



From Curzon Hall to Bakharkhani, Rino's 'Dhaka 101' showcases elements that are unique to the city

Behind Rino's captivating visuals on Dhaka

FARAH KABIR

As an emerging digital artist, Naznoor Rahman Rino never imagined that his art would gain popularity overnight, even with celebrities like Nuhash Humayun, Shakib Chowdhury, Elita Karim, and Wahid Ibn Reza. His celebrated art series, "Dhaka 101", is inspired by his upbringing amidst the chaos and tranquility of the capital of Bangladesh.

The artist completed his Bachelor's from IBA, Dhaka University, and is currently pursuing his Master's in Development Studies from BRAC University.

As a child, Rino used to make sketches with pen and paper, but was not deft at using watercolours. He often felt confused about colour combinations, as he was not trained in colour dynamics. Painting with watercolours on paper involves permanence, which required him to be very careful about the colours he chose to use. During his university days, Rino started working with Illustrator and Photoshop, through which he realised that he could change the colours he initially chose, and also experiment



Naznoor Rahman Rino.

PHOTOS: COURTESY

with them. "That's why 'Dhaka 101' is so colourful. It is me overcompensating for all those years of not using colours in any of my work," Rino chuckled.

Rino aims to give a visual demonstration of everything that symbolises Dhaka through his work. His interpretation of the city involves representing unique elements of the city singularly. He also derives inspiration from many contemporary artists from home and abroad such as Dhaka Yeah, Inksmith, Faiaz Rafid, Banksy, Scott Tusk and Joakim Reidinger.

Rino depicted numerous everyday social issues of the city in his art, such as people not using a foot over bridge to

cross the road, a broken road divider and the inconveniences caused due to the Metro Rail construction.

At the same time, he also portrayed the good sides of the city, coupled with current realities. He shows a Dhaka that its dwellers could connect with. His work even touched Bangladeshis living abroad, who felt nostalgic about Dhaka, and wanted their kids to learn about the way they grew up.

Rino admits that it was only about the pictures in the beginning. Soon, he felt the need to explain why they mattered to him. Every time he chose a topic or wrote a caption, it turned into him introducing Dhaka to someone who had

never been there. Consequently, the city's monuments, markets, and lifestyles of its people found a place in his art.

Rino calls himself a 'weekend artist' as his full-time job takes up most of his time. "Everything is either about making money or professions, but the whole idea of self-expression behind art is something most Bangladeshis do not understand," he asserts.

He also states violation of intellectual property is another major problem most digital artists face, as people have a misconception that posts online are public property. "It is okay to download a picture and set it as a wallpaper, as it shows appreciation. The problem occurs when someone reposts the same picture or adds filters and a few other elements on Photoshop to show that it has been done by them," Rino adds. His work is very brand-friendly due to their minimalist and colourful properties. Despite placing a logo on the lower middle portion of all his pieces, people mistake it as a design element.

Yet, Rino marvels at how digitalisation has helped many artists to emerge.

"Art is also more accessible nowadays as it has become easier to afford an entry level graphics tablet, which has helped a lot of the younger population to get into it," adds Rino. "Moreover, the overall appreciation for art is increasing in our country compared to the days when people only thought that art was reserved for abstract and high thinkers. Through people like Wahid Ibn Reza, many are able to see that it is possible to make a career out of this creative medium."

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Aparna Ghose looks forward to a memorable Puja

SHAH ALAM SHAZLI

Aparna Ghose is one of the most sought-after actresses for both television and films today. The National Award winner has been a part of multiple critically acclaimed ventures, including "Third Person Singular Number", and "Mrittika Maya".

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, she talks about her Puja plans, upcoming ventures, and more.

Durga Puja is just around the corner. How are you planning to celebrate the festival this year?

This Durga Puja will be my most memorable one, as it is the first time that I will be celebrating it with my husband. He lives in Japan, but he is in Bangladesh at the moment. I plan to visit my in-laws, travel, and spend quality time with my loved ones during Puja.

A belated happy birthday to you. Did you do anything special for your birthday this year?

My husband was in town for my birthday this year, which was the biggest surprise for me. My loved ones also sent me their best wishes.

When are you planning to return to the sets?

I have not been actively shooting due to the coronavirus pandemic. Projects are being offered to me, but I have always been very choosy when it comes to work. I only take up projects that have unconventional characters and unique storylines. I am taking some time off, and hope to come back with something worthwhile for my fans.

Your performance on the silver screen has been well received by the audience. How important was that for you?

A good script and a strong character - that's all I look for in any project. I want to remain in the audience's memory through my performances. When I hear people still praising my performance in "Shutopar Thikana", I feel overwhelmed, as that is the best reward for any artiste.

Are you looking to work on plays anytime soon?

I am still associated with my troupe Nandonik, based in Chattogram. I think the stage is the best place to learn and improve acting, and I hope to be back on it soon.

Translated by Ashley Shoptorshi Samaddar



PHOTO: STAR

Behind the meteoric rise of Turkish and Iranian content dubbed in Bangla

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

In recent times, Bangladesh has seen a surge in production of Bangla dubbed productions of foreign films and series. These contents have carved a place into the hearts of audiences through its quality production and power-packed star casts.

Be it the 13th century Turkish historical drama "Dirilis: Ertugrul" or the magnificent 16th century Ottoman Empire in "Sultan Suleiman" or even the socially captivating drama "Bahar," their enormous fan base across the country lead to the influx in views across private televisions and OTT platforms.

The whole process of dubbing and producing such projects might seem easy



Marina Mitu, the Bengali voice actress for the character of Bahar.

to the naked eye, but both TV channels and online streaming platforms have to invest significant resources to add their own original touch to these projects.

We spoke to private channel Deepto TV, OTT platform Chorki and professional voice actors to unveil the real story behind the idea of bringing Turkish series and how the rise in dubbing has led to emerging job opportunities for theater artists in Dhaka.

Private channel Deepto TV started its journey in 2015, with its superhit series "Sultan Suleiman." Since its inception, the channel has kept producing Turkish hits like "Feriha", "Bahar", and "Fatmagul", among many others.

Shubarna Parvin, Chief of Research of Deepto TV, gave an in depth view about the licensing process and how long does it take to completely dub an entire series.

"In order to buy the license of Turkish drama, we communicate via agencies. Then, they send us catalogues from which we select dramas based on genre and casting. After that the final selection is sent



(L) 'Sultan Suleiman' was a phenomenon amongst Bangladeshi viewers. (R) From Turkish serial 'Kadin', aired as 'Bahar' on Deepto TV.

to the script team, to translate it efficiently," mentions Shubarna Parvin. "We have over 5 groups to monitor the whole process, starting with our very own dubbing team and sound editors."

The tedious process does not end here as it takes about a week for the script to be translated and another 7 days to dub a 40-45 minute episodes. On top of that, the preview and sound team makes sure that the end result comes up perfectly on the screen.

Deepto TV has about 11 in house



Mohammad Morshed Siddique, the Bengali voice actor for Ibrahim Pasha in 'Sultan Suleiman'.

studios, which works efficiently to produce at least 30-50 dubbed episodes of Turkish dramas for their viewers.

"In 2015, 'Sultan Suleiman' used to air in two time slots, and it was one of the most watched content on Bangladeshi channels with an overall viewership of 2. If we combined the total views of both the time slot then the views amounts up to TRP rating of 3," adds Shubarna Parvin.

When asked about what attracted the Bangladeshi audiences towards the series, Shubarna asserted that people were attracted towards the high budget production and the storyline of the projects.

"Mostly female viewers are seen to prefer Turkish releases but 'Sultan Suleiman', featuring Hurrem and Sultan's love story, managed to attract both genders," mentions Shubarna Parvin. "Turkish series also offer wonderful music scores which resonate, with the viewers."

Foreign content has also paved its way to OTT platform as well. Popular Bangladeshi streaming channel Chorki showcases an array of dubbed Iranian movies which has been watched aside from its original contents.

"In order to buy the license of the Iranian film, we work with a Bangladeshi firm who acts as a middleman to provide us catalogues to select the projects. While going through the catalogue there are two things that we try to observe- one that it must be contemporary, we do not want to show old contents and two whether it's more OTT centric or not. Each episodes should have a hook so that the audiences



would look forward to the next episode," states Adar Rahman.

Chorki works closely with multiple firms for dubbing their content. They have a creative curation team, which goes through the translation. They even watch the auditions of the voice actors to finalise who fits into the character best.

"We are currently working with 3 dubbing firms, but now we are closely working with Dhoni Chitra. It takes us about 20 days to about a month to produce a movie as we go through an extensive monitoring process," adds Adar Rahman, Content Officer of Chorki.

Chorki also revealed that its Bangla dubbed Iranian film "Topoli" and Turkish dubbed film "Once Upon a Time in Anatolia" has received wonderful response from the audiences.

Mohammad Morshed Siddique, assistant voice director of Deepto TV and the man who voiced Ibrahim Pasha in "Sultan Suleiman", talked at length about how voice artists have to adapt their character within themselves to dub the scenes.

"It's really hard to deliver dubbing for foreign contents as their dialogue delivery and mouthing of words is different from us. We simply cannot copy their lines but we can surely incorporate our own Bangladeshi style to it so that the originality of the dubbing process is not hampered. Apart from voicing out the dialogues your bodily expression should also sync with it so that you are able to deliver the line to perfection," mentions Morshed.

In order to get into the character of

Ibrahim Pasha, Morshed had to change his lifestyle, and also ensure voice practices so that he can enforce a strong and husky voice for his character.

"Turkish drama not only entertains the audiences but it also helps the children to learn the Promito Bangla. We try to deliver the dialogues as if we are reciting a poem so that the audiences don't get bored. Due to the dubbing of serials, the viewership of private channels are increasing which is also leading to more viewership of local serials as well as fans are turning on to TV as well," adds the voice actor.

Morshed also shared how fans would notice his voice in public places like markets, buses and even in hospitals.

"They would tell me to repeat the dialogues from the screen or they would ask me why I cheated on Hatice with Nigar Kulfa," he laughs.

Apart from voicing Pasha, the actor also voiced Gul Aga, Niko, Pulak Mustafa Pasha, Kiraz Aga and many more in the popular series.

"Bahar" lead actress, dubbed by assistant voice director Marina Mitu, also talked about her role in the fan-favourite series.

The story of Bahar revolves around the struggles and perils of a single mother as she strives hard to raise her children in a cruel society.

"The character of Bahar had to go through a lot of difficulties, so she would always cry in tough situation," says Mitu. "As I got deep into the character, her emotions became a part of my life, so most of the time I ended up feeling sad after the scenes. However, everything was worth it as the audiences truly appreciated my character."

The voice artiste also shared how her fans were shocked to found out that she voiced the negative character of Muqaddas, in Fatmagul and also voiced the sweet and simple Bahar in the series.

Apart from Deepto TV and Chorki, Bangladeshi OTT platforms like Binge and Bongo BD have also released Bangla dubbed Turkish series and movies.

Turkish dramas not only entertain the audiences, but it also provide many job opportunities to budding theater artistes. If there are more government institutions then more artistes can get proper knowledge about the technicalities of dubbing and can ensure a more quality productions.