



Septuagenarian

This rather large man's nickname is 'Chotlu', and that is not the only contrast about Aly Zaker. Just as one would never expect his nickname to be 'Chotlu', looking at him, they would also not be able to estimate how diversified his talents and accomplishments are. According to Syed Shamsul Haque, Aly Zaker's brain is a not one brain, it's different from other humans'. He has multiple compartments in his brain and he can switch from one part to another depending on the role he is playing. He can switch off all other compartments when one part is switched on; that is how he is able to do so well in every area despite having his hands dipped in so many jars. He is the jack of all trades, and the master of them all! Aly Zaker on the cover of Star Showbiz is not like every other regular issue. This is a man that requires no introduction, but why then is he on the cover? Because Star Showbiz is not only about young stars, but also about personalities that have spent their lives developing the art. First and foremost, he is a media personality and a character artist. But unlike most character artists, he is received by the audience in the same light as a leading hero on screen. The fact that he has that popularity, the fact that a character artist is as popular as the main character, is really unexpected – this alone tells you how exception Aly Zaker is as an actor, be it on film, television or on the stage. Those who know him personally know him to be a hero not only on screen, but also in the corporate world and the world of advertising. Also, we did not want to pass up the opportunity to celebrate his 70th birthday! Today's issue is extra special, because not only do we have Aly Zaker on the cover, but we are also presenting a much deeper look into his life, through interviews of those closest to him and through his favourite films. When Aly Zaker was awarded the Ekushey Podok, Humayun Ahmed wrote about him, saying that he wishes that he was better friends with Aly Zaker, that he could be one of his closest friends. When I read this, I was quite surprised, because amongst all of his amazing qualities, the one that really stands out is how amiable he is to everyone in his life, from all ages and all background. It takes minutes for him to befriend someone, and although I do not have the opportunity to interact with him very often, every time I do, I feel like I am talking to one of my closest friends. I am sure Aly Zaker will continue to play a significant role in the media for decades to come, and will continue to guide us as a responsible mentor, and a loving friend.

Rafi Hossain



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