

WHAT'S ON



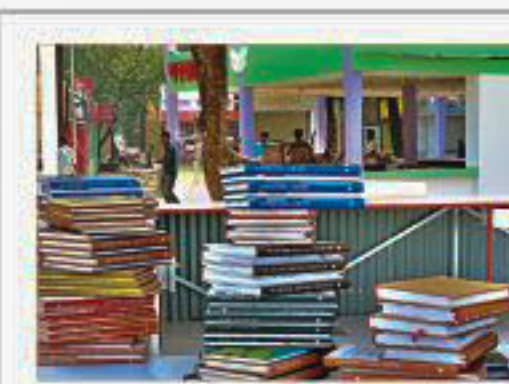
**Film Festival**  
Title: Dhaka International Mobile Film Festival 2019  
Venue: University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh  
Date: February 15



**Live Art Show**  
Title: Dhaka Live Art Biennale  
Venue: University of Dhaka  
Date: Jan 21 – Feb 14  
Time: 10 am – 8 pm



**Exhibition**  
Title: LAL - An Ode to the Moon & Menstrual Cycle  
Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani  
Date: February 19 - 23  
Details: www.facebook.com/jatrabirotiworld



**Book Fair**  
Title: Ekushey Boi Mela 2019  
Venue: Bangla Academy, Dhaka  
Date: Feb 1 – 28  
Time: 3 pm – 8.30 pm



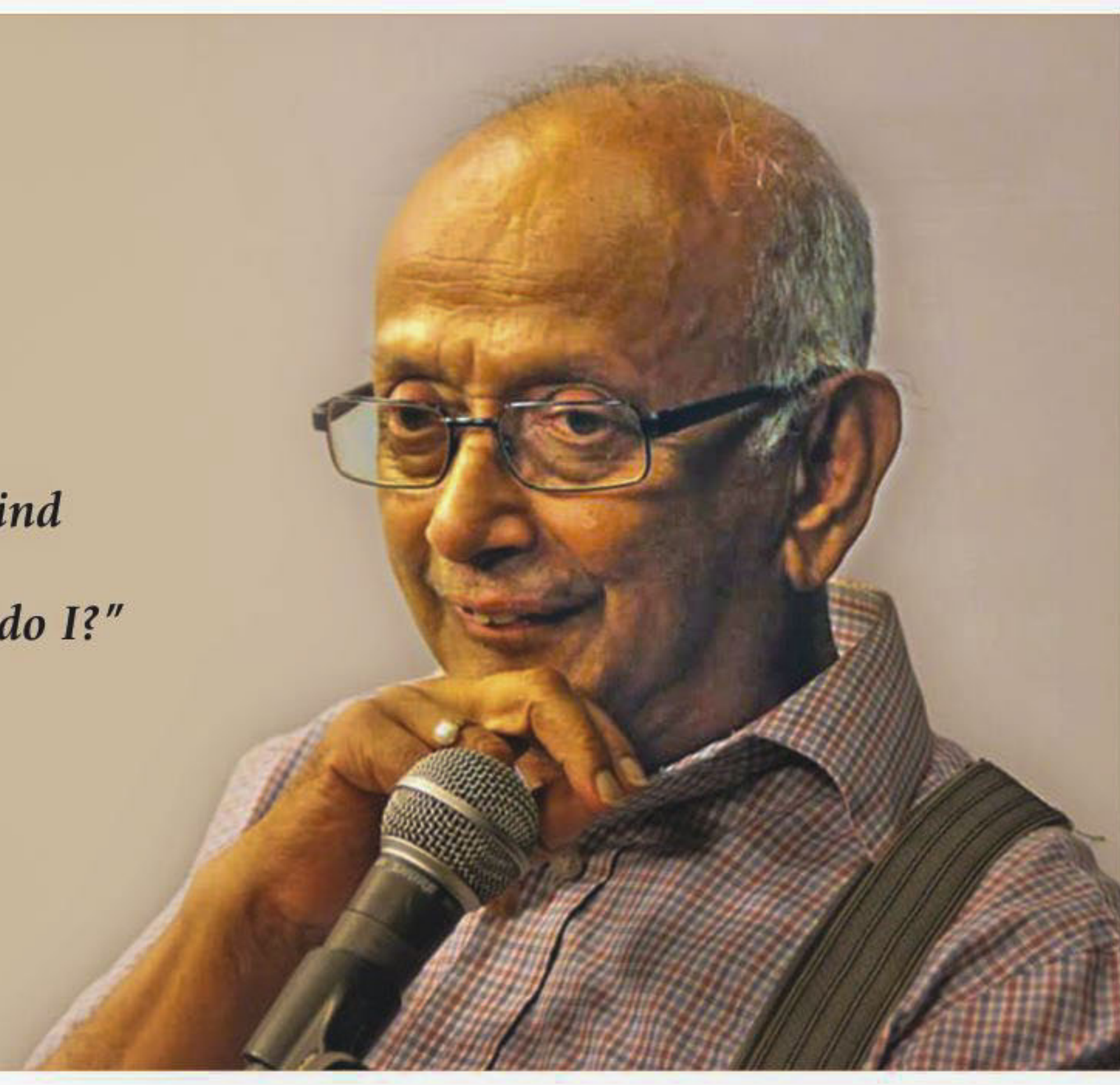
**Theatre Festival**  
Title: Jatiyo Patho Natya Utshab 2019  
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar  
Date: Jan 31 – Feb 7  
Time: 4 pm onwards

Mon e bhabna tobu  
Ghire royechhe Shodai  
Eto chaoa niye kothay jai?

Translation:  
"With all these hopes in mind  
Keeping me inclined  
Where do I go now, where do I?"

Dishehara Je Mor Mon -  
Moheener Ghoraguli

PHOTO:  
COLLECTED



# FAREWELL, ARUNENDU DAS

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Arunendu Das, a pioneer in Bangla alternative songwriting, passed away in London on February 3 at the age of 81. He played an integral part in composing music for Moheener Ghoraguli, in the band's later years.

While the influence of Moheener Ghoraguli as an act on Bangla music as we know it, cannot be understated, it was Arunendu Das who held the privilege of being the first Bengali guitarist to specifically design compositions and lyrics around guitar tracks. Many of Moheener Ghoraguli's timeless hits, including *Ghore Ferar Gaan*, *Kisher Eto Tara*, *Ke Ke Jabi Re*, *Shara Raat* among many others were composed by the pioneering musician.

Arunendu Das was born in Yangon, Myanmar in 1938 to Jodhulal Das and Amiyabala Das. The family had to move to Bikrampur, Bangladesh soon after the outbreak of World War II. Having spent his early

days in Bangladesh, Arunendu had to find his feet in Kolkata, and he did so by joining a scout group in the Bhowanipur Mitra Institution, during the travels of which he wrote his first documented lyric named Chanchal Ek Dal Scout Bhai in 1955. During his time at the Bengal Engineering (BE) College, where he studied architecture, he gained popularity among his peers with his prowess with a Hawaiian guitar. He would not be exposed to a steel-string until later years, on which he composed most of his music on.

Arunendu's talents would have remained relatively unknown if not for his meeting with Gautam Chattopadhyay, one of the founders of Moheener Ghoraguli in 1987. Gautam's brother, Pradeep Chatterjee, also a founding member of the band, was exposed to Arunendu's music in BE college and eventually told him about it. Gautam had visited Arunendu's residence, and the two's bonding saw Arunendu's songs included in all four of Moheener Ghoraguli's albums after the

band's original line-up disbanded: *Aabar Bochor Kuri Pore*, *Ihora Somoyer Gaan*, *Maya* and *Khyapaar Gaan*.

Arunendu's simplicity and straightforwardness showed in his lyrics and tunes, as they are still covered by generations of musical successors. Gautam Chattopadhyay was famously quoted saying that he was a 'predecessor' to Moheener Ghoraguli, even though his music surfaced much later. "So many songs we sing on a daily basis are written by him, and so many of us do not even know that he wrote them", wrote ace singer Sahana Bajpaie on her Facebook, while posting a picture with the late artist. Heartfelt tributes poured in from the musical fraternities of both Bangladesh and India.

The final time the great musician was on stage was in 2013, at a show in Kolkata. He had been living in England since the late 60's, sporadically travelling to India for shows. Arunendu Das's passing is the irreplaceable loss of an often underappreciated icon in Bangla music.

## PORTRAIT OF A COVER ARTIST Abhijit Chowdhury

With a keen interest in drawing and painting from a young age, Abhijit Chowdhury graduated from Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka before beginning his professional journey as an artist in full swing from 1990. He has worked as an illustrator for various newspapers in the country, in addition to designing book covers for both established and new authors. He has also contributed widely to this year's Ekushey Boi Mela, designing around 20 book covers.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Star, Chowdhury opens up about his passion for art and more.



SHABABA IQBAL

Tell us a little about your processes and preferences for creating the cover of a book.

I definitely need to read the story of a novel before I sit down to design the cover for it, because I intend to be particular and meaningful in my approach. I think of different colours based on the different characters and situations in the novel. Even though technological advancements have made things easier and more flexible for cover artists, I still paint book jackets by hand because I believe that there is a sense of spontaneity to it. I prefer to use my own hand over a computer's hand. Particularly, I enjoy making covers for poetry collections.

Do you think it is important for a cover artist and an author to build a good rapport with one another when they collaborate for a book?

Absolutely. In fact, I have known many authors and cover artists who have had productive discussions and bonded with one another during informal conversa-

tions. So, I think a good chemistry between the author and the cover artist is really important. They should make sure that they are on the same page about the project, so that there are no conflicts down the road.

In the span of your career, you have worked with both renowned and emerging authors. What do you like the most about working with young writers?

I think that the majority of the young population is bringing many positive changes and working for the betterment of our country today. I am happy to be able to support them in any way I can, because I believe in their potential.

What advice would you give to emerging artists for overcoming the challenges that come with working in this field?

Building good communication and networking skills would be my first advice, as we live in a time where it is important for artists to go out on their own, looking for work. I am optimistic about the prospects for young artists in Bangladesh today.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## 1947 to 1971 through photographs

MOSTAFA SHABUIJ, from Bogura

A day long photo exhibition was held at the campus of Govt Azizul Haque College in Bogura recently. Surrounding the spirit of the International Mother Language Day, the exhibition focused on the period from 1947 to 1971.

Professor Md Shahjan Ali, Principal of the college, inaugurated the event which was jointly organised by the District Chhatra Union. The photographs mainly highlighted the role of bravery portrayed by the women and students during the time frame. The principal mentioned, "These photos stand as a testament to the horrendous genocide that we faced. It will help the younger generation to learn about the sufferings and in turn, spark the essence of patriotism."

Nadim Mahmud, president of the Chatra Union of Bogura district unit said, "We have arranged a total of 100 rare photographs, related to the partition of India and Pakistan, the Language Movement, forming of Jukta Front, education movement of 62, the six point movement, history of mass upsurge in 69, and the Liberation War of 1971."

Aimed at the youth, it provided a perceptive about our history of oppression as a people, and how we fought and emerged as a victorious nation. It caught the attention of a wave of students as they observed the photographs on display with much enthusiasm.



PHOTO: STAR

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY BAPPA MAZUMDER!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Today marks the birthday of one of Bangladesh's most beloved vocalists and composers, Bappa Mazumder. Born to classical maestro Ustaad Barin Mazumder and Ila Mazumder, Bappa's musical heritage and hard work ensured that he would go on to write thousands of songs, many of which are modern classics.

He has reached out to the hearts of millions, both as a solo artiste, and with his band, Dalchhut. Bappa has also composed songs for many established and upcoming musicians. Till date, he has produced more than 200 studio albums. Besides possessing what is said to be a 'golden' voice of his generation, capable of singing both classical and contemporary songs, he is also one of the finest guitarists in the country today. The Arts & Entertainment family wishes the multi-talented genius many happy returns of the day!



## TO THE RHYTHM OF JAZZ

Imran Ahmed Trio (Imran Ahmed, Mohaimin Karim, Arjo Shrestho) performing alongside Nazrul Islam, and Hasin Aryan at Jazz Planet 2.0, held in Gulshan North Club this Friday.

PHOTO:  
COURTESY