

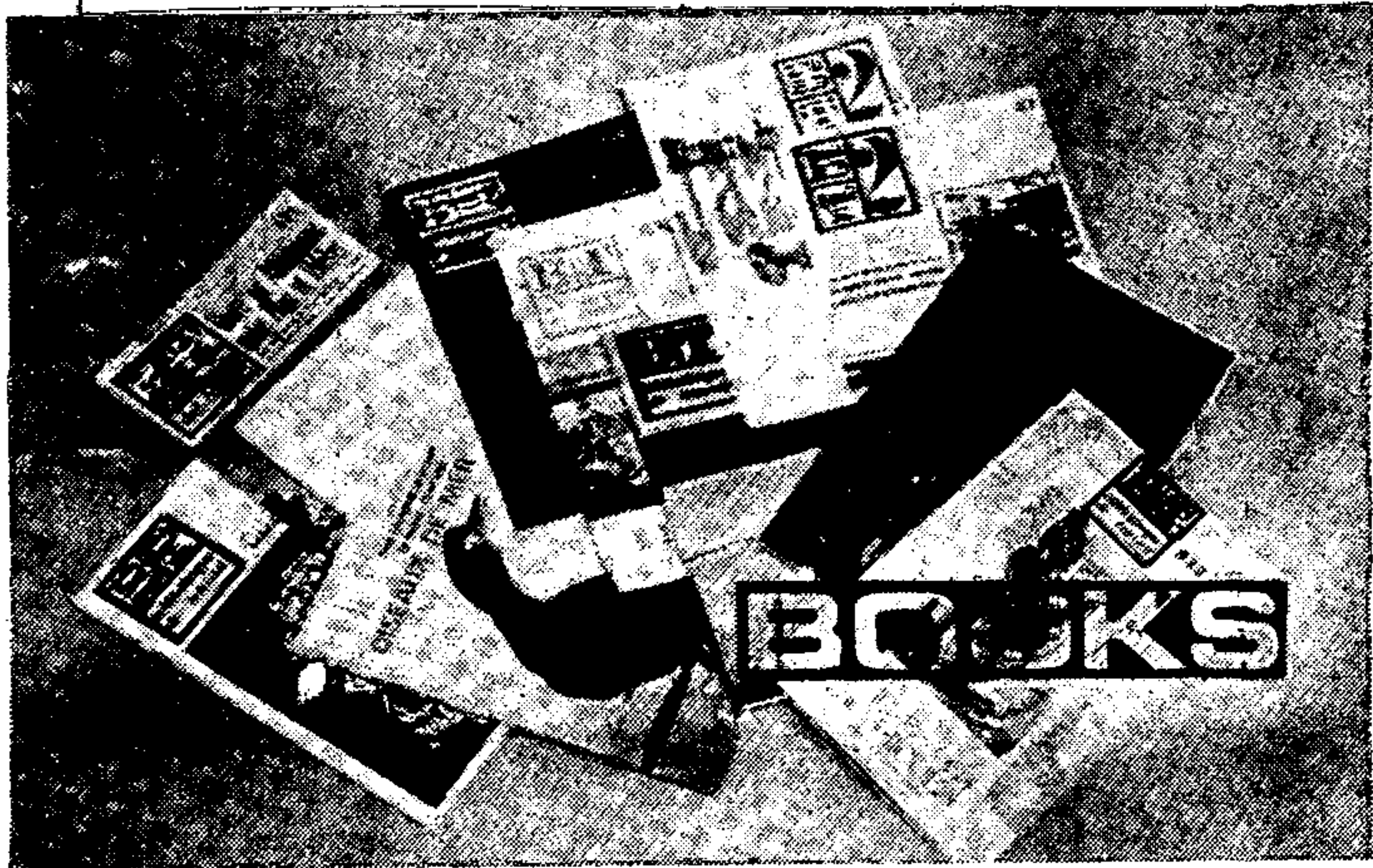
14 THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER

**HUMAYUN-NAMA** (Biography of Emperor Humayun) by Gulbadan Begum. Rendered into Bengali by Mustafa Haroon published by Bangla Academy, Dacca. Cover: Qayum Chowdhury. First Edition: April 1978. Tk 15.00

To talk about collection approach is a misnomer. In the field of language and literature all that really matters and possibly matters exclusively is the contribution of an individual. When a person as an individual having the necessary quantum of consciousness as well as capability to do certain things at the level of social spirit comes up and undertakes the task sincerely and honestly there can not be any plausible grounds for the decay of a given society. One knows it well whenever there is announcement as to the publication of any literary classic in any other language the English translation of it invariably follows quickly.

Therefore, this is not a question of miracle that the English literature could flourish in such a beautiful manner. In other words what I want to drive home is the point that labour sincerity and devotion of the writers as a class can definitely boost up the ongoing trend of a particular language and literature. Happily, Mustafa Haroon among a few others, has been working in the stream to enrich the Bengali literature with the fragrance and flair of foreign literature. He has introduced the great writers of Urdu literature like Sadat Hasan Manto and Krisan Chander to their admirers in Bangladesh. Contemporary evaluation may not be exact pointed and objective on it may be due to our refusal to give recognition to the genius while at work. One thing nevertheless remains to be viewed with an air of appreciation that Mustafa Haroon's Contribution to Bengali literature in the form of translation from eminent foreign writers must someday receive national applause.

Translation has its own process and limitations too. It is not always possible to bring out the art and artifice all at the same time from the original text. Nor does a translator aspire to achieve it. But a translator never forgets to carry the tone, the atmosphere the impact in some way or the other Humayun Nama was written in Persian and the original



## Days of Mughals

nal text was rendered into English by Anita Beurage. And the Urdu translation was achieved by Rashid Akhter Nadvi.

This is not clear which one Mustafa Haroon took up for translation. Or it may happen so, he followed the original text as well as English and Urdu translation.

Humayun Nama was written by Gulbadan Begum, a daughter of Emperor Babur. The book composed in the form of a diary contains valuable historic elements concerning the Mughal dynasty in its beginning phase. A simple reading of this great book will help a reader emerge amply rewarded. The glorious aspects of the life of Babur, the architect of Mughal Empire in India and fascinating romantic and agonizing struggles of Emperor Humayun breathe through the pages covering a total of 103 pages. The rest running till 184 pages contains annotations explanations and commentaries on the whole composition and its authoress Gulbadan Begum.



Things are there throughout demanding quotations. I had to resist the temptation because that would sound bad proposition for obvious reasons. But one has reasons to record the aspects of his sincere appraisal at the end of its reading.

cere appraisal at the end of its reading.

Mustafa Haroon's style of translation is easy simple and what we call challengign. It never for a moment occurred to my mind that I was going through the work of a translation.

For the next edition we suggest the author to check up and see if there is really any room for corrections in the following pieces of information.

"Zahiruddin Babur was born on 14 February 1483 and ascended the throne of Fargana in succession to his father at the age of 12"

—Page 107 and

"Babur the great died on December 1350"—page 130 Some other flaws are negligible.

Hats off to the Bangla Academy for the publication of such a wonderful work. But the price of the book appears to be very costly. It has defied the expectation that the Academy publication should be easily available to the common readers.

—Siddiqur Rahman.