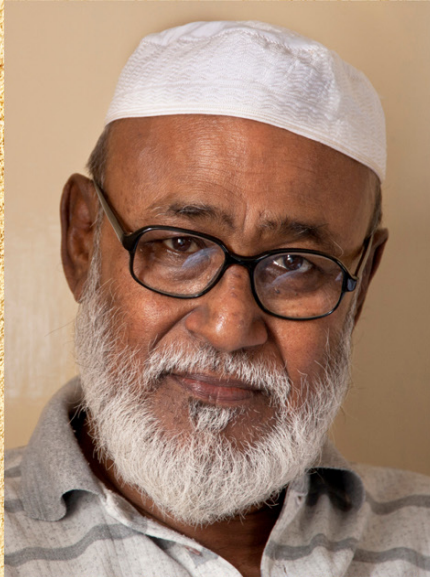


# Rashid Talukder

## THE 1971 LIBERATION WAR

Award category: Pioneer Photographer  
Bangladesh



### bio

Rashid Talukder was born in 1939 to Bangladeshi parents living in Baj Baj, near Kolkata (Calcutta), India. He studied photography in school, starting in the darkroom at age six. His career as a press photographer began in 1962, when he joined the staff of the *Daily Sangbad* in Dhaka. Talukder went on to work for the *Daily Ittefaq* for 29 years, and has served on the advisory council of several photographic societies, including the Bangladesh Photographic Society. He is the founder of the Bangladesh Photo Journalist Association. Throughout his career, he has documented Bangladeshi life, including the 1971 war of independence from Pakistan. His images will remain as an important visual archive of life in both pre- and post-war Bangladesh. Talukder has won many awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Chobi Mela International Festival of Photography, in 2006.

### personal photo-essay

*From early childhood, photography has always fascinated me. As a Bangladeshi, I consider myself lucky to have witnessed the most crucial period of our country's history: the 1971 Liberation War. I never hesitated to put myself at risk in order to capture the moments of our country's journey toward independence. From 1959 to 2008, I photographed the various political and social events in my country. Perhaps due to the way I began photography—I was trained to keep all of my work—I now possess a vast collection of photographs. I believe that there is a historical value in this collection, which should be shared with all Bangladeshis and the international community. Analog materials do not last forever—and it takes a lot of effort to maintain them—so I intend to digitally preserve my archive in order to share the work with the public—and to provide an important research resource for students, scholars, and photographers. Such a library will allow the memory of my country's history to be preserved. My hope is that it will also help the development of photography and contemporary culture in both its practice and discourse into the future. —Rashid Talukder*

*Some of the following images in this photo-essay are vintage and every attempt to retain their original character was made.*

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