

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 Française de Dhaka, Pathshala South,  
Asian Media Institute, Drik Gallery,  
Chayannaut Shangkri-Bhavan  
Date: Feb 28 – March 9; Time: 11 am – 8 pm  
Details: <http://www.chobimela.org/>



**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Soaked in Paper  
Venue: Galleri Kaya, Uttara  
Date: March 1 – 12  
Time: 11 am – 7:30 pm



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



PHOTO: KAZI SALAHUDDIN RAZU

# MY WORK FOCUSES ON PEOPLE

-Moushumi Bhowmik

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

During a discussion at Goethe-Institut Bangladesh on the fourth day of Chobi Mela X, singer and songwriter Moushumi Bhowmik showed how sounds and videos found their way into photography exhibitions, referring to her archives of songs and sounds.

Bhowmik has been travelling to this part of Bengal, which she refers to as an extension of her own land, for the last 25 years. She has travelled to fragmented areas of Bengal to collect various sounds, part of which was presented during her talk. The installation of the presentation was an amalgamation of the work of Bhowmik and sound recordist Sukanta Majumdar.

Since she was engaged in a process of archiving while travelling, she created a travelling

archive. "A travelling archive is also about lands that seem to be constantly forming and reforming themselves," she said. Her presentation began with an image from 1932, captured in Naogaon, Rajshahi. It was taken by Dutch music scholar, Arnold Bake, who was highly inspired by Tagore. Blake went to Santiniketan in 1925 and lived there for four years to complete his PhD. He travelled as he wrote his dissertation, and listened to different kinds of music. He wanted the world to know about the kinds of songs he came across during his travels. This was one of the reasons why he went back and convinced the Berlin-Phonogramm Archiv to give him a phonograph, so that he could document them. Arnold was also told to record the ballads of Rajput, to document the part of India which had not been europeanised. For this reason, Bhowmik believes

that through archives, we sometimes create an accurate reference point for the future.

"The process of producing archives is subjective. There are no scientific methods to it," added Bhowmik. "When we archive, there is always a purpose that is guided by our intention, politics and where we stand in life."

She further played songs of the Fakirs and Bauls from Rajshahi. The audience also got a glimpse of the journey Bhowmik has been on to create the archive. On her travels, she spoke to people from different walks of life, including marginalised women. She also traced numerous places, which were mentioned in different documents from the past. "The archive that we are creating has its flaws. But my work focuses on people," mentioned Bhowmik. "We are accommodating different voices in the body of the archive."

# Zahid Hasan's upcoming ventures

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

With a few more months until the Eid bonanza dominates the TV channels, preparations are well under way for many in the fraternity. Popular actor Zahid Hasan is scheduled to appear in three different tele-fictions so far. He recently returned from Nepal, as per the mise en scène of his latest projects. He worked on a seven-episode series titled *Golpo Nai*, directed by Adibashi Mizan. Zahid Hasan informed that he only acts if the script is commendable. His other tele-fiction slated for Eid was also shot in Nepal, titled *Bhool Theke Fool*, directed by Juboraj. After his return to Dhaka, the actor fell ill, but he has recovered since then. Zahid Hasan will begin his work for the third project within a few days. The seven-episode series is titled *Diabetes*, which will also be directed by Adibashi Mizan. Currently, Zahid Hasan starrer tele-fictions and serials are being telecast on several channels. He will also direct a new serial *Don*, in the coming days.

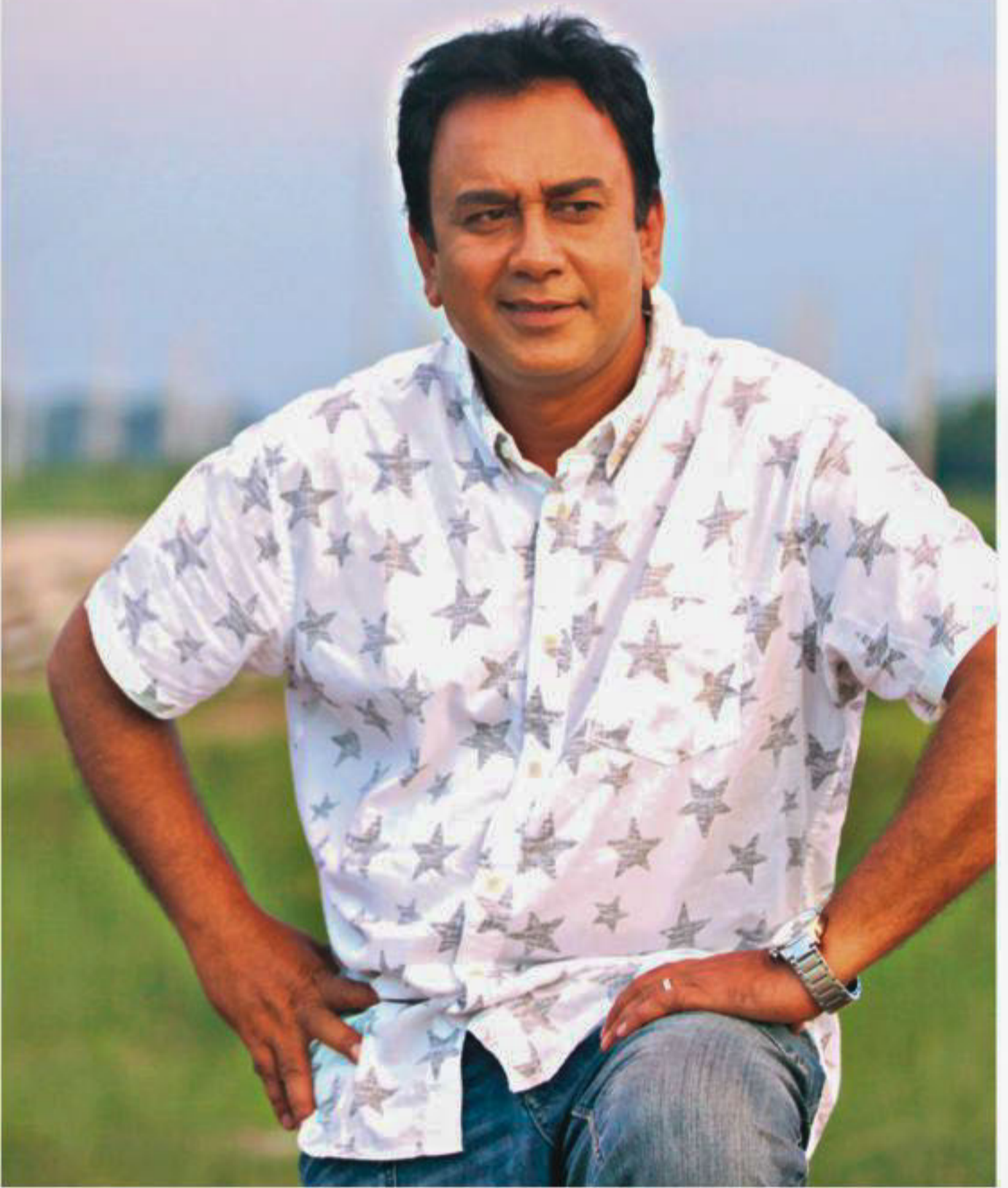


PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Promising Kathak dancer Anya Wafi Rahman enchanted the audience in the recently held 'Esho Shopno Chorai', in celebration of cultural organisation Shopnokuri's 32nd anniversary. The programme took place in Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy's Sangeet and Nrityakala Milanayatan.

PHOTO: COURTESY

SHABABA IQBAL

Considered as one of the most significant photography events in Asia and the first of a regular biennale, Chobi Mela - International Festival of Photography, is organised by Drik Picture Library Ltd and Pathshala South Asian Media Institute. 21 countries, including Australia, Brazil, Germany, Italy, Nepal, USA and others, are participating this year.

As a part of the tenth installment of Chobi Mela, a discussion session, titled, 'Engaging The Archive: Storytelling and Scholarship' was organised at Goethe-Institut Bangladesh recently. Alisha Sett and Samia Khatun were the speakers of the session, which was moderated by photographer and curator Nayantara G Kakshapati.

Alisha Sett is a writer, curator and educator from Mumbai. She is the co-founder and director of the Kashmir Photo Collective and Deputy Course Director of Critical Theory, Aesthetics



PHOTO: KAZI SALAHUDDIN RAZU

and Practice at Jnanapravaha Mumbai. Her research on histories of South Asian photography has been supported by an Edmond J Safra Fellowship (Harvard University) and Inlaks Shivdasani Foundation scholarship. Sett received her MA in History of Art from the Courtauld Institute of Art as a part of their special option 'Documentary Reborn: Photography, Film and Video in Global Contemporary Art'; she was a part of the Program for Narrative and

Documentary Practice at Tufts University where she received her BA in Political Science and English Literature. In her presentation, she spoke about the Kashmir Photo Collective, a digital archive that aims to create an alternative photographic history of the Kashmir Valley. "We invite individuals and families, photo studios and photographers, as well as institutions to contribute their photographs and stories to the archive," said Sett. Since

its inception in 2014, the initiative has archived numerous private collections.

Samia Khatun is a writer, filmmaker and cultural historian. She was born in Dhaka, educated in Sydney and has held research fellowships in Berlin, Dunedin, New York and Melbourne. She is soon to develop a history programme at the University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh. The central piece of her presentation was her book, *Australianama: The South Asian Odyssey*. In the book, Khatun weaves together an extraordinary range of powerful South Asian and Aboriginal narratives from across Australia, showing how stories in colonised tongues can transform our understandings of the past and present, and point the way to a more hopeful future. The session shed light on the different ways that archives reveal interesting details about how we view the world. Towards the end, the speakers opened up about their processes and preferences for working with archives and answered a few questions from the audience.



A programme titled, 'Nazrul Studies in America' took place recently, hosted by Kabi Nazrul Institute. It was held at the Sufia Kamal Milanayatan at the National Library, and was supported by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. State Minister of Cultural Affairs, K M Khalid, was the chief guest at the event.

PHOTO: STAR

# IRRFAN KHAN to begin shooting for 'Hindi Medium' sequel



PHOTO: COLLECTED

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Actor Irrfan Khan was undergoing treatment in London for neuroendocrine tumour for the past year before coming back to India recently. He will soon begin shooting for the *Hindi Medium* sequel, according to noted actor-director Tigmanshu Dhulia, who has worked with Khan in films like *Paan Singh Tomar* and *Saheb, Biwi Aur Gangster Returns*.

*Hindi Medium*, directed by Saket Chaudhary, released in 2017 to rave reviews and commercial success. Khan shared the screen with Pakistani actor Saba Qamar in the film that also had Deepak Dobriyal in the cast.