

Theodore Roosevelt warns, "To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society." A worthwhile education should target the total development of learner's personality. But most of the schools emphasise to transmit knowledge due to many underlying reasons. This has created a moral vacuum in the life of the individual, the reflection of which we can see every day in the daily newspaper either- mother killing their children or

individual pupils, of developing Values Education, is that pupils take greater personal responsibility for their learning and behavior if they are given opportunity to reflect upon their learning gained from the school and relate it with their everyday behaviour. Research, undertaken at Oxford University (Hawkes, 2005), indicates that the most effective teachers of values are those who work to be more self-aware and take time to reflect on the deeper meaning of the values being emphasised in the

simultaneously by millions at educational institutions and other places all over the country. How many of them sung the song out of feelings towards the country? Did they feel what they were singing and saying? Even though I did not go to the parade ground but showed my respect from home but out of curiosity when I went out to see the condition of the people after the programme, I saw students throwing food packets on the road in front of Jatiyo Sangshad which was

As I said earlier, if these were emphasised properly at school and at home, then maybe we would not have seen the recent heinous attacks by the group of young boys. On the contrary, Faraaz, who was brutally killed by the terrorists, belonged to the same age group but with different value based education from his family and institution, which he probably cherished and practiced, and set an example of a good human being which every family and country needs.

Self reflective work by us, especially teachers, is seen to have a powerful impact on pupils, who appear to make a connection between what the teacher says and what she does. Such teachers are authentic, meaning that they seek to achieve similarity between their thoughts, feelings and actions. They have to ensure that the children have to translate the learning into action and be the role model to encourage the children. Therefore schools should take steps to emphasise on

## NURTURING VALUES BASED EDUCATION: A DEMAND FOR PRESENT SITUATION!

ROMINA DEWAN

PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO



husband killing wife or teasing girls in public places, and not to mention the recent mushrooming of the terror activities in our country and elsewhere.

Value-based education is needed for developing moral qualities such as humility, truthfulness, honesty, courtesy, tolerance, sacrifice, respect etc. among the children to create a base. C. S. Lewis said "Education without values, as it is, seems rather to make a cleverer devil". So values based education will help in developing positive social attitudes in new generations, which prompt them to raise their voices against social evils, as well as refrain from doing so themselves.

When a school seriously emphasises the moral and spiritual aspects of the curriculum, the students become more reflective and harmonious. The effect on

school. For example, in all the grades in our schools following government curriculum there are chapters on my country, chapters on environment pollution, climate change, stories from where the children can learn about respecting elders in the family etc. If the teachers, while teaching take the issues or morals - like if you love your country what should you do? How you should behave so that the environment of your country is not polluted? What is the indicator of showing love and respect to your country or elders? It will have a more positive impact.

We are all aware that more than 2.5 lakh people gathered at the national parade ground in the capital on our independence day 26th March, 2014, to set a world record by singing our national anthem. The anthem was sung

given to them during the event after just coming out singing 'Amar sonar Bangla ami tomai bhalobashi (My Golden Bangla I love you)'. Is this the way of showing love to our country? The event was aimed to have Bangladesh's name in the Guinness Book of World Records through paying tributes to the martyrs for their supreme sacrifice for the country and to reignite the spirit of the Liberation war and patriotism, but how many learned the true sacrifice by the martyrs, how many had the spirit of the Liberation war inside them? How many in true sense loved their country in that spirit? Did the schools go deeper into the morals of these issues or give them the opportunity to reflect upon what they are doing for the country or how they should behave after they gain knowledge from school?

value-based education by digging values and morals out from the text and ensure its implementation by monitoring the changed behaviour of the students.

To make the base stronger for values and to ensure an enabling environment the family has a greater role to play so that school education do not go in vain. Morality means learning the difference between right and wrong or good and bad behaviour toward others. Parents and other close family members are essential in its development, because they are the primary social contacts during a person's childhood and adolescence. Teaching your child morals and principles, and setting a good example will help facilitate your child's development.

The writer is the Executive Director, LEADS, and a freelance writer.

### OPINION

### LIT-BITS

# TURN THE PAGES, BE YOUR HEROES

NILIMA JAHAN

The 4th death anniversary of Humayun Ahmed, the prolific author, playwright, storyteller, and filmmaker was celebrated countrywide, on July 19, 2016. But is Humayun Ahmed really gone?

This great man is forever with us and will always survive through his literary contributions. The characters he created the television in most of his literary works or screen will live forever in our hearts. Definitely, these characters can be some of the best sources of inspiration for our youth, through which we can change the society as a whole.

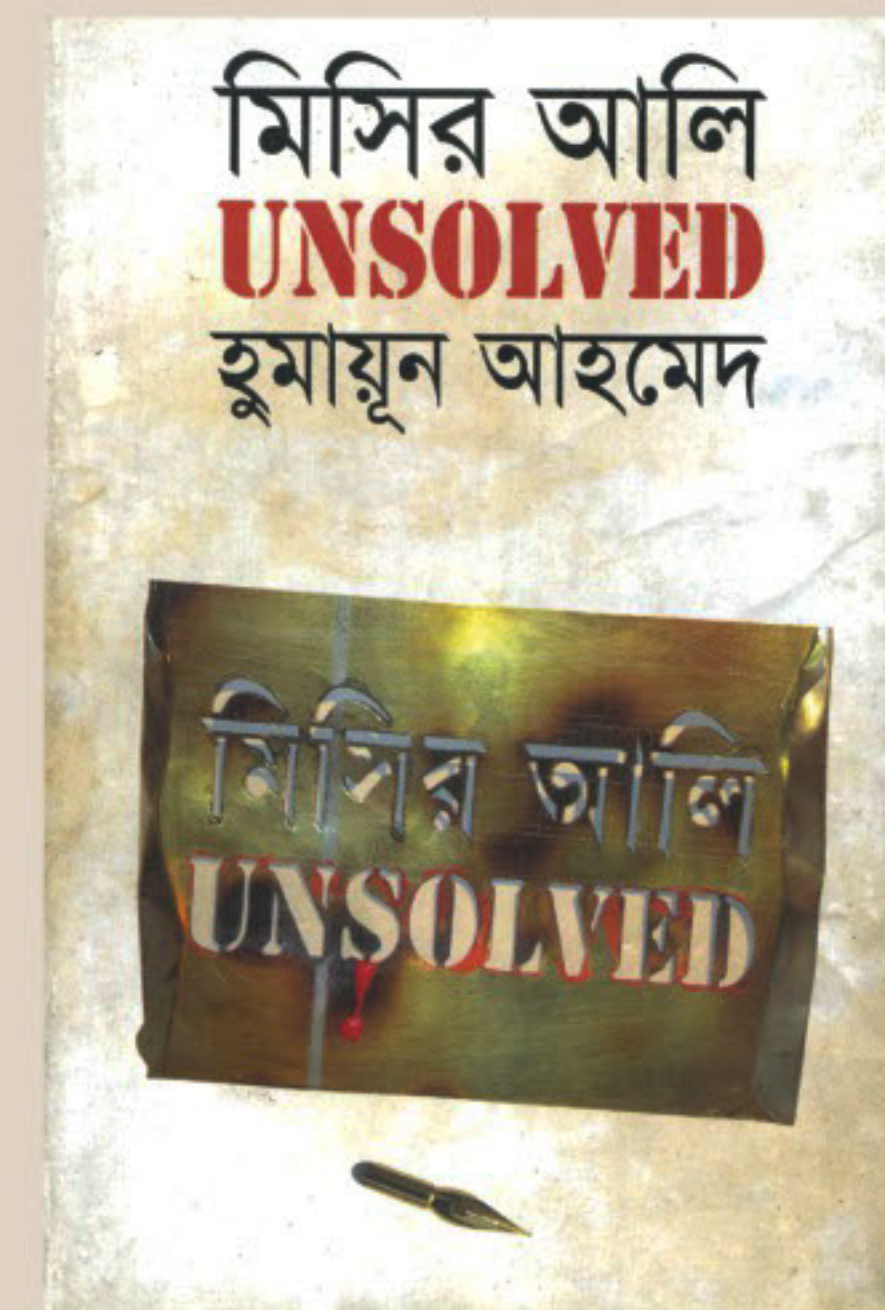
Let's take Himu, for example. There are very few people who don't know the name 'Himu'. Himu is an independent young man, who first appeared in the novel titled 'Mayurakkhi' published in 1990. Perhaps, this character of a vagabond,

with an air of indifference. He also has abundant knowledge on politics, literature and contemporary events.

His way of life attracts many of our educated and talented youths, and for this, Himu now lives beyond the pages. Impressed with his personality, many young people love to lead their lives like Himu.

"Himu embodies the essence of those youths who like to defy the chains of tradition", says Ashim Kumar Paul (29), a cadre, General Education, at 34th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) Examination. "His aimless wandering and capricious acts draw me so forcibly, that a Himu has been already born inside me".

On the contrary, 'Misir Ali', another famous character of the writer is a complete opposite. Misir Ali tries to solve everything in this world with his



reckless youth is the most influential character in the history of modern Bengali literature. Himu's real name is 'Himalay' and his psychopathic father wanted him to be a great man.

His appearance is odd, since he lives like a vagabond, wears a yellow panjabi without any pockets and unintentionally walks barefoot on the streets of Dhaka. He is unconventional, believes in anti-logic and has some spiritual powers of soothsaying, for which, Badal, Himu's cousin had become a fan of his. He is beyond self-centeredness, lives in the present, and has no headache about the future. He is a protagonist, with the power of speaking the unpleasant truth

logic. He never believes in any mystery, preconception and miracles. Misir Ali, the intelligent one, is portrayed as a 40 to 50 years old psycho-analyst, who works as a part-time professor of Psychology, at the University of Dhaka. He has a great interest in Parapsychology, solves many unexplainable events and that's why people love to come to him for psychiatric treatment. Normally, he seems to be emotionless and cold-hearted, but his deep love for humans is reflected in many of his activities. He often needs to be hospitalised for his physical illness but he gets out of all troubles in the end.

Misir Ali was the most preferred character of the writer himself and he had stated it many times. Because of his solitude, soft heart and sharp intellect, he has become a man of flesh and blood to the readers.

Now it's 'Baker Bhai's' turn. Do you remember 'Kothao Keu Nei', the most popular drama series aired on Bangladesh Television in 1990? Baker Bhai was the central character of the drama and he was not just any character! He is a thug, who lives just outside of the law and the mainstream society and tries to keep control of his territory, through a series of dangerous adventures. But ultimately, he is known

as a fair and just person, who tries to distinguish between right or wrong. He gives protection to the weak and won't hesitate to right the wrong. He had become a defender of the defenceless.

The popularity of Baker Bhai was so immense that people took to the streets and protested their beloved character's wrongful death sentence in this show, which was given to him after he killed a man trying to protect the innocent. They even threatened Bangladesh Television and called for the writer to change the story!

Remember 'Shuvro'? The boy who loves to dream and who is not willing to think about the day-to-day problems or any kind of complexity? Shuvro, the purest human being and one of the most popular characters of Humayun Ahmed, is portrayed wearing thick framed glasses, without which he cannot see the world properly. Shuvro used to be called "Kanababa" by his friends.

Nowadays, many of our youths think that they have no role model and there is no one to idolise. These iconic characters, that Humayun Ahmed blessed us with, can help us get out of this misconception. We should keep in mind that, to change the society, we don't need to have so many things. Some clean thoughts, intentions and ideologies can help make our society a significantly pleasant one. In such a dark time, we are in dire need of our Himus, Misir Alis, Baker Bhaish and Shuvros. ■



SKETCH: YARIZ SIDDIQUI