



## Stars recall wordsmith HUMAYUN AHMED on his 67th birthday

SHAH ALAM SHAZU  
Faruque Ahmed

I have many fond memories of the prolific writer, playwright and litterateur-filmmaker. For example, he returned for a few days to the country from USA where he had gone for medical treatment. During that time I

everyone, "Faruque presented me my favourite gift. Trees are of great importance to me."

I worked with him for a number of plays and films. So there are many untold stories between us.

DR EZAZUL ISLAM

Before sir's demise, I was shooting his last play in Nuhash Palli. His cancer had not been detected at that time. During a break in shooting, we strolled on the banks of a pond surrounded by coconut trees. Suddenly he said, "You know doctor it is very sad I may not survive when the trees mature."

He always expressed his anger on the subject of death. He questioned why a human being only had a few days of life. Anyway, the words of sir

Today is my sir's birthday but he is no more. It is really very sad.

SHADHIN KHOSRU

I miss Humayun Ahmed very much. I remember an interesting incident when I was staying at his home Dakkhin Hawa for a few days. On the first day, we hung out till midnight. I was very surprised to see Humayun



Ahmed knocking on my door with cups of tea at 7 am the next day. I was surprised and wondered who had made the tea as nobody was at home. He entered my room and sat on the bed with the tea but I couldn't believe that it was actually Humayun Ahmed sitting beside me with tea at 7 in the morning.

After having tea, he started writing and told me that now it was my turn to prepare tea and I did just that.

Later, Humayun Ahmed would make morning tea as long as I stayed at Dakkhin Hawa. I would make the next cup of tea.

The stories about my favourite person will never end. Thousands of such stories about the wordsmith remain untold.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Faruque Ahmed

I went to Nuhash Palli at night, shooting a TV play. Before leaving the shooting spot, I went to his room to meet him. There, in front of everyone, he shared a memory of how I had joined the birthday celebrations of his son Nishat without an invitation. The interesting and surprising thing is that he merely said, "This is true love which I see through Faruque". On our parting, he just said "Good night Faruque, wish you the best of luck. It may be our last meeting". That was our last meeting and the last words between us.

Once I was very worried about a choice of gift for him on his birthday. Usually, everyone presents a shirt and panjabi on such an occasion but I went to Nuhash Palli with a plant for him. On receiving the plant, he told

still resonate in my mind. He had a premonition that he would not survive in this world for long.

I'm a very ordinary man, I usually act on the instructions of director. People now know me because I learnt acting from sir. I owe him a huge debt.

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PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

## Taaha Chowdhury: Paving her own way

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

the change and the time commitments."

"Time is crucial. With my tight schedule I actually don't get much time for myself. I can never decide which show I like best to host!"

"Life is a journey, and for me, the breakthrough came in 2011 when I saw an advertisement by Rtv which was scouting for news readers. I signed up for it just for the fun of it, but it was actually the turning point in my life. At the interviews, Rtv chose me as an anchor. And I thought this was the best opportunity that came my way."

"I will continue anchoring and modeling but acting is not for me. I really love what I do but I know down the road I will never think of this as my future career. But in any case, I will be in the entertainment business for a few more years."

## Bangladesh premiere of "Anil Bagchi'r Ekdin" today

an official selection at the World Film Festival in Bangkok, is produced by Bengal Creations and presented by Robi.

"Anil Bagchi'r Ekdin", starring Aref Syed, Gazi Rakayet, Jyoti, Farhana Mithu and Misha Sawdagar, among others, is based on the Liberation War, and follows Anil Bagchi (Aref) on his journey from Dhaka to his hometown, where his father is killed by the Pakistani forces.



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh premiere of "Anil Bagchi'r Ekdin", Moshedul Islam's film based on a novel by Humayun Ahmed, is set to be held today at the Star Cineplex.

The premiere will mark the 67th birth anniversary of Humayun Ahmed, before its release on December 11.

The film, which had its World Premiere at the International Film Festival of Colombo and was later



## Bangladeshi writer's "Quantico" ventures

### In conversation with Sharbari Z Ahmed

FAHIM FERDOUS

US TV series "Quantico", that premiered on television network ABC this September, has created quite a buzz among the audience at large, especially in the subcontinent – owing to Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra being cast in the lead. The mystery thriller about a group of FBI recruits in training has garnered appreciation for its racial diversity and a gripping plot. The TV show has made a decent following among Bangladeshi audience as well, through satellite channels and streaming sites.

Bangladeshi writer Sharbari Z Ahmed is part of the screenwriting team for the show, and The Daily Star caught up with her via email about the project:

How and when did you start writing for TV and film?

Sharbari: I never thought seriously about writing for TV. I had written a play and few screenplays, but I never thought to solely pursue one medium. I just love to tell

stories, so whatever way this manifested itself, I went with.

How did you get involved with the "Quantico" writing team?

Sharbari: My friend, actor Purva Bedi recommended me to executive producer Jake Coburn who then introduced me to the show runner Josh Safran.

Could you give us an outline of the process which goes behind writing an episode of a TV series?

Sharbari: We sit in a writer's room. That is typically how American television is created. We have nine writers in total and we sit together and discuss the show, stories and character arcs. We pitch ideas to Josh in keeping with his vision and he signs off on them. Once we decide on the various moving parts, we then 'break' an episode: which means we assemble it, placing various moments in their appropriate acts. We also think about the direction of the show and arcs that continue beyond an episode. Josh assigns specific episodes to one or two

writers. The cast is shooting away from NYC and it is mainly the producers and show runner who have regular contact with them. It was incredibly exciting for me hear and see them do a table read of my episode (set to air November 15) via Skype.

What's the feedback about "Quantico" so far, and what are the plans regarding the show -- this season, and upcoming?

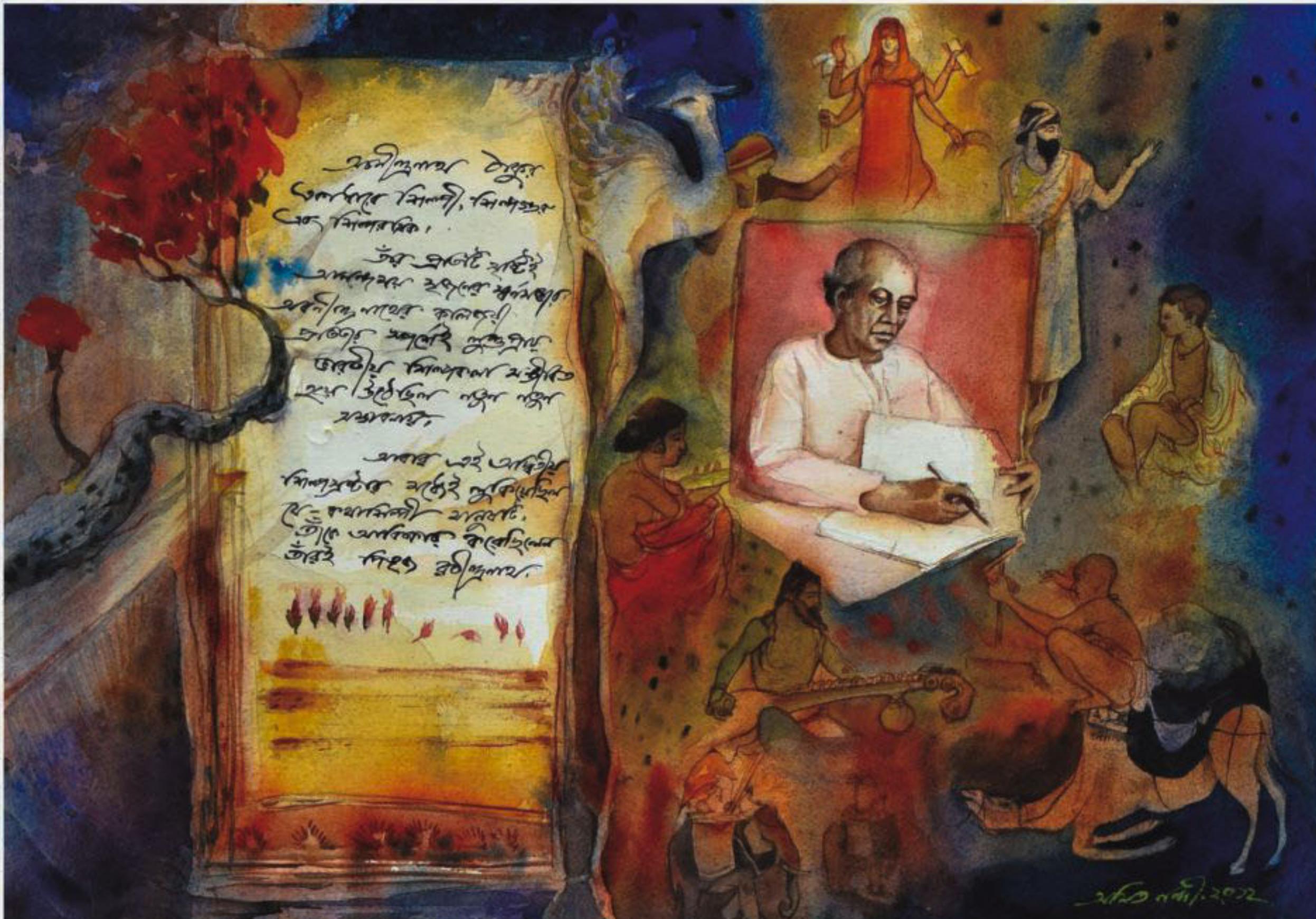
Sharbari: People are loving the show. "Quantico" is moving the diversity ball down the field in the United States by casting Priyanka Chopra in the lead, as well as having a diverse cast. This is the first prime time drama to cast a brown female protagonist and build a show around her. It's groundbreaking and America, and the rest of the world are responding. All I can tell you about upcoming episodes and the season is that it will be thrilling, fun, full of twists and, at times, even eye-opening! We have a dynamic writing team and this is powerfully



Priyanka (L) has become a new favourite of TV audiences in the US.

## In search of eternal beauty

### Amit Nandi's debut solo at Zainul Gallery



ZAHANGIR ALOM

Amit Nandi is a promising artist who has so far carved a niche in the oriental art scene in Bangladesh. In his first solo art exhibition, titled "In the Midst of Eternal Beauty", he is displaying an array of art pieces that speak of multi-faceted aspects of beauty, arts and aesthetics and contemporary issues.

Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor of University of Dhaka (DU), inaugurated the six-day exhibition as chief guest on November 10, while Professor Syed Abul Barq Alvi, former dean of Faculty of Fine Art (FFA) of DU; Professor Lala Rukh Selim, Chairman, Department of Sculpture, DU; and Dr. Malay Bala, Associate Professor and Chairman, Department of Oriental Art, DU graced the occasion as special guests.

Professor Nisar Hossain, Dean, FFA, DU presided over the programme.

The artist loves to portray themes and subjects that have close relation with nature and her diverse elements, conspicuous social relevance and specific artistic contemplations. The artist's use of sober yet mature colours coupled with aesthetic lines, contours, forms and excellent wash has made a hallmark of his own.

Amit is a socially conscious artist. As a protest to food adulteration, he has depicted several of his paintings that clearly show our endangered lives.

Amit has also symbolically depicted the deserted sewing machines which the victims of Rana Plaza tragedy once worked with. The sight of the empty machineries seems to mourn for the deceased.

Keeping apt space, light and shades and tiny scribbles, Amit has soulfully depicted the bauls of Bengal, immersing in the melodic bliss. Female figures find their unparalleled oriental grace in Amit's works. The nuance of Bengali feminine grace together with the image of timeless flutes is noticeable in one of his paintings, that exude an aura of romance and nostalgia.

There are also portraits of Bangabandhu, Nataraj, landscape, calligraphy, watchful and faithful dogs signaling imminent omens; floral rhythm, almost-extinct band party of old Dhaka and many more.

Amit, with his utmost devotion, painted Tagore in a unique way in one of his paintings where colours, textures, forms serenade the saga of untainted visual beauty.

The show, opening from 10am to 8pm daily, ends on November 15.

