



PHOTO: TOUKIR AHMED TANVEE

# THE FESTIVAL PREPARES

## CHOBİ MELA IX OPENS AT 3:00 PM TODAY

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PHOTOS: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

*Chobi Mela is an international festival of photography held in Dhaka every two years. The largest festival of photography held in Asia, Chobi Mela IX begins today. The key organisers are Drik Picture Library Ltd. and Pathshala (The South Asian Institute of Photography). As the Chobi Mela IX -- International Festival of Photography Bangladesh 2017 -- begins today, one simply cannot wait to feast in the photography and art works hailing from 16 countries -- Algeria, Germany, India, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden, Thailand, USA amongst others.*

*Today, the festival will begin at 3:00 pm, with a rally which will start at the Press Club and end at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, where the opening ceremony will take place. The ceremony will also honour two photographers -- Nasir Ali Mamun and Sayeda Khanam, for their groundbreaking work, with the prestigious Life Time Achievement Award. Endearingly known as the Camerar Kobi (the poet with the camera) is an eminent portrait photographer while Syeda Khanam is the first Bangladeshi woman professional photographer.*