

Actors recall Humayun Ahmed

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Today marks iconic writer and filmmaker Humayun Ahmed's 64th birthday. Every year, Ahmed's birthday was celebrated by near and dear ones, his friends and well-wishers from the media and the publishing industry. Though in and outside Bangladesh, Ahmed's primary identity was that of a writer, TV plays and films made by him or based on his stories were massively popular. Naturally, Ahmed maintained close relationship with actors -- representing different generations -- who had worked with Ahmed.



Tariq Anam Khan
I first met Humayun Ahmed a long time ago, when he had just returned from the US, completing his Ph.D. By then, he had a number of books published, and was a known name.

My first performance in a play written by him was "Din-er Sheshe". We rehearsed before the shooting at Nawazish Ali Khan's office. Nawazish Ali one day told us that Humayun Ahmed would come to the rehearsal, and he came, but sat silently throughout the rehearsal. After that, I worked in a few TV dramas written by him. The last work I did with him was under his direction, in "Ghetu Putro Komola", the last film he made.

The whole experience was memorable, because Humayun Ahmed himself kept the atmosphere upbeat. There's one instance that comes to mind. It was the rainy season, and we were shooting at a zamindar house in the hilly areas. Most days, shooting would go on all day, and we would sit together and chit-chat at night. Humayun Ahmed had vast knowledge about a lot of matters, and that is why hanging out with him was so much fun. One such night, Ahmed acted out the role of a mentally imbalanced person. That memory will never fade.

If someone were late to the shooting, he'd say there was no need to shoot that day, and when particularly angry, he'd threaten to take out all of one's teeth. I was late to shooting once, and asked him if the shoot would take place. He said nothing that day.

Humayun Ahmed dedicated a book to me, named "Himu'r Ache Jol". In the dedication, he wrote there are two places where you can see the true colours of a man: at a battlefield, and at outdoor shootings. He dedicated the book to "Nishad-er Dariwala mama" (Nishad's bearded uncle). It was a moving gesture.

A portrait of me was made for "Ghetu Putro Komola", drawn by a teacher of the art college. When Humayun Ahmed returned to the country, midway through his cancer treatment, he said that he could have drawn that portrait. How I wish that happened! It would have been a great honour for me.

When he came back to the country the last time, we watched the film together. The next day, I went to his house. Despite there being many guests, when I sat at the dinner table, the seat next to me was empty. Humayun Ahmed came up to me and said, "See, nobody's sitting beside you because of the role you played in the film."

That was my last conversation with Humayun Ahmed. Little did I know then that this stalwart of Bangla literature would not be



with us for much longer.



Suborna Mustafa
I never had the opportunity to work in TV plays or films directed by Humayun Ahmed, but I had worked in a few serials written by him. One of them that became hugely popular was "Kothao Keu Nei". I played the character of Muna in the serial, after Humayun Ahmed approached me personally, asking me to play the role. I also worked in the TV drama "Shongkhoneel Karagar", based on his novel, when he was in the USA. Later in the 1990s, when "Shongkhoneel Karagar" was to be made into a movie, Humayun Ahmed asked me to work in it, and told me that he was writing a character for me. I told him I'd work if I got the role that I did for the TV show. He wrote the screenplay all over again, and I worked in that film.

Humayun Ahmed will live in the heart of every Bengali reader through his works like "Jochhna o Jononi'r Golpo", "Modhanho", "Shongkhoneel Karagar" and "Badshah Namdaar".



Ferdous
I've worked in numerous films, but just one TV play, directed by Humayun Ahmed. The title of the play is "Esho". I initially did not accept that role in the play, but everyone, my mother included, said that I was stupid to be turning down an offer from such a gifted director. I finally did the role, and on the first day, Ahmed greeted me with a huge bouquet of flowers. It's a memory I'll cherish for life.

The next work I did with him was "Chondrokotha". I went to Dhanmondi's "Dokhin Hawa" (Ahmed's home), hung out and had delicious food with him. The shooting was supposed to be at Nuhash Polli, and the journey was an experience in itself. We went to Gazipur by a car, crossed a ravine by boat, and then took a bullock-cart. After traveling a little distance on it, we had to walk the rest of the way. Now it's become easy to travel

to Hotopara. Anyway, it was the rainy season, so when we reached Nuhash Polli around the evening, all covered in mud, I was amazed to see a huge wall of flickering lights. I went to have a closer look and found it to be a wall, with small pockets in them, and hundreds of little candles lit inside them. I later found out that was Humayun Ahmed's way of greeting people he liked to Nuhash Polli. All these will be missed, now that he's not amongst us today, on his birthday.

Shadhin Khosru
My first work with Humayun Ahmed was the drama "Jatra". Later in the 1990s, when "Shongkhoneel Karagar" was to be made into a movie, Humayun Ahmed asked me to work in it, and told me that he was writing a character for me. I told him I'd work if I got the role that I did for the TV show. He wrote the screenplay all over again, and I worked in that film.

My major work with Humayun Ahmed included films "Chondro Kotha" and "Shyamol Chhaya".

In the film "Shyamol Chhaya" -- based on the Liberation War, I played the role of a Mawlana, and received acclaim for the role. I owe my popularity as an actor to him.

Humayun Ahmed's last TV play was aired on Channel 9 during Eid-ul-Azha. Titled "Gura Morich Party", the play featured me as well. Humayun Ahmed wrote a number of characters with me in mind, for his TV dramas and films. It is sometimes hard to believe that he is not among us.

I spent a lot of time with him, and traveled together to places. The memories gathered would take a lifetime to reminisce. I was one of the few people who were close enough to Humayun Ahmed to go to his Dhanmondi residence to cut a cake on the first hours of his birthday. Another November 13 has come, and it will be hard to accept that he is no more.

Muktaadhara also celebrated Ahmed's 63rd birthday anniversary last year, when Ahmed joined the celebration through Skype. Dr. Golam Morshed unveiled the cover-jacket of his book "Rong Pencil".

In 2002, Muktaadhara Foundation arranged a two-day festival on his birth anniversary.

Marking Humayun Ahmed's 64th birth anniversary, a five-day memorial festival named after him is now being held in New York. Muktaadhara Foundation, the organisation behind arranging an annual Bangla book fair in New York, is holding the festival, according to a press release.

The festival started on November 9. It features over 100 books by the author, screening of his films and TV plays and rendition of his songs.

The festival is being held at the Muktaadhara premises in Jackson Heights. The venue has been decorated with festoons and banners. Biswajit Saha, chief of Muktaadhara, has invited Bangladeshis living in New York to join the celebration.

Today, on the birthday of Ahmed, a celebration cake will be cut in the evening (US local time) by eminent Bangladeshi expatriates. Reminiscence, recitation of Ahmed's poems, reading out excerpts from his writings, and singing his songs will take place at the programme. Nine elocutionists will recite as many poems including "Bashor", "Babar Chithi", "Asru", "Kabbor" and "Grihotyagi Jotsna".

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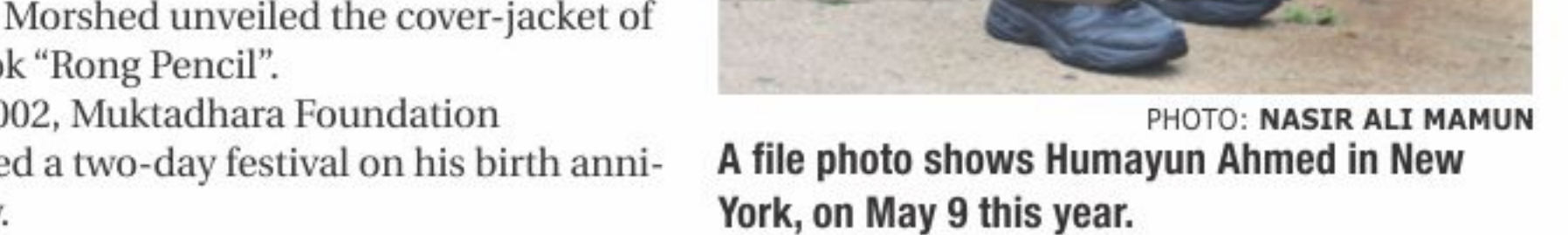
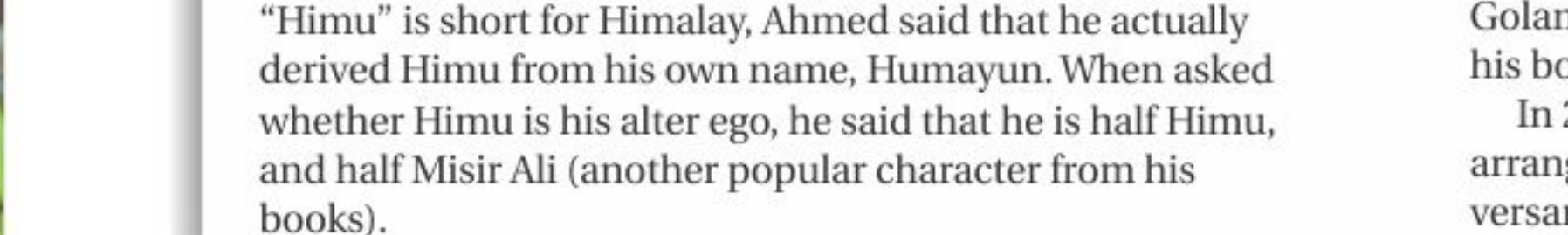
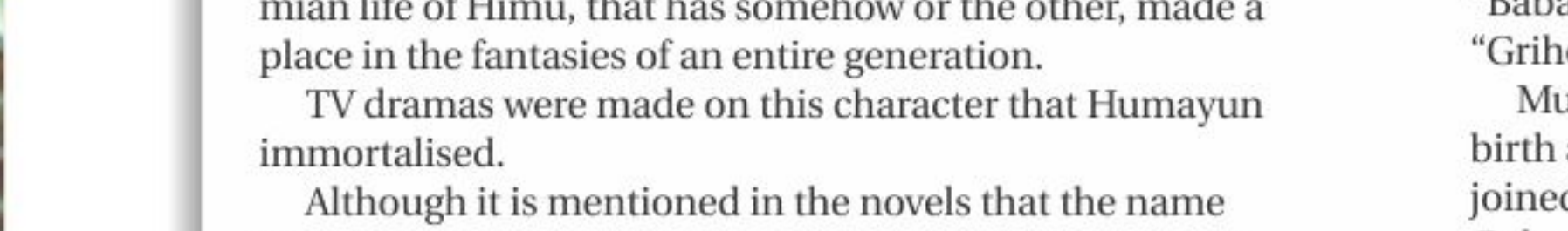
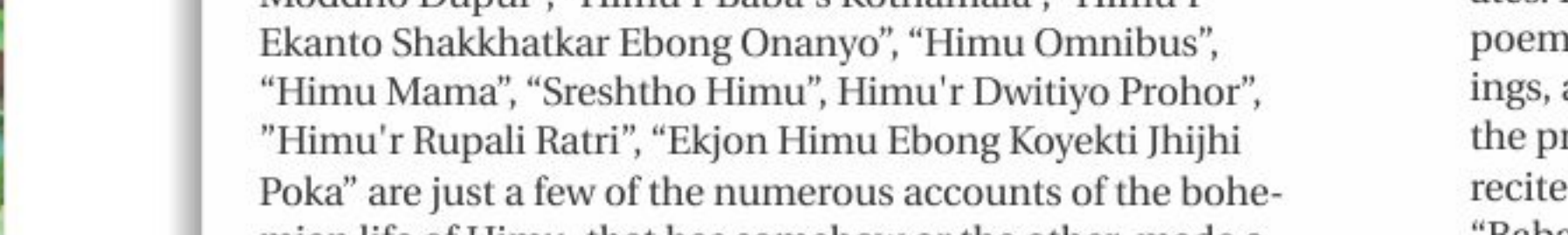
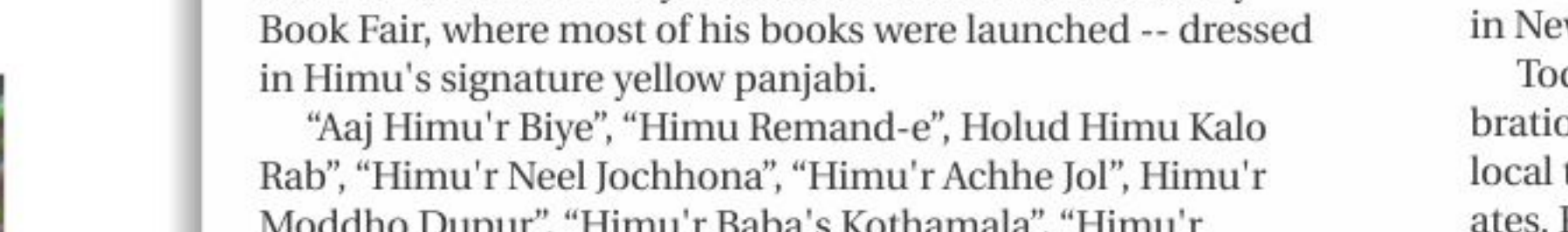
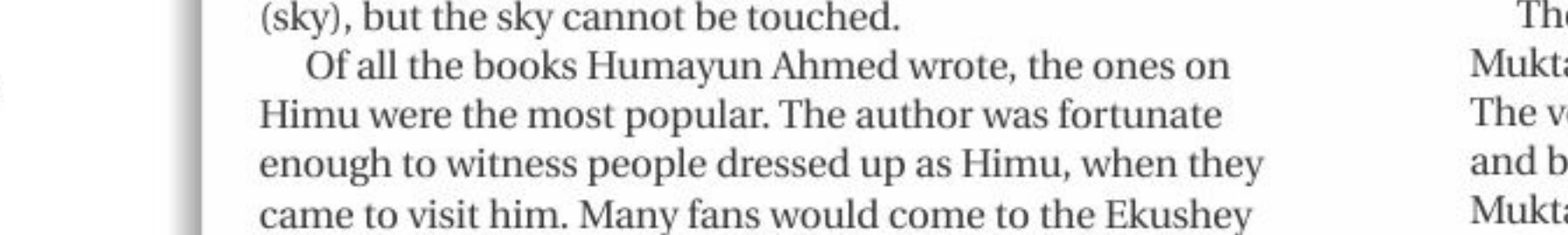
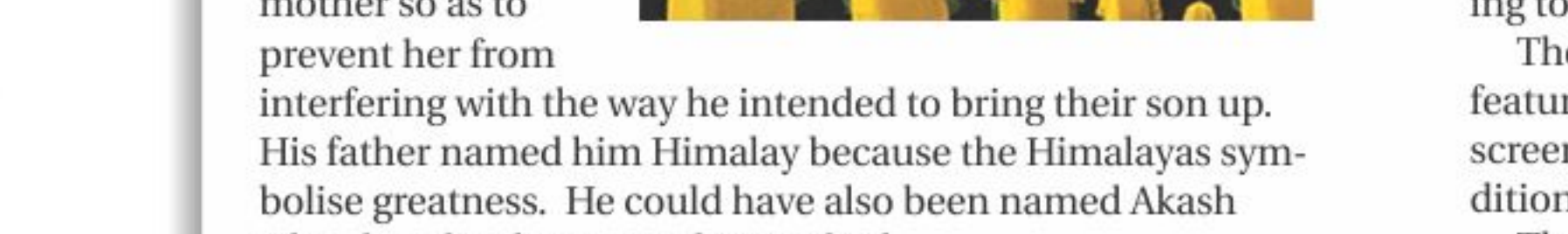
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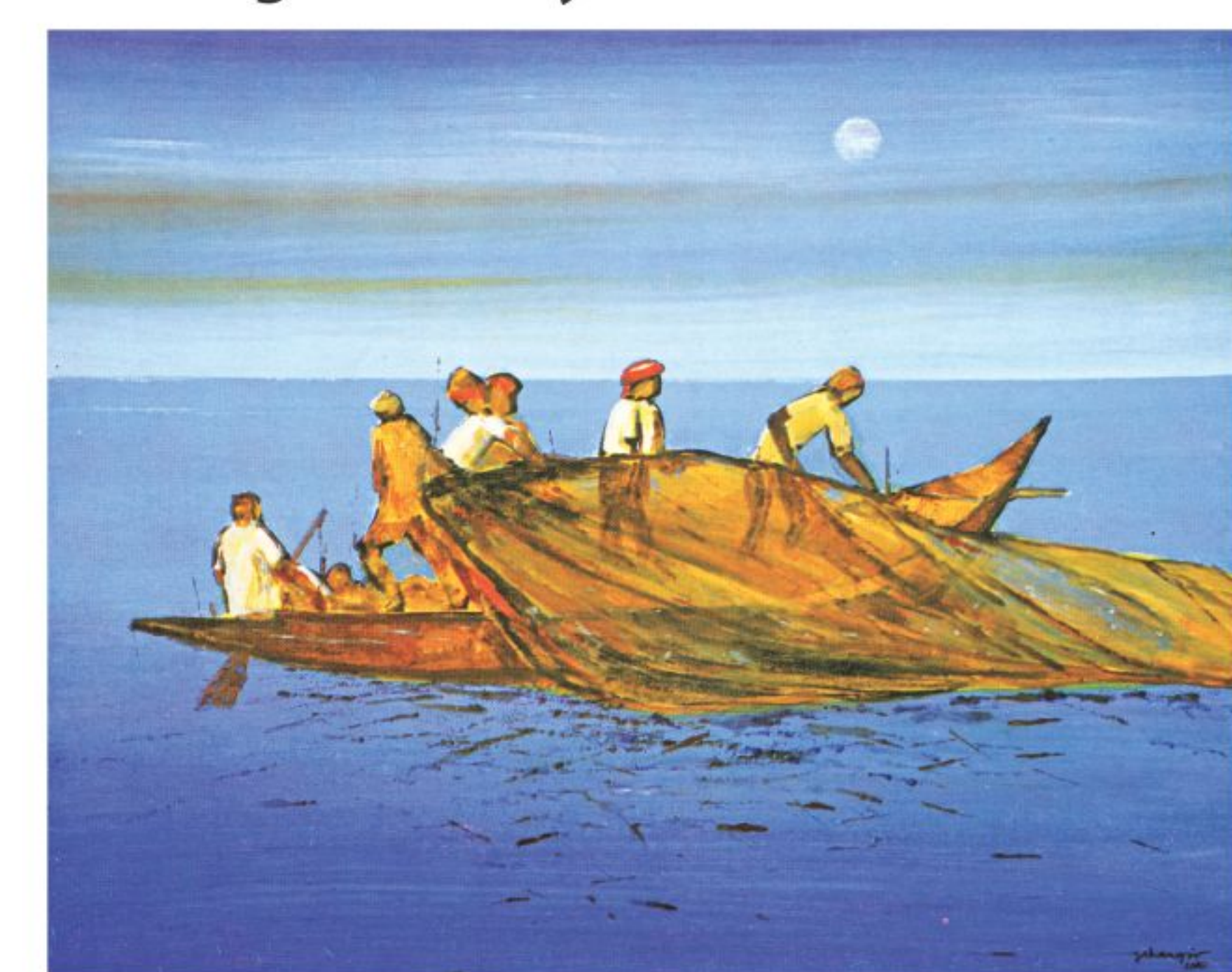
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Simple, rural life on canvas Syed Jahangir's solo exhibition at Bengal Gallery



Fishing in Moonlight Acrylic on canvas

TAKIR HOSSAIN
Syed Jahangir earned prominence as a painter in the 1950s. His current solo exhibition, titled "Of Man and Earth", is partly retrospective, as it includes some drawings and paintings (different mediums) from 1950s to 1970s. Most of the works, however, have been done in the last couple of years. The exhibition is a part of the celebration of his 80th birth anniversary, which is now on at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, at Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

Jahangir not only portrays beautiful Bangladesh, but some of his works also depict social and environmental issues like river erosion, hard up labourers, untold hardships of peasants, fishermen and more. As a socially aware painter, Jahangir picks up a number of themes that are closely connected to the rural people. In villages, he finds the true spirit of life.

At the exhibition, the affluent collection of varied mediums like oils, acrylics, watercolours, ink, charcoal and pencil pieces denotes the artist's dynamism and his continuing fascination with untainted natural surroundings. At the exhibition, most of his watercolours are splendid in terms of his meticulous techniques and in creating the effects of plein-air. His technique is particularly based on flat wash and thin colour. He seeks to depict the simplicity of nature. "I find the greatest happiness and inspiration from natural forms and their realistic setting," said the artist.

At the exhibition, his "Equal Strength" depicts some women carrying goods on the bank of a river. Boats, moon, sun are integral part in his paintings. He has used blue, silver and gold in the work.

"Sunset on River" portrays two sailing boats in the middle of a river. With the setting sun, the entire environment carries a tranquil atmosphere. The beauty of riverbanks is captured for all times in Jahangir's "Fishing in Moonlight". The river and sky, with the moon and its reflection, the horizon, the splashes of water, as well as the sun-baked bodies of the fishermen articulate a rich rural image.

Jahangir also focuses on seasonal changes, tranquil landscapes, ponds, mustard and green paddy fields in autumn, rainy days and blue skies. In his paintings, he has used gold and cobalt blue, yellow, ultramarine, golden yellow and green. Solitude and serenity are two vital components in Jahangir's works. The subjects of his works are in a sombre mood and their characteristics are consistently highlighted. Lighting is a prominent feature in his paintings and the artist usually prefers glowing light and mystifying settings. At times, his figures (fishermen and peasants) look lively and compel us into reflecting on their experiences. The painter feels he must demonstrate their everyday woes and bliss on his canvas.

The exhibition ends today.

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Nandita Das to perform in Dhaka tonight



A poster of the play.

The Dhaka audience will witness famed Indian actress Nandita Das in a play, "Between the Lines", to be staged this evening at 7 pm at the Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel, says a press release.

Das' husband and actor Subodh Maskara will be her co-artist in the play, also directed by her.

"Between the Lines" is set in urban India where educated and affluent couples are caught between modernity and traditions. It explores the relationship between two lawyers, who have been married for 10 years. Shekhar is a high profile criminal lawyer while Maya, balances work and life by drafting routine contracts for a law firm. One day they accidentally end up being on opposite sides in an attempted murder case.

Shekhar is the prosecutor and Maya, the defense lawyer. As they fight the case in the court, their personal life starts getting impacted.

"Between the Lines" peels, layer by layer, what is said and also what is often left unsaid in a couple's relationship.

The play has been produced by Choti Productions. The City Bank Limited is the title sponsor. The other partners are Gitanjali (lifestyle), Jet Airways (airline) and Forethought PR (PR). The show is being organised by Excalibur Entertainment and Jatrik.

Humayun's Himu Festival in Humayun's honour in New York



Humayun's real name is Himalay. When Himu was young, his psychopath father killed his mother so as to prevent her from interfering with the way he intended to bring their son up. His father named him Himalay because the Himalayas symbolise greatness. He could have also been named Akash (sky), but the sky cannot be touched.

Of all the books Humayun Ahmed wrote, the ones on Himu were the most popular. The author was fortunate enough to witness people dressed up as Himu, when they came to visit him. Many fans would come to the Ekushey Book Fair, where most of his books were launched -- dressed in Himu's signature yellow panjabi.

"Aaj Himu'r Biye", "Himu Remand-e", Holud Himu Kalo Rab", "Himu'r Neel Jochhona", "Himu'r Ache Jol", Himu'r Moddho Dupur", "Himu'r Baba's Kothamala", "Himu'r Ekanto Shakkhatkar Eboong Onanyo", "Himu Omnibus", "Himu Mama", "Sreshtho Himu", Himu'r Dwitityo Prohor", "Himu'r Rupali Ratri", "Ekjon Himu Eboong Koyekti Jhijhi Poka" are just a few of the numerous accounts of the bohemian life of Himu, that has somehow or the other, made a place in the fantasies of an entire generation.

TV dramas were made on this character that Humayun immortalised.

Although it is mentioned in the novels that the name "Himu" is short for Himalay, Ahmed said that he actually derived Himu from his own name, Humayun. When asked whether Himu is his alter ego, he said that he is half Himu, and half Misir Ali (another popular character from his books).

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BTV	12:35 Shukhy Paribar	03:30 Gaan R Gaan
	02:40 Prokrti O Poribesh	05:00 Durpath
	05:30 Quiz Quiz	08:15 Documentary
	09:00 Drama Serial: Korunamoyi	11:45 Nel Dhrubataru
ATN BANGLA		Diganta TV
11:20 Business and Finance		01:30 Business Time Line
05:10 Dekha Odekha		04:30 World Round Up
		06:00 Career Line
		09:05 Chitra Bichitra
09:20 Bangladesh		Maasranga Television
Drama Serial: To To Company		08:00 Bangla Feature Film
11:30 Drama Serial: Cafeletoria		08:00 Drama Serial: Kobiraj
CHANNEL i		09:30 Golapshah
11:05 Humayun Mela		09:30 Drama Serial: Gollago
02:40 Bangla Feature Film		11:00 Modhyarater Train
07:50 SherKontha		CHANNEL 9
09:35 Documentary		09:30 Bangla Feature Film
nTV		06:00 Classic Cartoon
11:00 Rupmadhuri		10:30 Drama Serial: Apnon
04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar		Apnon Khela

abc radio FM 89.2	10:00 Morning Express
09:30 Esh Osh	12:00 No Tension
09:25 Cinema Taal	04:00 Dhaka Calling
05:30 Kacha Larka	07:00 Knight Riders
06:30 Mitha Kari	RADIO TODAY FM 89.5
07:20 GJ Lunch	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
07:45 Megh Barata	12:00 Today's Adda
08:10 Adda	04:00 U Turn
09:30 Bache Hole Jame Hobe	07:00 Robery Hill Hoek
Radio Forti	08:00 Raat Bese Gaan
07:30 Hello Dhaka	12:00 Hatum Pecha

Humayun Mela
On Channel i at 11:05am
Live telecast from Channel i premises

Chandni Poshor
On ATN BANGLA at 12:45pm
Musical Programme honouring Humayun Ahmed
Singer: Subir Nandi, Selina Chowdhury & Bari Siddique

Ichhey Ghuri
On ETV at 05:25pm
Art & Literature Based Programme
Guest: Mazharul Islam

Achhey
Drama Serial: Metro Life
Drama Serial: Shamparker Golpo
Travel Show
Drama Serial: Jolchhobi

ETV
11:30 Ekushey-er Business
05:25 Ichhey Ghuri
06:30 Desh Jurey Shunglap
07:50 Taal
11:30 Bangla Feature Film
08:05 Drama Serial: Boro Bari
08:00 Chhot Bou
11:10 Shomoy Katak Gaan-e-Gaan-e

Boishakhi TV
12:15 The Business Show
04:15 Shorashori Doctor
08:00 Drama Serial: Boro Bari
08:00 Chhot Bou
11:10 Shomoy Katak Gaan-e-Gaan-e

BANGLAVISION
01:05 Bangla Feature Film
06:30 Shoundarjo Kotha
09:05 Nacho Bangladesh
11:25 Raat Biratey

Rtv
12:35 Bangla Feature Film
09:05 Drama Serial: Boya Paribar
09:50 Look at Me
12:05 Business Talk

CHANNEL 24
03:05 Drama Serial: Shamparker Golpo
08:05 Travel Show
10:15 Drama Serial: Jolchhobi
11:30 Bangla Feature Film
08:05 Drama Serial: Baha Sher
05:35 Straight Line
07:30 Fox Movies
03:35 Ice Age
07:30 I, Robot
09:45 Hancock
11:20 Is Her Shoes

StarWorld
11:30 Castle
08:30 The Simpson's
09:30 Junior Master Chef
10:30 Australia
Grey's Anatomy

DRAMA SERIAL
ATN BANGLA
06:40pm Jhalanta Babura
11:30pm Rozhin
09:45pm Oshena Prottimbho
09:30pm Kamini
08:15pm Generation Next Dot
Rtv
08:15pm Side Effect
08:15pm Desh TV
07:45pm Sat Kahon
08:40pm Khonkaloy
08:40pm Nagark
09:30pm Jadur Shahar

NEWS BULLETIN
BTV
06:00pm News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 9pm, 10pm
11:30pm News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm
ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm
News (English) at 9am, 6pm
CHANNEL 9
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm
nTV
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm
Desh TV
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm
ETV
News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm
Boishakhi TV
12:00am Zero Hour
Rtv
11:30pm Our Democracy
Desh TV
09:45pm Chaichhi Tomar
09:45pm Maasranga Television
12:02am Shungarkot
CHANNEL 24
12:05am Modhyarater Muktabak



A file photo shows Humayun Ahmed in New York, on May 9 this year.