

Biography of Shoeb Faruque, a Master of PhotoArt

Childhood:

Shoeb Faruquee is a self-accomplished photographer born in 1960 in Patiya, Chittagong, Bangladesh. Father Meah Faruquee was a Freedom fighter, veteran politician, writer and columnist. He was an amateur artist and love to shoot photos. Basically, his father's creative works and photographs attracted Shoeb most and inspired him to be a photographer since his childhood. His mother Rokeya Begum was an ideal house wife and good culinary artist. She was famous for her unique hand stitched embroidery art.

Education and beginning of photography:

After completion of Higher Secondary degree from Patiya, Shoeb came to Chittagong City for higher studies and completed his Graduation from Chittagong College in 1982.

Though Shoeb was involved with photography since 1980s but his attachment with photography was from his childhood. His father loved to shoot photos with a box camera and kept them in a family photo album. In childhood, Shoeb had huge interest on that album and since then he dreamed to be a camera person. The journey started from that photo album.

At the age of 20, he started photography with a loaned camera from one of his relative. Before that if he got any opportunity, took loan camera from friends and kept shooting. As his passion was with photography, no matter what he shoots, shoot his best and those were appreciated highly with his surroundings and those appreciation boost him up to become a professional photographer in future.

Shoeb started professional photography in 1990s with his full passion. Before that he tried to work in different sector but by then he got the feelings that photography is in his blood and that's the only thing that attract him most. As he was confident since his childhood about his photography, he got himself involved fully in photography and till now he feels same attraction in photography.

In an interview, a journalist asked Shoeb what his favorite gear is to shoot photos and shoeb's reply was – his eyes and fingers are his most favorite gear to shoot photos. He doesn't have any special feeling for any expensive gears rather he has good faith on his eyes and fingers that can transform a moment to an art.

Shoeb Faruque, a Master of Photoart:

Shoeb Faruquee is a leading master of the Bangladeshi school of photography, a school widely acknowledged as one of the liveliest, most invigorating and a top ranking one for its quality. He

is both an artist and a craftsman, a precondition for artistic excellency. Great masters combine a powerful inspiration, a tireless creative quest and the craftsman's dedication for the regular practice and knowledge of its technical intricacies. In Shoeb Faurquee's art photos, the technique is perfect. The viewer is instantaneously drawn to the frame as an invitation to dip into the world offered by the subject. The colors and point of views are perfect resulting from a fantastic acuity. From journal to magazine, international photo contests and international agencies' campaigns, the photo lovers have Shoeb's pictures in mind.

Shoeb is mostly known as a "Photo Artist" rather than a "Photographer" cause with his versatile experience in all sectors of photography, now he loves to create art with his photos instead of just capture a moment. If anyone visit his webpage www.shoebphotos.com, will get the difference between photoarts and photographs. Shoeb create art not by brush but by his lens!

To promote local photographers and their works in the world, in 2002 Shoeb established "Photo Bank Gallery", the first stock photo agency in Chittagong. Since then, PhotoBank Gallery works as a versatile photographic institute.

In 2004, Shoeb founded "PhotoArt Institute", a world class photography teaching and training academy in Chittagong to train up interested photo lovers keeping world trend in mind.

Both "PhotoBank Gallery" and "PhotoArt Institute" is famous amongst world photo lovers and highly appreciated.

His stock images have been used worldwide by different institutions since 1989 and his students are winning many national and international awards defeating world best photographers since 2004.

Achievement:

Shoeb Faruque was a member of the Juries for several national and international photography contests. He has conducted different photographic workshops in home and abroad. His photographs were published in such prestigious and renowned dailies, magazines and journals around the world such as Stern, Geo, Telegraph, New Internationalist Magazine, Readers Digest Australia, Uitgeverij Atlas Contact B. V. and many others.

His works on 'Ship Breaking Yard in Chittagong' have been exhibited at World Press Photo Award Days at Felix Meritis, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 2005.

His first solo exhibition entitled '**Manush**' (Humans) was organized by Alliance Francaise de Chittagong and held in their Gallery in 2009.

Shoeb exhibits A month-long solo70 selected PhotoArtworks which is organized by Radisson Blu Chattogram Bay View in march 2016.

A solo photography exhibition of famed photographer Shoeb Faruquee titled “**Chirayata Chattogram**” was held on Dec 2018 at Haatkhola Gallery in the port city with an aim to upholding various tourist attractions of greater Chattogram

Bistaar Art festivals 18, presents a Solo Photography Exhibition '**Men and the Sea**' by Shoeb Faruquee, in Chattogram Shilpakola Academy

He achieved Honorable Fellowship (Hon FBPS) from Bangladesh Photographic Society in 2011

He already has received more than 100 international awards, including the 2nd prize on Contemporary Issues – in the 48th World Press Photo Contest 2005 The Netherlands. Some other important awards are –

- Humanity Photo Documentary Awards, China.
- Nikon photo contest prize 2009/2010. Japan.
- ACCU Grand Prix 2002 Japan.
- VIPC Grand prize 2006 Italy.
- Al Thani Awards for Photography Gold Medal 2007, Qatar.
- Emirates Photo Contest Prize 2010 UAE,
- Two 2nd prize and three honor Mention prizes from WHO Photo / Video Contest 2007 Switzerland,
- 4 times Ashahi Shimbun award winner, Japan.
- Grand Prize Hero Kuwait Grand photography contest 2016
- 1st prize Food for Celebration, Pink Lady Food Photographer of the year 2016 and 2017 and also overall winner 2017 UK etc.
- Chattogram Zilla Shilpakala Academy Padak 2018 which is a State Award.

A photographic presentation of him entitled ‘Evening Photography Talk with the Photographer Shoeb Faruquee’ was held in Dar Ibne Al-Haytham for Visual Arts in Al-Bastakia, Dubai in 2010.

East West University, Dhaka honored Shoeb Faruque with “Lifetime Achievement Award” in 2019.

Apart from mentioned above, Shoeb Faruquee`s 50 Art works Showcased at Radisson Blu Chattogram hotel.

Professional Involvement:

In past Shoeb worked as General Secretary of Chittagong Photographic Society and Vice President of Bangladesh Photographic Society.

He is an advisor of Bangladesh Photographic Society and honorary guest teacher of Architecture department of Chittagong University of Engineering & Technology. He is also a guest lecturer at Fashion and Technology department of Port City International University, Chittagong, Bangladesh.

Shoeb and Environment:

Shoeb has an intense love for nature since his childhood. The green hills of Chittagong and Chittagong hill tracts, the rivers and sea (Bay of Bengal), trees and birds around his home, the total flora and fauna attracts him always. Now whenever he sees the destruction of nature like cutting the hills, polluting and grabbing the rivers, unplanned development of cities, he gets hurt. As a conscious person and as an artist he protests all anti-nature and anti-environment activities.

He has published many of his images depicting anti-nature and anti-environment activities in national newspaper and some of his initiatives were successful to some extent.

He always works to save environment as he strongly believes that we have to protect our nature for our future generation.

Shoeb's Family life:

Shoeb Faruque leads a very happy family life with his beloved wife Shoheli, 2 daughters Shefa and Easha and 2 sons Ashfaque and Aftahi. All his 4 kids are busy with studies and out of them Ashfaque Faruque is slowly but surely getting involved with his father's profession – Photography.

Influence in professional life:

Shoeb is a self-taught photographer. When he goes back, he finds that he is not influenced by any photographer in the world rather he tried to create his own style by his own. At the beginning of his photographic career, he used to observe Bangladeshi Veteran photographer Mr. Manzurul Alam Begs photographs but that's only for his learning; not to follow Mr. Begs style.

Shoeb's Dream:

In personal life Shoeb Faruque is a very optimistic person. Though he feels pain when he sees disorders in our society specially with the young generation, but he believes in heart that one day this situation would be over. He strongly believes that it's our society's responsibility to get young's involved with creative work such as photography, painting, sculpture etc so that they

don't get frustrated and don't find solution in drugs. From that point of view, he established 2 of his worlds renowned institute – PhotoBank Gallery and Photoart Institute where interested people can find out their food for their soul. He works days and nights to establish these 2 organizations so that young's can get involved there to find out a meaningful life and don't get themselves involved with any antisocial activities.

With his limited resource, Shoeb Faruque is working hard to fulfil his dream.