

IN LOVING MEMORY

Muhammad Zafar Iqbal on Humayun Ahmed's legacy



PHOTO: STAR

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

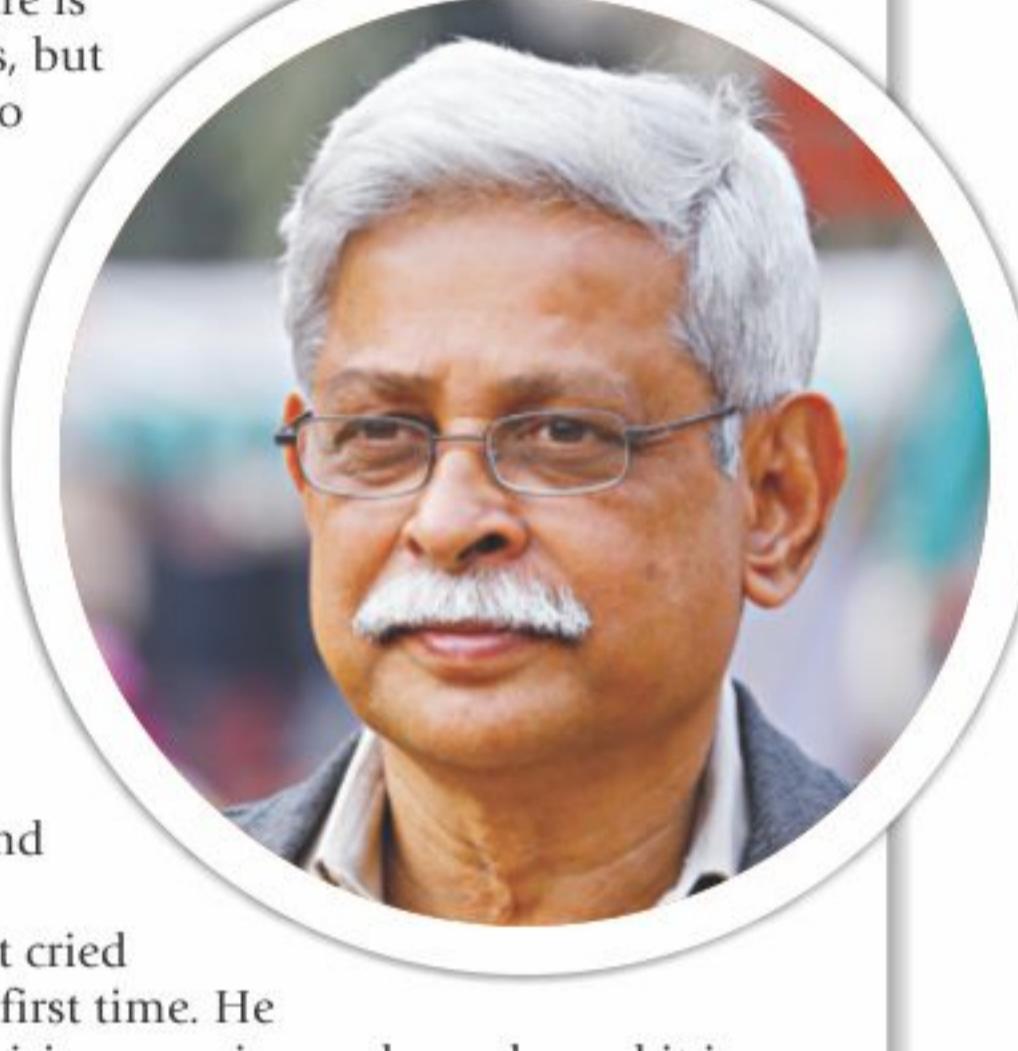
One of the greatest storytellers of his time, Humayun Ahmed's unmatched eminence has placed him both in the heart of readers and literary debate. While critics argue that his accessibility has attributed to the decline of literary standards, it is undeniable that Humayun Ahmed's legacy has firmly positioned him into Bangladesh's modern cultural zeitgeist. Had he been alive today, Humayun Ahmed would have celebrated his 69th birthday with loved ones and readers. Eminent writer and Humayun Ahmed's younger brother, Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, speaks to The Daily Star about his brother's brilliant legacy, and more. Excerpts:

"Growing up, I never realised my brother would be the embodiment of this unparalleled legacy today. Time stood still in Bangladesh for a couple of days after his passing, and the matter of his burial also became a crisis. It was then I began to learn the true extent of his popularity, and I don't think there was ever a writer in this world who had been so revered by his readers. A writer of great measure is often celebrated by intellectuals, but it is altogether something else to be able to touch the hearts of everyone across all backgrounds."

"We underestimate the contributions his literary legacy has made in shaping our perceptions; his novels have played a significant role in the retelling of the 1971 Liberation War in a way I do not think any other writer has achieved. During a time when the word 'Razakar' was taboo and unuttered, a drama scripted by Humayun featured a parrot that cried out 'Tui Razakar!' on air for the first time. He created a new platform for television, movies, and novels, and it is a painful regret that he passed so young."

"Years after his death, there are some things that give me great pain. There are literary awards granted and named in his honour, but more often than not the recipients have been outspoken in their criticisms of his literary value. Many prolific writers are of the wrong opinion that a writer's work is lacking in depth if it appeals to a large mass of people."

"We belong to an older generation where birthday celebrations were not acknowledged. My father would buy him books, which made him immensely happy, and when I was in university my friends and I would eat sweets on birthdays, with none of the excitement that exists today. That kind of vigour is reserved for our children's generation. And how was I to know then that my brother, with whom I've grown up constantly fighting and playing with, would become who he is today?"



"We belong to an older generation where birthday celebrations were not acknowledged. My father would buy him books, which made him immensely happy, and when I was in university my friends and I would eat sweets on birthdays, with none of the excitement that exists today. That kind of vigour is reserved for our children's generation. And how was I to know then that my brother, with whom I've grown up constantly fighting and playing with, would become who he is today?"

Star Melodies' tribute to Nayakraj Razzak and Abdul Jabbar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

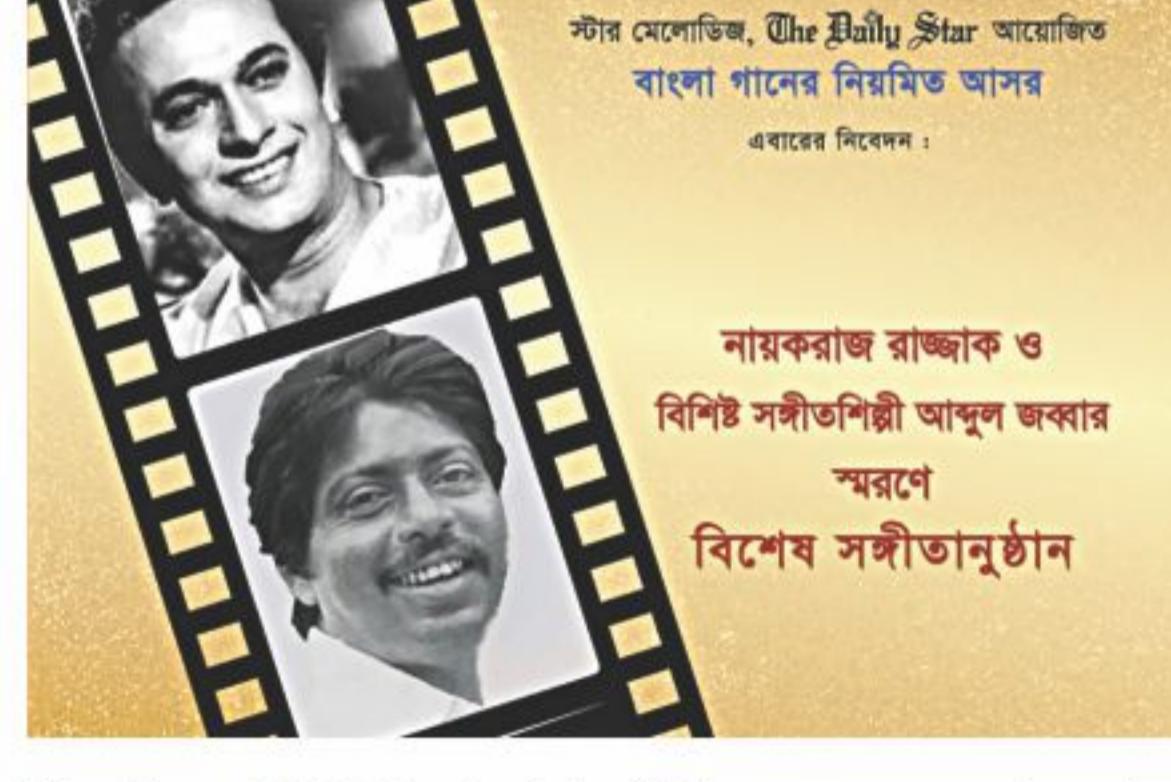
Star Melodies, The Daily Star's regular initiative to promote Bangla music, will present a special musical soiree highlighting songs lip-synced by Nayak Raj Razzak and renowned singer Abdul Jabbar on November 18, Saturday at The Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct, The Daily Star Centre.

The programme will feature songs by promising artistes -- Raja Bashir, Aloke Sen, Muhin Khan and Tanjina Karim Swaralipi. Sadya Afreen Mallick, Editor, Arts & Entertainment, The Daily Star, will compere the event.

Mahbub-ur Rahman, Deputy CEO and Country Head of Commercial Banking, HSBC Bangladesh, will personally assist in the planning of the event.

Simantic Creative Concern will assist in the programme arrangement.

The programme will be held from 6 pm at The Daily



Star-Bengal Arts Precinct. Invitation passes can be collected from The Daily Star Centre. Seating is provided on first-come-first-served basis, as seats are limited.

Curtains rise on Kolkata Int'l Film Fest

Popular Indian actors Parambrata Chatterjee and Jishu Sengupta hosted the programme, which featured folk music, dance and instrumental music.

The festival opened with Iranian director Mostafa Taghizadeh's film "Yellow", about the exile of six scientists from the country.

Bangladesh's representation in the festival includes Abu Sayeed's "Ek Kobi'r Mrityu" in the International Competition: Innovation in Moving Images, and Mostofa Sarwar Farooki as the jury of the Competition on Indian Language Films. A total of 143 films from 53 countries are being screened at the festival, which has Britain as the focus country this year.

The 23rd edition of the festival was inaugurated at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Indoor Stadium, in presence of some 25,000 attendees. Amitabh Bachchan lit a clay lamp to mark the inauguration.



SUBRATA ACHARYA, Kolkata

The Kolkata International Film Festival opened on November 10 with a star-studded ceremony, featuring Bollywood bigwigs Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Mahesh Bhatt, Kamal Hasan and Kajol, along with Indian Bangla film celebs Prosenjit, Paoli Dam, Ranjit Mallik, Mim, Sabitri Chatterjee and Madhabi Mukherjee. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee chaired the inaugural ceremony.

The 23rd edition of the festival was inaugurated at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Indoor Stadium, in presence of some 25,000 attendees. Amitabh Bachchan lit a clay lamp to mark the inauguration.

From Persian Highlands to the Sahara

Rastak, Tinariwen the stars of Folk Fest's closing day

FAHMIM FERDOUS

The Army Stadium bore witness to another memorable night of folk music – from homegrown 'pala' to the exuberance of the Persian music, and the soul-soothing melodies from the Sahara deserts, on Saturday, as the third edition of the Dhaka International Folk Festival came to a close.

Aleya Begum and Shah Alam Sarkar, two veteran musicians of the grassroots took the stage together to begin the final day's proceedings, bringing an intense spiritual debate in the form of the 'pala'. Shah Alam Sarkar began his presentation with one of his most recognisable song -- "Gaan Gaisilo Khajay Jei Din". He and Aleya Begum then took turns at diving into the Sharati and Marfati principles of Islamic Sufism, trying to flummox each other with riddles and counter-points. Interjecting songs between their debate, the two performed "Manush Roton Koro He Bhojon", "Ami Korte Pari Nai Pita Mata'r Khedmot", "Dubey Dekh Rup Sagore" before singing together in unison to symbolize that Shariat and Marfat



are two branches of the same tree. Shahnaz Beli, the other Bangladeshi artiste on the day's bill, took a much safer approach, deciding to perform crowd-pleasing popular numbers like Lalon's "Chatol Swobhab Na Hole" and "Korimona", Shah Abdul Karim songs "Alai Na Re Bondhu" and "Kon Mestori", Hason Raja song 'Agun Lagaiya Dilo Kone" and an Abul Sarkar composition "Tumi Jaiyo Na Bondhu Re". Although the audience danced along with her performance, her musical arrangement heavily featuring the electric guitar, electric bass and drums was a little sore to the ears.

After a brief closing ceremony addressed by Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, Sun

Communications CEO Anjan Chowdhury and eminent singer-researcher Nashid Kamal, the surprise entry of the festival, Danish Ambassador and seasoned singer-guitarist Mikael Hemniti Winther took the stage for a brief but soulful set. Along with another diplomatic high-up - Australian Deputy High Commissioner Sally-Anne Vincent - and French pianist-composer Frank Hergott, he paid tribute to the recently-deceased Tom Petty with classics like "Learning to Fly" and "Mary Jane's Last Dance", Eel's "Where I'm From", Bob Marley's "No Woman, No Cry" and closed with "Seeing Dhaka", a loving tribute Hemniti wrote for this city. Iranian folk ensemble Rastak

almost caught the laid-back audience off-guard with an outburst of energy and excitement, as the 10-member band dressed in bright outfits and an even brighter personality weaved melodies and beats that gave wind to the sails of the festival. With traditional Persian melodic instruments like the kamancheh, tar, oud, ghaychak, tar, dotar, the exquisite ney-anban and qanun, along with percussive instruments like the daf, tombak and darbuk, their infectious energy spread among the audience. Taking songs from the various regions of Iran and interpreting it in their own way, the band got the audience involved in coordinated clapping and singing along -- in a completely alien language.



Tinariwen closed the festival with their calming, introspective music (above); Diplomat musicians Mikael Hemniti Winther and Sally-Anne Vincent (L) and folk music veterans Aleya Begum and Shah Alam Sarkar perform at the festival.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

WALTON

আমাদের পণ্য

ARISTOCRATIC DESIGN

With FABULOUS COLORS

Real Tempered Glass Door Refrigerator



শর্তব্লোগী:

- ওয়াল্টন পণ্য কিনে SMS এ Product Registration করতে হবে
- প্রাপ্ত কার্য ভাউচার শুধুমাত্র ওয়াল্টন পণ্য ক্রয় ব্যবহারযোগ্য
- এ সুযোগ ১০ হাজার টাকার অধিক বিক্রয়মূল্যের বেকোনো পণ্যের ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য

এ উদ্যোগ পর্যের গবেষণা ও মনোযোগ এবং ডিজিটাল পদ্ধতিতে বেজিস্ট্রি ম্যাগেজ মাধ্যমে সর্বান্ব এবং নিশ্চিতকরণের প্রত্যয়ে



ফ্রিজ কিনে লক্ষ টাকার ভাউচার এবার পিরোজপুরের জনাব মোঃ সাইফুল্লেহ



১লক্ষ টাকা

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০

১০০০০০.০০</p