

**WHAT'S ON**

**RIBUTE TO MAD**  
 Exhibition  
 Title: Tribute to Mad Cartoon  
 Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi 15A (New)  
 Date: August 23 – 25  
 Time: 3 pm – 8 pm

**Reverie**  
 Exhibition  
 Title: Reverie  
 Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi  
 Date: August 18 – 20  
 Time: 3 pm – 9 pm

**Revolution**  
 Photography & Poetry Exhibition  
 Title: ProjectDebi: Revolutionary Photography And Poetry Exhibition  
 Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi  
 Date: August 26 - 28  
 Time: 10 am – 7 pm

**Rock Concert**  
 Title: Legacy of Rock N Roll  
 Venue: ICCB, Hall 04 (Naboratri), Bashundhara  
 Date: September 13  
 Time: 3 pm – 10 pm  
 Hotline: +8801707975206

**Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Muhurtama solo art exhibition by Shamset Tabreeje  
 Venue: Dwp Gallery, Lalmatia  
 Date: July 27 – August 22 (except Mondays)  
 Time: 5 pm – 9 pm



(From left) Paintings by Murtaja Baseer and Monirul Islam, respectively.

# National Mourning Day observed in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, from Mymensingh  
 Marking National Mourning Day 2019, a painting competition for children was held at Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala in Mymensingh.

The art gallery organised the competition in four groups for the participants. Children from different educational institutions of the city drew sketches of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, informs Mukul Dutta, the Deputy Keeper of the art gallery.

A judge of Bangladesh Supreme Court, Md Abu Tariq, the Principal of Sheahed Syed Nazrul Islam College, Dr AKM Abdur Rafiq, the Children Affairs Officer of Mymensingh Shishu Academy, Md Mehdi Zaman, and a trainer of Zainul Shishu Charupath, Badal Chakraborty, were present at the event. Later, the guests distributed prizes among 16 winners of the art competition.

Different socio-cultural and educational institutions, including Mymensingh Zila Shilpakala Academy and Mymensingh Shishu Academy also organised various programmes, such as painting competitions, rallies and discussion meetings, to observe the occasion.

Mymensingh District Administration and Police also organised cultural competitions for children in different parts of the district.

Alokchitra Shilpi Sangsad organised a photography exhibition on the Liberation War. Around 150 photographs were displayed at the exhibition.

The State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid Babu, Mymensingh Divisional Commissioner Khondoker Mostafizur Rahman, Deputy Inspector General of Police (Mymensingh Range), Nibash Chandra Majhi, Deputy Commissioner, Md Mizanur Rahman, visited the exhibition.



PHOTO: STAR

## MANY HAPPY RETURNS

# Murtaja Baseer and Monirul Islam!

ZAHANGIR ALOM  
 Today marks the 88th birthday of the multifarious genius Murtaja Baseer, whose six-decade career takes up a unique place in the modern art history of Bangladesh. But what makes this prolific artist stand out is his continuous attempt to learn, grow and evolve. The artist still thinks that he could not do what he wanted to do in the realm of art. "I am still a bud yet to bloom," says Murtaja Baseer, the youngest son of eminent scholar Dr Muhammad Shahidullah.

"Art is like my everyday prayer; a lifelong perseverance. Creating a painting is like giving birth to a child. When I am not at work, I contemplate. The moods of my paintings are diverse as I go through a myriad of feelings and experiences," adds the Shadhinata Padak and Ekushey Padak winner.

The Wings and Epitaph for the Martyrs are two of his noteworthy series, articulating truth, beauty, homage, romanticism and spirituality. Many are perhaps not familiar with Baseer's other identities as a poet, short story writer, novelist, researcher, numismatist and filmmaker.



(From left) Monirul Islam and Murtaja Baseer

An interesting aspect of Baseer's work is his self-portraits. He draws himself at least once in a year. "You know what I had learnt from my life? No one is your true friend. Your inner self is the only entity you can truly rely on and trust your deepest secrets with. When I feel lonely, I stand in front of the mirror and ask who I am. The answer lies in the drawings of my self-portraits," concludes the artist.

Today also marks the 77th



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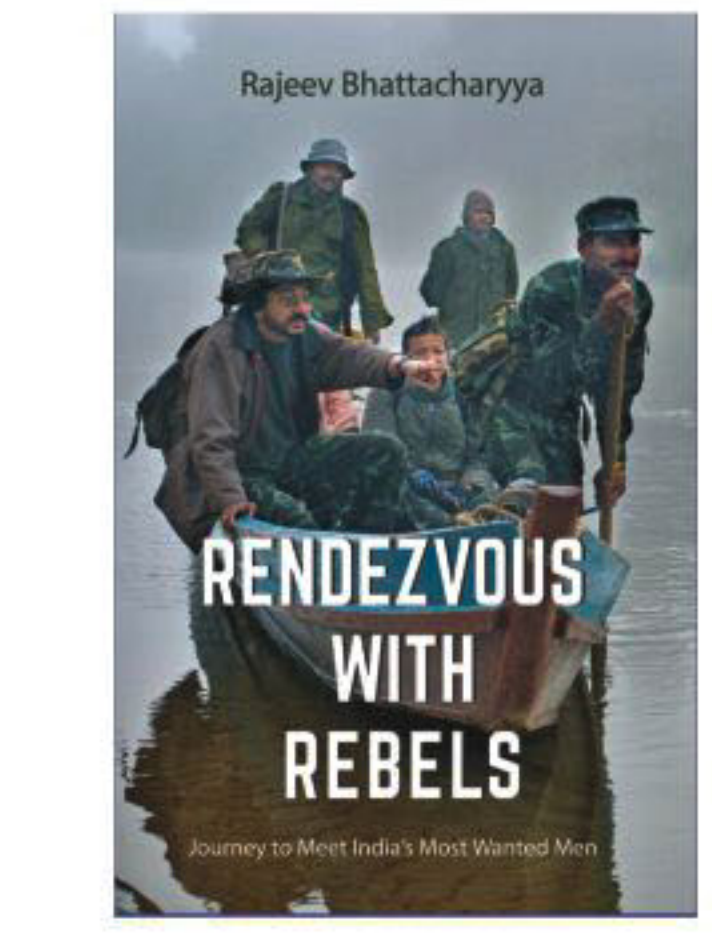
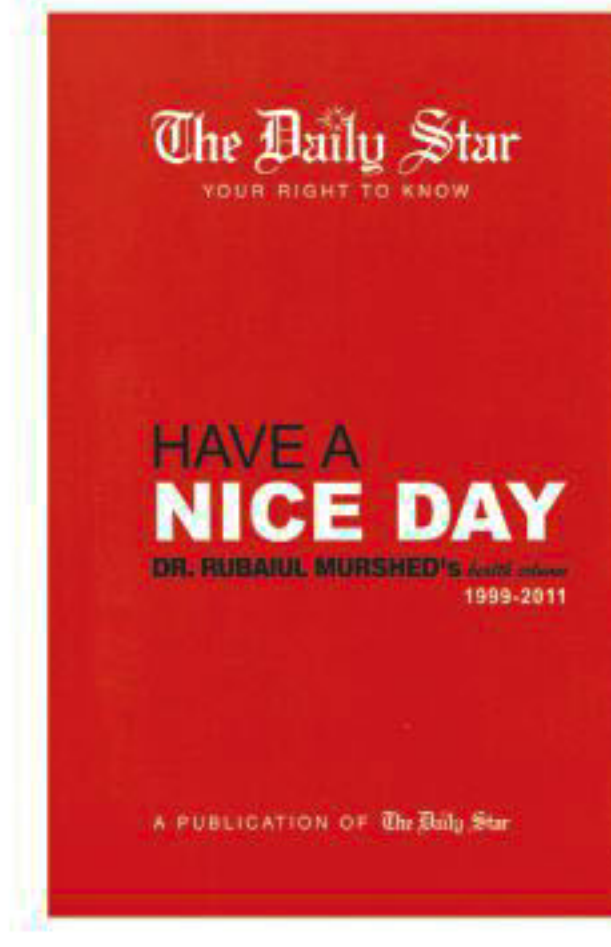
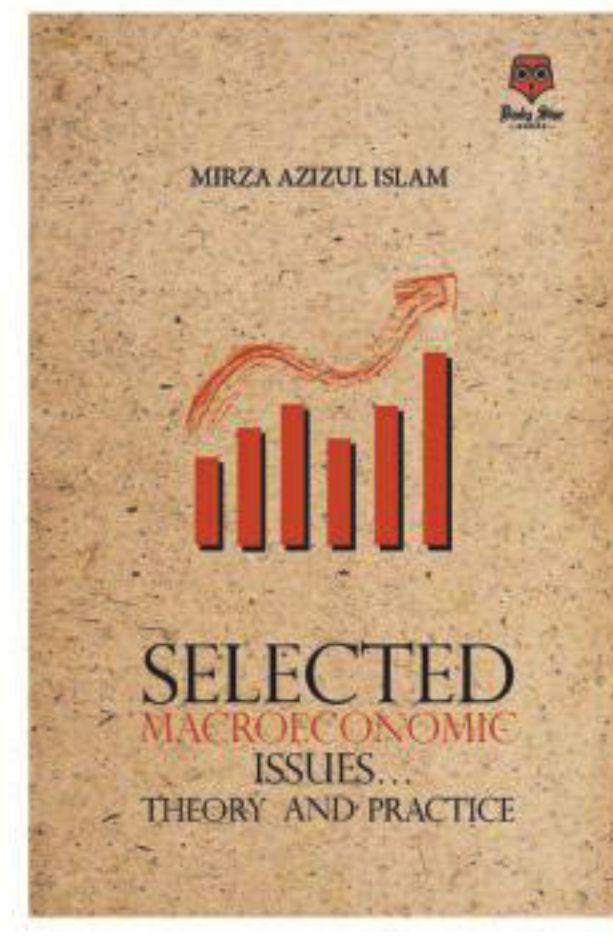
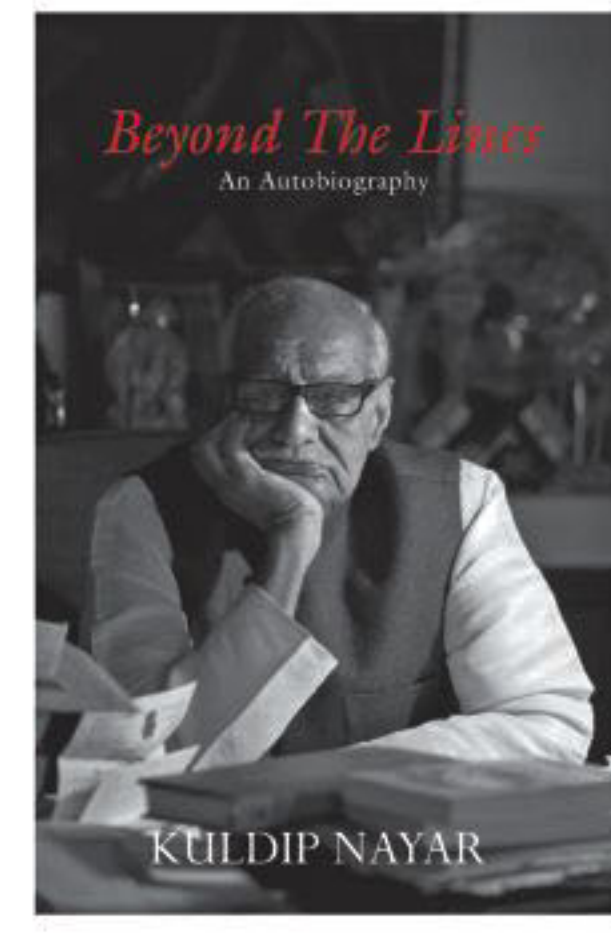
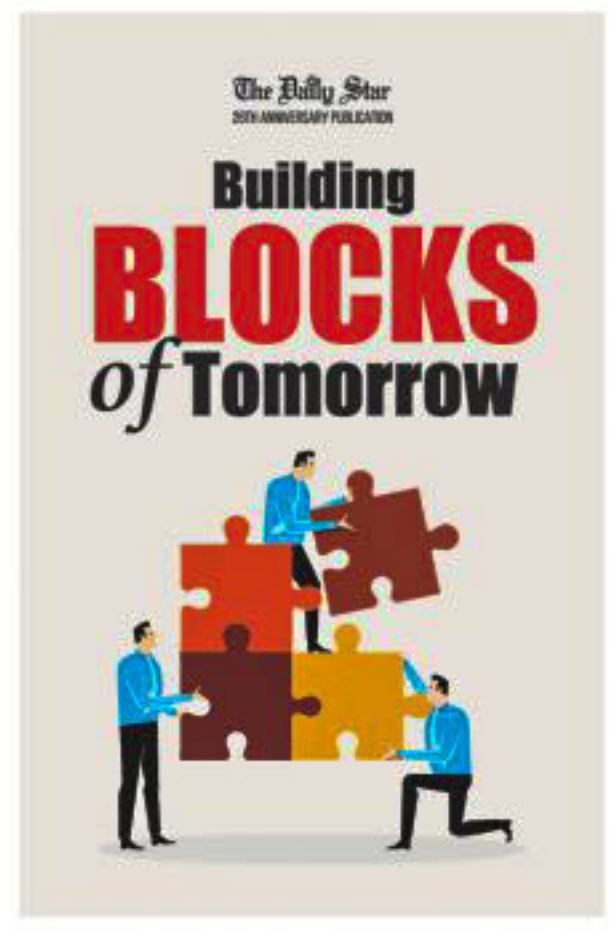
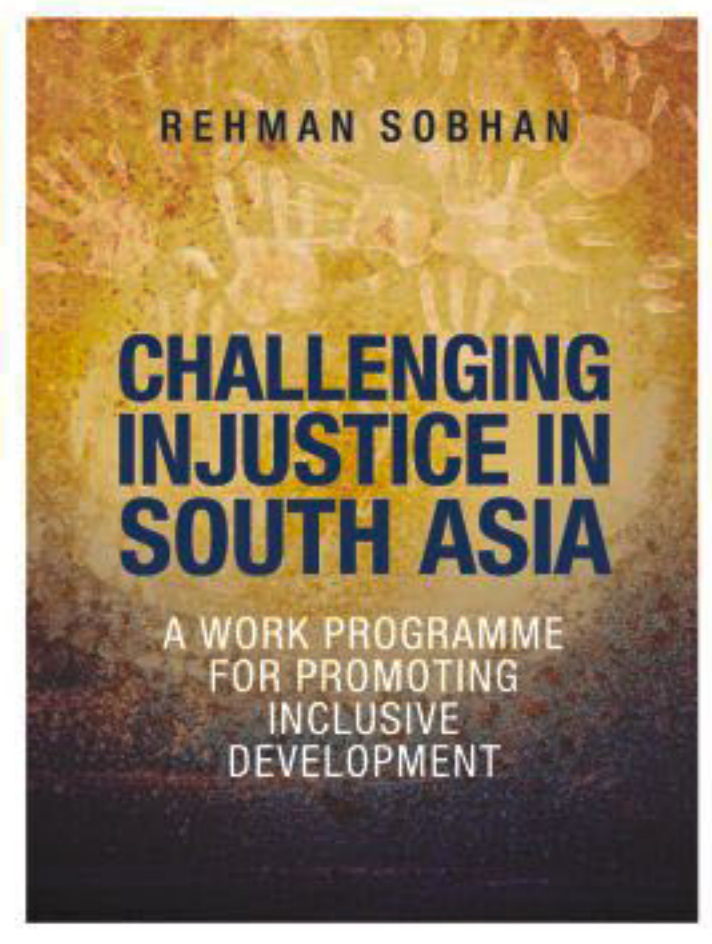
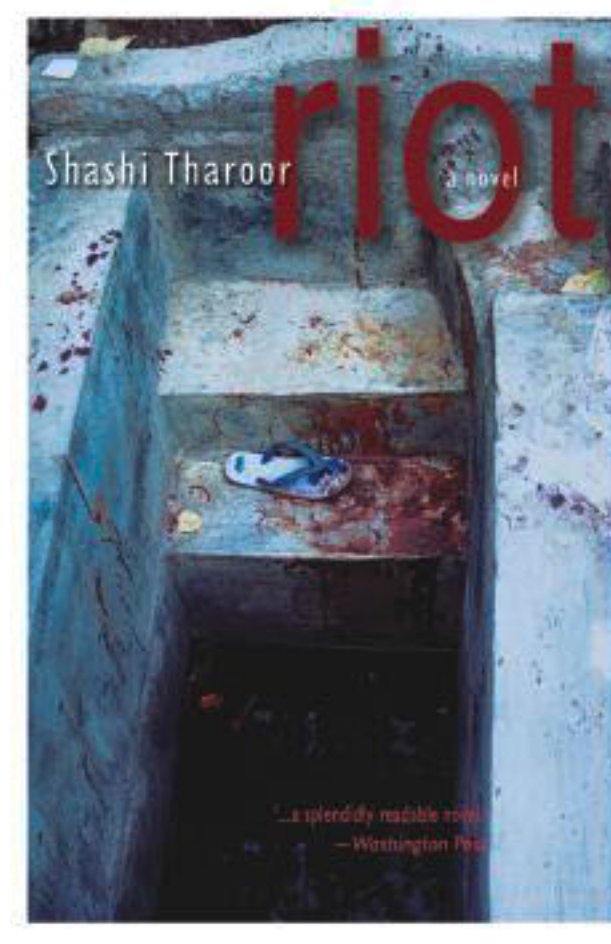
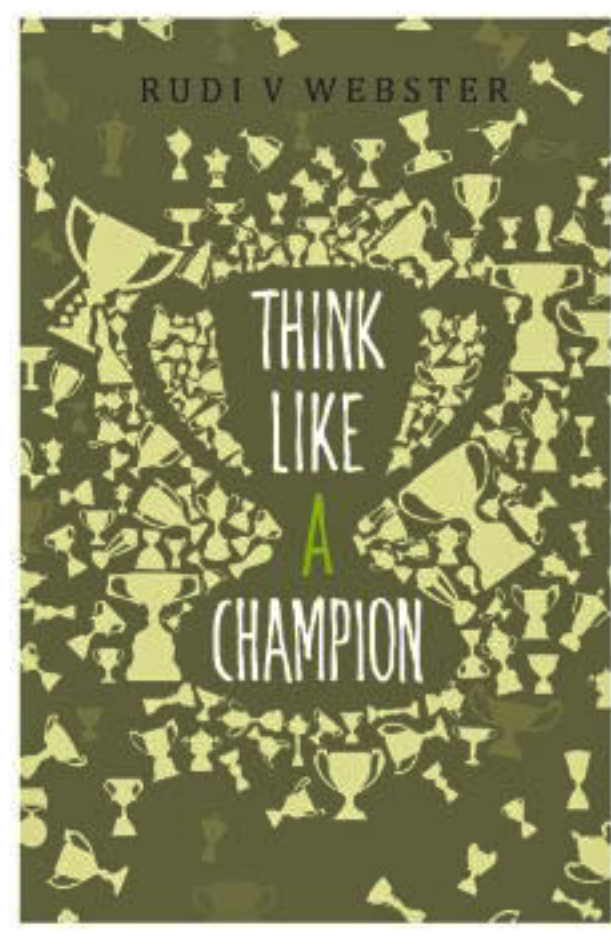
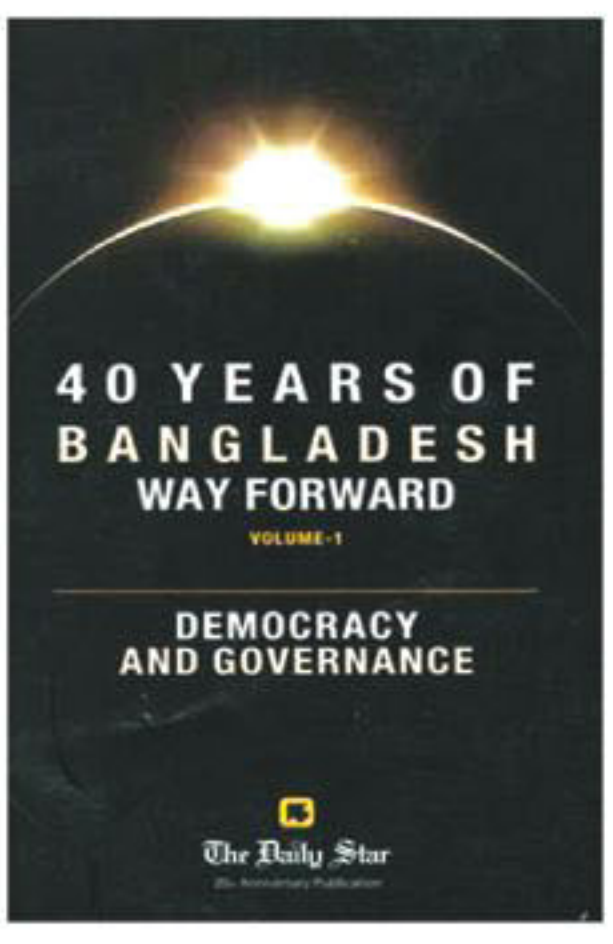
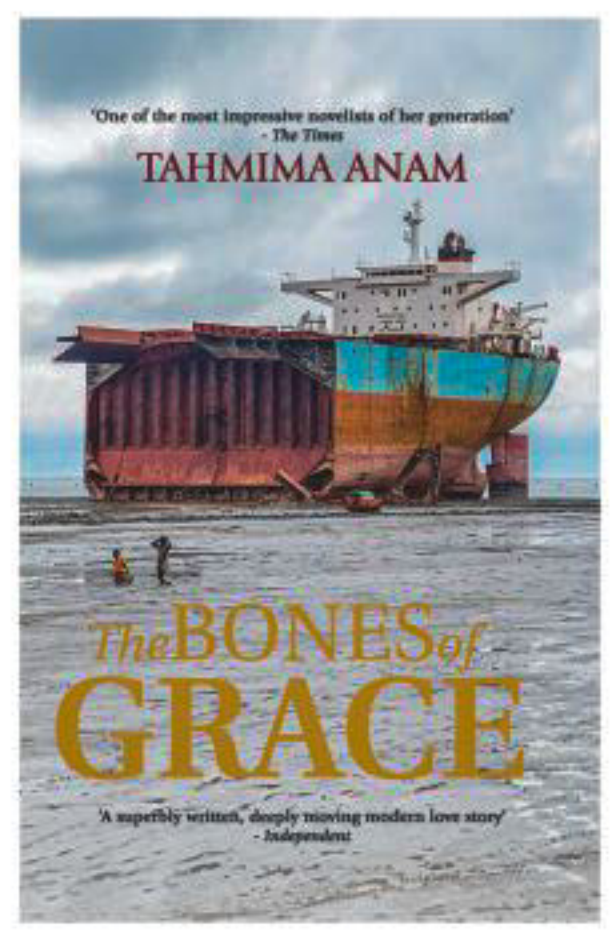
birthday of internationally renowned Bangladeshi artist, Monirul Islam. The Ekushey Padak winner believes that art, aesthetics and emotion are basic things in life. "Life is a canvas and it is the artists who portray the various aspects and elements into it. Understanding art is a process that incorporates many things. It doesn't happen all of a sudden in someone," says the Spain and Bangladesh based artist Monirul Islam, who works on diverse media including

print, watercolour, acrylic, oil and others.

Subtle lines with a harmonious colour balance between space and composition is an important aspect in Monir's works. The artist fondly uses minute doodles, lyrical lines, dots, tiny motifs and symbols. Applying meticulous colours in thin layers and reducing the texture of the paint to its most minimal expression. Monirul Islam established an individual abstract language in the early '70s.

"My artistic fantasies play with many unfinished works scattered in my studio. They seem to grow with my dreams spreading their wings. I dream of depicting what I cherish; but I don't know whether I'll make it or not. A painting never ends. This unquenchable thirst is a prerequisite for any artist to move forward," says Monirul Islam. "Art itself is much more powerful than the artist. Art, culture, literature and education are necessary to nourish the soul. The art of talking, cooking, eating, dressing, behaving and above all, art for teasing sensuousness encircles our life," concludes the artist.

The Daily Star wishes the two art maestros many happy returns of the day.



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