

WHAT'S ON

Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Musicality in Wood
 Venue: Gallery Cosmos-
 Villa de Anjuman, New DOHS
 Mohakhali
 Date: February 22 - March 5
 Time: 5 pm - 8 pm

International Art Exhibition
 Title: Celebrating Mother Language in the
 Light of Art
 Venue: National Art Gallery, BSA
 Date: Feb 23 - Mar 9
 Time: 11 am to 8 pm (Sunday-Thursday); 3 pm
 to 8 pm (Friday-Saturday)

Festival of Photography
 Title: Chobi Mela X
 Venues: Drik - Pathshala under construction
 building, Goethe Institut, Britto Arts Trust,
 Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Pathshala South,
 Asian Media Institute, Drik Gallery,
 Chayanaut Shangskriti-Bhavan
 Date: Feb 28 - March 9; Time: 11 am - 8 pm
 Details: <http://www.chobimela.org/>

Book Fair
 Title: Ekushey Boli Mela 2019
 Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan
 and Bangla Academy, Dhaka
 Date: February 1 - March 3
 Time: 3 pm - 8:30 pm

Film Festival
 Title: 12th International Children's Film
 Festival Bangladesh
 Venue: Central Public Library
 Date: March 2 - 8
 Time: 4 pm onwards



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

10 ON THE PEN

Tushar Hasan completes a decade as a lyricist

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

At first glance, Tushar Hasan will not strike you as an artiste, as he nonchalantly smiles throughout his day-to-day activities at his corporate job. Behind his sharp and confident smile lies his identity as a lyricist, one which he has quietly established for a decade with excellence. He started his career through the album *Fuad ft Kona*, which was ace singer Kona's first album. Gaining prominence through *Cholo Bohudur*, a super-hit theme song for a telecom company, Tushar has gone on to write multiple hit themes for many corporate entities, and was also a part of 4 studio albums. "You can say that I have a knack for writing theme songs," laughs Tushar, "however, I love writing story-based lyrics for songs." The artiste is particular about how he pens his work. "I have a need to be a part of the entire process of tuning and recording the song," he says, "as I want to have a feel for what I am writing about." This year, the lyricist has a few surprises up his sleeve. Tushar is hopeful about the song *Bhalo Theko* for a telefilm, *Bhalo Theko Tumio* featuring Apurba and Mehababien, sung by Miftah Zaman. He has written the theme song for 'Women of the World', an initiative by a smartphone company, as well as 3 tracks for the debut album of an in-house band in a well known telecommunication company. Moving forward, the young lyricist wants to keep on working in his meticulous ways, which earned him a place in the industry. "I would always want to be a part of tasteful music," says Tushar, who believes it is just the start for him in the music industry.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Mixing memories with political conscience 'Rashid Talukder (1939-2011): A Life's Work' at Chobi Mela X

ZAHANGIR ALOM

A dead face, bruised, emerges out of muddy waters, bricks lie strewn around. Only the face, and no other parts are visible. Gouged eyes stare like black holes. The Pakistani army, with their local collaborators led a killing spree at Rayer Bazar Boddhobhumi on the night of December 14, 1971. The brightest sons of this soil laid down their lives on that dreadful night. Rashid Talukder's photographs are a chilling testimony to that genocide. Many priceless visuals are on display at Drik Gallery marking Chobi Mela X, one of the largest photo fiestas of the world. Rashid Talukder, a founding father of modern Bangladeshi photography, is also a pioneering visual documentarian of the country's struggles spanning from the Language Movement of 1952, to the Liberation War in 1971. Talukder fought the battle not with his arms, but with his lens. His camera was his weapon of choice. He famously said, "Photography is an international language. If you don't love photography, it will not love you." The exhibition is a great treat for photogra-



phy enthusiasts, especially those eager to learn about Bangladesh history, political struggles, cultural heritage, popular beliefs, and life of simplicity. A number of black and white images tell tales of the birth of Bangladesh and its peoples' supreme sacrifice for the motherland. The aspects of the visually rich show include a young *tokai* (people who collect garbage from the streets) leading a procession during the mass upsurge of 1969. The police shot and killed the child soon after the photograph was taken. The exhibition also displays photographs of people burning President Ayub Khan's effigy along with his book *Friends Not Masters* during the mass uprising

of 1969; Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's press conference at Dhanmondi 32, among many others. Artist Munem Wasif is the curator of the exhibition. His work revolves around themes of memory, place and identity, primarily through photographs and videos. He has been a co-curator of Chobi Mela since the festival's eighth edition in 2015, and since then, has curated two major research-based shows - one on legendary Bangladeshi photographer Anwar Hossain (Chobi Mela VIII) and another on Nasir Ali Mamun (Chobi Mela IX). Born in Chabbish Pargana, West Bengal, India, Rashid Talukder's fascination with

photography - how photographs could identically translate what one saw onto paper - led to a very early start in his career. He began making tea for photographers in a studio in Rajshahi at the age of six. He joined the Press Information Department as a photo technician at the age of twenty. For the next forty three years, he worked as a professional photographer in two major Bangla newspapers - *The Daily Sangbad* and *The Daily Ittefaq* successively. Talukder received a Lifetime Achievement Award at Chobi Mela IV, in Dhaka in 2006, and the Pioneer Photographer Award in *National Geographic's* 'All Roads Photography Programme' in 2010.

G Series to celebrate its 36th birthday today



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Today marks the 36th birthday of one of Bangladesh's major record labels, G Series. The company has been synonymous with the production of quality cassettes, CDs, VCDs and DVDs over the years. A festive celebration will take place today at the head office of the record label, situated in Elephant Road. Nazmul Haque Bhuiyan Khaled established the label in 1983, and through his hard work and vision of promoting all genres of quality music, made the label one of the most recognisable one in the country.

'Don McCullin - The Impossible Peace' by Robert Pledge at Chobi Mela X



PHOTO: KAZI SALAHUDDIN RAZU

MINAM HAQ

A programme titled 'Don McCullin - The Impossible Peace' was conducted by Robert Pledge on the second day of the Chobi Mela X, at Goethe-Institut Bangladesh. Born in 1942 in London, Robert Pledge moved to Paris at a young age. Having a background in West African languages and Anthropology, he later ventured into journalism as a specialist in African affairs. In 1973, he was the director of the picture agency, Gamma and in 1976 he founded Contact Press Images in New York with American photographer David Burnett. As a curator of major exhibitions worldwide, Robert also served as a member of esteemed international juries, including that of World Press Photo

Foundation. Robert's sense of humour had the audience captivated from the get-go. His dialogue gave insight into Don McCullin's photographs on war, which were exhibited worldwide and gained much recognition. Born in 1935 in London, Don McCullin is considered as one of the most iconic photographers in his field. 'Don McCullin - The Impossible Peace' catalogues photographs of remarkable moments from his life, including his most illustrious assignments in Germany, Vietnam, Cambodia, Bangladesh, West Africa and the Middle East. His thought provoking black-and-white photographs over the last five decades helped shape consciousness about warfare and its consequences. Don McCullin is amongst the few photographers to have

ever been knighted. He also won several accolades over the years, including the World Press Photographer Award and the Warsaw Gold Medal. During an interview with *The Daily Star*, Robert mentioned, "Don McCullin is well-reputed amongst the older generation of photographers, but I feel the new generation will equally appreciate his work." He further added, "His coverage on the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh was well-received overseas, so I thought it would be great to showcase the photographs here." Even though there is nothing great about war, the cascading images displayed on the screen, each with its own momentum, had the house-full audience awestruck, as it took them on a journey across the various ruins and landscapes around the globe.



The Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi of Manikganj District celebrated their 13th conference on February 28 and March 1. The inauguration ceremony of the conference was followed by a colourful procession around the city. PHOTO: STAR