

Remembering HUMAYUN AHMED through the eyes of three actors



His distinctive way of speaking through the pages of his books forged a unique bond with readers, making him one of the most beloved authors in the country. Few writers have achieved such prolific and reader-friendly status.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Celebrated literary figure Humayun Ahmed was deeply loved by millions of readers during his lifetime. As an author, he gained immense popularity by creating characters like Himu, Rupa, and Misir Ali, through which he earned countless devoted fans. The craze for Himu is still visible in today's generation, as fans still wear yellow panjabi—a signature dress worn by the character.

Even as a scriptwriter and a filmmaker, he was equally loved and appreciated. His written plays, including *Ayomoy, Kothao Keu Nei, Ei Shob Din Ratri*, and *Aaj Robibar*, have received acclaim from audiences. His directorial films, such as *Aguner Poroshmoni* and *Shyamol Chhaya*, were widely praised as

I miss sir a lot: Riaz

A writer, playwright, and filmmaker of his calibre won't grace the industry again. It's been twelve years, but the void feels as fresh as yesterday. I miss him greatly.

I've had the privilege of working in both his plays and cinema. Collaborating with him brought immense joy, something I truly miss these days. Audiences used to savour his works, and even now, people watch those plays and discuss them. His films had a unique quality too.

Now, memories are all that remain. I'll simply say, wherever you are, may you stay well. From afar, I convey my respects and birthday wishes. He was truly unique through his works, succeeding in everything he did.



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Not only renowned as a writer, but he also excelled as a playwright. His written plays continue to be a subject of discussion and admiration. The character of *Baker bhai*, in particular, has left an indelible mark on the audience's memory.

I am deeply grateful and forever indebted to him. I have collaborated with him on numerous occasions, including his long-running television drama series and films.

Honestly, it's hard to stop talking about him. I acted in his film *Sraben Megher Din*, and the memories from that experience are etched in my mind. His love and affection have been a true blessing in my life, and receiving love from someone like him is a significant achievement.

The numerous anecdotes, shoutings, and experiences shared with him have enriched my life. On his birthday, I extend my love and respect.

Buying his books at the Ekushey Book Fair remains a cherished memory: Ferdous

I had the privilege of acting in two of Humayun Ahmed's films, *Amar Achhe Jol* and *Chandrakotha*, both of which received acclaim. Working with him gave me the chance to closely observe, understand, recognise, and truly know him. In reality, he was a writer of immense stature, a person of great significance, and a remarkable playwright and director.

I acted in his directorial television drama *Esho*. The memories of it are still vivid in my mind. I often recall his words filled with extraordinary wisdom. I used to consider him a father, a mentor, a friend. His sudden departure has left an immense void that will never be filled.

From my student days to the present, I remain a great fan of his writings. His books adorn my bookshelf, and looking at them brings back countless memories. I distinctly remember that after the release of my film *Hothath Brishty*, he called and congratulated me, a memory I haven't forgotten.



Riaz



Mahfuz Ahmed



PHOTOS: STAR & COLLECTED

a cinematic representation of the Bangladesh Liberation War.

Today marks the birthday of this noted personality. Three renowned actors in the film industry, who have closely observed him and worked with him, have shared their fond memories of Humayun Ahmed.

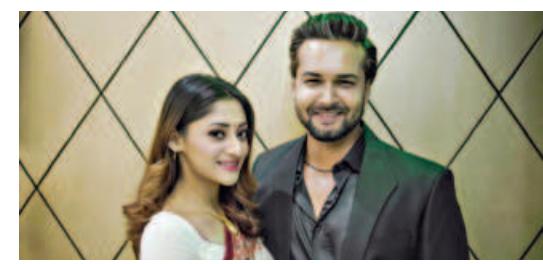
That's why many say that wherever he put his hands, he turned it into gold.

He created a unique bond with his readers: Mahfuz Ahmed

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Puja Chery's 'Nakphul' to release on Valentine's Day

Puja Chery and Ador Azad starrer film *Nakphul* is scheduled to be released on Valentine's Day (February 14) in 2024.

Confirming the release date, sources from the film's production company, Bengal Multimedia Ltd, said, "We are almost done with the post-production of the movie, and if everything goes well, we will release it on the upcoming Valentine's Day."

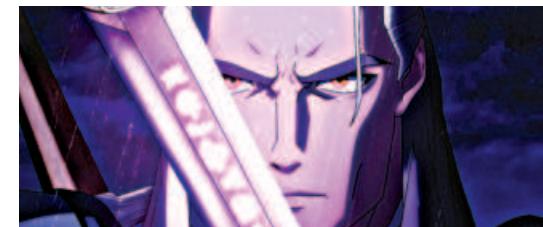
Regarding the film's context, director Aalok Hasan said, "In this modern era, we have become so digitalised that we have lost touch with our roots. As it is my debut film, I wanted to connect with my culture through my film. I don't know how much I could connect, but I intend to represent the lost Bangladeshi cultural aspect by revisiting my roots."

Iconic voice actor Doug Cockle replaces Henry Cavill as Geralt in 'The Witcher'

The Netflix series *The Witcher* has successfully engaged viewers since it first aired. Now, a new addition to its legacy is on the horizon – an animated series.

Netflix also announced the return of the voice-acting legend, Doug Cockle, along with the release of the anime film's trailer.

"Doug Cockle is set to lend his voice to Geralt in *The Witcher: Sirens of the Deep*, scheduled to arrive on Netflix in late 2024," read Netflix's tweet.



NEWS

Rights record go under UN scrutiny

FROM PAGE 1

The report goes on to claim that 280 of the 76 on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances' list "have criminal cases including murder cases against them and are absconding to avoid justice".

There were 10 cases where the relatives didn't cooperate with law enforcement agencies by providing information/feedback as was required for investigation," it claimed, adding, "Two are foreign nationals (about whom no judicial or police records were found regarding the said missing incident)."

The government also added a caveat, "Miscreants" using the name and disguise of law enforcement agencies to carry out abductions and kidnappings has emerged as a worrying trend".

Furthermore, the government continues to insist that those cited to be victims of enforced disappearance are not actually missing.

Civil society organisations like Human Rights Watch, The Human Rights Foundation, Maayer Daak, Robert F Kennedy Human Rights, World Organisation Against Torture and many others refuted this in a report submitted to the council.

"The government continued to deny the occurrence of enforced disappearances despite a reported total of 192 persons that had been subjected to enforced disappearance,"

they said.

"The government did not respond to requests for a country visit from the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances," they pointed out in their report, adding that.

Four years ago, 15 countries like Japan, US, Italy, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Togo, Peru, and South Korea had told Bangladesh to take steps about enforced disappearance, like ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

The government's report said that it is strengthening the National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh (NHRB) by making "violence by state mechanism" one of the priority areas for the commission's next five-year plan.

However, the civil society organisations pointed out that the human rights commission still cannot legally investigate law enforcers.

The NHRB stated this in a report submitted to the council. "The NHRB acknowledged its limited authority to investigate allegations against law enforcement agencies and the judiciary, are used by the government to implement its political agenda.

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Multiple organisations, including

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She sought votes for "boat", the electoral symbol of ruling Awami League, in the upcoming election.

The PM also asked her party leaders and activists to work unitedly for the party's nominated candidates.

The AL refused a foreign proposal to sell gas abroad before the 2001 national election. That caused her party's defeat in the polls, the PM said in another event while opening of Ghorashal-Polash Urea Fertiliser Factory.

But BNP leader Khaleda Zia agreed to it and won the polls, she said.

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objection now?" asked the premier.

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Editors' Council and Amnesty International, said the new law would not protect journalists.

During the council's last UPR cycle, 30 countries recommended that Bangladesh take steps to uphold freedom of expression, including changing existing legislation.

The national report claimed that EPZ workers can form worker welfare associations but stakeholders refuted that claim.

Civil society organisations like the UK and Belgium-based International Centre for Trade Union Rights and International Trade Union Confederation mentioned in their report that there are still barriers to trade union registration and recommended reforming labour laws.

The government report stated that a draft data protection act has been made incorporating stakeholders' recommendations.

Stakeholders, however, said the draft still grants the government sweeping powers to access personal data without judicial oversight.

They recommended that the proposed act be amended as per international standards.

Human Rights Watch and others pointed out that the government has not fully implemented the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord.

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pressure that day Bangladesh would not have seen such an excellent fertiliser factory today.

She said this factory would reduce

the country's dependency on fertiliser imports and create jobs.

The annual production capacity of the environmentally friendly fertiliser factory is around 1 million tonnes.

Now the local demand for urea is around 26 lakh tonnes annually.

The PM also had a tour at the

factory.

Nine in nine for India

FROM PAGE 1

scored 126 runs in their final 10 overs to post the third total above 400 in the event.

India put the Netherlands to the sword after winning the toss and opting to bat as skipper Rohit Sharma (61) and Shubman Gill (51) smashed boundaries at will to give them a superb platform with 91 runs in the powerplay.

Gill was severe on the bowlers with three fours and four sixes, but the world's top-ranked batsman found the man in the deep while taking on a short one from Paul van Meekeren after reaching his 12th half-century.

The Netherlands chipped away and were rewarded when Bas de Leede had Rohit caught at wide long on, but Kohli (51) and Iyer took India past 200 runs in the 29th over with a 71-run stand.

Kohli delighted the crowd with a wide array of shots after a shaky start to his quest to reach 50 ODI tons and eclipse Sachin Tendulkar's record, but Roelof van der Merwe briefly silenced fans by breaking his stumps with a flatter one.

Appointment of EC

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It stipulates that the commission shall appoint a returning officer for the elections to each parliamentary constituency, and a person can be appointed as a returning officer for two or more constituencies.

In the previous national polls, DCs and upazila nibarih officers were appointed as ROs and AROs.

Currently, the field-level EC officials carry out duties like the distribution of election materials a day before voting. On election day, they monitor polls, resolve issues regarding logistics, and help the staffers concerned prepare the result sheets and send those to the EC.

EC officials during a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal and four other commissioners on October 7 said many EC officials, who have been conducting elections for about 20 years, are experienced enough to be ROs and AROs.

Election Commissioner Anisur Rahman on Friday said, "The election is nearing. Schedule for the polls might be announced by next [this] week."