

WHAT'S ON



Film Screening
Title: DIFF Show by Rainbow Film Society – 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



The organisers briefed about the festival in a press conference held yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

17th Dhaka International Film Festival starts today

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

With the motto 'Better Film, Better Audience, Better Society', the 17th edition of Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF) opens today. It will run till January 18. Rainbow Film Society is organising the festival, with support from a long list of patrons and partners. The festival will be inaugurated today at the main auditorium of the Bangladesh National Museum (BNM) by former finance minister AMA Muhith. The film, *The Guest* by Turkish filmmaker Andaç Haznedaroğlu will be screened at the opening of the festival. This year, the festival will have screenings of 218 films from 58 countries under several sections: Asian Competition, Retrospective, Bangladesh Panorama, Cinema of

the World, Children's Films, Spiritual Films, Women Filmmakers, and Short and Independent Films. The venues for the screening include the main auditorium and Sufia Kamal auditorium in National Museum, Shawkat Osman Smriti Milanayatan in Central Library, Jatiya Chitrashala in BSA, Alliance Française de Dhaka and Jamuna Blockbuster Cinema. In a press conference at Dhaka Club yesterday, the organisers gave a brief about the festival. London based programmer for the festival Yesim Guzelpinar, head of programme Zoreh Zamani Khalafrou, actor and jury member for the Asian Film Competition, Ilias Kanchan, festival director Ahmed Muztaba Zamal and the Programme coordinator Mo

Hamid were present at the press briefing. Ahmed Muztaba Zamal announced that this year, one film from Bangladesh Panorama section will receive the prestigious FIRPRESI critic award for the Best Film under this category. "This award is prestigious for any filmmaker. We are very happy that one Bangladeshi filmmaker will receive it this year." The retrospective section will screen seven films by award-winning Serbian director Goran Paskaljević. Along with film screenings, the festival has arranged conferences for aspiring filmmakers. Advocate Sultana Kamal will inaugurate the 5th International Women Filmmaker Conference to be held at Alliance Française de Dhaka on Jan 11 and

12. This year, the festival will see for the first time an interactive session with the filmmakers titled West Meets East. The session will be held on January 14. 17 Children's films will be screened every day from 10 am to 3 pm, where children will watch the films free of cost. A special arrangement has been made for the underprivileged children to enjoy the films. Students with valid identity cards will be allowed to watch films for free at the 10 am, 1 pm and 3 pm shows. The regular audience will, however, have to pay 50 taka to watch the films in Shawkat Osman auditorium, Central Library. Besides, interactive session with audience, organisers, filmmakers and producers will take place every day at Central Library area.

Monalisa partners up with Hridoy Khan

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Monalisa is one of the most recognisable names in the showbiz industry. Having gained immense fame as a model, she has also been a part of many memorable tele-fictions and telefilms. Although her appearances today are sporadic due to her living in the USA, the good news for her

fans is that she will star in a short film directed by popular musician Hridoy Khan. The film is being shot in the states, and the actor is visibly excited about the project. "It will be a 25 minute film. It was a great experience working with Hridoy, who is surprisingly talented behind the lens as well," she told *The Daily Star*.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

ROBBIE to play Barbie

Launched in 1959, the evergreen Barbie doll has come a long way. Arguably the most famous doll in the world, Barbie has adopted more than 200 careers throughout the years. She was an inspiration for many children, and now will finally have her very own live-action feature film. Oscar-nominated Australian actor Margot Robbie will play the role of the iconic yet controversial doll. Robbie will also co-produce the film along with Warner Bros and the toy maker's recently established Mattel Films. The details including the title, release date or plot of the film, are yet to be announced.

SOURCE: REUTERS



Anisul Haque's solo ceramic sculpture show in China

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Md Anisul Haque is a promising artist, and is also a Masters of Fine Art (MEA) student of the Department of Ceramic, Nanjing University of the Arts (NUA), China. He held his first solo ceramic sculpture exhibition at the School of Design Art Gallery of the university. The inaugural ceremony of the exhibition took place on January 6 and will conclude today.

The exhibition, titled *Unfortunate Aspect of Humanity*, was inaugurated by Dr Yu Rui, Deputy Director of NUA. Jiang Jie, Dean of School of Design, NUA, Cao Bufeng, Dean of School of International Education, NUA and Lu Bin, Professor of Ceramic Department, NUA were present among others as honourable guests. Coreen Abbott, renowned ceramic artist of San Francisco, California, USA attended the ceremony as special guest.

The exhibition sheds light on the unfortunate aspects of humanity, caused by wars. "I don't know what happened in Nanjing during the Second World War, but I felt pathetic when I visited Nanjing Massacre Museum," said Anisul Haque. "I also came to realise what happened in Bangladesh in 1971 and what's currently happening in Myanmar, Syria, Yemen and so forth." Generally, a refugee is a displaced person who has been forced to cross national boundaries, unable to return home safely. They want to speak but they cannot, they feel helpless. They are always striving to recover from this terrible situation. They are waiting to be free to live a happy life. The purpose of the exhibition is to stand up for justice.

The artist regards awakening the common people against injustice as his solemn duty. He is also concerned about the role of the United Nations. He feels that artists have a lot more to do, irrespective of caste, creed, religion and national boundaries. "Everyone should stand up for peace, equality, human rights and speak out for justice and a better future. These are the messages I want to relay through my artworks," remarked the artist.



Anisul Haque (5th from right) with guests and dignitaries at the exhibition.



PHOTO: COURTESY



'Prishta Number 132' will be broadcast on Boishakhi Television at 9:05 pm today. Directed by Yamin Jewel, it stars Anisur Rahman Milon, Nazia Haque Orsha and Maznun Mizan among others.