

WHAT'S ON

**Musical Ensemble**  
 Title: Mala  
 Venue: Jatra Biroti  
 Date: January 4  
 Time: 7 pm  
 Details: facebook.com/jatrabirotiworld

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

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

**Artist Talk**  
 Title: Leelaprab-1 Kathapokathan  
 Venue: Dwip Gallery, Lalmitia  
 Date: January 5  
 Time: 6 pm - 9 pm

**Bulbul Chowdhury Birth Centenary**  
 Organisers: BSA & BNS  
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
 Yearlong Celebration opens in

# When entertainment meets politics

Four-time National Film Award winner Ferdous is a stalwart in our entertainment industry. With a twenty year career, he has strengthened his foothold not only in Bangladesh, but has also managed to garner fans from across the border. The actor has campaigned around the nation to urge the citizens to vote. The Dhaka based voter shared his latest experience in a conversation with The Daily Star.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

**SHAH ALAM SHAZU**  
 Where did you cast your vote and how was the experience?  
 I went to my birthplace, the Dhaka cantonment area, to cast my vote. My polling place was at Dhamalcoat Uchcha Bidyalay, the education institute founded by my father. It was a great experience to have been able to vote alongside all my peers and close ones. There was a feeling of festivity, as everyone voted peacefully. You travelled across various places in Bangladesh during your campaign. Could you shed some light regarding that issue?  
 I have campaigned at many places in Dhaka. Besides that, I also visited Chattogram, Bagerhat, Khulna, Jashore, Magura, Bhola, Rangpur, Dinajpur and Mymensingh among other places. It was an unforgettable and festive experience to

witness the massive wave of supporters on behalf of the boat (Nouka). You have also joined the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during the campaign. How was that for a change?  
 Amongst the actors, Riaz and I were the first to join the campaign this time. We went to the hometown of our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Tungipara. Once there, I could feel the energy of the soil that bore of our Father of our Nation. Later, the Prime Minister asked Riaz and I to address the crowd. It felt as if we were becoming a part of history in the making!  
 What else did you talk about with the Prime Minister during the campaign?  
 You will be amazed to know that despite her busy schedule, she is well aware of our entertainment industry. That was a major topic of our discussion. Apart from

that, she also inquired about our wellbeing, our families and our lives in general. When the Prime Minister went to the United Nations last time, both Riaz and I were present. We had a good conversation even during our flight. It is this humane quality in her that draws our immense respect towards her.  
 What do you want out of this government?  
 Right now, I am waiting to celebrate our victory. Under our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's directive, the nation has experienced tremendous development across all sectors. All I want, is for this 'arts and entertainment friendly' government to continue and prosper in its mission for advancement.  
 Would you consider switching your profession from an actor to a politician?  
 Indeed, there is a possibility in the near future.

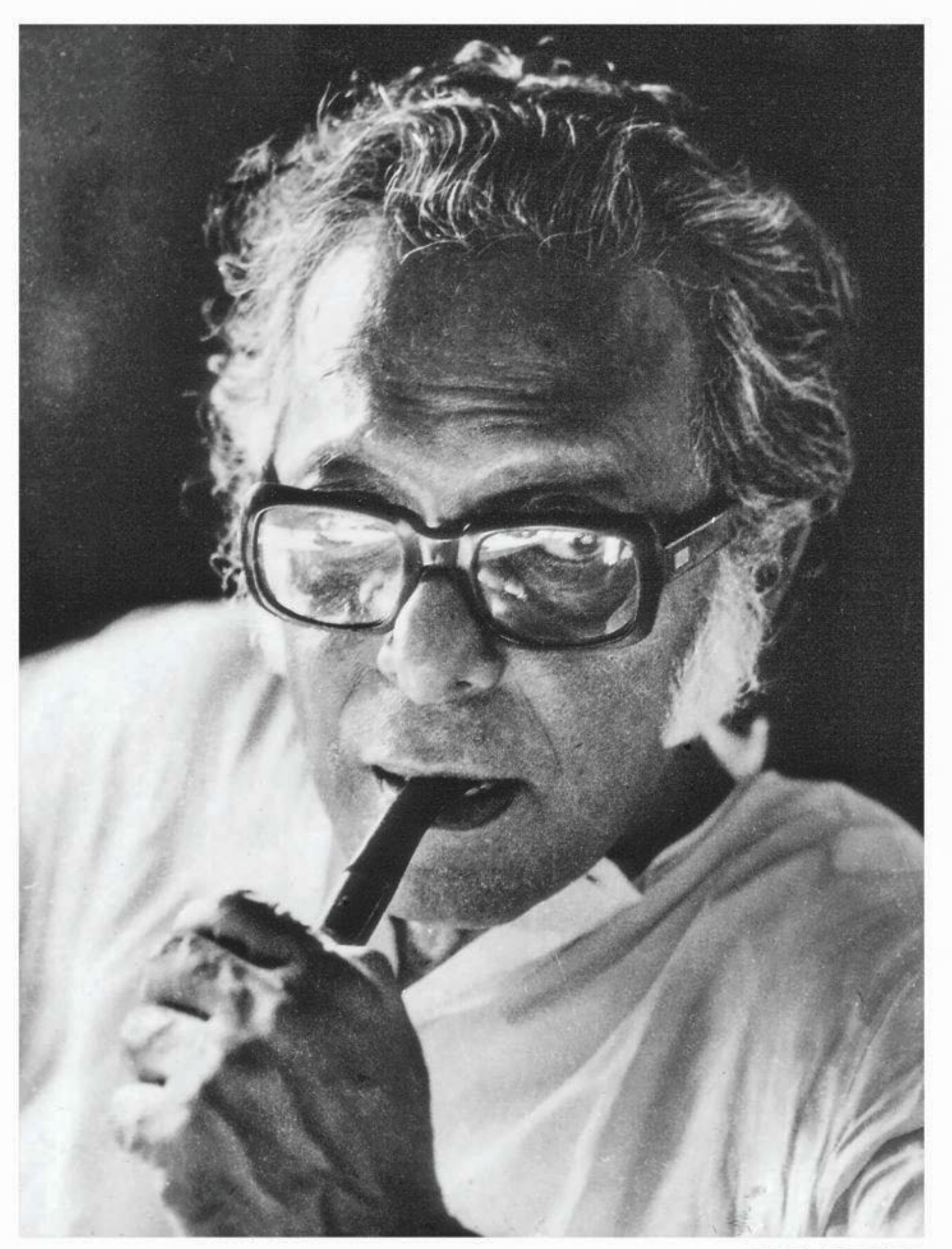


PHOTO: COLLECTED

## The greatest creations of MRINAL SEN

Mrinal Sen, the third of the Ray-Ghatak-Sen trio leading the new wave in Indian cinema, breathed his last yesterday. Here are some of the must-watch films from one of the most important filmmakers of Indian film history.

- PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY**  
**Mrigayaa**: Featuring Mithun Chakraborty, the film portrays the relationship between the British colonialists and native villagers, and their exploitation by Indian landlords in 1920s India. The film won Mrinal Sen a National Award for Best Film.  
**Khandahar**: This 1984 Bengali classic is weaved around a group of friends who go for a picnic in some rural ruins, and find a mother-daughter duo that live there.  
**Ek Din Pratidin**: This 1979 film raises some vital questions on gender norms, and is a cult classic in its own right.  
**Calcutta 71**: Documenting the agony of common people, Calcutta 71 narrates the violence and corruption throughout ages. The film is based on 4 short stories by reputed writers. All the stories are connected or interlinked to give a powerful statement.  
**Padatik**: In the early 70s, Maoist Naxalites gained momentum. The film portrays one such political activist, who escapes the prison van and is sheltered in a posh apartment owned by a sensitive young woman.

## IN LOVING MEMORY

We remember some of the legendary luminaries we lost this year. These names helped define the landscape of Bangladeshi art and culture. The list of lost talents includes artistes from the world of rock music, film, photography, literature, dance, acting and art.



**Ayub Bachchu**   **Saidul Anam Tutul**   **Ferdousi Priyabhashini**   **Bazlur Rahman Badal**  
**Rani Sarkar**   **Belal Ahmed Chowdhury**   **Anwar Hossain**   **Syed Jahangir**  
**Amjad Hossain**   **Sabah Tani**   **Tazin Ahmed**   **Shammi Akhter**  
 PHOTO: STAR



Imagine Radio, a music streaming app, launched with endorsement from the music industry.



Bangladesh Drum Day celebrated the best of drumming that the country has produced over the years. PHOTO: COURTESY

## Did 2018 hit the right notes?

**SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ**  
 It is hard to argue the fact that 2018 was an eventful year in Bangladeshi music. Whether it be the end of a musical saga, or a stark change in consumption trends, there was a lot that indicated where the future may lie for an industry that is slowly recuperating from the dark days of mass piracy.

**A GRADUAL SHIFT TOWARDS AUDIO STREAMING**  
 The biggest attempt of shift is the renewed investment in music streaming platforms. GP Music, which had been revamped in late 2016, stayed relevant this year with consistent curation and serviceability. Banglalink Vibe was relaunched this year with a plethora of exclusives from some of the biggest names in the industry. However, the problem of accessi-

bility persists, as the user needs to possess a SIM from the respective telecom company. GAAN and Imagine Radio are two apps that look to mitigate the issue, with the latter being recently launched with endorsement from the biggest artistes of the music industry. Even though the effectiveness of these apps in battling piracy is up for debate, a lot of new artistes getting a shot at the limelight through them certainly isn't a bad thing.  
**MUSIC FOR A CAUSE**  
 In October, BAMBA teamed up with PFDA-Vocational Training Centre to raise awareness about autism. The cause brought together fans and musicians alike with a massive turnout, even amidst an important cricket match for Bangladesh's national team. Warfaze, one of the country's biggest rock bands, signed with UNICEF as 'Advocate for Child Rights'. The power of music, when harnessed, can work to bring people together for a good

cause, and 2018 contained some remarkable examples of that.  
**MUSICIANS, NOT 'HANDS'**  
 'Bangladesh Drum Day', organised by Stargazer, had one of the highest turnouts in the home of rock, the Russian Cultural Centre. The event, besides highlighting the best drummers from the country, was testament to the fact that the days of glorifying only vocalists is gradually coming to an end.  
**'VIRAL FEVER' ENSUES, ARTISTES BREAK THROUGH**  
 While it would be wrong to imply that breaking out as an artiste on social media is a new phenomenon, this year saw a surprising number of talented artistes come to the forefront. Whether it be covers which would revive the olden days or songs of heartbreak that spreads like wildfire, it is inarguable that social media had a huge role to play in the industry.