

WHAT'S ON


Humayun Mela 2013  
Organisers: Channel i  
Venue: Channel i Premises  
Date: November 13  
Time: 11am onwards



Hay Festival 2013  
Title Sponsor: The Daily Star  
Venue: Bangla Academy  
Premises, Dhaka  
Date: November 14-16  
Time: 8am-8pm everyday



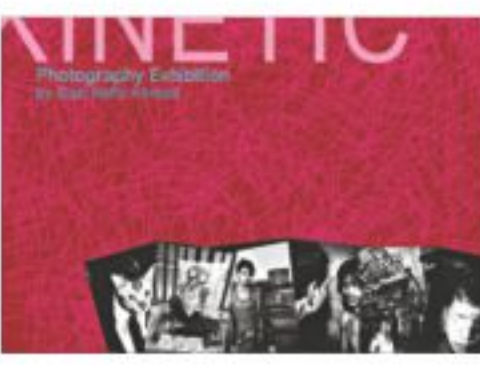
Book Fair  
Marking Humayun Ahmed's Birthday  
Venue: Public Library Premises and  
Main Auditorium, National Museum  
Date: November 13-17  
Time: 10:30am-8pm everyday



Exhibition  
Title: Exotic Jute II  
Venue: Alliance Francaise de  
Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road,  
Dhanmondi  
Date: Nov 1-15



Photography Exhibition  
Artist: Gazi Nafis Ahmed  
Venue: EMK Center, H-5,  
R-27 (Old), Dhanmondi  
Date: Nov 5-17  
Time: 10am-8pm



# Memories of Humayun Sir...

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Today is the birthday of Humayun Ahmed, a prominent figure in the world of Bengali literature. On the day, he was born in Kutubpur village of Netrakona district. As filmmaker and playwright, the versatile talent entertained millions of viewers of the small and silver screen. Early in his career, he served as professor at Dhaka University. After the Liberation War, Humayun wrote a novel titled "Nondito Noroke", beginning his journey as a litterateur. From then, on the author enjoyed unprecedented popularity in the country's writing arena for over three decades. At one stage, he quit his university job and stepped into the world of entertainment, and made several films such as "Aguner Parashmoni" and "Srabon Megher Din". In addition, he penned the script of many timeless TV plays. He created classics like "Eishob Dinratri", "Bohubrihi", "Ayomoy", "Kothao Keu Nei", "Nakkhatrer Rat", "Sabuj Chhata" and "Ochin Brikkho". Of them, Baker Bhai, the leading character of "Kothao Keu Nei" earned him huge popularity. This correspondent often visited the author at his residence Dokhin Hawa. In 2006, he along with other news-



The writer (L), seen with Humayun Ahmed and his mother on his birthday.

men from different print and electronic media met him and were treated with sweets and presented a book each. Since then I attended his birthday celebrations till his death. Although Ahmed never celebrated his birthday elaborately, his publishers and close ones chalked out various programmes for the occasion. Regarding this, the writer said "My birthday is not in my hands anymore," while talking to this correspondent once. In 2010, he celebrated his birthday at Dokhin Hawa for the last time. On the day, he cut cakes in presence of his family members at 12am. Many wished him with bouquet since morning. On the birthday in 2009, the correspondent was also present at Dokhin Hawa. That year, a group of Bauls rendered songs all night to mark the day. He started making his last film "Ghetuputro Kamola" before detection of his cancer. I visited the shooting spots several times and had lunch with Ahmed. On his last birthday, Ahmed was in America for treatment. His close associates were present at Dokhin Hawa on the day. A book fair was also held at Public Library on the occasion. The calendar has circled his birthday again, and it's hard to believe that Humayun Ahmed is no more. The creator of literary characters like Himu, Misir Ali and Shubhro breathed his last on July 19 last year. On one such birthday of the writer, we had lunch at the residence of Mazharul Islam, proprietor of Annoproskash, and talked for some time. On another birthday, I presented Humayun Ahmed a photograph of his son Nishad. He exclaimed his joy at this and kept it at Nuhash Polli, his favourite place, where he was laid to rest.



## He who told the best tales ...

FAHMIM FERDOUS

In the early part of the nineties, when we were growing up, television entertainment had a different meaning. Most of the shows we would enjoy on BTV were not 'our' productions: be it the foreign shows like "The Girl From Tomorrow" or "McGyver" or Mustafa Monwar's morning puppet show, and the cartoons that aired in the afternoon. So, the time in front of TV was also very specified and limited, as the elders in the house would not enjoy these as much as we. What they took more interest in were at the pre-dinner time, when Bengali drama serials would air. My first encounter of that sort was with "Kothao Keu Nei", a TV spot I recognised as the show with Baker bhai on it. While the exact stories are unclear in my memory, I remember the whole family gathering around every week for the show, and enjoying it the same, from my elderly aunt to my 4-year old me. "Hawa Mein Urrta Jaye" -- Baker bhai's (Asaduzzaman Noor) favourite song that played at the roadside tea stall where he hung around -- became a household tune; my teenage cousin sisters would argue over who pulls off Muna's (Subarna Mustafa) hair-style better. And when, near the end, Baker bhai was convicted of a murder, I remember the discussions at the dinner table, including my father, who was not the most serious of TV-watchers. Another show that I vaguely remember is "Ayomoy". Set in a different background, it featured a 'Choto Mirza' (Asaduzzaman Noor, again) and his two wives played by Subarna Mustafa and Sara Zaker. But the drama series Humayun Ahmed really had an impact on me



A scene from "Bohubrihi"; (top) Behind-the-scenes of "Kothao Keu Nei".

was "Aj Robibar". Shot almost entirely indoors in BTV's shabby studios, it was the TV highlight of me and my siblings' weekend (it would be aired on Fridays). From the simpleton Anis (Zahid Hasan), his constantly awkward encounters with Titli and Kongka (Shila Ahmed and Meher Afroz Shaon), the very moody and quirky Ali Zaker, his younger brother Asaduzzaman Noor right down to their domestic help Moti Bhai (Faruk Ahmed) and Fuli, was entertaining in a way no other TV show was. There was another of Humayun Ahmed's finest creations from that era that I got to experience later, in my late teens, which remains special. After I'd read the novel "Bohubrihi" and was discussing it with my mother, she said that it used to be a TV serial in the late 80's. After quite some searching, I got my hands on the seven episodes -- downloaded painstakingly off the internet. While I thought I wouldn't be as amazed by it as I was of my childhood TV experiences, it proved me wrong to no end. What struck

me was that the ease of the storyline; every character seemed not just possible, but probable to exist; the eccentric "Mama" (portrayed by Aly Zaker) to the sly Emdad Khondokar (Abul Khair) to the widowed father of two Asaduzzaman Noor whose children are more than a handful to Kader the servant (played by Afzal Sharif), all seemed incredibly lifelike, despite the set and background being barely convincing. Near the last episodes, the story took a bold turn, speaking about the Liberation War and turning hatred against the collaborators. In a time as politically difficult as that (1988-89), he managed to coin the immortal phrase "Tui Razakar" in it. There are all types of storytellers in the world; what made Humayun Ahmed special how easily his characters walked into the viewers' lives, how their stories became the viewers' concern. At a time when television entertainment was not as abundant, Humayun Ahmed broke out of the TV screens and touched people's hearts. And that is what will immortalise him to us, his fans.

### TV WATCH

## Humayun Ahmed's birth anniversary programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

#### Channel i

Channel i, besides holding a Humayun Mela at its premises from 11am-2pm today, will also air documentary "Chondro Karigor" at 5:30pm, directed by Raju Alim. "Smriti'r Jochhnay Humayun", a special programme featuring Meher Afroz Shaon, Jayanta Chattapadhyay and SI Tutul, directed and hosted by Mousumi Barua, will air at 6:20pm. Humayun Ahmed-written TV play "Jadukor", directed by Meher Afroz Shaon, will also be telecast at 7:50pm.

#### Maasranga Television

A special programme on Humayun Ahmed, titled "Bohumatrik Humayun", will be aired on Maasranga Television at 8pm. Directed by Abul Hossain Khokon and anchored by Meher Afroz Shaon, the show will feature multifaceted writer Syed Shamsul Haq as a guest, while professor Syed Manzoarul Islam, actor Tariq Anam Khan and singer Subir Nandi will also speak on their experiences with the author.

#### Desh TV

On Humayun Ahmed's birthday, Desh TV is bringing together the artistes of some of his best works on TV and film. Asaduzzaman Noor, Faruq Ahmed, Abdul Qader, Shadhin Khosru and Ahmed Rubel will reminisce on their characters and work experience with Humayun, while Maqsud Jamil Mintu will discuss the music of "Kothao Keu Nei", "Shrabon Megher Din" and "Aj Robibar". Clippings of some of his popular works will also be shown on the programme, scheduled to air at 7:45pm.



"Bohumatrik Humayun"



"Humayun Ahmed Sworon"

#### Banglavision

Today's edition of "Music Club", Banglavision's regular musical programme, will be dedicated to Humayun Ahmed. Singer SI Tutul and his band Dhruvotara will perform songs of Humayun Ahmed's films, many of which were penned by the wordsmith himself. Viewers can phone in live and request their favourite Humayun Ahmed songs as well. The programme, directed by Nahid Ahmed Biplob, will air at 11:25pm tonight.

#### Rtv

Although known for being an author, Humayun Ahmed was a multi-talented man. Individuals who were close to him will speak on his filmmaking, TV plays, music and arts, in a special programme on his birth anniversary titled "Humayun Ahmed Sworon". His brother, cartoonist Ahsan Habib, writer-director Shakur Majid, actor Tariq Anam Khan and eminent dancer Munmun Ahmed. Produced by Sumon Mahmud, the show will air on Rtv at 7:30pm.

## "Television" nominated for best feature at APSA



Anisul Hoque, Faridur Reza Sagar and Farooki at the press conference.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's film "Television" is one of the six films in the running to win best feature at the 7th Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA). It is the first ever film from Bangladesh to be nominated. The film has also got another nod, with Anisul Hoque and Farooki being nominated for best storyline. A press conference was held yesterday at Channel i office, Tejgaon in the capital where managing director of Impress Television Limited and Channel i, Faridur Reza Sagar announced the news.

Other films in contention of the coveted award are: "Omar" from Palestine; "With You, Without You" from Sri Lanka; "Like Father, Like Son" from Japan; "The Turning," an anthology film from Australia and "The Past," directed by noted Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi. Indian writer-director Shyam Benegal is this year's jury president. Korean writer-director Kim Tae-yong, Sri Lankan actress and parliamentarian Malini Fonseka, Turkish actor Tamer Levent, Swiss director Christoph Schaub and Hong Kong producer Albert Lee will be making the decisions alongside him.

## Highlighting working lives Gazi Nafis Ahmed's solo exhibition at Kennedy Center

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Under the title "Kinetic", the Edward M Kennedy Center for Public Service and the Arts in Dhanmondi has organised a photography exhibition of Gazi Nafis Ahmed. Noted photographer Imtiaz Alam Beg inaugurated the exhibition. In kinetic theory, minuscule molecules of gases are constantly on motion, and constantly colliding with each other; the process creates the particular characteristics of its particles, pressure, temperature, thickness, volume etc.

Nafis Ahmed's exhibition also explores the same friction, but in human terms. About 44 photographs are on display at the exhibition, which have been taken in different locations in our country. All the photographs are in black and white. For him, colour stands for reality, and black and white stand for ultra-reality. In most of his works, people are

the predominating issue.

Nafis explores emotions and landscapes that are generated by the constant interaction of human forms, which collectively create the power and spirit of humans. It is an understanding of his surroundings, where reality blends with magic. The images document pain, bliss, fear, and the passion that are provided when circumstances and events collide, intersected by the daily travails of life.

Nafis is mainly a documentary photographer. He sees the country as a place with many social challenges, and feels compelled to use photography to document the constant changes and impact the collective state of mind of the people. Nafis received his degree from the London Guildhall University in Art and Design. He received BA (Hons) Photojournalism from the Danish School of Media and Journalism. He is represented by VII Photo Agency's Mentor Programme. The exhibition will continue till November 17.

