



*Nasiruddin Yousuff Bachchu is an acclaimed stage and film director who needs no introduction. His contribution to the film industry of Bangladesh is unmatched. He has received multiple awards throughout his life, of which the most notable one is Ekushey Padak for his contribution to Bangladeshi theatre. The director has worked with Syed Shamsul Haq on many occasions throughout his career, and was one of the few people who were with him in his last days. We asked Nasiruddin Yousuff to share his experience with the great poet, who was in his life's final stages.*

I went to London on August 7, and on the next day I went to meet him at his sister in law's house. We talked for a long time and he told me that he was mentally prepared for anything. He wanted to live a life like Lalou, who lived over a century. At that moment he was working on the Bengali translation of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" as well as on a couple of poems. He told me that he wrote a new drama

that he thought seemed fit for me and named it "Shesh Joddha"; he mentioned that he will complete the drama soon and that he had completed 5 episodes so far. I remember I came to visit him the next day, and as his health was deteriorating profoundly, he held my hand, and said that he fears his time to leave has come. What struck me immensely was his courage; he knew that he did not have much

time left to live yet he showed the least amount of concern to his health. I was astonished to see that till his last breath, his innate desire to learn and understand things had not disappeared; rather they augmented as he got curious about so many things. Even during his worsening condition, he was consistently in search for new materials all around the world to write about. I was there to see him off as

he flew from London. As his health was deteriorating, he kept thinking about the nation and his concerns over what would happen if he passed away. He believed that there needs to be more cultural institutions and theatres other than Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka and outside Dhaka in order to establish a strong foundation for theatre and arts. He was an unbelievable personality whom I will miss dearly.