

CELEBRATING INTERNATION 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. Much has to do with the patriarchal family structure where men are firmly ensconced in the lead. Today on International Women's Day, it is time to assess the losses, gains and future prospects for women. It is also a clarion call for women all over the world to fight for their rights and empowerment. Here we speak to some of the women who are articulate champions of the women's cause.



Ferdousi Priobhashini



Ferdausi Majumdar

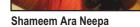




Sabina Yasmeen



A glimpse of the cultural activists who continue to inspire







Tarana Halim

Rokeya Rafique

Taking up cudgels for women

CULTURE DESK

Rokeya Rafigue 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. Among her recent works are lead roles in plays such as Brand, Golab Jan and The Lesson. In addition she has directed a street play titled *Khepa Paglar Pachal.*

Rokeya took time off from her busy schedulé to talk on a subject that's on everyone's mind - International Women's Day. Excerpts from the interview:

'International Women's Day is a symbol of women's protest, existence and power as human beings. Women should come forward to observe this day and put forward their demands. For instance. Karmojibi Nari has stepped in after the fire in a garment factory in Chittagong on

Shabnam Ferdousi

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). One of our achievements is that we have made women workers aware of their rights.

"On the cultural front, we face a sad scenario. Though there are women in this field, they are not visible at the policy level. I firmly believe that in all the arts women should hold positions of authority. Also they could play a more diverse role in this sphere -- one need to look around to question why so few women are involved in light design, direction and design. The real change will only come about when more women come forward.



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. She believes in 'calling a spade a spade'. Nargis did her graduation from Dhaka University in he Social Welfare Department. Nargis' strength of conviction is very strong and it is reflected in her work She is pursuing a career in a field that is still dominated by men. Very few women are involved in the technical aspects of filmmaking in our country. Nargis directed her first film Meghla Akash (A Shabana Azmi starrer) in 2002, which was selected among the best of films (out of 600 entrees) at Festival in Germany. Her second film titled Char Shotiner Ghar (A Home of Four Wives) also created quite a stir among the public. Nargis shares experiences of her first film, Meghla Akash. In her words, "I was always attracted by the equation of men and women. So when the producer approached me with the subject, my answer was positive. I don't understand why we are so uncomfortable speaking about HIV/ AIDS. I like to handle riveting and sensitive issues in my films. Meghla Akash was a great experience. The film received an overwhelming response from people at home and abroad. The highlight of the film are some bold dialogues where I have dealt with sensitive issues.



Talking about her upcoming venture, she says, "At present I am Masher Pirit, which revolves around rural women. I am also set to make my fourth film Meaher Kolev Roud. based on the story of a young girl who is HIV negative but her parents have been tested HIV positive. The character fights for her basic rights in a society that considers HIV positive people as social pariahs.

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

I like to handle tough and sensitive issues in my films



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

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. This has been made possible mainly due to the digital revolution in computer networks, compression technologies and proliferation of satellite broadcasting. Gender-based violence has been recognised as a major public health and human rights concern worldwide. A complicated web of social, cultural and economic factors trap women and girls in its meshes, rendering them vulnerable to various forms of violence. I intend to explore the social processes that perpetuate early marriage, genderbased discrimination and violence through media.

Talking about her dreams and aspirations, Nargis states, "Creative satisfaction is my priority. As important as box office success is. I don't just make the film I want to make. I don't want to be confined to womenoriented films only. Certain issues are raised in my films which men would be able to identify with as well as

women filmmakers

ng disharmony in the family.

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. On the occasions that women are portrayed in mainstream films, they are often shown as domestic

Here's where stalwart filmmakers of the alternative genre such as Shameem Akhtar, Catherine Masud and Yasmin Kabir come in. Catherine has worked closely with her husband Tareque Masud as co-director, co-scriptwriter and editor of alternative films such as Ontorjatra. In turn, Yasmin has done bold documentaries, including Shadhinota and My migrant soul. There is also Shameem Akhter with feature films like Shila Lipi and Itihas Konya

help, quarreling with their husbands and generat-

As a new generation of women take to filmmaking, particularly documentaries, there's room for hope. In the new breed is intrepid filmmaker Shabnam Ferdousi. One only needs to see one or two of her documentaries to realise just how sensitive she is to the women's cause. There is, for instance, a hard-hitting film about eunuchs, titled Spring of Desire (2003) for which she did the research, script and direction. Later came In Quest of Life (2004-2005), produced by the NGO Steps Towards Development. Once again she took on the research, script and direction. The assistant director of the film is Wahida Binte Razzak Misha. In Quest of Life homes in on the life and travails

of a single young woman, named Masuma Pia. A media consultant who owns a media communication house called Matri, Masuma is also a passionate photographer who says that nature is her love and through her medium she 'frames' her own emotions. "Film is the canvas." says

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

Representing a new generation of

Last year Shabnam also worked as assistant director in a German 90-minute documentary



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



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

Kahiin To Hoga

Hollywood Squares

The Drew Carev Show

Oprah Winfrey Show

Oprah Winfrey Show

The King Of Queens

Medical Investigations

Bold And Beautiful

General Hospital

Whose Line Is It

STAR WORLD

Kevin Hill

The O.C

Friends

Seinfeld

Charmed

DISCOVERY

American Idol

Wild Discovery

Junkyard Wars

North Shore

The A Team

11:30

09:30

12:30

01:30

02:30

03:30

04:30

05:30

07:00

07:30

08:00

08:30

09:30

10:30

11:30

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.

Now Shabnam has her hands full with two other documentaries, which depart from women's issues. My Name is Beggar, for Channel i, is specifically about the ubiquitous phenomenon of street beggars. The second work, titled The Elegy of my saree, depicts the lives of Tangail saree weavers. This is a 90-minute documentary. Why is the woman's cause so dear to

Shabnam? For one, she believes that despite the lip service paid to gender equality, women do not have real freedom. And even though she is better off than most women, the niggling reminders of a secondary status do surface. As she says, "When my maid does not show up for work, life goes on for my husband Amit Habib, a journalist and my son Anindya. However I have to get things in order and only then can I go out to work." With more young women entering into

filmmaking, the time is ripe for change. By voicing their concerns articulately like Shabnam, women behind the camera will serve as much needed catalysts for change.

Bangladesh Bogra

Bangladesh Bangladesh

Vs Sri Lanka 2nd Test

Day 31st Sessi On (L)

Cricket Classics Dravid:

The Wall (R)

Session (L)

Tna Impact

Indies (T)

Finals (T)

Cricket Classics

Caribbean Kings

England Vs West

Sportscenter India

World's Strongest Man

04:30

07:30

Sri Lanka Tour Of

Bangladesh Bogra

Bangladesh Bangla

desh Vs Sri Lanka 2nd

Test Day 3 2nd & 3rd

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY

All programmes are in local time The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am.12:10 pm. 2:00 pm. 3:00 pm. 4:00 pm. 7:00 pm. News (Bangla) at 8:00 am 1:00 pm.5:00 .mq 00:8.mg

News (English) at 3:00 pm. 10:00 pm. Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. CHANNEL-i

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am. 9:00am,

2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm,

12:15 am. Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm. ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am.10:00am.

2:00 pm. 7:00 pm. 10:00 pm, 11pm. News (English) 8:20am,7:00pm Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm. Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m,10:00 am, 11:00 am.1:00pm.3:00 pm.

4:00pm.6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am.

12:00 am. 6:15 pm. 9:30 pm. News (Bangla) 7:30 am. 2:00 pm. 5:00 pm.7:30 pm.10:30 pm. Telecast of BTV News English) at 11:30 pm

News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm. 7:30 pm.

Every hour on the hour

TARA BANGLA

Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm. 11:30 pm. Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 **BBC WORLD**

BTV 09:05

Smritimoy Archives Sri Lanka Vs Bangladesh cricket match live telecast from Chittagong Beersreshtha Ruhul Mati O Manush

Bangla Cartoon 06:10 Malancha 07:00 Amader Aain 07:30 Selected Programme on International Women's Day 08:45 Drama Serial: Neel Koshto 09:25 Drama Serial: Shomover Othithi

Teknaf Thekey Tetulia

Iranian Film: Man of **ATN Bangla**

Drama serial: Flat No Anyodrishti ATN Taroka (2nd Round Music, Group 12:15 Cinema Cinema 12:50 Ganey Shurey Tarunye 01:25 Shurochhobi

03:15 Drama Serial: Nana Ronaer Din 03:45 Drama Serial: Anondo Bedona Gantobyo Islam Ki Boley Amra Ki Kori 04:45 Ispahani Pure Snax Quiz Time 05:10 Chanchollakar Mamla Islami Sawal O Jobab

Special Programme

Drama Serial: Pagol

Pagol Manushgulo

Drama Serial:

on Women's Day

08:00

08:30

Obelar Golpo ntv 08:35 Aajker Shokal 09:05 Drama Serial: Labonyoprobha Frankly Speaking 10:05 10:30 11:00 Circus Lights 12:05 Shurer Jolsha Muktangon Bari Ghar Thik Thak 01:00 03:15 04:25 Aain O Jibon 05:20 Apnar Jigyasha 06:20 Shubho Shondhya 06:50 Amra Choli Abiram 08:25 Siddiga Kabir's

Shukher Lagiya Drama Serial: Hoi Hoi Drama Serial: Andharer Jatri Citycell Face to Face

CHANNEL-i 09:30 Shongbad Potrey

09:30

09:45 Public Reaction Tritivomatra 09:50 11:05 Sports Time (Live) 12:30 Ai Dupurey Ebong Cinemar Gaan 01:45 **Public Reaction** 02:40 Special Programm 04:05 Bashundhara Amader 04:30 X Music 04:50 Sa Re Ga Ma

Special Programme on Women's Day 06:00 Music Plus 06:30 Harano Shoishob Harano Shampad Panchokonya Drama Serial Chakrey Akranto 09:35

Tomar Shangramey Tomar Shafolotae 10:00 Drama Serial: Bela

09:10 Talk Show: Road 09:50 Drama Serial: Amade Anondobari Rtv 08:45 **Human Nature** Cine Dhum 10:30 Weddings of the World 11:00 .libonCharcha 01:00 02:30 Shoto Prosno

06:30

06:35

10:50

12:30

02:30

04:30

On ntv at 08:25 pm Cookery Show Hosted by: Siddiqua Kabir and Sharmin Lucky

Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe

Drama Serial: Biraj 03:40 Ajker Bangladesh Ajker Shishu and

Rtv Exclusive

Ei Nari Shei Nari

Drama Serial: Boral

Parer Shitlai Gaon

Antarango 09:20 Drama Serial: Bondhu Drama Serial: Khanan **HBO** Rome 03: An owl in a

12:00 Joe Versus the Volcano 02:00 Bad Boys II 04:45 Midnight Run 07:15 The Saint 09:30 Kangaroo Jack 11:15 Huff 10: The Good

Willard

Swept Away

Return to the Blue

STAR MOVIES School Reunion 12:55 Good Boy! 02:25 Tuck Everlasting 03:55 Kina Arthur

Matilda

Genre: Family

On HBO at 09:30 pm

The 78th Annual 06:00 Academy Awards 12:15 **Buried Lies** STAR PLUS

Million Dollar Baby Romy & Michele's High

Cast: Danny DeVito, Mara Wilson, Embeth Davidtz

Starsky & Hutch

Akkad Bakkad Bambey 10:30 Meri Saheli Shagun Shanti 11:30 12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus 01:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay

Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan 02:00 Bhabhi 02:30 Kesar 03:00 Saarrthi 04:00 Kahiin To Hoga 04:30 K.Street Pali Hill 05:00

Shagun 05:30 06:00 Maan 06:30 07:30 Bandhar 07:55 08:30 09:00

Bahu Thi

09:30

10:30

10:30

V Trailers - Star Plus

The Proud Family Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bolly V - Star Plus Mum Tum Aur Hum Kasautii Zindagii Kay Kavyanjali

Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii

Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi

08:30 09:30 10:30 Fastest, Tallest, Biggest 11:30 12:30

Science Frontiers Crime Night 01:30 Wild Discovery 02:30 Women's Day Special Women's Day Special Ten Ways Special 11:30 Dead Tenants

NATIONAL **GEOGRAPHIC**

Air Crash Investigation Seconds From Disaster 11:30 Burma's Forbidden 12:30 National Geographic's Taboo Rough Trades

The Dolphir

Doc Eureka

Backyard Science

03:30

04:45

Twenty (20) Years With

Football Focus (R) Cricket Classics Great Indian Partnerships 10:00 Cricket Classics Great Finishes (T) Sportscente Sportscenter India (R) 11:00 Sportscenter Sportscenter Asia (R)

09:15 Sri Lanka Tour Of

Serious: Desert

Snake Wranglers

Planet Wild

Storm Stories

Species Hunter

Showreal Asia

Expeditions To The

Interpol Investigates

Football Focus (S)

Off Round 1(R)

The Football Quiz Kick-

English Premier Football League English

League 2005/06 Londor

England Vs West Indies

League 2005/06 Uefa

Villarreal Spain Villarrea

Vs Rangers Fc Fir St Knock-Out Round Leg

Uefa Champions League 2005/06 Uefa

Champions League

Fc First Knock-Out

Expn 2day Winter X

Mt. Aspen Co Usa (R)

nes Nine All Access

Round Leg #2(R)

Barcelona Vs Chelsea

Barcelona Spain

Champions League

England Fulham Vs

Arsenal (R)

Cricket Classics

Caribbean Kings

Uefa Champions

05:30

07:00

07:30

08:30

10:30

10:00

11:00

11:30

01:30

ESPN

STAR SPORTS

10:00 Sportscenter Update Goals! (T) 10:30 Tna Impact (R) TEN **SPORTS** 10:00 WWE: Smackdown 11:00 German League Highlights:Round 24 12:00 Italian League 12:30 Inside Grand Prix: Bahrain 01:00 Martini World Cup 01:30 Madhavrao Scindia 2006 02:00 Gillette World Cup Football Preview ABN AMRO20-20: Day 9 Highlights This is the PGA Tour India in West Indies WWE: After Burn Legends Cricket Classics: SL v 10:00 India 1st ODI H/Ls 10:30 India in West Indies 11:00 Portugese League

H/Ls