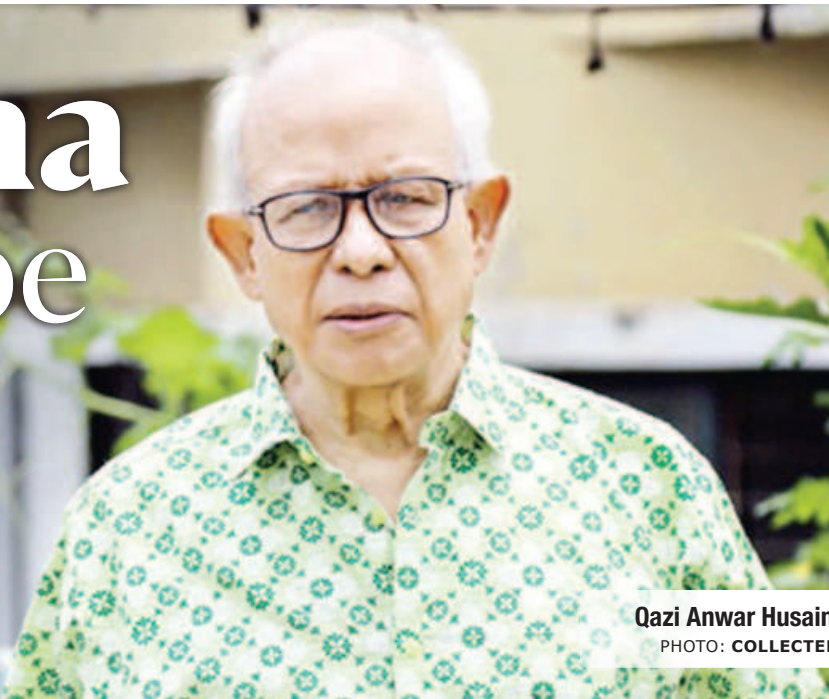


Masud Rana continues to be a pop-culture phenomenon



Qazi Anwar Husain.
PHOTO: COLLECTED

Eminent writer and author of the popular spy-thriller series "Masud Rana", Qazi Anwar Husain, passed away on January 19 after battling with prostate cancer. He was 86 years old at the time of passing. The popular author wrote numerous bestsellers which he published under his banner 'Sheba Prokashoni', which was established in 1960.

SHARMIN JOYA

The prolific writer had a dream of starting his own press, and with just BDT 10,000 from his father, he created Segunbagicha Press. The first book that was published from there was none other than the iconic 'Kuasha-1', which centered around a scientist/detective called 'Kuasha', who wanted to eradicate evil from society by helping the distressed.

Qazi Anwar Husain's writing was strongly influenced by foreign detective stories, especially James Bond. After renaming the publishing house Sheba Prokashoni, Qazi Anwar Husain published the first edition of 'Masud Rana' book series titled 'Dhongsho Pahar', in 1966.

"Dhongsho Pahar" was the first book in the "Masud Rana" series, and out of 467 published novels, the iconic character of Masud Rana appeared in 465 novels.

Sheba Prokashoni revolutionised the whole publishing industry by producing the first paperback books in Bangladesh, and translating world-renowned novels into Bangla for the readers. The publishing house has immortalised the characters 'Masud Rana' and 'Kuasha', among young readers.

Other notable novels from the "Masud

Rana" series are: "Hello, Sohana", "Durgom Durgo", "Treasure Hunter", "Shurjo Shoinik", "Dhongsho Pahar", (The Destructive Hill), "Shockwave", "Snipper", "Mohaplabor", "Hacker", "Persian Treasure", and "Mrittyu Ghonta", among others.

"Masud Rana" has been recreated numerous times in various media.



The first film made on the "Masud Rana" series featured Sohel Rana, and was released in 1974. The film was an adaptation of "Bishmoron". The movie stars Sohel Rana, Kabori and Olivia Gomez and it is based on the 11th story in the series, first published in 1967.

Interestingly, the first package drama ever

made in Bangladesh was "Prachir Periy" (Beyond the Wall) based on Husain's novel "Pishach Dweep" (The Island of Evil). The serial, which aired in 1994, featured Bipasha Hayat as Sohana and Nobel as Masud Rana.

Production house Jaz Multimedia is also planning on making three films based on the first three novels from the "Masud Rana" series, as announced in 2018. The films are: "Dhongsho Pahar", "Bharatnatyam", and "Swarna Mrigya".

Jazz Multimedia's Bangla version of "Masud Rana" will be directed by Saikat Nasir and will feature Russell Rana and Puja Chery in lead roles.

Bangladesh-born Hollywood filmmaker and actor Asif Akbar will be directing the film "MR-9", which is a joint production of Jaz Multimedia, and

Avail Entertainment from Hollywood. The movie will feature ABM Sumon as the protagonist 'Masud Rana' in the film.

Qazi Anwar Husain's contribution to Bengali literature cannot be penned in just a few words. His books have left behind a legacy that affected both the world of literature, and the arena of entertainment. He is an integral part of our childhood, and he will forever be immortalized through his timeless creations.

'It is shocking that there is no initiative at the BFDC to commemorate Nayak Raj'

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Marking Razzak's 80th birth anniversary yesterday, the legendary Alamgir spoke about his admiration for the Nayak Raj with The Daily Star.

"At a time when Urdu films were the talk of the town, Nayak Raj Razzak played a key role in getting people to watch Bangla cinema. His contribution to our industry remains unparalleled. As an artiste, I will be indebted to him forever.

It is shocking that there is no initiative at the BFDC to commemorate Razzak's legacy.

Razzak bhai, wherever you are, please know that I will love and respect you for as long as I live."

READ THE FULL STORY ONLINE.



Shironamhin to release 'Perfume' in celebration of silver jubilee

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Celebrating 25 years of excellence, Shironamhin has completed the shooting for their sixth album, "Perfume".

The title track, which is also titled "Perfume", will release with a big-budget music video.

The song is based on Greek mythology, and is directed by the band's bassist and leader, Ziaur Rahman.

According to Ziaur, the track raises social awareness against victim-blaming.

The band informs that an exclusive collector's edition of the album will be available.

Organised by Dreamcast, the band will arrange a grand celebration of their silver jubilee with Mumbai Orchestra later this year.

COUNTRYWIDE

PROTESTING SAND LIFTING

Schoolteacher, family members injured in attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanngani

A female schoolteacher and four of her family members sustained injuries in an attack allegedly by the men of a local Awami League (AL) leader in Sonargaon upazila on Saturday night.

Criminals launched the attack in a bid to shut the school for running their illegal sand trading there, the victim said.

The attackers also looted gold ornaments and cash, before setting the house afire, alleged Morium Akhter, head teacher of the private institution.

Mayadwip Shishu Patshala was established at Nunertek village under the upazila's Barodi union in 2007, Morium said, adding that usually underprivileged children from the low-income group families got enrolled in the school, where she joined as a teacher in 2009.

But, in 2010, Mohammad Hasem, general secretary of Ward No 6 unit AL, and some of his cohorts started illegal sand extraction from the area that led to a severe river erosion.

The schoolhouse also faced the risk of being eroded then, she said.

Later, the gang was forced to stop the illegal act in the face of agitation from locals.

"Despite multiple attacks on the institution and its owner we remain firm and continue the schooling of the underprivileged kids," Morium said.

Around 9:30pm on Saturday, a group of 15 to 20 led by Hasem attacked her and her family members, she said.

The gang also looted gold ornament, Tk 50,000 cash and set her house on fire, she said.

Morium alleged that although she wanted to file a case in this regard, police registered a complaint due to unknown reason.

Talking to The Daily Star, a number of locals alleged that the gang often commits different crimes using the ruling party's tag.

Despite repeated attempts, Hasem could not be reached for his comment as his phone was found switched-off.

One of Hasem's cohorts Osman Member said it was not an attack, rather it was just a scuffle with the teacher's brother over previous enmity.

Inspector (Investigation) of Sonargaon Police Station Shafiqul Islam said they were investigating the matter.

Chanbaru Memorial Library A SOURCE OF LIGHT

SOHRAB HOSSAIN

A source of light, Chanbaru Memorial Library has now become a centre of learning for students and teachers as well as for other villagers.

It is situated in a remote village, Majhpara, some 15-kilometre away from Baulal upazila in Patuakhali.

The library has books of different genres including Liberation War. People of different ages can also find books on science, travelogue, sports, novel, poetry and other necessary books and as well as magazines.

Many come to this library in search of knowledge and they take books home to read.

No membership fees are required here, said Md Mosharraf Hossain, headmaster of Sonamuddin Mridha Secondary School and also the director of the library, adding that it stays open for all every day from 10am to 10pm.

In 2017, Sabur Khan, a resident of Majhpara village, established the library on the premises of local Sonamuddin Mridha Secondary School which now has a collection of around 12000 books.

Some 30 years back, Sabur, a RMG trader by

profession, passed SSC from this school and then earned a higher degree from Dhaka College.

Locals elected him as the chairman of the managing committee of the school in 2014. After taking over the charge as the chairman of the committee, he took various steps for the development of the school as well



as for spreading the light of knowledge among the villagers.

Sabur then built a three-storied building on the school premises. He established Chanbaru Begum Memorial Library in the name of his mother on the ground floor of the building and Momin Uddin Khan

Science Library in the name of his father on the second floor.

He also set up a social organisation called Chanbaru-Momin Uddin Foundation situated on the third floor of the building, said headmaster Mosharraf Hossain.

Chanbaru Begum Memorial Library also provides free computer training programme. Poor and meritorious students can receive hands-on training on computers from the library. There is also a free of cost photocopy facility in the library as it has a photocopy machine.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found teachers and students of various educational institutions in the area remained busy studying in the library. Some were receiving training on computers.

Nur Mohammad Mia, a veteran teacher and former UP chairman, said people spend time reading story books and magazines in the library. It is a unique place to spend leisure time.

The Chanbaru Memorial Library has now become a beacon of light among the locals, said headmaster Mosharraf.



This dead dolphin, with injury marks on its body, floated on Kuakata sea beach with the heavy tide. Locals spotted the five feet long carcass near the Computer Centre Point yesterday noon.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN