



Asaduzzaman Noor attending to the needy



From my childhood days, I can recall the devotion I had for Asaduzzaman Noor. Given my early involvement with television, I was summoned for a role in a drama when I was in grade seven. To my amazement, I soon discovered that I would be working alongside Asaduzzaman Noor, Camellia Mustafa, Golam Mustafa, Nima Rahman, Dilara Zaman and the likes. Back then, it used to be a common practise to rehearse for the roles prior to the shoot. On my first day for rehearsal at the set, Mr. Noor inquired about my residence and offered not only to drop me off, but also pick me up the following day. He continued to do so for the remaining days of our shoot. Before long, my relationship with the artists grew strong and it felt more of a household than a set. To my knowledge, so far there has not been any actor, who made an impact so strong on the community with a fictional role, leading to protests to halt his execution and later, to carry on the last rites upon the character's fictitious demise, by the enthusiastic fans. It stands as a testament to justify Mr. Noor's appeal. Slow and steady, he drifted away from being an actor towards politics and has been involved for nearly two decades, currently serving the nation as a Member of Parliament and the Minister for Cultural Affairs.

The Monologue of A MAESTRO

COVER STORY



Showbiz decided to do a cover on Asaduzzaman Noor, so we went along with him to his hometown in Nilphamari. Despite his daily hectic schedule, Mr. Noor's hospitality did not fall short by any means. I believe when a person grows in status, they also tend to grow into better human beings. As a philanthropist, he has already established a hospital and is working towards another. The one-of-a-kind artist is not only famous among his television fans, but is also well appreciated in the political arena.

I joined Chhatra Union after I came to Dhaka. Upon my admission at the University of Dhaka, I was appointed a room at Iqbal Hall, which used to be the nucleus of politics back then. It used to be abuzz with people like Tofail bhai, Razzak bhai, Serajul Alam Khan and mostly with the student leaders of Chhatra League. **What was the key difference between Chhatra League and Chhatra Union?** The members of Chhatra Union supported

which is not the case anymore. Do you have any experience regarding that? During the controversy over the death sentence of my character as Baker bhai, on the day of my "execution", I noticed from my balcony that the streets were rather empty as if a curfew was underway. It was due to the sheer eagerness of the audience to learn the outcome of my "hearing". On that very night, apart from the continuous phone calls, I received a visitor who came with a

Zedong and later Moni Singh. Finally I perceived Bangabandhu, who seemed like a ray of light who would lead the nation forward. During the liberation war, Bangabandhu was our leader, inspiration and idol.

Is there a story behind the full beard that you have worn for so long?

When I used to work at the Russian Cultural centre I had to wake up early for work. Often, I would not have enough time for a shave, so I just decided to grow it.

How was your relationship with Humayun Ahmed?

Humayun Ahmed first saw my work and told Nawazish bhai that he would cast me in his next drama. I acted in most of his renowned TV series like "Ei Shob Din Ratri", "Ayomoy", "Aaj Robibar" and more. There came a time when Humayun Ahmed would write his stories with me in mind and I too would fully comprehend the character he opted.

How do you intend to continue your work as a politician?

My first job is to serve as a Minister to our nation and my subsequent duty is to improve the well-being of the needy, initially from my hometown.

Do you have any desires you intend to fulfil?

The construction of a non-profit hospital for my villagers is underway. I also want to build a home for the elderly and a school for the children, which will focus equally on cultural activities along with the basic education. In the near future, I plan to act in a few plays and if possible, a few films. However, I deeply regret declining the opportunity I had to work with the late Rituparno Ghosh.

Interviewed by Rafi Hossain &
narrated by Minam Haque



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Since when did the cultural values become important to you?

Both my parents were culture oriented and always encouraged it. As my mother was the principal of a school, I had the opportunity to attend many cultural events. But it was my father who always motivated me to partake in my school ceremonies and it is from him that I had learnt the art of recitation.

How did you come about into politics?

the left-wing politics and mostly comprised of the talented and cultural students of that time. It does not mean that Chhatra League did not consist of such students; they too had intellectual members such as Rehman Sobhan, Dr. Kamal Hossain, Anisuzzaman and many others.

There used to be a time when the audience in our country were immersed into the TV dramas with heart and soul,

mourning boy to prove to him that I was not actually dead!

From a political stance, who did you idolize?

Growing up, there was a presence of leftism in my household as my father was very much involved with it, even though it was banned under the Pakistani rule. I was inspired immensely from the conversations I had with my father. I admired Lenin, Mao

