



Eminent Rabindra Sangeet exponent and Ekushey Padak winner Mita Huq passed away on April 11, leaving an abyss in the world of Bangladeshi music. The artiste molded her life and philosophy in the vision of Tagore, who promoted peace and harmony through all of humankind. Mita Huq was said to be the happiest in the company of her friends and family, so we celebrate the artiste's life and achievements with a gallery of select photos. (Clockwise) Receiving the Ekushey Padak from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina; With colleagues of Chhayana Sangeet Bidyayatan; Smiling for a portrait with Chanchal Chowdhury; Taking the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine; At Joyita's solo album launch; With friends and family; With daughter Farhin Khan Joyita and son-in-law Mostafiz Shahin; Mita Huq, Khaled Khan and their daughter Joyita; An old photo of Mita Huq, Khaled Khan and Joyita. PHOTO: COURTESY

"She left us too soon"

- Sadi Mohammad reminisces Mita Huq

NARRATED TO SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Eminent Rabindra Sangeet exponent and Ekushey Padak awardee Mita Huq passed away recently. She was an internationally recognised artiste for her undeniable contributions to music. She was also a teacher at the Chhayana Sangeet Bidyayatan. Her demise was a huge loss to the music industry, creating a never to be filled void. In an interaction with The Daily Star, renowned Rabindra Sangeet singer Sadi Mohammad recalls his memories with the late artiste.



Mita Huq was a fellow artiste, beloved singer, and a dear sister to me. Other people often asked me if she was my sister or not, she always held that place in my life.

I have countless memories with Mita. As fellow artistes, we performed together so many times, at home and abroad.

She was suffering from kidney complications for the last couple of years. Whenever she was feeling sad, she used to call me. I used to visit her at her residence frequently. Mita was always happy to be surrounded by her loved ones.

She was a regular dialysis patient, and she used to share her experiences of the treatment with me often.

Mita and I share thousands of happy memories together. Traveling to different countries for events, performing together on various occasions rendered sweet memories all our lives. We performed together at various places including Agartala, Bombay and Kolkata among other places abroad.

Mita lost both her parents and her husband. She had to go through immense struggle and pressure to survive in the fight of life. A born fighter, despite the emptiness in her life, she never backed down from a fight.

Sometimes, she used to share her regrets with me. She collaborated with multiple artistes, but she regretted not working on an album with me. I have similar regrets. We performed together so many times, but somehow never worked on an album together.

She used to get very emotional from time to time. At times, minutes before a performance, Mita used to get emotional and I used to console her.

One time, several of us, including Kalim Sharafi, Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya and Mita among others, were going to Mumbai



PHOTO: STAR & COLLECTED

from Kolkata for an event. The trains in Mumbai were a bit slow, and every time we stopped at a station, Mita demanded food. I laughed and told her, "What if the train leaves me at the station?" I always went and got her the food she wanted.

Mita was a proper foodie. On several occasions, I cooked her favourite dishes and visited her house.

Once, I arranged a reception in Mita's honour. I brought several of her favourite dishes, including *khichuri* and duck curry. She

was ecstatic by the surprise.

She never refused, whenever she was asked to sing at an event. Sometimes, there would be an event, where they won't pay us for the performances. Mita used to say, "If you go, why wouldn't I?"

She had a big heart and I respected her for that. She was an immensely talented artiste.

Wherever she is now, I hope that she is at peace. She left us all too soon.

Translated by Rasheek Tabassum Mondira



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Remembering Farid Ahmed

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National Award winning music director Farid Ahmed passed away on April 9:30 am at the capital's Square Hospital.

Having won the National Film Award in 2017 for his work in "Tumi Robe Nirobe", Farid Ahmed has done over 300 scores for television serials and almost 3,000 scores for short television dramas. He was at the helm of the Music Composers' Association of Bangladesh, which united and cared for musicians at the times of need.

A man who was always there for fellow artistes on their time of need, his passing BROUGHT GREAT SORROWS TO THE PEOPLE WHO WORKED WITH HIM, AS WELL AS HIS NUMEROUS FANS AND WELL-WISHERS.

BANGLADESHI LEGEND RUNA LAILA WROTE ABOUT FARID ON FACEBOOK: "HE WAS THE FIRST ONE TO ASSIST ANY MUSICIAN OR ARTISTE WHEN THEY WERE ABLE TO ASSIST THEIR NEEDS... FARID AHMED WAS A GREAT MUSICIAN AND A WONDERFUL HUMAN BEING, WITH WHOM I HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE TO SING."

"There was a time when I used to visit his house every Eid," said another legend, Kumar Bishwajit to

The Daily Star. "We were extremely close—I was there on his marriage day, as well as when his first child was born. All of the songs that he wrote for me were super-hits, and his passing is a huge loss to the music industry".

"I knew him since 1997", says renowned singer Fahmida Nabi. "We made an album titled 'Shurubhubon', with father's (Mahmudun Nabi's) songs. He was a true artiste, and always had a smile on his face. I will always remember that smile."

Eminent actor Abul Hayat, who is recovering from Covid-19, expected Farid Ahmed to get better. "I kept hoping, as I am inherently a hopeful person. His dedication towards his work was unparalleled, and he was an incomparable person," he said.

Chanchal Chowdhury, who voiced many projects in Farid Ahmed's studio, remembers him as a humble soul. "He was so down to earth; I don't think I've met anyone as humble. His background music can be found in many of my tele-fictions. His departure is truly unfortunate.

Farid Ahmed is survived by his wife, Shiuly Akhter and his daughter, Durdana Farid.