

# CELEBRATING LIFE 2019

## Lifetime Achievement Award



**TRIBUTE**

### SYED ABDUL HADI

Veteran singer Syed Abdul Hadi managed to capture the hearts of millions of Bengalis with his melodious songs and the messages that they portray. In his illustrious career, spanning over almost sixty long years, the singer has won five *Bangladesh National Film Awards* for *Best Male Playback Singer* and received the *Ekushey Padak* in 2000.

Over his career, he has created several albums and sang quite a number of songs. Despite being a professional singer, he first began working as a teacher. He also pursued other careers, including a position in the government ministry and in television. The only constant career in his life is music, which remained even if other careers faded. He never imagined that he could be a singer, but his melodious voice propelled him to this career. He even wished to not be promoted, so he could pursue music without many obstacles in the way.

He was born and raised amidst the beauty

of nature, which had a significant impact on his thoughts. He believes that this is something which further stirred his artistic nature. From a very young age, he loved music. He used to listen to songs played on the gramophone at his household. His father also had a beautiful voice, which served as inspiration. In short, he grew up in an environment where music was held in high regard, and grew up listening to music. He gives great value to simply listening to music. He also used to listen to songs played in cinema halls in his childhood.

He learnt a great deal from the likes of Abdul Ahad and Kamal Dasgupta. Even though he could not pursue musical education due to work, his knowledge and practice helped him in capturing the essence of music. He was also an avid listener of English songs of the 50s and 60s, which found their way as inspiration in some of his songs. He loves the work of Frank Sinatra, Tom Jones, Nat King Cole and Harry Belafonte, among several others.

His philosophy of music is simple: music's course, like a river's, cannot be deviated through any human interaction; music never remains stagnant. However, as music, like any

### FEW NOTABLE WORKS OF SYED ABDUL HADI

- Surjodoye Tumi
- Je Matir Buke
- Chokher Nojor
- Emonoto Prem Hoy
- Sokhi Cholona
- Keu Konodin Amarey Tho
- Jeo Na Sathi
- Ekbar Jodi Keu Bhalobashto
- Chole Jai Jodi Keu
- Jonmo Theke Jolchi
- Achen Amaar Mokhtar
- Mone Premer Batti jole

form of art, has the obligation to show people the right way, it is the responsibility of all artists to both follow the course of music and try to shape the course. Music is supposed to grow and change with time, but it should not leave a path for vapid experimentation. He cherishes formal musical education, and believes that it is the foundation of creating good music. He values discipline, which he maintained in every aspect of his life. He also believes that discipline should be maintained in every single profession to be successful.

He admits how the main essence of music has changed over the years. What was once a profound form art, is now more of a source of entertainment. He blames this change on technological developments. However, despite the glaring changes, he knows that classics still are loved to this day.

Throughout his career, he has received immense love and appreciation from the audience. He feels extremely lucky to have been able to etch a place for himself in the hearts of so many. He is grateful for everything his audience has done for him. He does not feel that he has much left unfulfilled as he has been so loved by all.

In honour of all that he has contributed to our music industry, we are truly humbled to present the Standard Chartered-The Daily Star Celebrating Life 2019 'Lifetime Achievement Award' in the Music category to him. We wish him all the best for his future endeavours.

Amina Hossain



**TRIBUTE**

### SARAH KABORI

The leading actor of the 60's and 70's silver screen, Sarah Kabori, first became a part of the film industry at the early age of thirteen. Holding the hands of Subhash Dutta, the actor began her journey in the world of cinema with *Sutorang*.

She later went on to work on another film, *Abirbhab*, under his direction. Later into her career, she herself directed a film, where Subhash Datta was the actor. She has starred in many prominent movies since then, creating a niche for herself.

Kabori also worked with Indian director Ritwick Ghatak on his film, *Titas Ekti Nadir Naam*. While she would have loved to work with him on more films, her time spent on the set was exceptionally educational. She especially enjoyed working with him as she found his work unique and quite different to that of any other director. Despite being a person of impatient nature, he was talented and skilled at his work, which helped her gain more experience, and thereby have more confidence in herself. Kabori deemed his work to be so great that she said his films were artworks brought to life.

Kabori also actively participated in the Liberation War. She donated blood to help the freedom fighters. Her stance, however, put her in danger, for which she had to later flee

the country. However, she met many artists, teachers and journalists throughout her journey. She also met many prominent writers and directors after she had fled to India, and even made a few films during her time there. She even worked on a film, *Joy Bangladesh*, in Mumbai.

Sarah Kabori was also a member of the parliament from the Narayanganj-4 constituency as an AL politician in 2008, and served till 2014. But, she felt that politics was not her true calling, rather through her work of art and love for cinema, she will be able to contribute more to the society. She is currently making a film, and wants to finish the work successfully. She hopes that the audience will enjoy her film, and it will leave a mark on people's lives. However, she also worries about the state of the industry, as there isn't adequate financial support available to make good films. Moreover, there is also a lack of skilled technicians and availability of proper training, which are crucial to film-making.

Kabori has been an inspiration to everyone, and serves as a symbol of courage and devotion to us all. We are proud to have such a talented artist who has immensely contributed to the growth of our film industry. This year, we are honoured to present her with the Standard Chartered-The Daily Star Celebrating Life 2019 'Lifetime Achievement Award' in the Film Category. We only wish her the best for her future.

Shreya Shomoyeeta

### FEW NOTABLE WORKS OF SARAH KABORI

- Bahana
- Titas Ekti Nadir Naam
- Sujon Shokhi
- Sareng Bou
- Devdas
- Rangbaaz
- Sutorang
- Nil Akasher Niche
- Je Agune Puri
- Dip Nibhe Nai
- Bodhu Bidai
- Motimohol
- Dorpochno

