

Dhaka Int'l Film Festival in Jan

UNB, Dhaka

The 8th Dhaka International Film Festival is going to be held in January. The Rainbow Film Society has been organising the festival since 1992. The organisers expect to screen some 100 films in the coming festival with participation of around 25 countries.

An international jury board will select the winners. The award carries a crest along with prize money of Tk 100,000.

Fipresci, the international film critics federation, the Network for Promotion of Asian Cinema (NETPAC) and the International Federation of Cine Clubs (FICC) will give away their own awards.

The festival will have a competition section for Asian cinema and segments categorised as Retrospective, Cinema of the World, Children's Film, Focus on Switzerland, Bangladesh Panorama, Films from Scandinavian Countries and Independent Films Section.

Meanwhile, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, China, Denmark, Egypt, England, France, Germany, India, Iran, Hungary, Latvia, Malaysia, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tunisia, and the USA have tentatively confirmed their participation.

In the retrospective session of the festival, works of celebrated Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi, renowned German film director Rainer Werner Fassbinder and noted Indian filmmaker Gulzar will be screened.

One film will be selected for Best Audience Award by a panel of selected audience. The general viewers will also select one film for the Audience Award. These awards will be in the form of certificate and crest.

In the festival, a children's portion will be arranged with seven films open for children. One film will be selected for Best Juvenile Audience Award.

Films from Scandinavian countries will be screened as a special regional showcase. And for this tentative confirmation has been obtained from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, according to a release.

A separate 'Bangladesh Panorama' will consist of five to seven selected films.

For the first time, the festival will be including some films by independent filmmakers in video Beta cam/VCD/DVD format. In this section, various kinds of feature films as well as some documentary and short films will be screened from different parts of the world.

Also, a series of international seminars will be held. The general theme of the seminars, organised by International Film Critics Association of Bangladesh (IFCAB), is 'Globalisation and film'.

Two Pak Navy ships arrive in Chittagong

UNB, Dhaka

Two Pakistan Navy ships, PNS Nasr and PNS Babur, arrived in Chittagong yesterday on a four-day goodwill visit.

Commanded by Commodore Mohammad Shafi, the ships have a complement of 50 officers and 578 sailors, said an ISPR release.

During their stay, Commander of the Pakistan Navy Fleet Rear Admiral M Afzal Tahir and senior officers of the visiting ships will call on the commodore commanding Chittagong, commodore commanding BN Flotilla and commodore commanding BN Dockyard.

They will meet the local area commander of Bangladesh Army at Chittagong Cantonment and air officer commanding BAF Base Zahurul Haque in Chittagong.

They will also visit Bangladesh Naval Academy in Chittagong and BNS Shaheed Moazzam at Kaptai.

Other programmes include friendly volleyball match with the local BN team. The ships will also be kept open to a limited number of visitors.

Prior to their departure on November 10, the visiting ships will also take part in a joint exercise with some of the Bangladesh Navy ships.

Earlier, Pakistan High Commissioner Manzar Shafiq and local senior naval officers greeted the ships on their arrival at the Chittagong port.

FM returns home

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan returned home yesterday ending his three-day official visit to Germany.

During the visit, Morshed had official talks with his German counterpart, addressed German Council of Foreign Relations and held a meeting with South Asia Parliamentary Group.

He also formally opened the Honorary Consulate of Bangladesh in Potsdam, said an official release.