

WHAT'S ON



**Festival**  
Title: Humayun Jonmo Uthsab  
Venue: TSC Auditorium, University of Dhaka  
Date: November 13  
Time: 4 pm



**Architectural Exhibition**  
Title: Nogomama: The Future of Our Habitats  
Venue: Bengal Shipalay, Dhanmondi 27  
Date: November 2 – 30  
Time: 12 noon – 8 pm



**Theatre Festival**  
Title: IDLC Theatre Festival  
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Date: November 19 – November 23  
Time: 5 Pm onwards



**Art Exhibition**  
Title: The Traveller's Song  
Artist: Kanak Champa Chakma  
Venue: Edge Gallery, Gulshan- 2  
Date: November 9 - November 30  
Time: 10 am- 8 pm



**Concert**  
Title: Rock4Peace  
Date: November 16  
Time: 5 pm onwards  
Venue: BICC



Meher Afroze Shaon (front-left) with the awardees Rabeya Khatun and Sadat Hossain, with guests and dignitaries at the event.

PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

# Humayun Ahmed Sahitya Puroshkar 2019

## The legacy lives on

KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

Commemorating the legendary literary personality of Bangladesh, the Exim Bank - Anyadin Humayun Ahmed Sahitya Puroshkar 2019 was held at the ASKB Auditorium of Bangla Academy yesterday.

Every year on November 12 – the day before Humayun’s birthday – this honour is awarded to an upcoming writer and a writer with significant contribution in Bangla literature. Young author Sadat Hossain received the award in the former category this year. For the senior category, notable female author Rabeya Khatun was awarded in the fifth instalment of the

event.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr A K Abdul Momen, MP, was present as the chief guest. Eminent actor and politician Asaduzzaman Noor, MP, was present as the special guest of the programme along with Managing Director of Exim Bank Dr Mohammed Haider Ali Miah, and Editor of Anyadin Mazharul Islam. National Professor Anisuzzaman presided over the ceremony.

Family members of Humayun Ahmed, who spoke at the occasion, included author and educationist Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, and media personality and wife of Humayun Ahmed, Meher Afroz Shaon. They

congratulated this year’s recipients in their speeches.

The ceremony began with a dance performance by Munmun Ahmed and students of Rewaaz Performing School. An audiovisual of the previous award ceremonies followed the performance.

Elated at receiving the award for his book 2018 book *Nisshongo Nokkhotro*, Sadat Hossain expressed, “It is humbling to receive an award that carries the name of our beloved Humayun Ahmed. I am truly grateful to the jury for the recognition.”

The octogenarian novelist Rabeya Khatun remembered Humayun Ahmed deeply at the ceremony. “I

have received many awards in my life. However, this one is special. I am truly honoured,” she said.

The winners received a prize money of BDT 1 lakh and 5 lakh, respectively, along with crests and certificates.

“I had a wonderful relationship with Humayun,” recalled Asaduzzaman Noor as he shared stories of the late author. “I hold our friendship in the highest regard.”

Foreign Minister Dr A K Abdul Momen referred to Humayun Ahmed as a great communicator. “He wrote for all and was loved by all. Humayun and his works are our country’s treasure,” he said.

# Remembering Humayun Ahmed on his 71st birthday

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Today is the 71st birth anniversary of legendary litterateur, popular playwright and filmmaker Humayun Ahmed. He was one of the few writers who could attract readers from all walks of life. It has been seven years since he passed away, and yet his books are valued commodities at the Ekushey Book Fair every year. On this auspicious day, the finest actors of the industry shared the memories of working with him and on his projects with *The Daily Star*.

Amongst Humayun Ahmed’s notable works on television, *Kothao Keu Nei*, telecasted on BTV, was a remarkable work of art. Eminent actor and former Minister of Cultural Affairs, Asaduzzaman Noor, MP, played the character of Baker Bhai. “Exceeding our expectations, the character became so popular that when Baker Bhai got the verdict of death sentence, the general people came out and protested on the road. Such reaction coming from the viewers was a unique scenario,” said Noor. “I will always mark this role as my finest work, as Humayun Ahmed had built the character perfectly.”

*Shobuj Chhata* was another tele-fiction that the audience dearly loved. Television stalwart Zahid Hasan received much appreciation after playing the character of Mofiz Pagla in this project. “I am grateful to have worked in so many projects with the legend. I was featured in many of his mega-serials and films,” shared the actor. “Each of the character he created had an individuality. His works are still loved by the fans and well-wishers.”

Riaz also has the experience of working with the noted



PHOTO: STAR

personality. “Shuvro was a popular character of the novel *Daruchini Dip*,” said the actor. “Shuvro was one of his favourite characters. I was honoured after Humayun Ahmed himself appreciated me for my portrayal of the character.”

The characters of Himu and Misir Ali are two of Humayun Ahmed’s most memorable creations. Misir Ali, who strongly believes in logic, acts accordingly. Himu, on the other hand, is anti-logic and loves mystery. In the classic television sitcom telecasted on BTV, *Aaj Robibar*, Himu was played by Tuhin.

On the other hand, Chanchal Chowdhury later portrayed Misir Ali in the film *Debi*, based on the novel of the same name. “Misir Ali is one of the most celebrated characters of Humayun Ahmed,” said Chanchal. “I have learnt a lot from the character, and it has helped me enrich my career.”

Misir Ali was brought into television earlier by the writer and filmmaker himself. Many noted actors have played Misir Ali on the television, including Abul Khayer, Abul Hayat and Ashish Khandokar.

Fans and well wishers around the country will celebrate the birth anniversary of this legendary litterateur through various programmes.



Eminent actor and cultural personality Asaduzzaman Noor, MP, spoke at the event.



Esteemed guests during the event.

# Lata Mangeshkar

## stable, but still in hospital



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, from New Delhi

*Living legend Lata Mangeshkar was recently admitted to the Intensive Care Unit of Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai, due to breathing problems.*

According to sources, she was in a critical state earlier. However, her condition is slowly improving. She is still in the hospital, under the treatment of Dr Patit Samdhani.

Mangeshkar’s public relations team released a statement recently. “Lata ji is stable. Her parameters are good. She has fought and has managed to come out of this ailment. Being a singer, her lung capacity has helped her pull through, and this proves that she is truly a fighter. We will update everyone when Lata ji gets discharged and comes home,” the statement read.

Mangeshkar received India’s highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, in 2001. The maestro has recorded songs in over 36 Indian languages, including her latest song, *Saugandh Muije Is Mitti Ki*. The song was released on March 30, this year, as a tribute to the Indian Army. Mangeshkar turned 90 on September 28, 2019.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Duronto Television will air the TV movie, *Botol Bhoot*, today at 3 pm, on the occasion of renowned author Humayun Ahmed’s 71st birth anniversary. It is adapted from a short story by Humayun Ahmed.

The story of the TV movie revolves around Humayun, a mischievous boy who is not a very good student. *Botol Bhoot* is directed by Meher Afroz Shaon. The cast of the movie includes Mamunur Rashid, Jhuna Chowdhury, Abul Kalam Azad, Abdullah Rana, Khalilur Rahman Kaderi, Wasek, Shahnaz Shumi, Afroza Begum, Matiur Rahman Mati, Md Ibrahim, Prinon, Ruth, Joyet, Neel, Zarif, Aninda, Nirjon, Anon, Dhurbo, Jihad, Sayeri, Joyosri and Tahjib.



# A heartwarming musical tribute to Humayun Ahmed



PHOTO: COURTESY



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Dan Cake and Sound Hacker recently released *Kothao Keu Nei*, a song based on the names of 29 books by legendary author Humayun Ahmed on the occasion of his 71st birthday. Sung by Tasnim Anika and Yousuf Ahmed Khan, it is a heartfelt tribute with immaculate melody and maturity. *Kothao Keu Nei* also features a poem by Alok Basu and an appearance by Nahida Afroz Sumi in the music video. The song is available on Sound Hacker’s YouTube channel.