

SADIA KHALID

to represent Bangladesh in Berlinale Talents 2020

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Film Critic and journalist Sadia Khalid will represent Bangladesh at this year's *Berlinale Talents 2020* (February 20-March 1) in the category for film critics.

In harmony with this year's theme, *Collectives*, over 150 filmmakers, activists and artists, from various branches of the film industry and society, will meet with 255 Talents invited from over 80 countries, including cinema lovers of Berlin. "Since 2003, twelve other Bangladeshis have represented Bangladesh in the *Berlinale Talents* in various other categories," says Sadia, who was the first Bangladeshi female to attend 2019 Cannes Film Festival as a jury for the International Federation of Film Critics (Fipresci). "However, this is the first time a Bangladeshi will be attending the event as a film critic."

Published film reviews, participation in film festivals both home and abroad, and the ability to critique are three important factors that ensure participation in Berlinale talents. "We are to submit three work samples for their consideration, as they look into our association with film through our work," mentions Sadia.

Along with her application, she turned in her article, *The first timer's ultimate survival guide*, based on her experience from the 2019 Cannes Film Festival, her analytic piece, *How Hollywood invented the 'exotic Indian'*, and *Honest Reviews: 'Fagun Haway,' A rocky marriage between drama and comedy-- review of Tauquir Ahmed's Fagun Haway* (2019). "It will be an amazing learning experience and I hope this opportunity will inspire other aspiring film critics to take this as a profession," concludes Sadia.



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL



Siam Ahmed



Afran Nisho



Nurat Imrose Tisha

PHOTOS : STAR



Sabila Nur



Mehababien Chowdhury

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

Today, we celebrate Valentine's Day and *Pohela Falgun*. On this lovely occasion, we caught up with few stars of showbiz world to find out about their plans for the day.

Nurat Imrose Tisha: Sarwar (Mostafa Sarwar Farooki) and I will be flying to Paris to attend the screening of *Saturday Afternoon* at Vesoul International Film Festival. We will be on the plane. I am happy to be travelling with the love of my life on this special day. I send out the season's greetings to my fans and hope that everyone has a great time with their loved ones.

Siam Ahmed: Personally, I feel that you do not need a significant occasion to show your love for someone. However, a specific group of people love to celebrate Valentine's Day by hanging out with friends and exchanging gifts, which I think is great! I will be busy with shooting today, but I will try to make it special for my wife.

Sabila Nur: I came to Sylhet with my family to celebrate the day. We will visit all the beautiful locations of Sylhet. Interestingly, Nehal has been surprising me with gifts from the first day of February. I feel that love is very important in our lives and we should embrace each day with love.

Mehababien Chowdhury: I am spending the day out of the country with my family. I do not believe that Valentine's Day should be limited to our significant others and life partners only. We should celebrate all of our relationships on this day. I hope that all my fans have a great time today.

Afran Nisho: I have taken today off to spend time with my family. I believe, special days are meant to be spent with loved ones. We will go on a long drive, dine in at our favourite restaurant, and enjoy the rest of the day together. I wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day and *Shubho Boshonto!*

EKUSHEY SPOTLIGHT

Noman: Antik Mahmud and Oishik Jawad's humorous superhero story

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Antik Mahmud and Oishik Jawad's superhero comic book, *Noman*, about a boy who dreams of becoming famous in Bangladesh, is out now at the Ekushey Boi Mela.

Throughout the story, Noman, the titular character, fights small-time criminals and then uploads the videos of his fights on YouTube. However, he does not come across serious crimes in the country and wishes to fight a big villain someday. On the other hand, *Noman* narrates the story of a female criminal, who is determined to destroy a charity organisation. Published by Adarsha and priced at BDT 240, the book is available at stalls 421 to 424.

Antik and Oishik plan to turn *Noman* into an entire series, moving forward.

Tracing back his journey as an artist Oishik shared that his interest in drawing grew from a fascination towards anime and cartoons. "After my SSC examinations, I attended a workshop conducted by prominent cartoonists Ahsan Habib and Mehedi Haque," he says. It made me realise that cartoonists and comic artists have proper career choices in Bangladesh and we do not have to be formal art students to develop a career in this field."

The story behind *Noman* was initially conceived by Antik, who currently runs an animation studio and a YouTube channel that focus on positive content. "The main aim of my work is to highlight the good aspects of our society in our monotonous life," he says. Antik has also released his thriller novel, *Chol*, at the Ekushey Boi Mela. He looks forward to the readers' feedback on his books.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

