

WHAT'S ON

17th Asian Art Biennale

Bangladesh

Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Date: December 1-31

Time: 11am-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Mercury Falling

Artist: Mustafa Zaman

Venue: Kala Kendra

Date: December 9-Jan 4

Time: 12pm-8pm

Performance Art Week

Organiser: Bengal Foundation

Venues: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct & Gyantapash Abdur Razzaq Bidiyapeeth

Date: Dec 27-30

Time: 4pm-7pm Daily

Theatre

Play: Bhongobongo

Troupe: Aranyak Natya Dal

Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala

Date: December 29; Time: 7pm

Group Painting Exhibition

Title: Joloj - 2

Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka

Date: December 17-29

Time: 3pm-8pm



# Dhaka Int'l Film Festival in January

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 15th edition of Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF) will be held from January 12 to 20, 2017. With the theme “Better Film, Better Audience, Better Society”, the festival is being organised by Rainbow Film Society.

This year, the festival will have screening 188 films from 67 countries under several sections: Asian Competition, Retrospective, Cinema of the World, Children's Films, Spiritual Films, Women Filmmakers, Short and Independent Films, Tribute films and Nordic Films. The organisers will confer awards to the best films from most sections.

Screening of the films will start from 10am onwards at five venues: National Museum auditorium, Central Public Library auditorium, Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD), EMK Center and Star Cineplex. A Lebanese film “Three Hundred Nights” will open the 15th DIFF at 4pm at National Museum auditorium.

The highlight of the festival is Retrospective Section that will feature screening of 10 films – five by Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami and five by Turkish woman filmmaker Yesim Ustaoglu. The big attraction for this edition is the screening of two Charlie Chaplin films -- “The Kid” and “The Circus”. To pay homage to the all-time great, organisers will screen the film in Tribute section.

A five-member jury will select the best film out of 23 nominations from the Asian Competition section. Besides, a three-member jury of FIPRESCI, the International Film Critics Federation, will also present its own awards in this section.

A number of foreign filmmakers will attend the festival as delegates. As part of DIFF, Rainbow Film Society and Bangladesh National Museum will organise “Seventh Dhaka Cine Workshop” from January 5-20. Renowned Iranian filmmaker and critic Professor Majid Movasseghi will conduct the workshop participated by young filmmakers of Bangladesh, India, Bhutan, Nepal, Iran and Tajikistan.

For the first time as part of DIFF, a solo art exhibition by Iranian artist-film activist Sarah Hojjati will be held at Gallery Shilpangan, Dhanmondi from January 7 to January 20. A two-day (January 13-14) conference on the title “Third Dhaka International Conference on Women in Cinema 2017” will be held at La Galerie of AFD.

A press conference was in this regard at Dhaka Club on December 26. Festival director Ahmed Muztaba Zamal elaborated on various aspects of this year's diverse arrangements. Among others, noted film and cultural personalities – Haider Rizvi, Rabiul Hussain, M Hamid and Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah spoke at the press meet.

Rainbow Film Society is celebrating their 40th anniversary this year. The organisers have been arranging the festival since 1992. Though initially they organised DIFF annually, they changed it to a biennial event since 2000. However, they have decided to organise the festival annually from this year.

IFIC Bank is the co-sponsor of the festival.

ZAHANGIR ALAM

Renowned Bangladeshi Kathak exponent Munmun Ahmed celebrated her 50th birthday through displaying a riveting dance recital at Chhayanaut auditorium, Dhanmondi on December 27. Munmun's daughter and disciple Aporajita Mustafa, who turns 20 this year, danced at a special event titled “Fifty-Twenty Kathak Jugalbandi”, along with some other performers of Munmun's Rewaz Performers' School.

Noted Nazrul Sangeet artiste and Munmun's husband Sujit Mustafa delivered welcome address at the event. “It is my daughter Aporajita, who comes with the idea that we should dance together marking my 50th birthday,” said Munmun Ahmed. The programme was set off with guru vandana, featuring technical pieces like thaata, uthan, padan, padan amod, pamlilu, tehai, tukra, thumri, tarana and jugalbandi pieces by Munmun Ahmed and Aporajita.

The recital was accompanied by noted Indian sitarist Chandrachur Bhattacharya and tabla artiste Utpal Ghoshal. They came to Dhaka to accompany Munmun's Guru, the legendary Pt. Birju Maharaj in a three-day kathak festival at Chhayanaut. Promising Bangladeshi vocalist Tanjina Karim Swaralipi sang live to embellish the dance performance.

The audience received graceful expressions and riveting display of dance by the mother and daughter on teentaal. They showcased the artistic gestures while standing on thaata while being brisk in displaying footwork in technical parts.

Munmun Ahmed in her solo part and some



Munmun and Aporajita perform a jugalbandi.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

jugalbandi parts performed some exquisite dance pieces, including a hunter's watchful seeking and hunting; throwing a cricket ball; riding a train, an abhinaya-(acting) styled recital and pamlilu incor-

porating various sounds of cuckoo, frog and crickets. The audience, enthralled by the performances by the artistes, produced rounds of applause every now and then.

## “ITYADI” ON BTV THIS FRIDAY

TV WATCH



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Popular magazine show “Ityadi” has been a trendsetter in many aspects in the country's TV entertainment, and filming their episodes at large outdoor locations with a big live audience has been one of its signatures for quite a few years now. Keeping with the tradition of filming their episodes at historically or geographically significant locations, the latest episode of the variety show -- which airs tomorrow night on BTV after the 8pm news -- was recorded at famous Kuthibari in Dinajpur.

The month of Victory for Bangladesh is

celebrated in the episode through a song by Andrew Kishore and a dance performance by artistes of Dinajpur. Various skits, like always, will entertain the audience while also trying to give a message. A number of documentary packages -- about a teacher from Dhamrai, a young girl from Cox's Bazar and a blind van driver from Dinajpur, will also be on the lineup. US Ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia Bernicat also sits down with the show's mastermind and host Hanif Sanket for an interview.

“Ityadi” is produced by Fagun Audio Vision. Keya Cosmetics is the sponsor of the programme.

# IN TRANSITION: CARRIE FISHER [1956-2016]

## Farewell, Princess Leia.

## May the Force Be With You

FAHIM FERDOUS

*Carrie Fisher, the actress, writer and High Princess of Hollywood, has died. She was 60. Fisher, who became an international superstar as Princess Leia in the “Star Wars” films, died Tuesday night Bangladesh time, after suffering from a massive heart attack on Friday while on a flight. Fisher was rushed from Los Angeles International Airport to UCLA Medical Center after the plane landed around noon Pacific Time.*

Carrie Fisher was born to actress Debbie Reynolds and singer Eddie Fisher on October 21, 1956. Reynolds' marriage famously broke up when Eddie Fisher had an affair with Elizabeth Taylor. She often remarked that she was born in the spotlight, and her life and career reflected the highs and lows of the entertainment business.

Fisher entered the glitzy world of showbiz fairly early when she acted alongside her mother in the Broadway play “Irene”. Her film debut came a couple of years later with the hit comedy “Shampoo”, co-starring Warren Beatty, Julie Christie and Goldie Hawn. But it was 1977's “Star Wars” that made Fisher a worldwide star. Princess Leia, the fierce, fearless Rebel Alliance leader and leader of the planet Alderaan, shone alongside Harrison Ford's Han Solo and Mark Hamill's Luke Skywalker. The film bagged six Academy Awards and launched one of the most iconic film franchises of all time. In the two coming films -- “The Empire Strikes Back” (1980) and “Return of the Jedi” (1983) -- of the ‘original trilogy’, she created some of Hollywood's most memorable screen

moments. She was not part of the Star Wars ‘prequel’ trilogy of the ‘90s, but returned when the continuation of the original trilogy in 2015's “The Force Awakens”.

After the “Star Wars” series, Fisher held a strong foothold in Hollywood, with films like “The Blues Brothers”, Nora Ephron's rom-com “When Harry Met Sally”, “Carbo Talks”, “Hannah and Her Sisters”, and “The ‘Burbs”, a black comedy starring Tom Hanks.

Her most recent critical acclaim came in



hit TV series “30 Rock”, where her guest role landed her an Emmy nomination. She appeared in a number of popular TV series in guest shots, including “Sex and the City”, “Frasier”, “Entourage”, “Smileville” and “Weeds”, among others.

Fisher proved her writing prowess with the best-selling 1987 novel “Postcards From the Edge”, and also wrote screenplay for its 1990 film adaptation, directed by Mike Nichols and starring Meryl Streep and Shirley

MacLaine. Her other major literary work include the autobiographical “Wishful Drinking”, and the latest in that line was “The Princess Diarist”, a memoir of her “Star Wars” years.

Throughout her life, Fisher remained open and frank about her struggles with drugs and mental health. Her outspokenness about addiction earned her a lifetime achievement award from Harvard College in 2016 for cultural humanitarianism.

Only last month, Fisher revealed that while filming the original “Star Wars” she had a three-month affair with co-star Harrison Ford. “It was so intense,” Fisher said of the secret affair. “It was Han and Leia during the week, and Carrie and Harrison during the weekend.”

Fisher's personal life was quite colorful too. She dated Paul Simon (of the folk/country duo Simon & Garfunkel) and married him in 1983, but it lasted less than a year. Fisher had one child with Bryan Lourd, daughter Billie Catherine Lourd, in 1992. They were never married but she often referred to Lourd as her second husband.

In “The Force Awakens”, the moment where Han and Leia (now General Leia, a frontline leader of the Resistance) meet was an ethereal sequence for the tens of millions of Star Wars fans. Rather fittingly, her last words in the film are “May the Force be with you” to Rey, as Rey embarks on the quest to find Luke. As big as Han Solo's death was a shock to fans, there was comfort in knowing that Leia would be back in the next installment, “Star Wars: Episode VIII” (due next December). And Fisher had finished filming for it shortly before her demise. Seeing her on screen that one final time in her most iconic role is going to be very hard for every Star Wars fan, this writer included. I cannot wait for December 15, 2017 (when “Episode VIII” comes) and yet, I cannot come to terms with it. There is an unmistakable disturbance in the Force, and I don't know what can ever bring balance to it.



Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy held a memorial programme marking the 82nd Birth Anniversary of recently-deceased wordsmith Syed Shamsul Haq. A number of eminent personalities from the fields of art, theatre, education and literature, along with family members of Syed Haq, discussed various aspects of the iconic littérateur's life and works. Musical and dance performances paying tribute to him were also presented at the event.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Efat Razowana Reya in her performance of “Cage of Present” at the Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct, as part of the Performance Art Week organised by the Bengal Foundation Visual Arts programme. On the second day of the event yesterday, five talented contemporary artists presented their performances. Aside from Reya, other performers were Sadan Kumar Biswas (“Artist in a Gift Box”), Sharkar Nasrin Toontoon (“Selfie”), Nazia Andaleeb Preema (“See Me See You”) and “Arpita Singha Lopa (“Freedom in Femininity”). Today's performances of the event will be held at the Gyantapas Abdur Razzak Bidiyapeeth in Dhanmondi.