

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Despite their contribution to the nation and society, women remain relegated to a secondary position to men. This is apparent in their lack of decision making powers, be it in the spheres of workplace, home or even on the social front.



Ferdousi Priobhashini



Ferdousi Majumdar



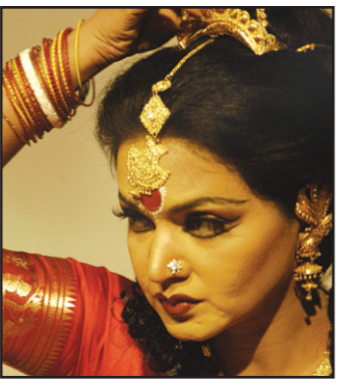
Runa Laila



Sabina Yasmeen



Rokeya Prachi



Shameem Ara Neepa



Shomi Kaiser



Tarana Halim

A glimpse of the cultural activists who continue to inspire

Rokeya Rafique Taking up cudgels for women

CULTURE DESK

Rokeya Rafique is a woman to reckon with. In addition to her role as executive director of the women's organisation Karmojibi Nari, she is active on the cultural front as TV and stage actress.

February 23 this year. Forty seven out of 56 workers who lost their lives were women. We are working on this issue as participants in the Workers Safety Forum and have held dialogues with the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers Export Association (BGMEA).



Nargis Akhter Empathy with women

KHALID-BIN-HABIB

Nargis Akhter is known to be a demanding director. Her films deal with hard-hitting issues often shunned by others. More importantly, women have a special place in her movies, their emotions are portrayed with finesse and their issues are highlighted.



Talking about her upcoming venture, she says, "At present I am busy with my latest film - Poush Masher Pirit, which revolves around rural women. I am also set to make my fourth film Megher Koley Roud, based on the story of a young girl who is HIV negative but her parents have been tested HIV positive.

I like to handle tough and sensitive issues in my films

Talking about issues a female filmmaker faces in the mainstream genre, Nargis says "While Dhallywood actresses are emerging

as popular stars, female directors are still confronted with several issues. "In our country, few opportunities are available to female filmmakers. It

is one of those inexplicable paradoxes of showbiz that a whole lot of female-centric films are being made by males." Asked about her concept of media, she says, "I believe the media is a tool to bring about social changes, particularly in the lives of the underprivileged and oppressed.

Shabnam Ferdousi Representing a new generation of women filmmakers

KAVITA CHARANJI

Several women filmmakers have a grouse-not being taken seriously by their male counterparts despite their obvious talent and a scenario where women are pigeon holed as pretty faced actresses or at the most assistant directors.

Masuma at one point. Through conversations with family and friends, one gets to realise both Masuma's vulnerability as a single woman as well as her strengths.



Despite the lip service paid to gender equality, women do not have real freedom

film, called Iron Eater. The filmmaker, Shaheen Dilliriaz is a Bangladeshi. This film focuses on the ship breaking yard at Chittagong.

Shabnam is also a news presenter of Channel i. Others endeavours are Noho Mata Noho Kanya (on sexual harassment) in 2001 and The Awaiting (based on mothers waiting in front of their children's school) in 2000. These documentaries emerged from a four-month workshop conducted by Steps Towards Development. In the sphere of development productions, she has done documentaries on domestic violence against women (for Oxfam GB) and two TV spots on election campaigning awareness for Proshika.

TV GUIDE

Table with TV Guide content including program listings for BTV, CHANNEL-i, ATN Bangla, ntv, and STAR WORLD, along with a 'PICK OF THE DAY' section featuring Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe.