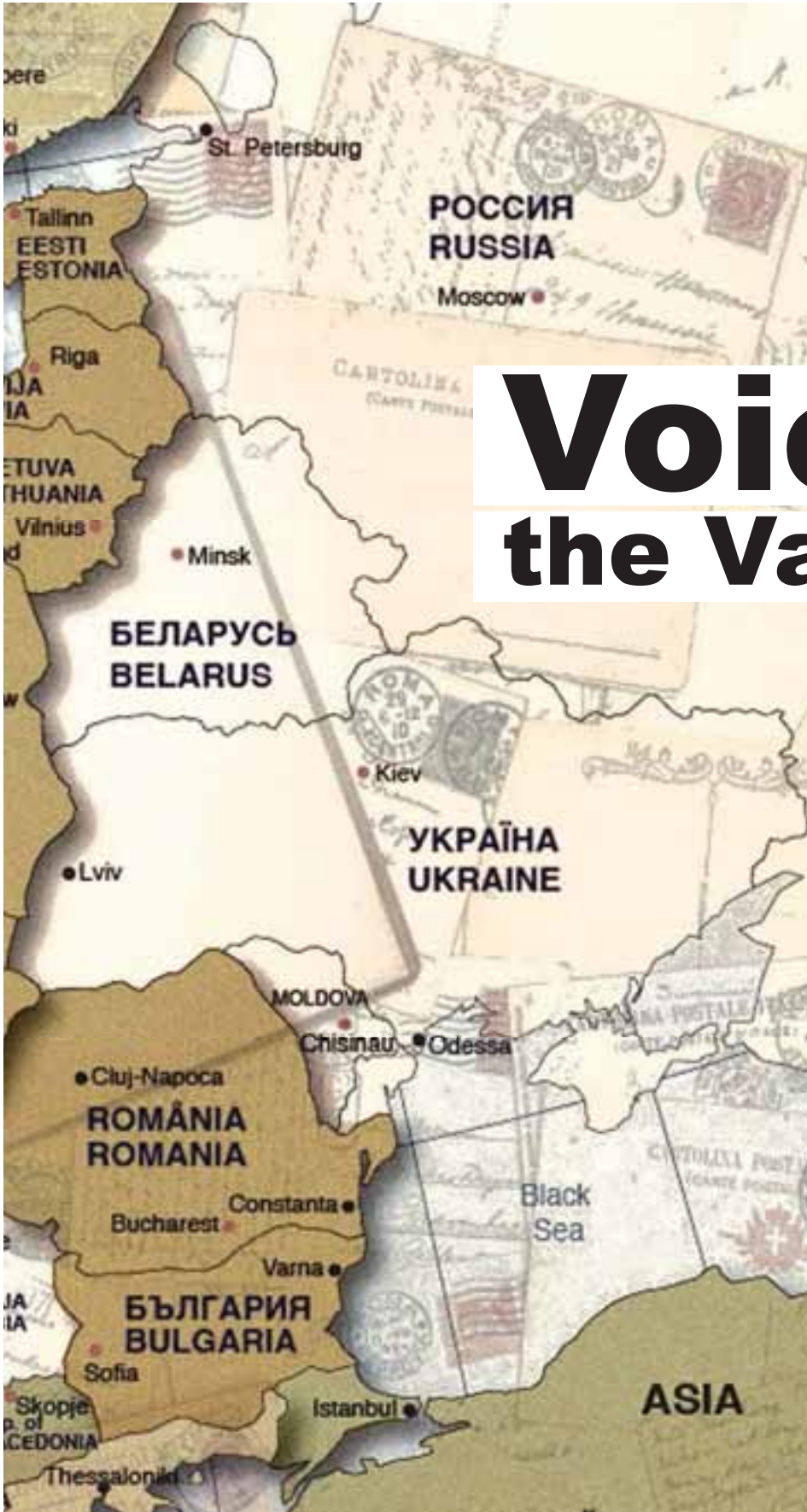
could walk, bathe and nap by the beachside. The resort also served food on the beach under coconut leaf canopies. If you need time off to relax and rejuvenate then this beach is definitely the place to head out to. Different resorts line the stretch but this is not one of the most visited places. The main street of local food places is a short walk from the beach and there are motorbike taxis going up and down all the time. The resorts are beautiful with a range of styles, looks and prices. The internet is not the best in the area so you might be cut off from 24/7 updates of the world and your workplace. This helped me to relax more and spend three days just swimming, sleeping and enjoying the fabulous local food. Oh, and the Burmese massage helped too. ☺

#### Points to Note:

- ❏ Most of the service personnel in Myanmar do not speak English, so buying tickets at the local bus and railway stations is quite a feat.
- ❏ Feel free to ask your hotel to get interpreters, especially to help you sort out logistics issues.
- ❏ Credit cards are not usable in most places, so make sure you have cash.

The resorts are beautiful with a range of styles, looks and prices





# Voicing the Vacation

The land of knights, gladiators, Vikings, Heracles, Thor, Harry Potter and the infamous Count of Dracul himself, Europe is the epitome of art and culture.

Some of the oldest civilisations originated in Europe - the Romans, the Anglo-Saxons, the Greek and the Normans as well as others.

Pop culture and historical references aside, the continent is home to some of the most beautiful countries in the world. In next few pages Mehrin Chowdhury tells you about the significant places to visit as she describes her travels through Europe



## Rome, Italy

Every history enthusiast must visit Rome at least once in their lives. The entire city is basically a museum. Every tourist visiting Rome must visit the Colosseum first, the place where legendary gladiators entertained the spectators with their lives on stake. The Colosseum may be in ruins today but the opulence still holds. It's amazing to see how complicated the structures are and how the architects and masons of yesteryears created such a grand construction with their bare hands. What's more amazing is that Rome frequently suffered from serious massive earthquakes but the structures are so strong that they held up.

Beside the Colosseum is the Palantine Hill. History tells us that Romeulus and Remus founded Rome on these hills. Then there is the Roman Forum, a rectangular forum surrounded by the ruins of several important ancient government buildings at the center of the city.

A visit to Rome means a visit to the Vatican City as well. It is better to go with a tour guide since they can tell the stories and history in details which makes it more interesting. If you are lucky enough you may get to see the Pope within the walled enclave.

There are many other tourist attractions like the Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps, the Pantheon, etc. It will take almost three days to visit all of these historical places. If you become too tired take a day off and visit the Island of Capri. It's a four hour train ride from the city of Rome and you can also get back on the same day but it is advised that you stay for one night. The scenic blue waters and the amazing view of the city will definitely inspire you to fall in love once again.

A visit to Venice (Venezia) from Rome is also advised. It takes around six hours by Eurorail. The entire city of Venice is sited on a group of one hundred and eighteen small islands separated by canals and linked by bridges. Lots of ballads and romantic stories have been contrived by famous writers keeping the beauty of Venice in mind. A boat ride in the canals is a must for the visitors, the Waterfront palazzos, palaces, and churches make drifting down the Grand Canal feel like cruising through a painting.



### Travel Tips

- Try out the **local** food, Pizza, Pasta, Fritti, Carbonarra, Gelatto
- Always keep an eye on your **belongings**. Keep important documents like passports and tickets back at safety deposit boxes in the hotel.

## Frankfurt, Germany

Germany is a country of fast cars and big dogs. There is a guaranteed chance that you'll meet a huge German shepherd when walking down the roads. Germans are fun-loving people, they like to have a good time. The fast food culture in Germany is phenomenal with some of the best tasting hamburgers in the world. Fun fact – hamburgers got their name from the German city, Hamburg.

Frankfurt, also known as Frankfurt am Main, is the fifth-largest city in Germany and the largest financial centre in continental Europe, ranking among the world's leading financial centers. It is home to the European Central Bank, Deutsche Bundesbank, Frankfurt Stock Exchange and several large commercial banks. During the Global Financial Crisis all of Europe got affected badly, however, Germany is still putting up a fight and helping Europe as a whole to slowly recover. Frankfurt is a major air, rail and highway transport hub as well. There is not a place in Europe you cannot go to from the Eurorail Frankfurt Central Station. The Deutsche Bahn, the German National Railway with its three hundred and forty two ICE or Inter City Express trains travels to all European destinations daily. Moreover, Frankfurt Airport is one of the world's busiest international airports, second to Heathrow in London. Messe Frankfurt is one of the world's largest trade fair companies while the Frankfurt Motor Show is the world's largest exhibition of motor vehicles. Germany also hosts the largest book fair in the world, Frankfurt Book Fair. Essentially if you want to check out the booming economy of Europe you need to visit this place. Furthermore, if you have any international conferences there is a high chance it will be stationed in Frankfurt.

Being the Financial Capital of Europe Frankfurt offers views of high rise buildings along the banks of the river main. Sometimes this area is called the “Main- Hattan” of Europe. Besides the skyscrapers, visitors can visit the churches, the museums and road side taverns.



### Travel Tips

- Visit the Romerberg (Roman Mountain), the historic heart of Frankfurt and its City Hall to get an intimate feel of the city and its history.
- Visit the Shopping Street amongst a bustling pedestrian zone. The street offers everything from chic boutiques to international departmental chains.





## Interlaken, Switzerland

Authors of old who wrote of heaven must have used Interlaken as a prime reference. There are crystal clear lakes everywhere that complement the blue sky with green mountains as the backdrop which turns white in the winter. Waterfalls can be seen from a distance, picturesque summer houses with horses in the backyard, flowers of almost all colors and shapes, mysterious birds flying at the base of the mountains. The only downside is that it is extremely expensive and may not be an ideal place for backpackers or anyone looking for a budget trip within Europe. It is only fair that paradise comes with a cost.

Interlaken is squeaky clean, with green almost everywhere. It is the best place to travel to with family. If anyone is looking for a place to party this is not their destination. However, for adrenaline junkies this is the right place to be. Interlaken, Switzerland provides the best paragliding experience with the most scenic places to see. There are facilities that provide services including bungee jumping, sky-diving, skiing in winter, kayaking, horse-riding, etc.

For the faint-hearted, who are not into jumping off cliffs, they can try to go up the Swiss Alps via the train, one of the safest modes of travel. This is a 'must-do' activity and highly recommended for all ages. At the top of the Jungfrau, the tallest peak of the mountain, also known as the Top of Europe, there are many activities for all kinds of tourists of all age. For those who are not so keen on doing activities they can simply relax and sit in one of the many restaurants at the peak of the mountain and sip a cup of tea, marveling at the view of the Alps. For those who love shopping, this is a nice place to spoil themselves with Swiss Watches, Knives and Chocolates.



### Travel Tips

- Shopping is cheaper at the base of the mountain compared to the peak.
- Must buy Lindt Chocolate bars or visit the chocolate factory in the city – Yummm
- If you go to Interlaken stay at Neuhaus since it is just besides the Lake and the view is exquisite. Pre-book at least two to three months ahead to get the best price.

## Paris, France

When my Eurorail pass helped me reach the city of my dreams I was a bit surprised.. I was expecting glitz and glamour every step of the way. Instead Paris Gare-du-Nord seemed very grimy, smelled repulsive and signs of vomit were present almost everywhere. The nauseating atmosphere of the subways can break almost any tourist's heart but it can be mended by a visit to the Eiffel Tower at night when the light shows are on.

I visited the Eiffel Tower in the afternoon and stood in a massive line in order to get to the top. When I reached the top it was already evening and the sun was setting. The view from the peak was exceedingly beautiful. The entire city of Paris was aglow and the structures of the Louvre and the Notre Dame Cathedral looked like perfect miniatures from above. There is also a spot on the second floor where friends and couples can buy champagne and make a toast to long life and love.

Louvre is an obvious visit for all tourists. The place may seem slightly eerie for Dan Brown fans and those who are at odds with the illuminati concept. The Mona Lisa is a very small painting that is covered by glass and very hard to see especially with the constant crowd gathered in front of it. The Islamic, the Ancient Greek and the Egyptian sections are worth a visit. Most of the statues there are stark naked so it may be slightly embarrassing if you have kids accompanying you.

The other must visit places in Paris are the Moulin Rouge in Montmartre, Norte Dame Cathedral, Champs Elysees, and Disneyland Paris.



### Travel Tips

- Try the **local** cuisine, it is **delicious**.
- Visit **Eiffel Tower** at Night
- Most taxi drivers do not understand **English**, so it is better if you are **slightly** conversant in **French** or have your destination address written on a piece of paper by a **local** citizen.
- Try to stay in the **Disneyland** resorts if you are visiting the place because it is **impossible** to cover in a single day





## Brussels, Belgium

Brussels, the capital of Belgium is a dreamland full of waffles, chocolates and syrupy goodness.

The Grand Place and the Mannekin Pis, in Brussels city centre, are prominent tourist attractions. The Grand Place is an old market square that sits at the very heart of the old city. Ringed by a series of guildhalls and an impressive town hall, it represents the Brussels that is printed on postcards and travel adverts. The Grand Place market square houses famous designer brands and innumerable chocolate shops. The options are endless for the visitors walking down the market square and the simple task of choosing becomes difficult. One quick suggestion is to go for a famous brand like Godiva or Lindt. Nonetheless, if one feels adventurous enough then they have a wide variety of flavors to pick from like chocolates dipped in coconut milk or the mango essence chocolate truffle.

Belgium is also famous for beer. For every German who claims that beer is their “thing”, there is a Belgian who will disagree and win with pride and proof. Just a short distance away is the iconic fountain Mannekin Pis. Legend has it that there was a time when Brussels was under siege, and enemy troops had planted dynamite to blow an opening in the city wall. A clever little boy saw this and proceeded to urinate on the fuse, thus saving the city from capture. The people of Brussels erected a statue in his memory. Tourists can buy miniatures of the fountain made of chocolate from souvenir shops near the Grand Place.



### Travel Tips

- Try the delicious chocolate biscuits; these can also be good gifts to take back for family and friends at home.
- Visit Tintin Street and the Tintin museum. If you're a collector this is your chance to indulge!
- Best place to shop in Brussels is the Rue Nueve.
- Bruges or 'Mini Venice' is a must visit and takes up to forty minutes to travel from Brussels.
- Pamper yourself with Belgium Waffles at the Haagen-Dazs cafes.

## Amsterdam, Netherlands

If anyone asks young travellers what their favourite spot in Europe is, eight out of ten would reply Amsterdam. Where else would it be?

Truth is most young people have an unexplainable connection with Amsterdam. The people are liberal-minded and progressive. They love eating out and riding their bikes even in the chilly autumn weather. Everyone rides a bike including people wearing three piece suits, probably to burn off all the extra calories gained from devouring delicious pancakes.

Amsterdam is well known for its tolerance regarding marijuana. It is a misconception though, that pot is legal – it technically isn't. Marijuana, however, is allowed for individual uses and sold at coffee shops in modest amounts.

Besides letting visitors get high 'legally', Amsterdam sports scenic canals that flow throughout the city ideal for young couples looking for a romantic getaway. For the ones looking for loud music to dance to, Amsterdam is party paradise, second only to Bangkok and sometimes, because of its reputation, it has been dubbed as the 'Sin City'. Anyone who has been there on a Saturday night will most definitely vouch for the nickname!



### Travel Tips

- Try local coffee, pancakes, and fries with spicy mayo at the numerous hangout joints on the streets.
- If you decide to party all night, try to be with close friends or associates rather than with strangers.
- Enjoy a boat ride with your better half.
- Have expert hands draw a portrait of you at the Square or visit the Van Gogh Museum.





Photos: Internet

## Stockholm, Sweden

Stockholm is the capital of the ancestral land of the Vikings. The best thing to do in Stockholm is to visit the old town and walk past the old roads giving way to many local shops. Reindeer skin and crystals are the most popular purchases by the tourists.

Close to Sweden are Norway and Finland, while Norway can be travelled to by bus or train, reaching Finland will require a ship. The cruise offered at Stockholm to go to Helsinki include a twenty-four hour option, a twelve hour option and a two days stay-at-the-destination option. The cruises are all first class with great facilities on board, separate supervised playrooms for infants, toddlers, pre-teens, teenagers, etc. There are casinos, conference halls, swimming pools, amphitheatres, shopping malls, innumerable restaurants of different themes.

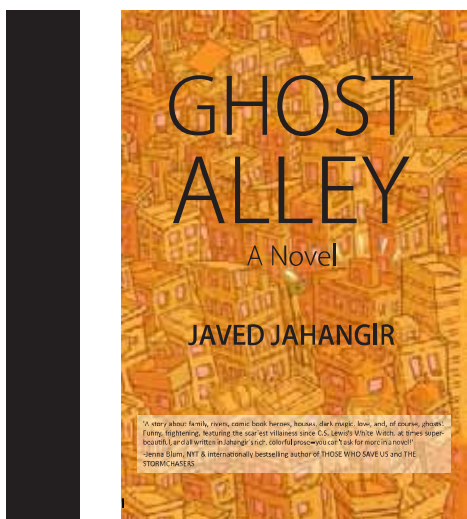
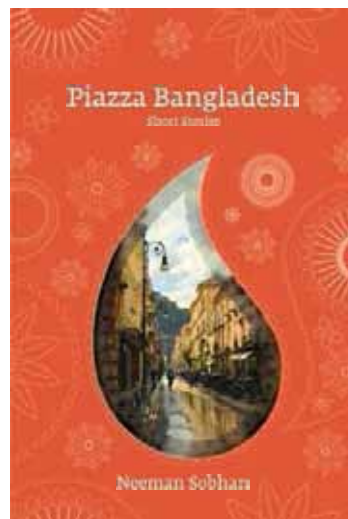
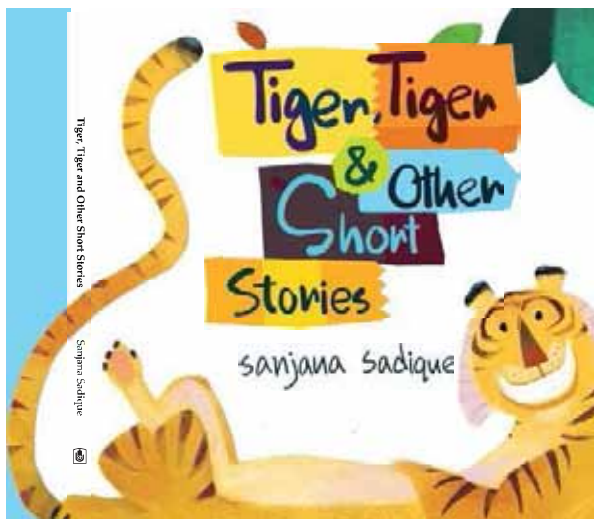
The King's Palace is a beautiful place with a maze of shrubs in the front yard and stately king's guards. Taking selfies with these guards are allowed, although one must not expect them to grin with you! Another amazing experience in Stockholm besides the green, the cruise, and visit to the City Hall or the King's Palace would be to get a ride on the hot air balloons and see the entire city at once. You can even pack a lunch and have a date with your partner on one of these beautiful rides.<sup>[1]</sup>



### Travel Tips

- Buy some Asterisk and Obelisk / Viking comic books
- Get a tour guided tour within the City Hall to know all the details about the Noble Prize

# ICE Your Space



- P. 92 **Recipes:** Feasting on the Fest
- P. 100 **Review:** Livin' It Up
- P. 102 **Feature:** Ink on Paper
- P. 104 **Entertainment:** Tales of a Gutsy Ninja
- P. 106 **The Creative Nook:** Telling Stories

# Feasting on the Fest

Bengal Classical Music Festival returns for the third time and it's bigger than ever! This all-night event will host many prominent restaurants and cafes for you to feast on. *ICE Today* features recipes from five such places for you to try at home





## Mezbani Beef by Chittagong Express

### Ingredients:

40 kg Beef, consisting of meat from all parts of the cow  
 5 kg Onion  
 ½ kg Garlic  
 450 g Chilli  
 200 g Turmeric  
 150 g Cumin  
 200 g Coriander

70 g Mixed Masala  
 400 g Salt  
 ½ a Coconut  
 20 g Mustard  
 1 kg Cooking oil  
 A hand full of Mace, Nutmeg, Cardamom, Cinnamon, Pepper  
 20 g Radhuni (wild celery)

### Preparation:

Mix all the ingredients except mace, nutmeg, cardamom, cinnamon, pepper and radhuni with the beef in a big pot and leave to marinade. Fry the onions in the cooking oil before adding the marinated beef. Once it becomes dry, add water and cook until the meat is tender. Then, add the spices that were set aside and let the meat simmer in low heat for fifteen minutes.



## Chicken Chaap by Chaap Station

### Ingredients:

4 pieces of Chicken  
2 tbsp Kabab masala  
2 tbsp Ginger paste  
2 tbsp Garlic paste  
2 tbsp Red chilli powder  
½ cup Mustard oil  
Gram flour

### Preparation:

Slice the pieces of chicken to make them thinner so that it marinades better. Beat the chicken with a wooden hammer. Mix all the ingredients with the chicken and leave it to marinate for at least one hour. Coat the marinated chicken with gram flour before frying on a pan for four to five minutes. Serve with green chilli chutney and paratha.



## Pasta with White Sauce by AJO

### Ingredients:

125 g Penne pasta  
50 g Chicken, cubed

### For White Sauce:

25 g Brown flour  
7.5 ml Butter  
3 ml Salt  
2 ml Sugar  
5 ml Dano cream  
60 ml Milk, liquid  
Oregano

### Preparation:

Boil the pasta. Fry in butter for two minutes. Boil the milk and add the rest of the sauce ingredients. Stir as the sauce simmers slowly in order to thicken it. Once the sauce is consistent, pour it over the pasta and sprinkle a pinch of the oregano before serving.



## Chicken Jhal Fry by **Bengal Cafe**

### Ingredients:

½ kg Chicken, chopped	
10 g Garlic	
20 g Ginger	100 g Cooking oil
20 g Peanuts	100 g Tomato, sliced
½ tsp Mixed masala	10 g Fenugreek powder
20 g Dry red chilli	(methi gura)
100 g Sour yoghurt	Salt to taste

### Preparation:

Marinate the chicken with salt, ginger, garlic, peanuts, mixed masala and yoghurt for 10-15 minutes. Boil the marinated chicken for ten minutes then set aside. Heat the cooking oil and add the fenugreek powder. When the oil is hot, add the chicken along with the rest of the ingredients. Stir fry for four to six minutes before serving.



## Nasi Goreng by Amari

<b>Ingredients:</b>	100 g Soy sauce
600 g Chinigura rice	10 ml Sesame oil
100 g Corn oil	100 ml Dark soy sauce
30 g Garlic, chopped	Salt and pepper for taste
40 g Onion, chopped	200 g Tiger prawn
50 g Spring onion	100 g Prawn crackers
200 g Seafood	150 ml Garlic Chili Sauce
200 g Seasonal vegetables, diced	

### Preparation

Rice has to be cooked to about 75%, it should be firm and not tender. Sauté the chopped onion and garlic then fry until light brown. Sauté the seafood for ten minutes before removing from the frying pan. Sauté the prawn for six minutes. Blanch the vegetables. Boil the rice, seafood, blanched vegetables and soy sauce all mixed together in a saucepan for ten minutes. Place on a serving platter then season with the spring onions and sautéed prawn. Serve with the garlic chilli sauce and fried prawn crackers.



Photos: Amari, Dhaka



# Livin' It Up!

## Make your stay in Dhaka an interesting and comfy one at Hotel Amari

Living in Dhaka is an experience on its own whereas visiting it is a whole other story. The quality of one's visit to the busy capital may vary immensely depending on the location of stay.

The Bangkok based ONYX Hospitality Group recently launched Hotel Amari in Dhaka. Amari is ONYX's most established and oldest chain of hotels. Amari has properties in major tourist destinations throughout Thailand, including Bangkok, Pattaya, Koh Chang, Hua Hin, Koh Samui, Krabi, and Phuket. In Dhaka, the hotel can be found in Gulshan. This is an ideal location for people on business trips or on holiday as it is surrounded by multinational companies, office complexes and embassies along with popular cafes and restaurants. The interior of the hotel is stylish, spacious and exceedingly cosy. The hotel houses a hundred and thirty four rooms and suites with a view of a lake. The Superior, Deluxe and Deluxe Lakeview Rooms offer a generous living space and impressive views of the city's skyline. The Junior Suites present spacious bedrooms and living areas, and sometimes a view of the Gulshan Lake that right outside the hotel. The One-Bedroom and the One-Bedroom Terrace Suites are well-appointed private enclaves boasting a living and dining room and a kitchen.

Besides comfy living space and incredible views of the city, Amari offers a number of fully integrated modern facilities. Breeze Spa allows guests to work out at an abundantly equipped gym and take dips in a landscaped pool. Other than the gym and pool, the Spa also offers numerous treatments. While guests have the option to use the twenty four hour in-room dining services, the hotel also has a number of

food and beverage outlets.

Cascade Coffee Lounge in the lobby remains open twenty four hours and is perfect for hanging out with friends and acquaintances or an informal business meet over coffee and light snacks. Needless to say, the standard of food there is of international quality. Deck 41, bound to launch during the first week of December, is a rooftop bar that will stay active well into the night. Fun cocktails and an exquisite view of Dhaka's night time skyline is the perfect escape from the hectic hustle and bustle of the urban life. The Den, a bar while not on the rooftop, can accommodate up to forty five guests and is available on request. Amari's signature diner, Amaya, that offers an assortment of Asian dishes will launch early in January 2015.

Whether for business purposes or simply an all-out party, finding the right venue in Dhaka can be a nightmarish ordeal. The Eden, Amari's grand ballroom, is among the four separate function spaces offered by the hotel. It can hold up to two hundred and twenty people. The more intimate Karishma and Ankita are perfect for smaller functions. All of the spaces are fully equipped with modern audio-visual technology and a dedicated team of event professionals are at hand to help with planning and other needs. Amari is fully equipped to cater to guests both from here and abroad. Though not one-of-a-kind, the hotel offers facilities of global standards to its guests. Its secure location also earns them an extra brownie point. Goes without saying, travellers heading to Dhaka are advised to take Hotel Amari into consideration. Locals looking to have a good time must also visit the place, even if it is only to eat out at one of its food outlets. ☐

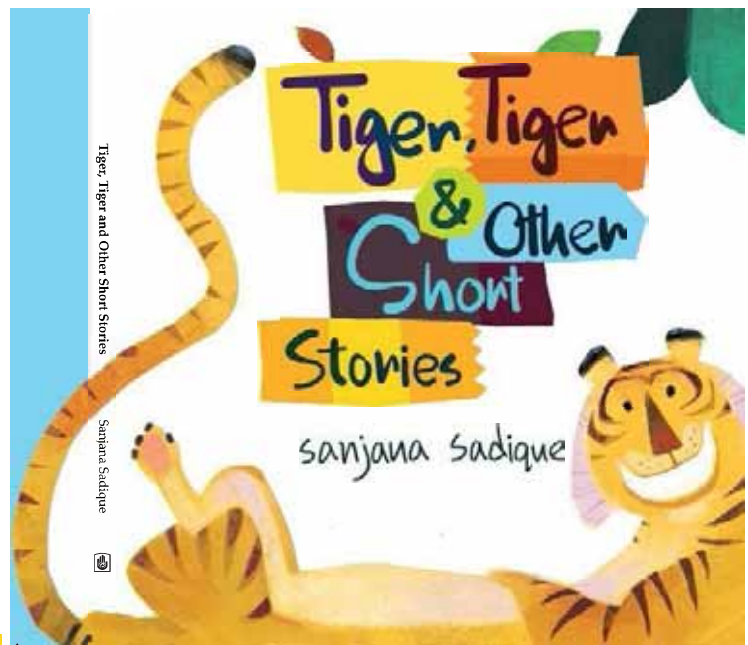
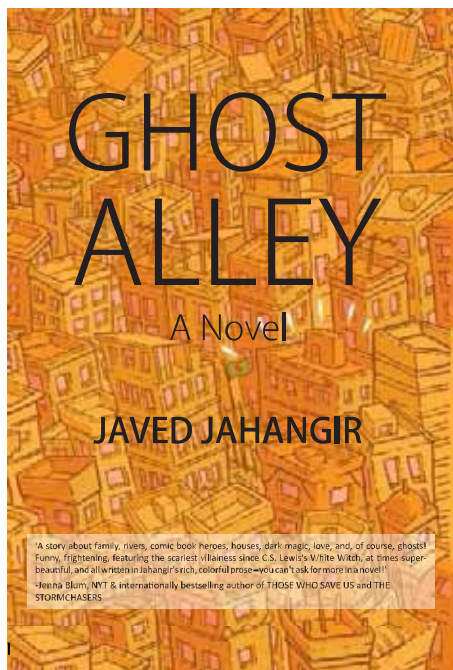


The interior of the hotel is stylish, spacious and exceedingly cosy

# Ink on PAPER

New releases from Bengal Publications

**T**alent is hardly scarce in Bangladesh, and it has been manifesting in the form of excellent art and literature over decades now. The practice of writing creatively in English, however new, has picked up pace and, with the help of local publishing houses, young authors are being able to platform their abilities. Bengal Publications, the publications arm of Bengal Foundation, has launched such four books during Hay Festival, this November. A novel, a photo-essay, a collection of children's stories and an anthology of short fiction, the texts are diverse to say the least. Each book explores a different kind of world and shows a different perspective of Bangladesh.



**T**iger, Tiger and Other Short Stories is a collection of fables with a flavour of Bangladesh. Sanjana Sadique makes her debut with endearing shorts featuring young protagonists, all of which have a common thread running through them. Morals, being the core of fables, are the shared element tying these stories together. A tale about sharing, a baby crocodile overcoming fear, learning to empathise are some among many of the delightful, little narratives that Sadique weaves together. Sanjana Sadique graduated in Law from University of Westminster,

UK. Sadique discovered that she had a passion to write children's literature by accident. When one frustrated afternoon she opened Microsoft Word, out poured a story about a little squirrel who lost his way in the woods. On discovering that she had a knack she undertook a few courses in fiction writing at The Writer's Centre in Washington D.C. Sadique says that she writes for children because she wants to promote reading amongst them. Moreover she also wants to provide a means of comfort to those lonely kids who find solace in books.

**J**aved Jahangir's Ghost Alley tells the tale of oddball Ludo and his family. When his grandmother's blind sister, Nadira, comes to visit the family, Ludo is forced to dig into his familial history. The twelve year old soon uncovers the past, tracing it back to 1940 when Dr. Salehuddin first meets his grandmother, Suraya, and Nadira. Suraya proves to be an ideal mate for the man, who wishes to create a Muslim nation. However, a childless marriage gives way for Nadira to take advantage of the situation. Eventually, after the India-Pakistan Partition in 1947, Dr. Salehuddin's dreams of a free and united Muslim nation fade away under the oppressive rule of Pakistan. Meanwhile, back in present times, Nadira has everyone convinced that Suraya is possessed by Djinn and requires exorcism executed by a Pir. Ludo despairs over untold secrets that prevent his

grandmother from getting the aid she needs, unaware that he himself is at risk. Javed Jahangir, who has been featured in various publications including Smokelong Journal, LOST Magazine, LUMINA (Sarah SSR Lawrence College), Bengal Lights Journal, is a founding member of Beyondthemargins.com, a website of daily literary essays. He has contributed to, and been editor-in-chief for The Grub Street Writers' 10 year Anthology and has also been a reader for the Harvard Review.



**T**his Old World is a photoessay that illustrates a well travelled route across Euroasia, capturing decades' worth of history. Zeeshan Khan has compiled a culturally rich portfolio decorated with literature and philosophy from along the places of the route. Khan maps history back to before 10,000 BC and provides a glimpse of the world that was.

Zeeshan Khan graduated in International Relations and International Trade from The University of Sydney. He has previously launched a book of poetry with Academic Press and Publishers and is a regular contributor for Dhaka Tribune. A journalist and a writer, Khan makes no claim of being a professional photographer, rather he thinks of

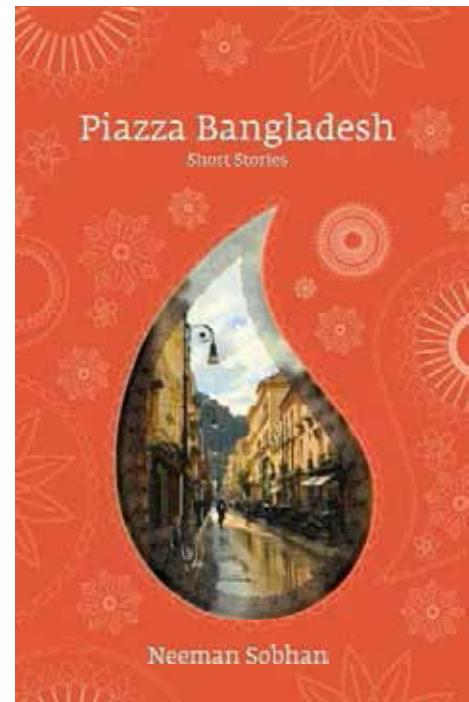
it as a hobby. He thinks of the photographs in his books as a means to bring people closer to his experience. This Old World attempts to take readers along with it on his journey like a fellow passenger looking out of a bus window.

**Each book explores a different kind of world and shows a different perspective of Bangladesh**

**N**eeman Sobhan writes some picturesque stories that showcase the stark differences between the lives of two classes of Bangladeshis living in Italy. Where the tales meet, they also branch off and lead to wistful memories, thus earning it the name Piazza Bangladesh. After her collection of personal reflections from Italy, 'An Abiding City: Ruminations from Rome,' Neeman Sobhan debuts in short fiction with this collection.

Neeman Ahmad Sobhan is a Bangladeshi expatriate living in Rome, Italy . She left for the U.S at the age of nineteen. She did her B.A and M.A in Comparative and English Literature from the University of Maryland in the U.S. She lives with her husband and two sons, and is working as a journalist and columnist at the moment.

With an array of varied genres, Bengal Publications had plenty of quality material for interested readers. The Hay Festival of Literature and the Arts, on its fourth outing in Bangladesh, was the perfect milieu to set the mood for the launch of these four intriguing books. If you haven't had the chance to go, be sure to pick up one of these books from outlets such as Aranya, Bengal Art Lounge, Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts and Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct. ☐



# Tales of a Gutsy Ninja



**Naveed Islam looks back at Naruto and tells you why you should go watch it!**

We all know someone like him. He's that boy in class who always gets called into the principal's office for talking too loudly or throwing paper balls at the teacher's head. He's the kid who everyone makes fun of and who no one expects will ever amount to anything. He's the guy who never gives up on those he loves and who sees the good in you even when you don't. And for fifteen years, millions of manga readers and anime fans worldwide have had the pleasure of calling him a friend.

Naruto Uzumaki was brought to life by manga author Masashi Kishimoto in the pages of Shonen Jump, a manga anthology published weekly in

Japan. Since it began serialization in 1999, Naruto has spawned two successful anime series as well as several movies, novels, videogames and more, becoming one of the most beloved manga of all time. On November 10th, 2014, the story of Naruto and the Hidden Leaf village came to an end with the publication of its 700th and final chapter. Set many years after the end of the major conflict in the series, it gave us a brief glimpse at where our favorite characters ended up and with whom they were spending the rest of their lives.

So why is this series so great and why should a novice anime fan care? To put it simply, the

series' characters are well developed and relatable, its action is dramatic and fluidly paced and its story weaves in its massive world and lore into a well-crafted narrative, with plot twists that keep fans guessing until the end.

Naruto owes much of its success to its memorable cast of heroes and villains, including Naruto himself. When we first meet Naruto he is an attention-seeking delinquent and class dunce who is both hated and feared by his classmates and elders in the Hidden Leaf village. This is because Naruto harbors the spirit of the fearsome Nine-Tailed Fox demon. When Naruto was just a baby the

Nine-Tails attacked his village. Their leader, the Fourth Hokage, gave his life to seal the demon inside the newborn Naruto. Everyone fears that Naruto will someday succumb to the demon's power, causing them to mistreat him. Despite this, Naruto hopes to one day win their love and admiration by becoming the next Hokage.

The series' second protagonist is Sasuke Uchiha. As one of the last surviving members of the once-proud Uchiha clan, Sasuke grew up alone. He is a prodigy whose talent comes along once in a generation and his status as the class hero frequently puts him at odds with Naruto. The two become rivals but their shared tragedies create a mutual understanding that binds them together as close friends. But while Naruto's dream is to be acknowledged by his village and become Hokage, Sasuke's ambitions take him down a much darker path. He hopes to one day avenge the Uchiha by killing the man who murdered his clan — his own elder brother Itachi. Naruto and Sasuke's journeys parallel one another and their friendship and rivalry is the central focus of the series' plot.

Unlike many of its contemporary series' the characters in *Naruto* change and grow. This is marked by the shift in tone in the two parts of the story. Part One follows Naruto as a twelve-year old and his adventures are lighter with a stronger emphasis on comedy while Part Two (*Shippuden*) takes place three years later and deals with darker subject matter and heavier concepts. The *Naruto* we meet at the start of Part One and the one

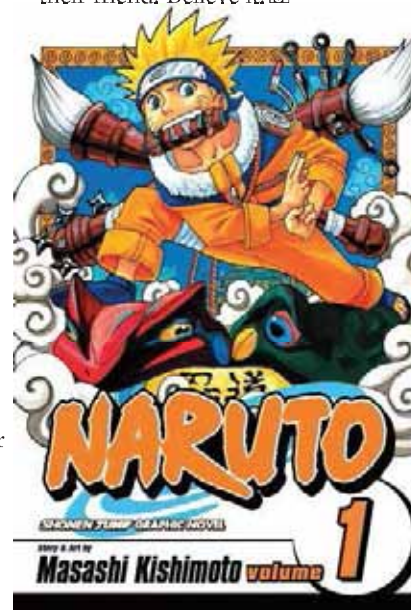
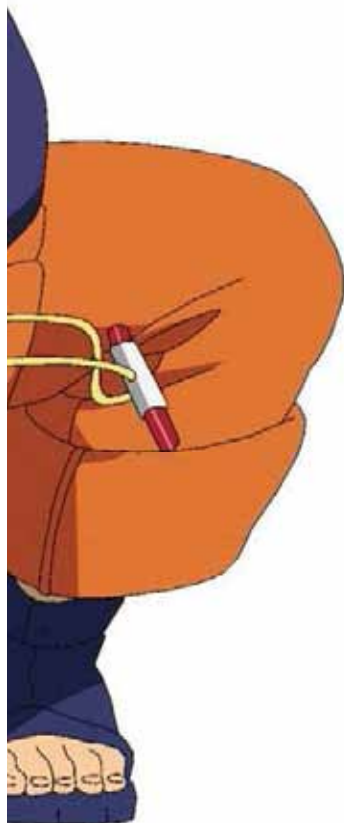
we see again in Part Two are starkly different. Where the younger Naruto was a loudmouth and troublemaker the older is a more composed and capable, if slightly absent-minded, young ninja. However, the change feels organic and necessitated by the events that preceded it. The same is true for Sasuke though fans have criticized his development as being inconsistent, especially during the later half of the story. While this is primarily *Naruto* and Sasuke's tale, the series also has a stellar supporting cast. Fan favorites include Kakashi Hatake, an elite ninja with a calm demeanor that masks his severity as a teacher, who serves as the field leader for *Naruto*'s team and Rock Lee, a young shinobi who makes up for his lack of talent in ninja arts (or jutsu as it's called) with a proficiency in hand-to-hand combat. One cast member guaranteed to make an impression is Jiraiya, a wandering sage who is one of the Hidden Leaf's strongest warriors while also being the author of a popular erotic novel series, *Make-Out Tactics* (which Kakashi happens to be a fan of).

A number of great villains serve as excellent foils to the series' protagonists. Kishimoto has said that he prioritizes the motivations behind his antagonists over design, coming up with how they are morally opposed to the heroes even before deciding what they look like. This philosophy makes for some truly memorable foes such as Orochimaru, a former comrade of Jiraiya's who turned evil out of a desire to learn forbidden jutsu and prolong his life; he serves as the primary antagonist for

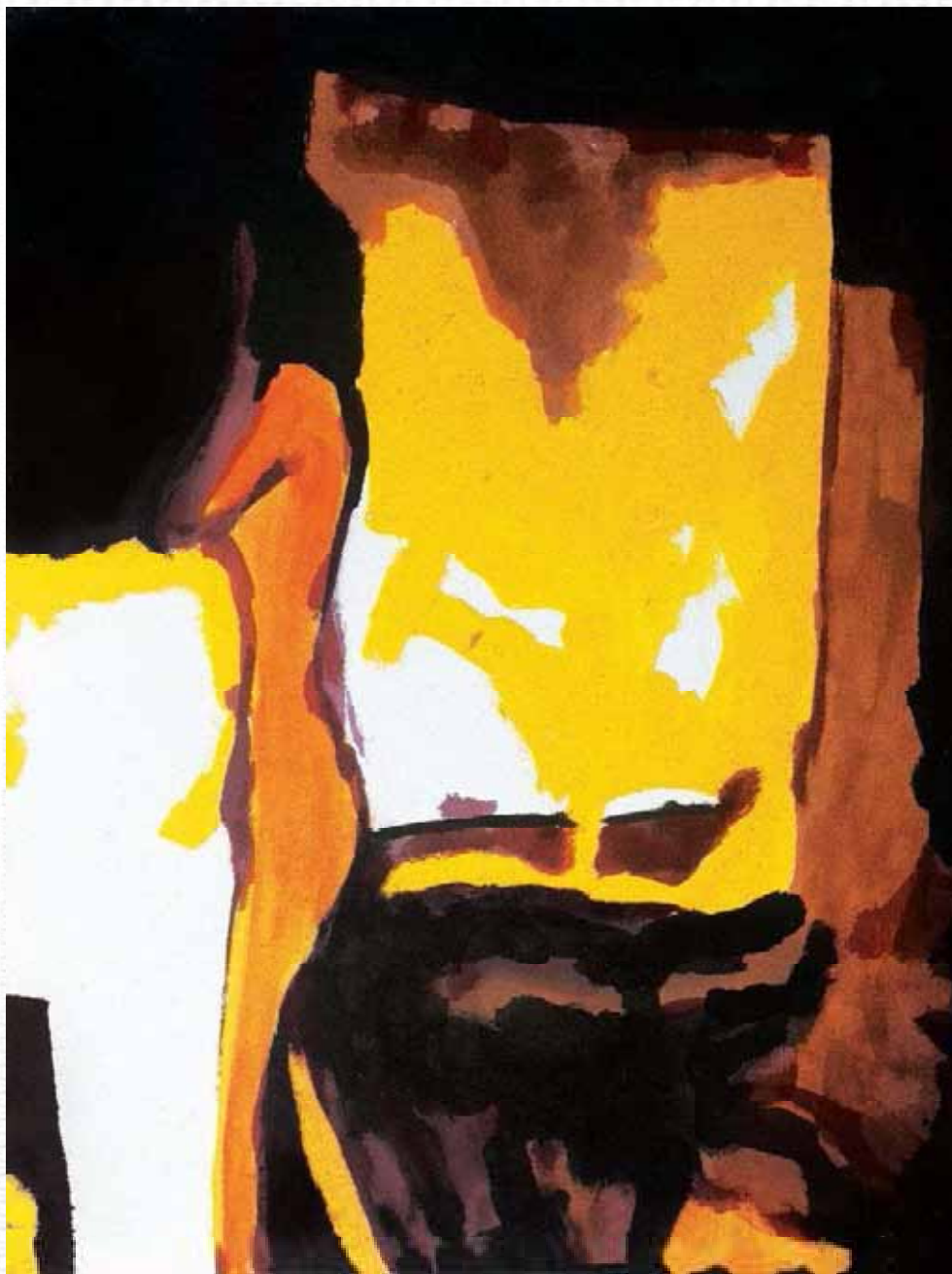
Part One. In Part Two the focus shifts to the Akatsuki, an organization comprised of rogue shinobi who have been manipulating events from the shadows. Among their ranks are Sasuke's older brother Itachi and the group's enigmatic leader Pain.

Kishimoto has already announced a sequel to *Naruto*, a miniseries that follows the next generation of Hidden Leaf ninjas. *The Last: Naruto the Movie* is also scheduled to release in December and will bridge the gap between the main story and the epilogue. There is also a novelization and stage play in the works along with several episodes of the *Naruto: Shippuden* anime that has yet to cover the newer manga chapters.

Don't be daunted by the 700-chapter count or the hundreds of episodes and get started on *Naruto*. The action will leave you speechless, the plot will swallow you whole and its characters will move you to tears (literally). Jump in and learn why, for fifteen years, so many fans have been happy to call *Naruto Uzumaki* their friend. Believe it! ☐



# Telling Stories



Labyrinth of oblivion, acrylic on an 18"x 24" sized canvas by Nirzhar Noishabdy

## Labyrinth of Oblivion

Nirzhar Noishabdy

It's me the memory eater of a deep graveyard by the Lethe. Lethe blows yellow around me like a labyrinth of oblivion. I cut my sight, keen eyes. I, stand alone with my own solitude between light and darkness. I've no shadows that push me out from my body.

Wind comes. Wind is blooming around the light; light is dancing like a kite. Nobody knows, yet. Does anyone there make a deep shadow around my age? My flesh spreads into a cube of air or a piece of passion.

Sometimes in my yellow labyrinth, I cut the skies with a blade of cotton, and fix them with white clouds to purify a pair of candy-floss. Something inside me wants to blow like a wind upon the woods that grows in darkness.

Yesternight I put out my fingers to grab the dim sight; my nails also.

ICE Today  
showcases local  
talents and more

Digital Painting by Jason Sabbir Dhali



## The Fall is just an Assumption

Sayed Jamil

At sky's end, the young man who killed himself on a yesterday, he would sing with his garage band, as they would play. A friend of his, a blind guitarist, now sits on the stairs made of twilight, wild as he was, lunacy has no cure. I tell him that we play music no more.

The Fall is just an assumption. Nevertheless, inside a head on every morn  
The lonely woman keeps on playing tunes that her violin's sworn. Her fair soul is like a whistling thorn, blown away by a mist that's torn. ☹



# ICE Your Roots

P. 112 Events



## **Lux Channel i Superstar 2014 Concludes with Grand Finale**

The 8th season of Lux Channel i Superstar began in May 2014, telecasted as twelve episodes. It concluded on November 8 with a glamorous grand finale at Bangabandhu International Convention Center. It broadcasted live on Channel i that evening at 7:30 PM. More glamorous than ever before, this year's finalists – Nadia, Nila, Nazifa, Prema and Supriya paraded their beauty all over the country. After the judges' scores, audience votes and previous performances, Nadia won this year's superstar crown. Additionally she won a brand new car, Tk. 1,000,000 and the opportunity to be Bangladesh's Face of Lux. First Runner's Up Nazifa and Second Runner's Up Nila got Tk. 500,000 and Tk. 300,000 respectively. The special attraction of this year's finale was a special performances by the top five finalists alongside alumni superstars.

## Coats Bangladesh Celebrates 25 Years

Coats plc, a globally renowned industrial thread and zip maker, celebrated twenty five years of its operations in Bangladesh, at a programme at Radisson Hotel in Dhaka on 19 October, inviting over four hundred customers and suppliers. “We have a very strong, talented and dedicated team here which has helped make Bangladesh one of the flagship businesses of Coats. We have built a strong foundation for the next twenty five years,” said Ranjan Chakhaiyar, managing director of Coats Bangladesh, in his opening speech.

“Coats is extremely proud of our world-class operation in Bangladesh and the support and relationship with our joint venture partner,” Paul Forman, group CEO of Coats, said in his speech. “Our business has seen significant growth and development, particularly in the last few years, and the opening of our new world class zip factory is a demonstration of our commitment to an ever growing presence here,” he also added.

A specially designed digitalised cake was cut to commence Coats’ historic occasion. A glamorous fashion show, followed by a musical performance by Runa Laila followed the speeches.

The entire programme was organized and managed by Director and Event Consultant Ms. Bilkis Mansoor and her team from Creative Communication Ltd.



## The Westin Dhaka re-launches Splash Restaurant and Spa and more

The Westin Dhaka always believes in going the extra mile. With all the renovated services The Westin Dhaka has added a new elevation to its service by newly introducing the Privilege card, Splash Restaurant & Spa. The Westin Dhaka reintroduces its privilege card aimed at giving a more rewarding experience to the guests. Guests can take their pick from the Platinum, Gold and Silver cards in offer. Members can enjoy complimentary buffet lunch or dinner for two in designated restaurants, stay two nights and get one night’s stay free, weekend stay, discount in all F&B outlets, Westin workout,

swimming pool and special rate on group dining and much more. Platinum membership card fee is BDT 100,000 NET per year, Gold membership card fee is BDT 75,000 NET per year, and Silver membership card fee is BDT 50,000 NET per year.

Splash has been re-launched with the bi-fold glass door option with the enhanced facility of private meetings and social events with an accommodation for an average of hundred guests for cocktail parties and all other sorts of events. Apart from this, walk-in guests can enjoy the usual foods and beverages. Westin Dhaka has added into its spa facilities two brand new rooms located in level 4. With a total number of eight rooms Westin Spa gives the opportunity to the singles as well as couples to enjoy luxury services. Guests can rejuvenate themselves with a Jacuzzi in a private room.

Guests continue to take a piece of heaven home with them after experiencing the Heavenly Bed during their travels. As the brand’s footprint grows around the world, so does its retail success. Westin recently announced the brand’s signature Heavenly line has exceeded \$135 million in retail sales. To date, Westin has sold over 100,000 Heavenly Beds and 175,000 Heavenly Pillows, with sales skyrocketing in the U.S., Europe and Asia. Westin is also seeing success in the skies, with the launch of its Heavenly In-Flight bedding last year.



### Bengal Parampara Sangeetalay by Bengal Foundation

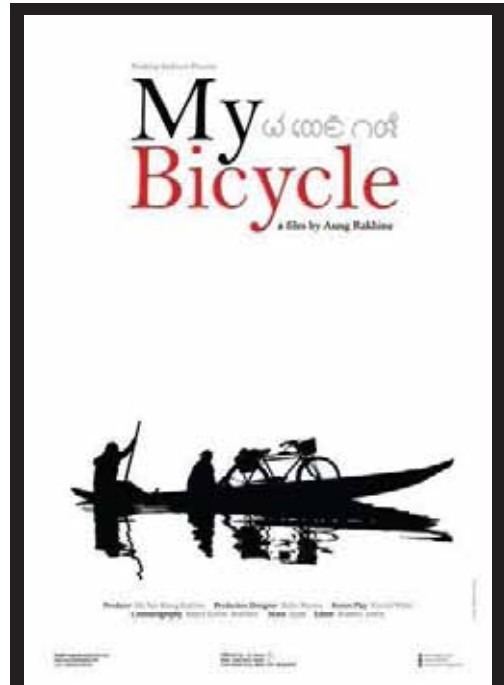
In order to promote the practice of classical music, Bengal Foundation establishes the school Bengal Parampara Sangeetalay. To provide a wholesome training and systematic coordination, the school provides the required environment, established mentors and a profound curriculum. The school will follow the principles of mentor-apprentice, where the teachers and the students will be

able to share their respective expertise in the field fairly. Some of the most prominent Gurus of the Indian subcontinent have become involved with this project and they bring with them their proficient knowledge and the sense of commitment that comes from years of practicing classical music. Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar, the living legend in Indian classical music, will be leading this venture as the principal of the school. Furthermore, Pandit Uday Bhawalkar, Ustad Bahauddin Dagar, Ustad Sameehan Kashalkar (Junior Guru), Pandit Suresh Talwalkar, Vidushi Anarmal Valli and Promukh Protithojosha Guru are on board as teachers.



### Meghmallar gets released

The feature film Meghmallar premiered on November 18, 2014 at Star Cineplex in Bashundhara City, Dhaka. It is an adaptation of Akhtaruzzaman Elias' short story Raincoat. The film is written and directed by Zahidur Rahim Anjan and



### The premiere of My Bicycle

The premiere of My Bicycle will take place at the 13th International Short and Independent Film Festival in Dhaka on December 5, 2014 at 7pm. The venue for the Film Festival is the Central Library, Shahbag. My Bicycle is a film that reflects on the real lifestyle, culture, and socio economic condition of the indigenous people. The film is entirely in the Chakma language and is dedicated to the indigenous community of Bangladesh. My Bicycle is the first mainstream film of its kind in Bangladesh.

produced by Bengal Entertainment Limited. With a runtime of 92 minutes, Meghmallar constructs a simple story into an elaborate, character-driven drama. The central roles of Meghmallar are comprised of Shahiduzzaman Selim, Aparna, Aditi and Jara. Meghmallar is the first feature length production of Bengal Entertainment, with another handful presently being filmed. It got into production after receiving a National Filmmaking Grant in 2013. Resultantly, the film is co-produced by the Government of Bangladesh.

AMA Muhith, Finance Minister, attended the premiere as chief guest alongside Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, who inaugurated the premiere in the company of other prominent guests including Abul Khair, Chairman, Bengal Foundation.

## Winter Attractions from Rang

As winter has arrived, it influences the season's fashion and exclusivity in colours. Fashion connoisseurs look forward to this time of the year, in anticipation of the winter clothing. Women usually prefer to wear a shawl along with their dresses, for men, the need for a shawl is more at home rather than at work. Given the temperature imbalances we go through, it is hard to wear winter clothes for a long period of time. When we take them off, it erases the winter fashion statement along with it. As this gives rise to the demand of dresses which can tackle winter and remain fashionable simultaneously, fashion house Rang brings to you their winter collection, which are bound to save you from the cool frosts, yet keeping you elegant and graceful in style.

This winter's saris have been made using Tangail cotton, Dupion silk, and cotton, and silk, jamdani, muslin, Marseillaise, etc. Vibrant shawls from Tangail, Comilla and Narshingdi have been crafted for matching with the sari colours, made with block, spray-block, tie-dye, embroidery and other various methods.

The trend of innovation has been maintained in the cutting and patterning of Panjabi, fatua, Salwar Kameez, Kurta, Kurti, etc. Khadi and cotton fabric has been used in making salwar kameez, fatua and Panjabi. Thick matching dupattas were made in line with fatuas. Shawls were also designed for Panjabi and salwar kameezes.



## FAIR & LOVELY FOUNDATION BEAUTY PARLOUR BUSINESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Fair and Lovely Foundation has been working on various projects over the last decade with the aim to bring alive the core brand purpose - aiding women to "re-script their destiny".

As a part of their objective to catalyze women empowerment, Fair and Lovely Foundation along with its project partner Centre for

Entrepreneurship Development of BRAC University is organizing six training workshops on Beauty Parlour Management held at BRAC University. A total of six two-day training sessions will be held, giving three hundred female trainees the opportunity to learn the know-how of parlour management. The training is designed to cover both the business management of a beauty salon and training on beauty services, giving a twofold benefit. The first segment of the training centres on imparting a comprehensive and in-depth business understanding to successfully run a beauty parlour. The second segment is aimed at providing a hand-on training of the various services offered by beauty parlours such as hair-styles, facials, hair treatment, etc. Out of the six, four sessions have already been held and the participants have received certificates at the end of the training sessions.