

| CHOBİ MELA |

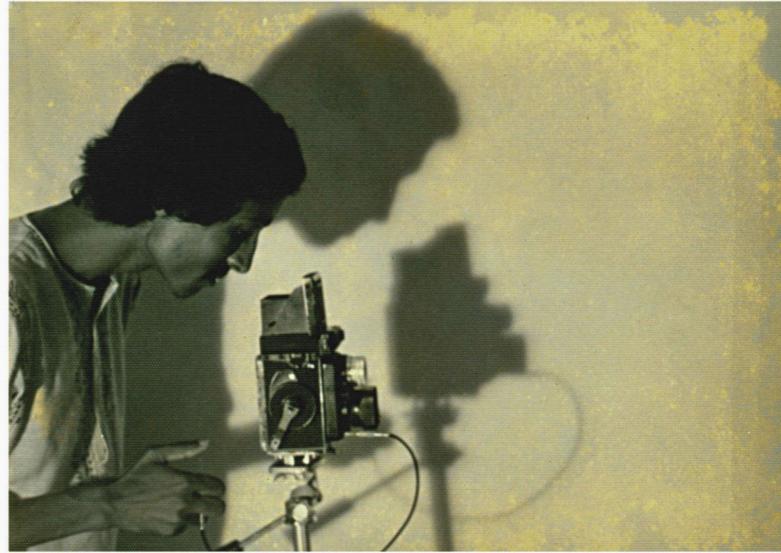


PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

University quarters. "His face reflected of his ambition but also had a hint of melancholia. Yunus sir, even when I first met him was very cordial and used to smile at everything. There was a swing in his house, which seemed lonely to me. When the picture came out my eyes directly went to his face and I could see that emotion, and I think now the viewers can see it too."

Mamun's entire life was dedicated to searching for these icons and capturing their unique essence with his camera. "Most of the people I embarked on were so humble to begin with that they didn't actually realise that they were celebrities. I sometimes had to remind them and even told them that they would be famous if I took a picture of them!" says Nasir Ali Mamun. This journey however wasn't always a smooth walk. "There were times when I actually annoyed some of these people. One of who was annoyed the most was the mother of peace herself, Mother Teresa."

Mamun approached Mother Teresa for a picture when she was in the car set to go to a function, when she visited Dhaka on January, 1981. "I told her it would take two minutes and though her associates were ready to kick me out, she with much irritation said yes. I remember she told me and I quote, "Do you know how many children are waiting for me now and they have to wait more just for you? How does

that make you feel?" After hearing this I was filled with guilt." The picture of Mother Teresa displayed at the Chobi Mela portrayed a very gloomy, somewhat angry Teresa. "You would see that her eyes were popping out with anger and her face easily reflected her rage. Clearly, it was because of this annoying photographer and not world poverty!"

Chobi Mela also exhibited many historical collections of Mamun such as Sultan's sketch of Mamun, Dr Yunus's drawing of Mamun's camera, autographs of personalities such as Selina Hossain, Bhupen Hajarik, Mamun with his first camera, his first solo exhibit at Bangla Academy, etc. "There were some

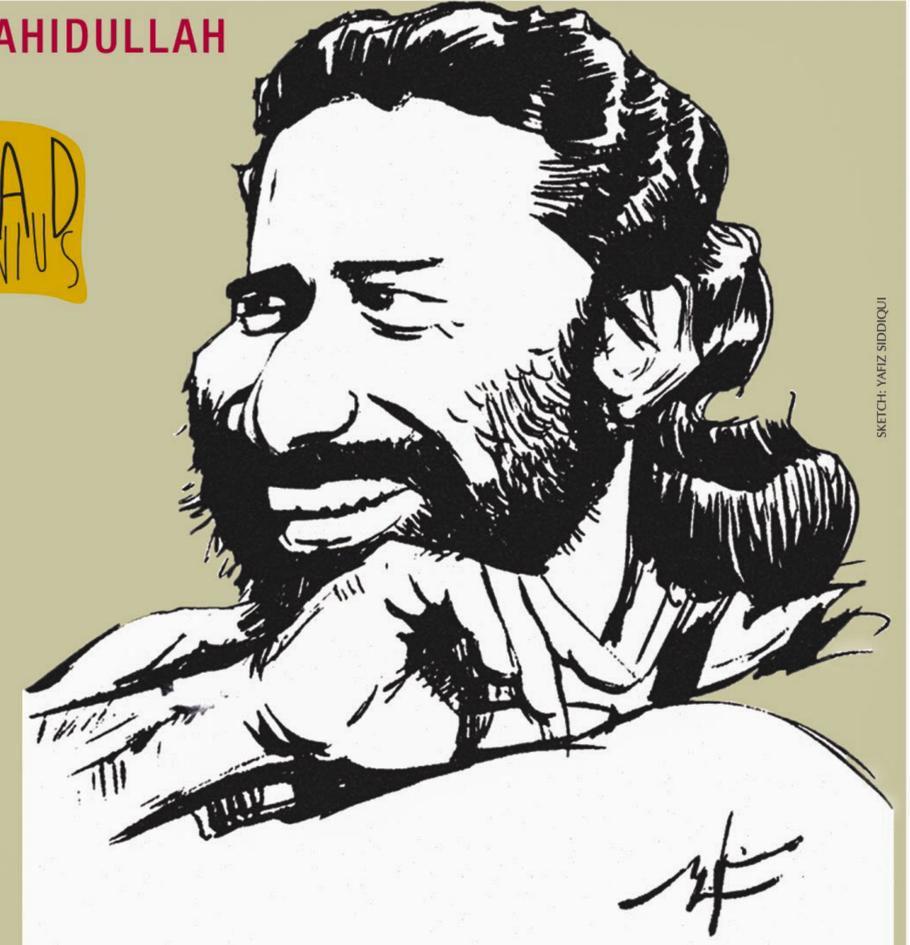
moments when I knew that I had to be a part of a photograph. One of these moments happened when I was with Samsur Rahman and Ustad Bahadur Hossain Khan." Mamun's plan was to capture Bahdur Hoassain Khan but when he brought out his Sarod and Samsur Rahman was sitting right beside him, suddenly it was a different story altogether. "The lighting, the ambience of the room somewhat called me to sit beside them. So I put the camera on a timer and slowly sat down beside them in such a way that they didn't notice me at all." Mamun was lucky enough to document poet Samsur Rahman until he died. The image of Samsur Rahman

shaving his beard portrays a different layer to the personality of this grand poet. "He actually asked me to not showcase this picture but it came out so good that I just had to!" Nasir Ali Mamun is now regarded as the poet of the camera. This tag was first given to him by Samsur Rahman when Mamun asked him for an autograph.

Mamun's photographs have stories to tell. His camera portrays a completely different aspect of a personality that cannot be seen otherwise with the naked eye. Over the years, Nasir Ali Mamun has demonstrated how he wrote poetry through frames and this exhibition gave an astonishing glimpse of his verses. ■

RUDRA MOHAMMAD SHAHIDULLAH
(16 October 1956 – 21 June 1991)

Born on 16 October, 1956, in Barisal, Bangladesh, Rudra Mohammad Shahidullah was a Bengali poet who was popular for his revolutionary and romantic poetry. He is considered one of the leading Bengali poets of the 1970s. In the popular culture of Bangladesh, Shahidullah's most well known contribution is the song *Bhalo Achi Bhalo Theko*, popular ever since it was written. In 1991, an annual fair called Rudra Mela was started to commemorate the poet.



SKETCH: YANIZ SIDDIQUI

OTHER WORKS-COLLECTION OF POEMS:

- Upodruto Upokul (1979)
- Firey Chai Swarno Gram (1981)
- Manusher Manchitra (1984)
- Chhobolo (1986)
- Galpa (1987)
- Diyechhilo Shokol Akash (1988)[3]
- Moulik Mukhosh (1990)[3]

POEMS:

- Abelay Shonkhodhoni
- Afim Tobuo Bhalo, Dhromo She To Hemlock Bish
- E Kemon Bhranti Aamar

- Ek Glas Ondhokar Hate
- Batashe Lasher Gondho
- Bhalobashar Somoy To Nei
- Bishbrikkho Bhalobasha
- Bish
- Byatha Da, Buke Rakhbo
- Dure Achho Dure
- Guccho Kobita
- Icchar Swar Onyo Rokom
- Kotha Chilo Subinoy
- Manusher Manchitro – 1
- Misile Notun Mukh
- Mone Pore Sudurer Mastul

SHORT STORIES:

- Sonali Shishir
- Play
- Bish Briksher Bij

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA AND BRAINY QUOTES

STAR DIARY

thestarmagazine@gmail.com

BOI MELA: REVIVING OUR LOVE FOR READING

Every February, I do not let go of the opportunity to revive my love for reading by visiting the Boi Mela. I let my children accompany me. I have been trying to instill the habit of reading within my three children since their early years. My youngest son Shabab, who is in the first grade, is a huge fan of ghost stories. This time, while roaming throughout the book fair, my son came across a number of short ghost story books. To quench his thirst, I bought him four books of the kind. I was very happy to see my child excited about reading books. Also, the whole aura around Boi Mela throughout the month of February is very special and dear to me as it brings back my own childhood memories.

Sharif Arifa Nupur Mohakhali D.O.H.S, Dhaka



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY OBSERVE

Last week, I visited one of my distant relatives house for a dinner invitation. They have an eight-year-old son. At one point, I overheard the child addressing their domestic helper by "tui". He was throwing toys at her too. It disturbed me when I noticed that, the helper was almost four times older by age. But, to my uttermost disappointment, his parents did not stop or even correct him. Instead, they seemed relaxed and were indulging in conversations with the guests. Here, the child is not at fault. At this age, children learn from their surroundings and it is the parents' responsibility to ensure them a sound environment. No matter how busy parents might be, we must find and give time to our children and teach them proper norms and etiquette. Whether they are domestic helpers or family members, children should be taught to respect and treat everyone equally.

Rafid Alam School Of Business, North South University