



PHOTO: STAR

## I embraced life as it went on

Asaduzzaman Noor

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

*Eminent actor and Member of Parliament Asaduzzaman Noor is a powerhouse performer, celebrated for his illustrious career on the stage, television, and films. The passionate freedom fighter and politician has also served Bangladesh as the Minister of Cultural Affairs. He has been honoured with the Shadhinata Padak and National Film Award for his immense contributions as an artiste. Starting out in a small role in "Rongeen Fanush" on television, he has had a splendid trajectory as an actor. In a chat with The Daily Star ahead of his 75th birthday tomorrow, the actor gets candid about his journey so far, and more.*

Asaduzzaman Noor has been a close collaborator of legendary writer and director Humayun Ahmed. Particularly, Baker Bhai in Humayun Ahmed's "Kothao Keu Nei" remains one of his most beloved roles even today.

"You see, a story on screen is nothing without the dialogues and acting. Humayun Ahmed's stories took their power from the dialogues, which is why they were so successful," he asserts.

"I thoroughly enjoyed playing Chhoto Mirza in Humayun Ahmed's 'Ayomoy' - It is one of my most favourite series," he further adds.

Asaduzzaman Noor also garnered audience praise for his role as Anis in "Bohubrihi", another hit series of Humayun Ahmed.

His darker roles as a murderer in "Matir Pinjira" and robber in "Neemphool" were much talked about. "I am immensely lucky to be able to play such a wide range of characters, and be a part of such good projects," adds the eminent actor.

While his performances as some of the timeless characters of television are unparalleled, Asaduzzaman Noor actually started out his acting career on the theatre stage, with plays like "Baki Itihaash" to his credit. He was a member of the prominent troupe Nagarik Natya Sampradaya since its inception after Bangladesh's independence. He performed in many popular productions by the troupe. He also directed a number of plays, including "Dewan Gazir Kissa".

"Aly Zaker inspired me to get into theatre. My love for him is endless," shares Asaduzzaman Noor. He regards "Nurul Diner Sharajibon" as one of his most favourite plays.

The actor is also happy with his few appearances in films. His performance as a freedom fighter in Humayun Ahmed's "Aguner Poroshmoni" was quite a tear-jerker for moviegoers. His other notable films include "Shongkhonil Karagar" and "Dohon".

"I definitely want to continue acting. But I do not want to play the roles of fathers or uncles anymore. I want characters for which the acting will take precedence," says Asaduzzaman Noor.

Upon asking about the reason behind his success, the actor gives a rather earnest answer. "The people's love has been my biggest achievement. I did not plan out anything, be it for acting, politics, or business. I just paved my path with time. Life has been my greatest companion," he smiles.

# From 'Sweeper Man' to 'RJ', an actor who does it all

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Musfiq R Farhan has earned praise for his incredible performances in "Sweeper Man", and "Biyer side-effect". The famous actor started his career through radio station and slowly transitioned into a sensational actor in television.

In a conversation with The Daily Star, the television heartthrob talks about his journey from being an RJ to an actor, and how "Sweeper Man" changed his life.

Musfiq R Farhan started his journey as a RJ for Radio Next 93.2 FM in 2015 and worked there for 4 years. The popular RJ started his career with Mabrur Rashid Bannah's "Ekti Tin Masher Golpo".

Farhan reveals how he got into the world of acting from being an RJ.

"My acting started with the hands of Banna bhai and he was the one who encouraged me to shift into the world of television. One day he came to my radio office and he told me that he saw my awareness campaign for Radio Next and wanted me to pursue acting," mentions the actor.

Musfiq has been garnering immense appreciation for his tele-fiction "RJ". The actor also revealed how his personal life was closely related with this project.



"Since I was an RJ in real life, it was sort of a throwback to play the role," adds Farhan. "The appreciation that I received for this production is unparalleled, and I am grateful for it."

Farhan stunned everyone when he starred in Bannah's "Sweeper Man", where he portrayed the harsh realities of the life of a cleaner.

"During the first day of shooting, my mom fell sick and was immediately admitted to emergency. I started to cry when I heard the news," says the actor. "We didn't have any other day to shoot the scene so with an overwhelming heart I carried out the scene and went to my mother afterward. The next I had to shoot the manhole scene so I channelled all my energy to do this scene to perfection."

Farhan also enjoys massive fan followings across both social media and YouTube. He has over 4.5 million followers on his Facebook page.

"You cannot solely determine the quality of a project with views. If you do justice to your role, that's what matters foremost. There is a race for views nowadays, but if you work hard, I believe that you'll get views anyway," adds the actor.

The actor will be soon playing the role of an autistic character and will also be seen in another tele-fiction, titled "Separation."



PHOTOS: COLLECTED

## "My goals keep changing with time"

Nusraat Faria opens up in 'Star Entertainment News of the Week'!

Nusraat Faria has enraptured the film industries on both sides of the border with her mellifluous and natural acting. Now, she continues her foray into music with her latest song, 'Habibi', which will release on October 2.

The woman of many talents sits with us on our pilot episode of 'Star Entertainment News of the Week', presented by Star Multimedia - a show where celebrities join in with us to discuss the latest happenings in showbiz, their careers and more!

Scan the QR code to watch the show now!



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

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# KHACHAR BHITOR OCHIN PAKHI

## A nuanced political thriller

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

A dark gloomy room with just thin strings of light peeping through rusty, almost dust blocked window panes and an unconscious girl lying helplessly on a rugged muddy floor - this is how Raihan Rafi's debut full-length web-film, "Khachar Bhiton Ochin Pakhi" opens up to the audience on Chorki.

Starring National Award winning actors Fazlur Rahman Babu and Tama Mirza, the Chorki original production revolves around themes like politics, terrorism, struggle to survive, betrayal and revenge.

The poster and the trailer of the film created a buzz among cine-lovers as soon as the teaser, followed by the poster and trailer appeared on social media. The Facebook walls of the cast and crew soon started brimming with praises after its release on October 21.

"I believe, the audience initially expected 'Khachar Bhiton Ochin Pakhi' to be a survival



A still from "Khachar Bhiton Ochin Pakhi"

thriller but this expectations. However, I am happy that we successfully ended up pleasantly surprising them rather than disappointing them," shares director Raihan Rafi.

A straight-panned camera, slowly dropping, capturing first a dim, foggy, broken factory, then a board that reads "No entry without permission", slowly making way to Fazlur Rahman Babu and Tama Mirza peeping out of old barren iron barrels - this teaser shot first managed to excite the audience, leading them to feel the same thrill and anxiety that the chained characters were experiencing.

Upon release, the cinematographer Sheikh Rajibul Islam's work is being widely appreciated by the spectators. "The story needs needed a gloomy and slow yet exciting and thrilling ambience and we felt that the single take shots only added more sincerity to the projection of struggle by the characters,"

he shares.

Sumon Anwar's spontaneity while masterfully depicting an untrustworthy leader, also manages to leave a mark alongside Fazlur Rahman Babu's naturally portrayed intensity and Tama Mirza's anxiety. With Nasir Uddin Khan's subtle yet natural comic timing, the audience also gets the scope to laugh a little amongst the gruesome political plot.

"The biggest success for me as a film maker is when my spectators advertise my work and this is what I got to experience after this project started streaming," shares Raihan Rafi.

Overall, "Khachar Bhiton Ochin Pakhi" looks to recreate a sense of belonging for its audience, as the viewers are no strangers to the contemporary themes and the political crux the production looks to showcase, which makes it a worthwhile watch for this season indeed.