

# 'I was paid 960 taka for my first acting job'

## Fazlur Rahman Babu looks back on his journey

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SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Noted actor Fazlur Rahman Babu was honoured with the National Film Award for the fifth time, for his supporting role in "Bishwashundori". He has been persistently proving his acting prowess over the decades.

The actor received his first National Film Award for "Shankhonad", and later, for the movies, "Meyeti Ekhn Kothay Jabe", "Gohin Baluchar", and "Fagun Haway". He will be featured in Shyam Benegal's biopic of Bangabandhu.

"Awards inspire me to perform better," he shares.

The actor is selective about his roles in films, he looks for characters with potential. "I seek out projects where the story is the 'hero'", he shares.

Besides working on television, he is busy dubbing for the film "Bhangon". He is also done shooting for Mushfiqur Rahman Gulzar's "Tungiparar Dushshahoshi Khoka" and M Shakhawat's government-granted film, "Birangona 71". He also wrapped up the first slot of the film, "Jamdani".

Looking back on his acting career, Fazlur Rahman Babu got nostalgic about working in theatre. He has been a member of the celebrated theatre troupe Aranyak Natyadal for many years.

"I still remember my first performance in the play 'Saat Purusher Rin'," says the artiste. "I feel proud to be a part of this group, which earned acclaim from people across the world."

His first acting job was a role in the 80s tele-fiction, "Mrityukudha", produced by Abu Zafar Siddique for BTB.

"I was paid 960 taka for that job," says the actor. "Apart from that, I acted in a stage play by German Cultural Centre, where I was honoured with BDT 200, during the same decade."

As an artiste, Fazlur Rahman Babu is concerned with being associated with projects that contain social messages, and reflect positivity. "We should have accountability in building good taste amongst viewers," he adds.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## Who is Sabrina?

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Hoichoi released the first look of their much-anticipated web original, "Sabrina", across social media recently.



Directed by Ashfaque Nipun, the eight-episode series features Mehazabien Chowdhury in the titular role.

Hoichoi will officially announce the entire cast of "Sabrina" on Women's Day (March 8), at A S Mahmud Hall, The Daily Star. Ashfaque Nipun and Haque Orsha will be present at the event, where a teaser of the series will be released.

## Zayed Khan to remain GS of Film Artistes' Association

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for Zayed Khan for assuming the office of general secretary of Bangladesh Film Artistes' Association (BFAA).

The court declared cancellation of Zayed's candidacy, and declaring Nipun as general secretary of BFAA, "illegal".

The HC bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman delivered the verdict after holding hearing on a writ petition filed by Zayed, challenging the legality of the cancellation of his candidacy and declaring Nipun as GS of the association.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

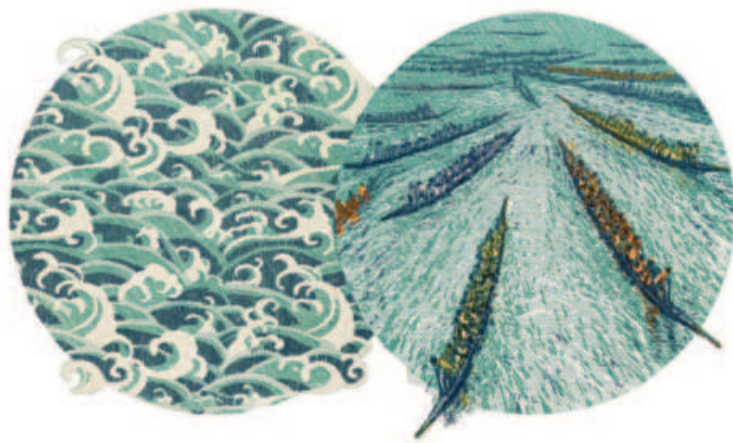
The court, in the verdict, said that the Election Appeal Board had taken the decision under the directive from the Ministry of Social Welfare, which is "illegal".

The Election Appellate Board cannot cancel the candidacy of a candidate, the HC observed.

Nipun's lawyer Mustafizur Rahman Khan told The Daily Star that his client will move an appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court very soon, challenging the HC verdict.

# Embrace Friendship: Celebrating 50 Years of Japan-Bangladesh Friendship

2022 marks 50 years of diplomatic relations between Japan and Bangladesh. Japan was one of the first countries to recognize Bangladesh as a sovereign nation soon after its independence. As a

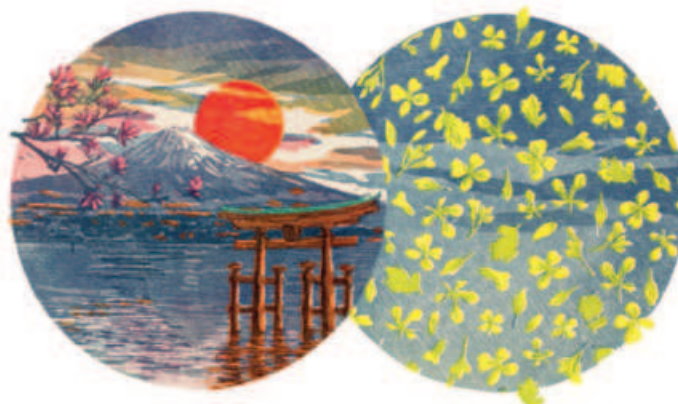


true and time-tested friend, Japan has been committed not only to the infrastructural and human development of Bangladesh, but also in the areas of education, art, and culture. To pay tribute to this glorious and harmonious friendship, Japan Tobacco International (JTI) Bangladesh commissioned twelve pieces of artworks by

prominent artist Professor Anisuzzaman Anis. The artworks were crafted using Japanese technique of woodcut printmaking; a laborious process where six to seven woodcut plates have been used to complete each final image or print. Each of the woodcut print contains Japanese and Bangladesh elements of culture, heritage, and landscape in two circular frames representing the union between the two countries. Each of the circles represent the individual countries and each month focuses on one significant occasion of one country complimented by one element of the other country. The union is embodied through landscapes, flora, architecture, and festivities to bring out parallelisms between Japanese and Bangladeshi traditions, philosophy, heritage, and culture. The picturesque depictions of nature and urbanity subtly portray tranquil themes which seamlessly encapsulate the interplay of the two nations. The theme for each month is further encompassed by a characteristic Japanese word with a complimentary quote in both English and Bangla.

The theme for January is 'new beginnings' — a dazzling red sun is depicted behind the

breathhtaking Mount Fuji, the tallest mountain in Japan or the 'Land of the Rising Sun'. To complement this symbol of grace and eminence, floating beside in its own circular frame is a shower of yellow mustard flowers, which can be seen in Bangladesh at the beginning of the month. In December—the glorious month of victory in Bangladesh—the artist has rendered a singularly tranquil image of the 'Jatiyo Smriti Shoudho', which was built to commemorate those who gave their lives in the 1971 War of Independence. In the adjacent frame, a loose cluster of waterborne lotus flowers symbolizes a celebration of the friendship shared by Bangladesh and Japan. Other months of the calendar similarly depict Japanese and Bangladesh cultural and traditional iconography, such as the 'Nouka Baich' in October, paying tribute to a traditional Bangladeshi dragon boat-style paddling sport. This is juxtaposed by a depiction of riverine waves recalling 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa' by Hokusai and together this piece upholds the theme of unity and team spirit. With a focus on minimalism, the artworks inspire a sense of nostalgia and poetry. Professor Anisuzzaman Anis, creator of this series titled 'Embrace Friendship', is the recipient of many prestigious awards including the Grand Prize at the 13th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2008. Anis has



been educated across the world at University of Dhaka in Bangladesh, Rabindra Bharati University in India, and Tama Art University in Japan. He concentrated on woodcut printmaking while he was in Japan. The expression of the union between Japan and Bangladesh thus seems to have found a perfect place in the work of a Bangladeshi artist whose education and influence are rooted in Japan. These artworks are showcased in an exhibition which has been curated and installed according to philosophy of 'wabi-sabi' — a traditional style of Japanese aesthetics encouraging authenticity and simplicity — in a selection of décor emphasizing earthy and natural elements and colors. Visitors of the exhibition will enjoy viewing these serene and emotive artworks in a tranquil environment consisting of open spaces designed according to the concept of 'seijaku'.

The exhibition titled "Embrace Friendship," was inaugurated by His Excellency Dr. A. K Abdul Momen, MP, Honorable Foreign Minister of The Peoples Republic of Bangladesh, and His Excellency Ito Naoki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Bangladesh at Edge Gallery, Bay's Edgewater, Gulshan, Dhaka. The art exhibition is open to the public till Saturday, March 5, 2022.

Step into the exhibition and revel in the power of friendship. Let yourself slip into an energizing calm, as if you were inside a Japanese Zen Garden.