



Ahsan Habib



Khan Md. Moinuddin



Mahbubul Alam



Nurul Momen



Ava Alam



Laila Arjumand Banu

10 awarded Ekushe Padak

The Government on Monday announced the names of 10 persons for this year's state award of "Ekushe Padak" in recognition of their outstanding contribution in the fields of arts and culture education and journalism, according to an official handout save BSS.

In observance of the great Ekushe February the Government every year confers the state award "Ekushe Padak" on distinguished litterateurs, artists, journalists and educationists for their remarkable contribution in their respective fields.

The award carries a cash re-

Ekushe Padak

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ward of Taka 5000 together with a gold medal for each recipient.

The recipients of this year's "Ekushe Padak" are: Khan Mohammad Moinuddin poet, Kazi Ahsan Habib poet, Sufi Zulfikar Haider poet, Mr. Mahbubul Alam litterateur, Doctor Syed Moazzam Hussain former Vice-Chancellor, Dacca University educationist, Shaheed Sirajuddin Hussain (posthumous) journalist, Mr. Nurul Momen playwright, Mr. Shafiuddin Ahmed painter, Mrs. Laila Arjumand Banu-vocalist, Marhuma Ava Alam (posthumous) vocalist.

Following are the bio-data of the Ekushe Padak recipients:-

Nurul Momen:

Born in 1908, Mr. Nurul Momen has an outstanding contribution in the development of drama and its performance in the country. He is wellknown as a playwright. He wrote 20 dramas and some of his drama pieces were included in higher secondary education and university curricula in different times. He also directed many a drama of the Dacca University.

Poet Khan Mohammad Moinuddin:

Born in 1901, poet Khan Mohammad Moinuddin was a contemporary and faithful companion to poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. He was the Editor of "Muslim Jagat" and "Samyabadi". He is the author of some 50 books including "Amader Nabi" and "Muslim Birangana", "Khulafai-e-Rashedin", "Rang Mashal" and "Bani Adam".

Poet Moinuddin is equally apt in writing poems and proses both for children and adults. He was also honoured with Bangla Academy and UNESCO awards earlier.

Vocalist Mrs. Laila Arjumand Banu:

Born in 1929, Mrs. Laila Arjumand Banu caused a stir among the orthodox Muslims by participating in radio programme. She was the first singer on the inaugural programme of Dacca radio on December 16 of 1939. She has been working as a regular radio artiste for the last 38 years. Equally propicient in urdu persian gazal, Nazrul song, Tagore song folk songs, Laila Arjumand Banu earned fame through innumerable performances at home and abroad.

Sufi Zulfikar Hyder:

Born in 1899, Sufi Zulfikar Hyder is contemporary and devoted companion to poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and has distinctive contribution in the field of poetry. "Fateha-e-Yezdaham", "Ferbanao Musalman" and "Bhanga Talawar" are his noted poetical works. "Nazrul Jiboner Shesh Audhova" is his famous literary composition. Sufi Hyder has been continuing his writing in his old days.

Poet Ahsan Habib:

Born in 1917, poet Ahsan Habib is one of the famous poets of the forties. He earned fame by his poetical works, namely "Ratri Shesh", "Chhaya Harin", "Sara Dipur", "Ashay Bashiti" and "Megh Bole Chitra Jabo". Poet Habib has also proved his worth as author of novels and short stories. "Aranya Nilima", "Jafrani Rang", and "Paira" are his noted novels. Poet Ahsan Habib had earlier been honoured with Bangla Academy and Adamjee awards.

Mr. Mahbubul Alam:

Born in 1898, Mr. Mahbubul Alam has earned fame as pioneer Muslim novelist in undivided Bengal. His novel "Momen Jaban Bandi" is considered as one of the greatest novels even today. of his other works "Chattagramer Itihas" (three volumes), "Paltan Jiban Smriti", "Mafizan", "Goff Sandesh", "Tazia", "Gaver Meva", "Sankat Kete Gachhe" etc. are worth-mentioning. Even in his ripe days today he is credited with his writing "Muktioddha Itihas" in four volumes.

As a novelist he was honoured with Bangla Academy award and President's Award of the then Pakistan. Till today Mr. Alam has been contributing tirelessly towards the literature.

Mr. Shafiuddin Ahmed:

Born in 1922, Shafiuddin Ahmed completed the course on sketching and engraving with credit at the London School of Arts after finishing his education at the Calcutta Government School of Arts.

At present he is working as Head of the Department of Graphic Arts at the College of Arts and Crafts. He participated in many international exhibitions both at home and abroad. His works of art like "Sonali fasal", "The angry fish", "Satat ramani", "Return from the fair" etc., are famous pieces. Mr. Ahmed was honoured with "pride of performance" award by the then Pakistan Government.

Doctor Syed Moazzam Hossain:

Born in 1901, Doctor Syed Moazzam Hossain is a renowned educationist and the former Vice-Chancellor of the Dacca University. He began his teaching career at the Dacca University and retired from there after a long years of service in the university.

A possessor of great talent, Dr. Hossain earned great fame for his academic pursuits. Dr. Hossain was the first recipient of D. Phil. from Oxford University. In the then undivided Bengal in 1948, he joined the third UNESCO session as representative from the then Pakistan.



Sirajuddin Hossain