

The Subir & Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies at UC Berkeley presents

# THE STORM

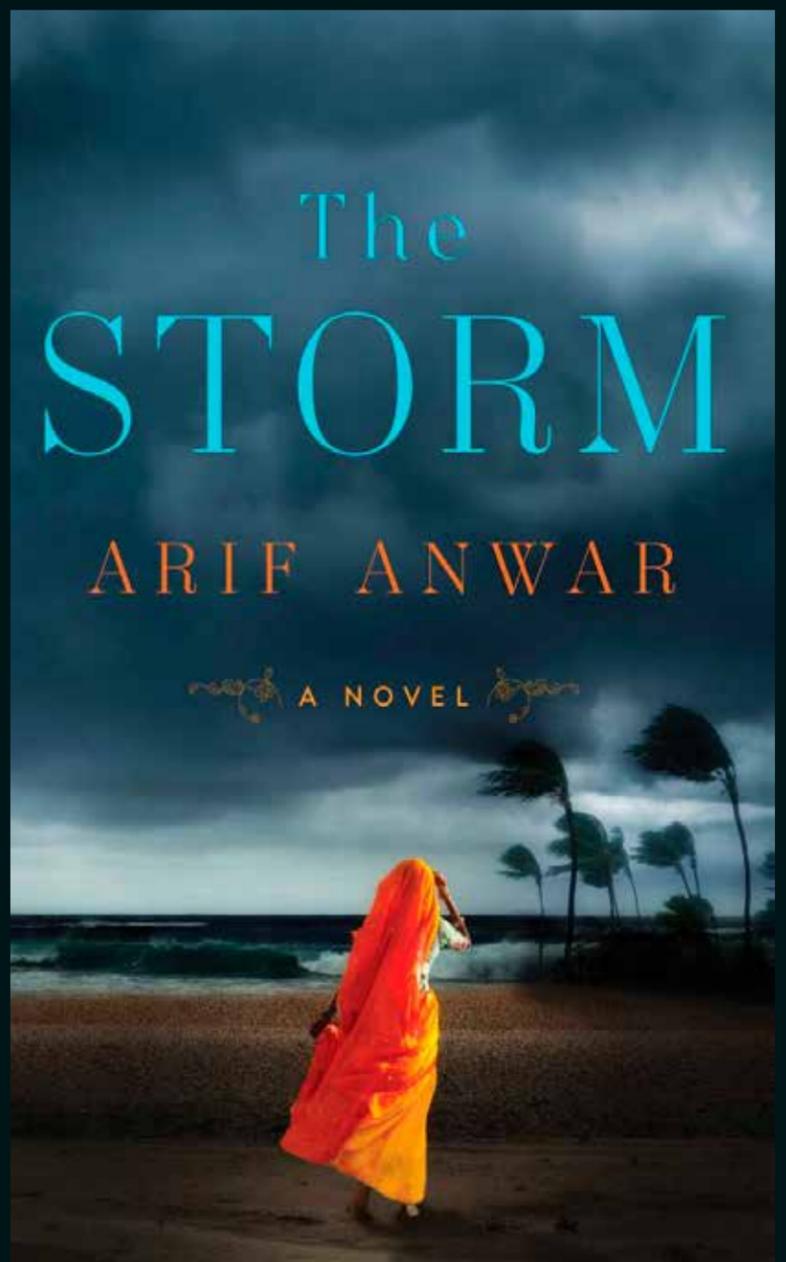
a book reading by author

# ARIF ANWAR



**ABOUT THE NOVEL** Inspired by the 1970 Bhola Cyclone, in which half a million people perished overnight, *The Storm* seamlessly interweaves five love stories that, together, chronicle fifty years of Bangladeshi history.

Shahryar, a recent Ph.D. graduate and father of nine-year-old Anna, must leave the US when his visa expires. As father and daughter spend their last remaining weeks together, Shahryar tells Anna the history of his country, beginning in a village on the Bay of Bengal, where a poor fisherman and his Hindu wife, who converted to Islam out of love for him, are preparing to face a storm of historic proportions. Their story intersects with those of a Japanese fighter pilot, a British female doctor stationed in Burma during World War II, a Buddhist monk originally from Austria, and a privileged couple in Calcutta who leave everything behind to move to East Pakistan following the Partition of India. The structure of this riveting novel mimics the storm itself – building to a series of revelatory and moving climaxes as it explores the many ways in which families love, betray, honor, and sacrifice for one another.



#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Arif Anwar was born in Chittagong, Bangladesh, just miles from the Bay of Bengal. He previously worked for BRAC, one of the world's largest non-governmental organizations, on issues of poverty alleviation, and for UNICEF Myanmar on public health issues. Arif has a PhD in education from the University of Toronto. He currently lives in Toronto with his wife, Si (Sandra) Lian. *The Storm* is his first novel.

**Thu, Feb 21, 2019 from 5 ~ 7 pm**  
**10 Stephens Hall** ( For directions look up "Institute for South Asia Studies" on Google Maps )

For more information go to [chowdhurycenter.berkeley.edu](http://chowdhurycenter.berkeley.edu)