

WHAT'S ON

Theatre
 Title: An Inspector Calls
 Venue: Mohila Samity Auditorium, Bally road
 Date: December 11 - 15
 Time: 3:00 pm (December 14 & 15); 7:00 pm (December 11 - 15)

BRILLIANT
 The 4 in New Crafts International Artists Group Exhibition
 Int'l Craft Exhibition & Seminar
 Organisers: FFA, DU, Tsinghua University, Shanghai Art & Design Academy, BSA & Bengal Foundation
 Venue: National Art Gallery # 2 & 3, BSA
 Date: Dec 8-15; Time: 10 am - 8 pm

Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Winning With Art
 Venue: Bay's Galleria, Gulshan 1
 Date: Dec 1 - Dec 31
 Time: 10 am - 6 pm

Photography Exhibition
 Title: American Landscape - A Photography Exhibition by Shibiy Shiraj
 Venue: EMK Center
 Date: December 8 - December 20
 Time: 9:30 am - 8 pm

Dance Performance
 Title: Dohon
 Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
 Date: December 13
 Time: 7 pm

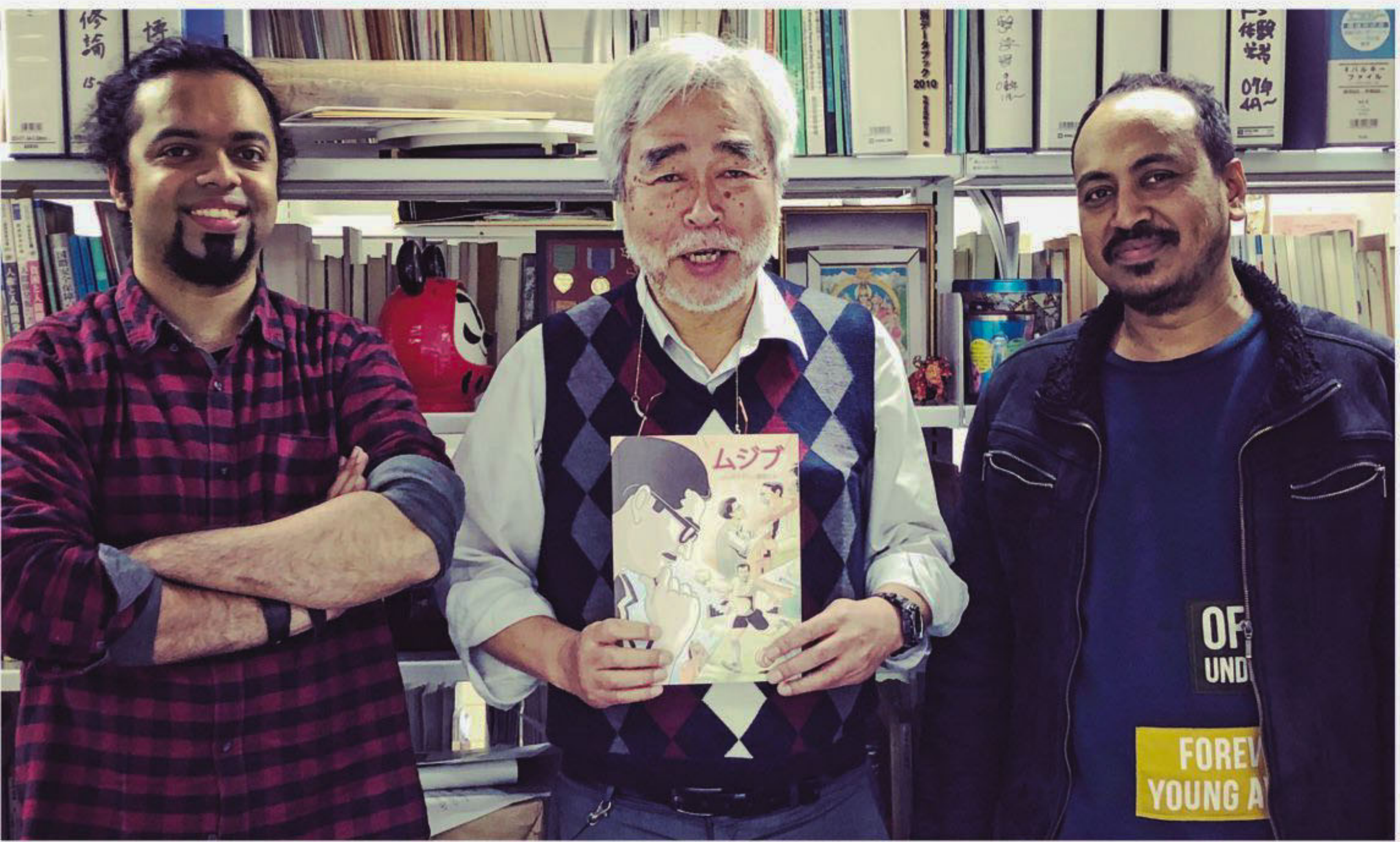
Bringing 'Mujib' to Japan

SHABABA IQBAL

The Japanese version of the graphic novel, *Mujib*, on the life of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was launched at the Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo, Japan, last month. On this occasion, Syed Rashad Imam Tanmoy, Associate Editor at *Unmad* and the cartoonist behind *Mujib*, and Shibu Kumer Shill, the editor of *Mujib*, went to Tokyo. "We could not think of a more iconic figure than the Father of the Nation when it came to telling the story of a Bangladeshi superhero," says Tanmoy, upon asking how the project was conceived. "With *Mujib*, our objective is to educate young people about an integral part of Bangladesh's history through visual representation, in a way that they will enjoy. We have presented not just the political, but also the humane side of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman." Japanese is the first foreign language after English to which the graphic novel has been translated to. *Mujib* is the first ever graphic novel from

Bangladesh to be translated to Japanese. The translators of *Mujib* are Masaaki Ohashi and Imran Sharif. Sheikh Rehana's son, Radwan Mujib Siddiq, is the publisher of the novel. The *Mujib* series, which comprises of twelve issues in total, is set to be completed by next year. In Japan, the team of *Mujib* held comic-book reading sessions at Hachioji Shiritsu Minamino Elementary School and Sacred Heart School. "It was a matter of great pride and honour for us to bring a graphic novel about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to the people of Japan. It is a breakthrough for the whole community of visual storytellers and authors in Bangladesh," says Shibu Kumer Shill. The people at the schools were delighted to have the team of *Mujib* as guests of honour, so much so that some students wrote a message in Bangla on a poster to welcome them warmly. "Some kids even came up to me and

said that now, if they make any Bangladeshi friends, they will be able to tell them that they know who Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is," smiles Tanmoy. "They were fascinated by his story as they had never heard of him before." As comics - or manga, as they refer to them in Japan - play a fundamental role in the nation's culture, *Mujib* is undoubtedly an effective way to reach out to the Japanese audience. In Japan, visiting Akihabara, which is the mecca of anime and manga, and manga cafes that boasts thousands of manga paperbacks and magazines and anime DVDs with free refills on beverages, was another highlight for Tanmoy. "This trip was a great cultural exchange for me," he adds. "As we have educated the people of Japan about Bangladesh's history through *Mujib*, their love for comics has filled me with inspiration and hope for the community of cartoonists in Bangladesh."



(From left) Syed Rashad Imam Tanmoy, Masaaki Ohashi and Shibu Kumer Shill.

PHOTO: COURTESY



STAR MELODIES to present 'Songs of Freedom' today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The people of our country fought for liberation and freedom not only with strategies, guns and grenades, but also with poetry, words of inspiration and powerful melodies. As we celebrate our 47th Victory Day, let us remember the many lyricists, composers, musicians and artists, who stirred the masses with their timeless words and tunes on Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra. *Star Melodies*, an initiative of *The Daily Star* to promote Bangla music, will hold a special musical programme, to pay tribute to these

patriots. Noted singers Rafiqul Alam, Dalia Nausheen and Timir Nandi along with singers Md Monowar Hossain Khan, Md Abu Nawsher, Sheela Bhadra, Shukti Chowdhury and Manjushree Niyogi will present songs of that golden era. The event will be held at The Daily Star Bengal Arts Precinct of The Daily Star Centre today at 6 pm. Sadya Afreen Mallick, Chief, Culture Initiatives, *The Daily Star*, will host the programme. Invitation passes can be collected from The Daily Star Centre. Seats are limited and available on a first-come first-serve basis.

Shadman Shahid's 'No Quarter' awarded

SHABABA IQBAL

Bangladesh's promising young photographer Shadman Shahid recently won 'The Emerging Photographer Fund 2018' award by the prestigious *Burn Magazine* making his room in a list of 11 photographers chosen from all over the globe. Shadman, a master's student of photography and society at the Royal Academy of Art, The Hague, won \$ 10,000 for his essay, *No Quarter*, which speaks about the victims of domestic violence in Bangladesh. It takes the form of a docu-fiction about Alo and Sagor, a couple who have been in an abusive relationship for more than 20 years. "*No Quarter* is based on the many interviews that I took of Alo, who got married at the age of 15 to a man twice her age. The abuse in their relationship started right after their first daughter was born," says Shadman. "Her husband would beat her up whenever she disagreed with him, complained about anything or even just spoke to another man. I have

visualised a docu-fictional album using pictures from their actual family album and staged images based on the memories that Alo shared with me." The names of the people involved are changed and their faces hidden in the docu-fiction. Shadman further opened up about the reasons he chose a topic like domestic violence for his project. "Many female victims of domestic violence are further maltreated when the news goes public or when they seek justice while their perpetrators walk around freely abusing more women," he says. "We, as a society, need to emphasise on this issue as much as we can, until there is an end to it." Launched in December 2008, *Burn Magazine* is an evolving journal for emerging photographers and is curated by Magnum photographer David Alan Harvey. "Receiving this accolade by *Burn Magazine* has filled me with immense pride and joy. It is a source of motivation and validation that will help me grow as an artiste," says Shadman.

Tisha in 'Bobaa Rohossho'



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular actor Nusrat Imrose Tisha is currently preparing for a Tollywood film with Abhishek Bagchi's *Bobaa Rohossho*. She will start shooting for the film in January 2019. "I really loved my character in *Bobaa Rohossho* and I think the script is fantastic," says Tisha. "I feel privileged to be working with Abhishek Bagchi and I am confident about the project." On the other hand, Tisha will also be seen in Mostafa Sarwar Farooki's *Shonibaarer Bikel* and Tauquir Ahmed's *Phagun Hawa* soon.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSEHD



PHOTO: COURTESY

SYED MAQSUD JAMIL

Dev Anand once told Dilip Kumar "Lala, tu saw saal jiyega" (Lala, [family name] you will reach the centennial mark!). Dilip Kumar turns 96 today. He was born as Muhammad Yusuf Khan to Ayesha Begum and Lala Ghulam Sarwar Ali Khan in a Muslim Hindko-speaking Awan family in Kissa Qhawani Bazar, Peshawar, in 1922. His father being a fruit merchant took his family to Bombay and settled there. As Yusuf Khan grew up to be a good-looking young man he started taking interest in cinema and went to Bombay Talkies. The cine star of the time, Dewika Rani, took his interview and the star Dilip Kumar was born. His debut was in the film *Jwar Bhata* (1944), and he went on to become a cine icon with an acting career spanning six decades and 65 films. Films like *Andaz*, *Aan*, *Naya Daur*, *Devdas*, *Madhumati*, *Ganga Jumna* and *Shakti* are some of his most memorable films. His performance in Tapan Sinha's

Bengali film, *Sagina Mahato*, was remarkable. Satyajit Ray termed Dilip's métier as method acting. In *Ganga Jumna* where Ganga (Dilip) was on the run chased by police he crumpled at the feet of Dhanno (Vyjayantimala) and poured out in agony "Unho ne mujhe ghar se beghar kar diya" (they have hounded me out of my house). It became one of the classic scenes of Indian cinema. In *Devdas*, Dilip was immaculate in his portrayal of the brooding persona of Devdas. Vyjayantimala, Chandramukhi of *Devdas*, informs that once she found Dilip walking around the studio briskly, perspiring with his face looking pale. In the next scene, she was to dance to the song, *Jise Tu Qubool Karle*, with Dilip lounging on the bed with a melancholy look. There, he conveyed the impression that Sarat Chandra indeed wrote *Devdas* with Dilip in mind! Dilip Kumar shone brightly in the films he acted in. Many happy returns of the day to the icon!



DILIP KUMAR

DILIP KUMAR TURNS 96!