





<p><b>WHAT'S ON</b></p> <p><b>Group Art Exhibition</b> Title: Life 2019 Venue: Gallery Cosmos, New DOHS, Mohakhali Date: March 26 – April 9 Time: 11 am – 8 pm</p>	 <p><b>Art Exhibition</b> Title: The Work of Creation - Kazi Ghiyasuddin Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi Date: April 5 – May 18 Time: 12 pm – 8 pm</p>	 <p><b>Dance Drama</b> Title: Dance Drama MEERA Venue: National Theater, BSA Date: April 13 Time: 6 pm – 9 pm</p>	 <p><b>Art Exhibition</b> Title: Still—Life: an art exhibition by Moon Rahman Venue: Dvip Gallery, Lalmatia Date: March 23 - April 7 Time: 3 pm – 9 pm</p>	 <p><b>International Festival</b> Title: WOW Dhaka 2019 Venue: Bangla Academy Date: April 5 - 6 Time: 3 pm onwards (April 5); 10:30 am onwards (April 6)</p>
--	---	---	--	--



# In remembrance of Ned Vizzini

**MADIHA ATHAR KHAN**

Ned Vizzini, the author of *It's Kind of a Funny Story*, committed suicide, losing his battle with clinical depression, in 2013. He would have been 38 years old today.

*It's Kind of a Funny Story* is about 15-year-old Craig, who has depression and checks himself into a psychiatric ward following an overwhelming urge to commit suicide. The book is brilliant because of the subtle way it approaches the entire spectrum of issues that can plague a teenager.

Vizzini's success lies in portraying that no matter how big or small our problems are, we can always find the strength to get back up after we fall. The book, which normalises hospitalisation for mental illnesses, was inspired by Vizzini's own brief stay at a psychiatric ward for depression in 2004.

Vizzini began his writing career at 15, working for New York Press with an article published in the New York Times as well. He wrote candidly about teenage angst and common issues faced by his peers who were coming of age.

In *It's Kind of a Funny Story*, Craig feels his life go off the centre in the aftermath of securing admission in a very exclusive and competitive high school, for which he studied extensively, completing tests after tests for the entrance exam.

During his stay in the hospital, Craig makes friends and is able to eat again without throwing up. He explains to his therapist,

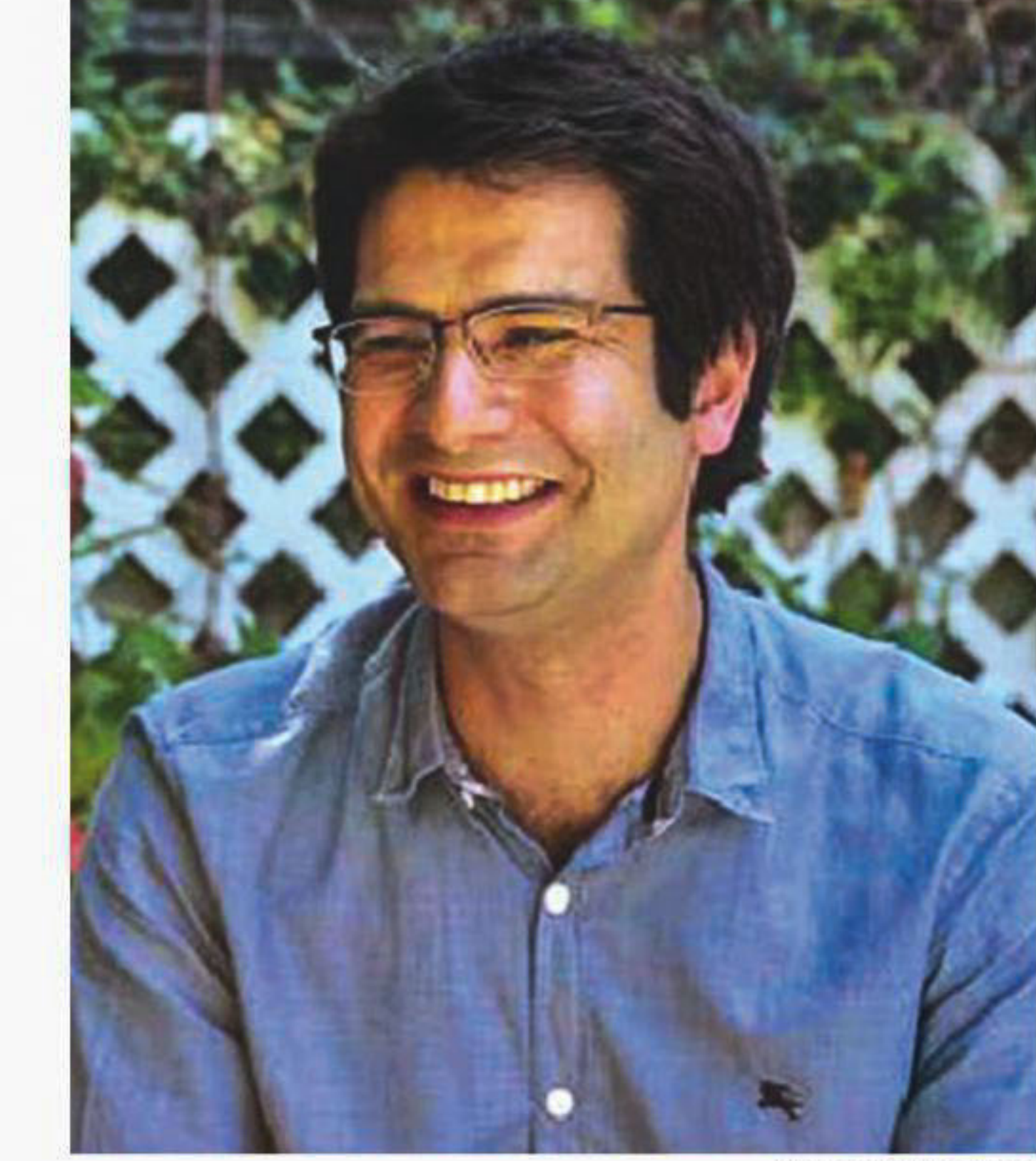


PHOTO: COLLECTED

pist, Dr Minerva that he does not feel constantly strangled by all the "tentacles". Craig refers to studies, emails, homework, activity clubs and social life as tentacles which have the effect of suffocating him all the time. He discusses a way to deal with these tentacles with Dr Minerva, coming up with anchors which help him to stay afloat.

We, Vizzini's readers, would like to think that Craig has a better life ahead of him and that upon gaining perspective from his hospital stay, he would be better equipped to deal with life's struggles. We would have hoped the same for the author, whom we lost to a mental illness. In that sense, *It's Kind of a Funny Story* is perhaps one of the most bitter instances of irony in the contemporary literary landscape.

It is safe to say that this book and his subsequent work surrounded an activism for mental health, which obviously had very personal roots.

Vizzini's suicide sheds light in a new way on the fact that we are so far removed from reaching the full functionality of the systems that deal with mental illnesses. It is truly frightening that those who battle with depression are able to do so in silence.

In answering why he became a writer in an interview, Vizzini had said that he took up writing to create something that would outlast his death. As his fan and someone deeply impacted by his work, I am glad that his dream came true.

# BFDC celebrates NATIONAL FILM DAY

**SHAH ALAM SHAZU**

Yesterday, the premises of the Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC) was full of festivity on the occasion of National Film Day. The walls were decorated with posters of old Bangladeshi cinemas such as Kosha, Moyna Moti among many others, that made the guests nostalgic.

Minister of Information, Muhammad Hasan Mahmud, inaugurated the event with the presence of special guests Convener of National Film Day Celebration Committee, Syed Hasan Imam, actor and Co-Chairman of National Film Day Celebration Committee, Alamgir, President of Bangladesh Film Directors' Association, Mushfiqur Rahman Gulzar, Information Secretary, Abdul Malek, actor Ilias Kanchan, and Acting



Managing Director of BFDC, Laxman Chandra Debnath, among others.

The guests then gathered in front of the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to pay respects. "It is a special day for us," said MP Muhammad Hasan Mahmud, "Bangabandhu made a bill passed on this day, because of which we get to celebrate today. We are grateful to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for announcing the day as National Film Day. We hope we can make the industry stronger in the future."

After the speeches, a festive rally was organised. There was also an exhibition featuring stills from old Bangladeshi films.

*Cholochitro bache shongskriti bache* (Culture will live on through films) was the slogan for this year. Today, a grand celebration with a cultural programme will take place at BFDC.

# Will Smith in Bollywood

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK**

Will Smith is set to make his Bollywood debut with the film *Student of the Year 2*, directed by Punit Malhotra and produced by Karan Johar under the banner of Dharma Productions. The film is a sequel to *Student of the Year* (2012) and expected to release on May 10, 2019.

Will Smith shared few images from

the set of the film last year on his Instagram account, with the caption "On set in Bollywood!! Shout out to the cast and crew of *Student of the Year 2*. Thanks for letting me play". The actor will be featured in a special song, choreographed by Indian choreographer Remo D Souza. In the pictures, Will Smith was seen with the cast of the film, Tiger Shroff, and newcomers Ananya Pandey and Tara Sutaria.



PHOTO: WILL SMITH'S INSTAGRAM



Time magazine's 2018 Person of the Year, photographer, writer, and human rights activist Shahidul Alam was recently honored in Manhattan, USA with the prestigious Infinity Award, in the 'Special Presentation' category. PHOTO: COURTESY

# KRISHI BUDGET KRISHOKER BUDGET to take off on April 6

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK**

For over a decade, the struggles of the farmers of our nation have been narrated at the open-field pre-budget discussions of *Krishi Budget Krishoker Budget*. Hosted and directed by Shykh Seraj, Channel i's programme, *Hridaye*

*Mati O Manush*, organises these pre-budget dialogue sessions between farmers and policymakers, at remote areas of Bangladesh.

This initiative is an effective one which enables marginal farmers to talk about their issues, demands and needs in front of the top policymakers, the ministers of the nation

and the representatives of civil society.

*Krishi Budget Krishoker Budget* will air on Channel i from April 6, every Saturday, at 9:35 pm, with repeat telecasts every Sunday at 11:30 am. This year, the five episodes of the programme were shot at Shariatpur, Bagerhat, Cox's Bazar, Jashore and Natore.



PHOTO: COURTESY