

WHAT'S ON



Film Screening
Title: Ek Je Chilo Raja
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi
Date: January 12
Time: 4 pm – 7 pm



Winter Festival
Title: Him Utshab
Venue: Jahangirnagar University
Date: January 17 – 19
Time: 10 am



Musical Evening
Title: Sovvota And The Band Live At Ajo Idea Space
Venue: Ajo Idea Space, Uttara
Date: January 19
Time: 7:30 pm – 9 pm



Heritage Walk
Title: Make A Tour Presents Explore Old Dhaka- A Heritage Walk (Season-2)
Venue: Old Dhaka
Date: January 11
Time: 8 am – 4 pm



Bulbul Chowdhury Birth Centenary
Organisers: BSA & BNSS
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Yearlong Celebration currently



Purnima poses in the midst of shooting.

Traffic 'Jam' inside BFDC



The cast and director (centre-right) of 'Jam' share a light moment together.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC) is renowned for film shoots, ad shoots and so much more. Professionals are busy within the compound running around with props, fixing costumes and looking for the right location for action sequences. However, what if we told you that the people working inside the BFDC, recently, faced a very common issue that every other city dweller faces – traffic jams! The area was filled with various vehicles trying to reach their destination. Of course, this was a part of the latest shooting taking place, of a movie called *Jam*. This exciting shoot was taking place on the streets behind the famous Jashim Floor – a shooting floor named after the legendary actor.

The scene was a fascinating one! While vehicle owners and drivers should have been irritated at the traffic congestion, they seemed to be smiling and enjoying. This is because a group of transgender people, dressed in vibrant colours, were dancing to a recorded track, led by the lovable actor Purnima. Along with Arifin Shuvoo, Purnima is playing the lead in the movie. "We are trying to give our hundred percent," exclaimed Purnima. "I really hope the film

turns out to be an exciting one!"

The shooting went on for quite some time. Sushama Sarker, yet another well known actor, was also playing a part in the whole shoot. Arifin Shuvoo, the male lead, was dressed up in wigs and beards, and it would have been impossible to recognise him, if the director of the movie, Noyeem Imtiaz Neamul, had not pointed it out to the journalists and photographers, present at the shoot. "As the name suggests, the story revolves around the traffic congestions that we experience in Dhaka on a regular basis," said the director.

Shuvoo's unique look was attracting a lot of attention amongst the photographers who wanted to photograph him. However, Shuvoo requested not to do so, since he did not want to reveal his look just as yet.

The movie *Jam* will be released this year from Kritanjali, a production house by yet another legendary actor, Manna. Shelly Manna, once a popular actor herself, and also the wife of Manna, was seen welcoming the journalists and also taking care of the production necessities.

As the camera continued to roll and the crowd got bigger to watch the fun and colourful ensemble in action, one hoped to experience a happy yet effective storyline, speaking the language of urban Dhaka.

A BUSY YEAR AHEAD FOR Fazlur Rahman Babu

Known for his remarkable performances on both television and the silver screen, prominent actor Fazlur Rahman Babu has many successful ventures to his credit. He is currently busy with numerous films.

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The actor stars in *Phagun Hawa*, directed by Tauquir Ahmed. The film, which revolves around the Language Movement of 1952, is scheduled to release on February 8, 2019. Other than that, Babu will also be seen in Joy Sarkar's *Indubaala* and Rezwan Shahrear Sumit's *Nonajoler Kabbo*. The actor has further started shooting for Arun Chowdhury's *Mayaboti*, which also stars Nusrat Imrose Tisha and Yash Rohan. He is also busy with the Kolkata-based film *Sitara*.

Babu was most recently seen in Raihan Rafi's *Dohon*, starring Siam Ahmed and Puja Cherry. The film was one of the biggest hits of 2018.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Deepika Padukone launches her own website



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To mark her birthday this year, Deepika Padukone, who has won hearts with her impeccable performances in her decade long Bollywood career, gave to her fans, her own website (www.deepikapadukone.com), as a return gift. The website takes visitors through the many stages of the actor's life and career, including Live Love Laugh, the foundation through which she advocates the cause of mental health and the milestones she has achieved over the years.

She made the announcement on social media with a sweet message, alongside a grayscale picture of hers.

In 2019, her fans will get to see her become a producer with her next Bollywood venture titled *Chhapaak*, which will be directed by Meghna Gulzar. The film is based on the life of acid survivor Laxmi Agarwal and will also star Vikrant Massey.

An evening of music with Mo and the Shooting Stars

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

Recently, Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Dhaka, organised a musical programme, featuring Mo and the Shooting Stars, an Indian folk fusion band from Assam who are known for their covers as well as their original compositions. It was held at the main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum.

The evening commenced with an Assamese popular number, *Shonar Boron Pakhi*, originally sung by Pratima Barua Pande. Although the rendition of the song was accompanied by western instruments, the band was rooted to the tunes of folk music. They further connected with the audience with a performance of eminent singer Bhupen Hazarika's *Dola He Dola*. The lead singer of the band, Mrinmoyee Sarma, better known as Mo, then moved on to sing an array of old classics including Hindi film songs and Nazia Hassan's *Lekin Mera Dil*.

Kamreen Hazarika is the narrator and supporting vocalist of the band with



Amorish on lead guitar and backing vocals. Partha is the bass guitarist with Rakesh and Biraj on keyboard and drums respectively. They also performed the Spanish song, *Corazon Espiando*, the 80s popular song, *I Will Survive* by Gloria Gaynor and many others at the programme. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the show.

Mo and the Shooting Stars recently had concerts at the Hornbill Festival (December 2017), the Jaipur Literature Festival, Mountain Echoes Festival in Bhutan and for NIA/FBI for their Asia Pacific Chapter in Delhi. They also performed for Salman Khan in November 2018 at the Menchoka Festival in Arunachal Pradesh.

'Amader Shantanera' to start tomorrow on Channel i



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Planned and arranged by eminent cultural personality Nasiruddin Yousuff, *Amader Shantanera* will air from tomorrow onwards on a bimonthly schedule. The programme will look to highlight achievers from different fields, who have represented Bangladesh in an international level. The first episode will air tomorrow at 8:30 pm, and will feature the first ever Bangladeshi to win a gold medal at an international math Olympiad, Ahmed Zawad Chowdhury. The programme will be hosted by Rehana Samdany.

PHOTO: COURTESY