

A golden jubilee of excellence

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Babita reigned as one of the most celebrated actors of the Bangladeshi film industry, during which she has starred in more than 250 films. In her 50-year illustrious career, she gained immense popularity at home and abroad. The seven-time National Film Award winner worked with several legendary filmmakers, including Zahir Raihan and Satyajit Ray.

The acclaimed film, *Golapi Ekhon Train E*, directed by Amjad Hossain, was a major turning point in Babita's career. "This film was a milestone in my career as well as



Babita with Farooque

in the Bangladeshi film industry," shares Babita. "It travelled to several film festivals abroad, including the Moscow Film Festival."

Another Amjad Hossain directorial, *Noyonmoni*, starring Babita and Farooque, is considered one of the most successful movies of all time. "This film was screened for six months to one year at several theatres," she adds.

Ashani Sanket, directed by Satyajit Ray, marked another milestone in Babita's career and made her an international star. "I am still praised for my role in this film," she shares. Accompanying Ray in multiple festivals, Babita was startled to see her work reach all corners of the world at the time.

Babita also talked about her roles in the films, *Bashundhara* and *Dumurer Ful*, directed by the famous filmmaker Subhash Dutta. "These were two unique stories and they left a profound impact on my career," she says.

Renowned director Narayan Ghosh Mita helmed several successful films,

including *Lathial*, which gained Babita immense acclaim.

She further represented Bangladesh at the prestigious Karlovy Vary International Film Festival in The Czech Republic with the film, *Dohon*, directed by Sheikh Niamat Ali.

Her phenomenal performances in the films, *Obujh Hridoy* and *Smarolipi*, captivated the audience and critics.

Lailee Majnu, directed by Ibne Mizan, was one of Babita's most definitive movies. "This film truly struck a chord with the audience," shares a nostalgic Babita.

Babita further recalled that after the film *Nishan*, directed by Ibne Mizan, gained immense popularity, its posters were showcased as rickshaw art at different locations.

She received multiple accolades for her role in the film, *Ramer Sumoti*, as well. Her performances in several Liberation-War based films, such as *Orunodoyer Ognishakkhi*, directed by Subhash Dutta, *Alor Michil*, directed by Narayan Ghosh Mita and *Abar Torā Manush Ho*, directed by Khan Ataur Rahman, truly captured the essence of our fight for independence.

"Not many live to look back on a 50-year career. I consider myself lucky for this privilege," says the star. "Throughout these beautiful years, the audience's love has been my biggest achievement."



In Satyajit Ray's 'Ashani Sanket'.



Babita in Narayan Ghosh Mita's 'Lathial'.



A young Babita poses for a photo.

Babita aced all kinds of characters that she portrayed — be it in the genre of romance, war, social satire, or folk, winning the hearts of millions.

Translated by Rasheek Tabassum Mondira



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL



At the launching ceremony of the song, 'Pujor Dine Pujor Rong'

Durga Puja with Bishworang

SHARMIN JOYA

Every year, keeping the Durga Puja celebrations in mind, Bishworang, one of the most popular fashion houses in Bangladesh, arranges grand events and launches their latest range of clothes.

"Puja is one of the biggest and busiest festivals for us, much like Eid," says Biplob Saha, the owner of Bishworang. "This festival brings people of all races and religions together, in joyous ways."

Focusing on the details, Biplob Saha makes special designs and outfits for the occasion. "Since it is an autumn festival, we use white as an essential colour in our clothing, keeping the white clouds and the *kashful* of this season in mind," he says. He also uses bright colours, symbols and *alpona* in his designs, to depict



Sadia Islam Mou and Biplob Saha at the launching ceremony of the song, 'Pujor Dine Pujor Rong'.

the essence of the festivities.

This year, due to the pandemic, things will take a different turn. "Our events will be online-based. We are arranging the fifth installment of one of our signature shows, *Sharod Shaje Bishworang er Didi*," adds Biplob



(L) From left) Nilanjona Neela, Sadia Islam Mou, Masuma Rahman Nabila and Sarika Sabah in the Puja attires for Bishworang. (R) Badhon, Nirab and Asif in the Puja attires for Bishworang.



Saha, who is also a talented singer. "The aim of this show is to showcase women's confidence." Bishworang's team already received plenty of applications for the event. The winner will get the opportunity of modelling for the fashion house.

Biplob Saha has always pleasantly surprised people with his innovative ventures. He recently arranged a street t-shirt festival, with numerous models. "T-shirts are the most casual outfits we wear," says the entrepreneur. "We tried to make our t-shirts very comfortable, so that their simplicity attracts pedestrians."

Furthermore, Biplob Saha believes that fashion is not limited to clothes only. "Fashion is in everything that we live with," he adds. He also arranged an online singing competition exclusively for the Puja season. Eminent singer Haimanti Sukla and celebrated singers Samarjit Roy and Priyanka

Gope will be judging the contestants in the contest, along with Biplob Saha.

"We have already selected the top 12 semifinalists among 5,000 participants," he shares. "We received recordings from the participants online. We are overwhelmed with the positive response. The winner will get the opportunity to record an exclusive song with us and the runners up will be rewarded with gift vouchers from Bishworang."

Biplob Saha recently wrote and lent his voice to the Puja special song, *Pujor Dine Pujor Rong*, presented by Bishworang and produced by Kolpolook Creative Factory. Ujjal Sinha composed and arranged the music for the song. Biplob Saha also directed the music video, which is available on his official Facebook and YouTube pages. "The song depicts the *Puja Bari*, the *Pujamandap* and the celebrations with our friends and family," concludes Biplob Saha.

A man as iconic as his music

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

"We came here with approximately \$50 and a piano, and we didn't speak the language. Now look where we are. If that's not the American dream, what is?" — Eddie Van Halen, 2015

For better or for worse, much of the 'rockstar attitude' that we see in today's bands come from the iconic Eddie Van Halen — a man who stole the spotlight from rock's ostentatious gatekeepers for the majority of 5 decades. The artist passed away on October 6, after a long battle with lung cancer.

Inspired by Eric Clapton, Eddie started perfecting his chops as a guitarist in his early teens. "I loved Eric Clapton but sound nothing like him," said the musician in an interview with CNN.

With his brother Alex, the musician would form the iconic Van Halen, producing hits like *Jamie's Crying*, *Beautiful Girls*, *Unchained*, *Mean Street* and *So this is Love*. However, the band's groundbreaking success came with the chart-topping *Jump*, made with an uncharacteristic pop-sounding synthesizer as the riff. There was no party in 1984 that did not play and dance along to *Jump*.

Eddie's roaring riffs and solos would make their way into many pop hits such as Michael Jackson's *Thriller* and Nicolette Larson's *Can't Get Away From You*. Throughout four turbulent decades of platinum albums, chalk-full stadium gigs, Eddie played and partied like no other.

The artist's signature guitar, the

Frankenstrat, is as iconic as the songs that Van Halen created — in fiery performances all over the world to recording sessions — it was his trusted friend. The two-handed tapping technique, even though Van Halen did not invent it by any means, is regarded widely as being perfected by him.

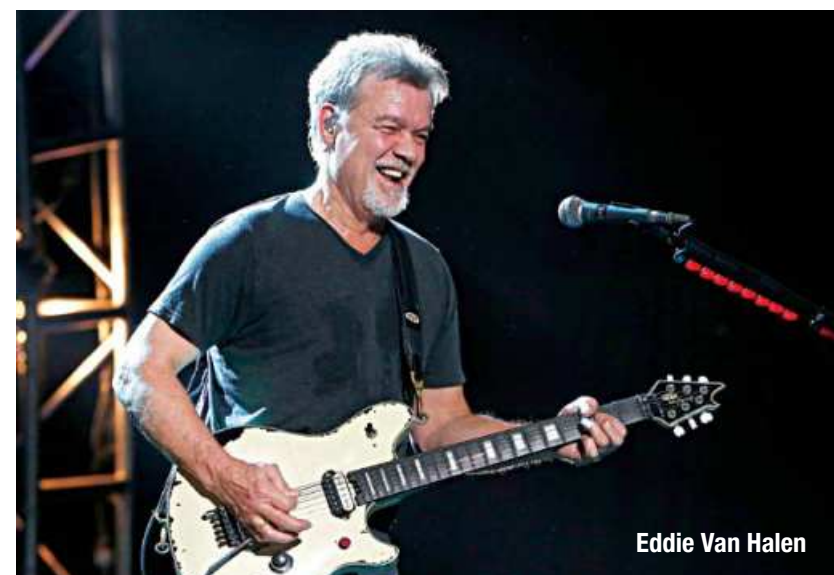
"I think I got the idea of tapping watching Jimmy Page do his 'Heartbreaker' solo back in 1971. He was doing a pull-off to an open string, and I thought wait a minute, open string... pull off. I can do that, but what if I use my finger as the nut and move it around? I just kind of took



Eddie Van Halen with his iconic 'Frankenstrat'.

it and ran with it", he had said in an interview with Guitar World.

Eddie's death was a shock to the world, more so the musical community that he bedazzled over the years, and the fans who grew up listening to him. It is a loss for every music lover who never got the chance to see the guitar god rock his Frankenstrat.



Eddie Van Halen