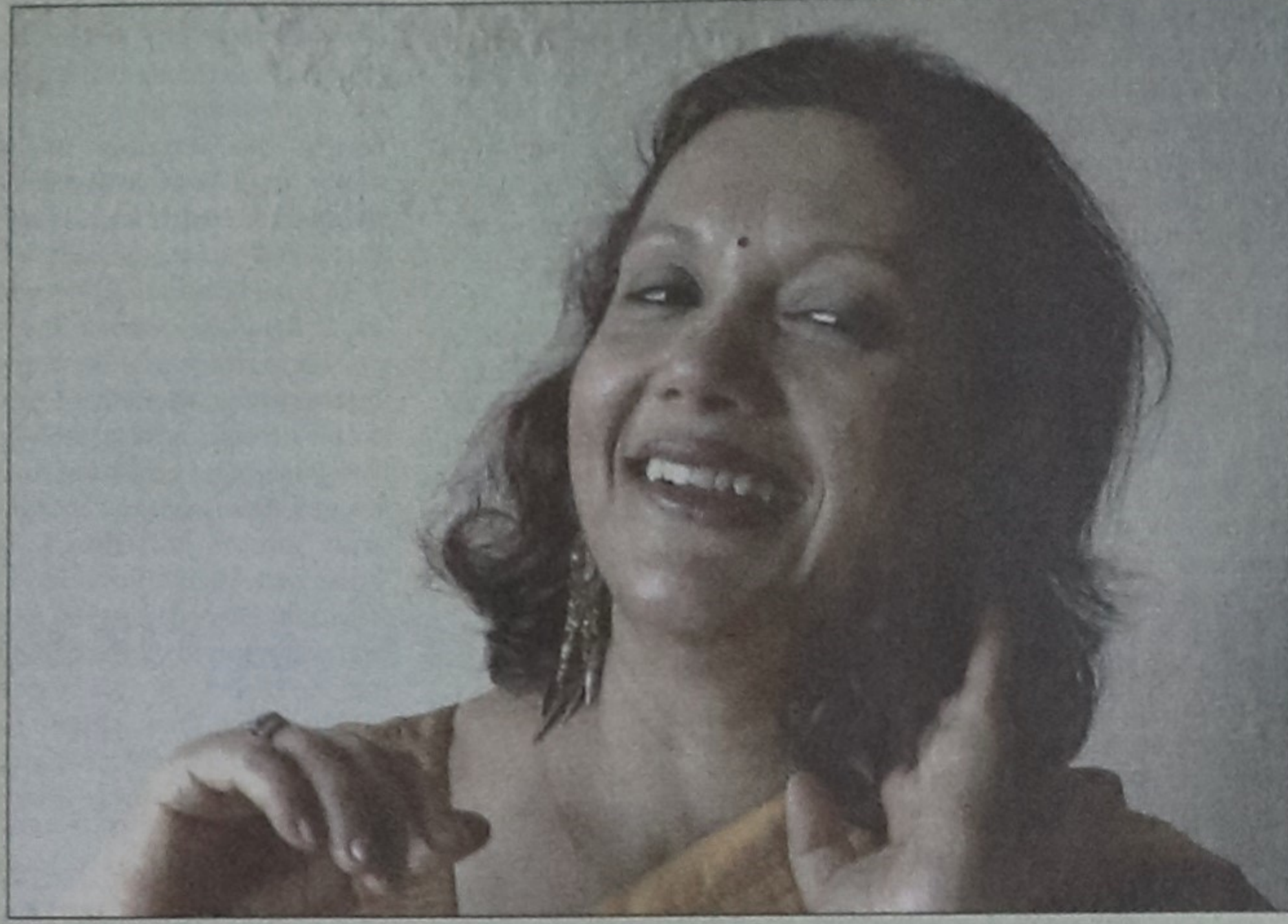


Inseparable from the silver screen

In conversation with Kabori



I don't understand why the government is so reluctant to give grants to mainstream films that can earn revenue. With minimal support from FDC, it is almost impossible for people like us to make commercial films without Government grant or sponsors.

NADIA SARWAT

The heartthrob of the '60s, Kabori Sarwar needs no introduction. With her girl-next-door looks and superb histrionics, Kabori made her way to the hearts of people in the country. Starting with the film *Shutorang* in 1964 when she was only 13, she took on roles in films that were both critically acclaimed and commercially successful. Her onscreen pairing with Razzaque lingers on in public memory.

Kabori did not limit herself to an acting career and is involved in several social activities for the welfare of underprivileged children and women. She made her debut as a director with the film *Aaina* that conveyed a strong social message on the plight of women. Kabori was also a member of the National Jury Board and the National Censor Board. Her dynamism has taken her to several international film festivals and other cultural programmes. *The Daily Star* recently caught up with the renowned actor.

Kabori made a trip to Boston in May. "I was invited to a cultural programme organised by a group of expatriate Bangladeshis called 'Amra Kojon'. Titled 'Nostalgic Tunes from the Silver Screen', the theme of the festival was the ever-green songs from Bengali feature films.

The event was grand and I had the opportunity to get in touch with my old self. When asked, I took the stage lip-synching with one of my popular film songs. The audience was so welcoming that it seemed that I had gone back to my days of yore. It was really touching to see that continents away from their native land, people haven't forgotten us," she says.

Aaina, which won both the 'best film' and 'best director' award from the Bangladesh Cultural Reporters' Association, was released a couple of years back. Is she contemplating making more films?

"I want to make a film based on the novel *Priyo*

by Imdadul Haque Milan. It should be an entertaining movie with a social message. I submitted the plan for the film to the Ministry of Information for a grant but it was turned down. That upset me and made me wonder about the criteria on the basis of which the grant is given. I don't understand why the government is so reluctant to give grants to mainstream films that can earn revenue. With minimal support from FDC, it is almost impossible for people like us to make commercial films without government grant or sponsors," says the annoyed actor-director.

"I didn't want *Aaina* to be labelled as anything other than a commercial film; my target audience were the masses -- the protagonist of the film represents them. My agreement with the Square Group stated that the film would be released at the important movie theatres of the country. But Masranga (the production house) sold the copyright to Impress Telefilm Ltd who, for some incomprehensible reason did not release the film nationwide. They did not even submit the film for the National Film Awards. That was a very frustrating experience," she adds.

But these obstacles could not deter the dedicated Kabori who loves to take on challenges. "I will obviously have to look for a sponsor for my film," she says. She did not sit idle in between either; she was busy shooting for several feature films and also worked for the small screen both as a performer and a producer.

"In the past, I decided not to become a frequent face in films, however I never said goodbye to the industry either. The industry seemed to lack able directors who can bring out the best in an actor. Moreover, there was a rampant trend of vulgarity, violence and plagiarism in films. However, it is impossible for me to stay away from the silver screen. After acting in *Aaina*, I felt this impulse even more strongly. As far as the roles are concerned, I'll try to give my best... why bother about the film when all I want to do is act?" -- says a candid Kabori.

IN FOCUS

A platform for photographers

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Alokchitra Shilpi Sangsad (Ashis) has produced many talented photographers over the last three decades.

Internationally reputed photographer Nayeb Uddin Ahmed and nationally acclaimed Mohammad Nawab Ali, the then chief and assistant photographers of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) respectively took the lead in establishing a training institute for photography. Ashis started its journey on January 29, 1978 and opened its doors to creative and aspiring photographers.

Ashis, situated on Eshan Chakrabarti Road, started a three-month course in photography in 1980. So far Ashis has conducted training courses of its 15th batch rendering training to some 400 young people including 125 students of colleges and

universities.

Eminent photographers of the country like Dr. Nawazesh Ahmed; former Vice Chancellor of BAU, Dr. Shah Mohammed Faruq; Nayeb Uddin Ahmed; Mohammad Nawab Ali; M.A. Beg; Mrinal Sarker; Professor Shahidul Islam and Professor Yusuf Chowdhury of BAU have conducted trainings.

Ashis regularly organises photography exhibitions featuring contemporary and rare collections along with competitions marking various national days such as Victory Day, Independence Day, World Photography Day, International Mother Language Day and *Pahela Baishakh*. Ashis has so far organised 15 photography exhibitions and competitions including three at national level. "Open Photography Exhibition" (in 1978), "Portrait and Nature" (in 1978), "Children of Bangladesh" (in 1979) -- national level programme supported by



Visitors at a photo exhibition organised by Ashis (top). A photo taken during the Liberation War preserved at the Ashis Library.



UNICEF, "Open Photography Exhibition and Competition" (in 1980), "Mother and Children" (in 1982), "Loksangskriti" (in 1985), "Janajiban" (in 1987), "Nature" (in 1987), "Pathkoli" (in 1990), "Rupashi Bangla" (in 1994) and "Muktijuddha" (in 2007) are some of the programmes organised by Ashis.

Ashis also organised a seminar on "To curb drugs and people's participation in cleanliness drive" on July 10 this year. Local municipality rendered all out support in organising

the seminar. Ashis also observed World Photography Day on August 19 this year.

Ashis will start a weeklong course on photography this year. It will also start short courses on digital photography this year, said A.H.M. Motalab, secretary of Ashis. He also said that they would organise elaborate programmes in December this year. The programmes will include a photography exhibition and competition, seminar and debate

workshop on the importance of the medium.

According to sources, M. Shafiq Alam, the then deputy commissioner of Mymensingh arranged two decimals of land for Ashis in 1978. Later all the deputy commissioners posted at Mymensingh were patrons of this institution.

Now Ashis needs more infrastructure developments and training to firm up its activities, Ashis President Mohammad Nawab Ali said.

TV Watch

"Gulshan Avenue" on Banglavisision tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial *Gulshan Avenue* will be aired tonight on Banglavisision at 9:45 pm. Written by Nima Rahman and directed by Syed Awlad, the plot of the serial centres on an affluent family living in a posh neighbourhood.

Ali Reza Chowdhury and Shamsi Begum, the eldest members of the

family, have three sons, Shadat, Sharaifat and Shaikat, only the latter lives with his parents. Shaikat and his wife Yasmin have six children, Shamim, Nasim, Wasim, Farah, Zara and Tara. Tara is lost. The eldest son, Shamim, ignores his wife Farzana and is in search of someone else. Laboni, the stuck-up wife of Nasim, brings unrest to the family. Wasim is married to Samia,

who is from a well-to-do family as well, but Shamsi Begum cannot tolerate her. The serial is full of surprises and moves on with resolving the mysteries.

The cast includes Masud Ali Khan, Sujata, Diti, Tarique Anam Khan, K.S. Feroz, Leenna Ahmed, Rosy Siddiqui, Zahid Hossain Shovon, Apurbo, Himu, Sakiba, Tanjika, Shahriar Shuvo and others.



The cast of *Gulshan Avenue*.

Jaya Bachchan apologises for controversial remark



Jaya Bachchan

Bowing down to pressure, Jaya Bachchan on Tuesday apologised for her remark about speaking in Hindi, which had invited the wrath of both the Shiv Sena and the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena.

"I am very sorry if I have hurt the sentiments of Marathi speaking people in Mumbai and Maharashtra," Jaya said in an interview to *Mumbai Mirror*.

"My remark about choosing to speak in Hindi at the music launch of a Hindi film was said innocently. Why would I go out of my way to malign the city that has given us everything? Don't we belong to this city too? I will not show disrespect to this city till the day of my death," she added.

During the music launch of "Drona", Jaya had said that she would speak in Hindi as she is from Uttar Pradesh. The Shiv Sena and Raj Thackeray-led MNS slammed the comment and said it was an "insult" to Maharashtrian people.

Raj Thackeray had even threatened to disrupt the screening of all Bachchans' films in the state.

Supporters of Raj Thackeray took to the streets on Monday to blacken or tear the posters of Amitabh Bachchan's latest film "The Last Lear", scheduled to be released on September 12.

"I never thought my innocent remarks would create such a negative impact. I am comfortable in Hindi. That's the language I think in. And that's the language I prefer to speak in. But for the information of those who think I meant offence against the Marathi language, let me also say I speak Marathi and I speak it quite well. If I have inadvertently hurt anyone's sentiments, I regret the hurt caused," Bachchan told the Mumbai-based tabloid.

Source: Internet

এমন দিনে। ভবঘুরে। আমরা ক'জন।

আবার এলো ঈদ। চলতে-বলতে, খুরতে-ফিরতে, সকাল থেকে সন্ধ্যা-রাত। থাকতে চাই সবার সাথে। আর তাই বাড়ির সবার জন্য আপেক্ষ বিয়ে এলো ৩০০ টাকা থেকে ৫৫০০ টাকা দামের লম্বা লম্বা জুতো। দেশজুড়ে, আপেক্ষ এর সকল শোকমে। ঈদ আলন্দে। পায়ের পামে। সবার সাথে।



মোডেল: HW-01-291 মূল্য: ১২০০.০০ টাকা
 মোডেল: GO-01-391 মূল্য: ১৩০০.০০ টাকা
 মোডেল: TK-02-191 মূল্য: ১২০০.০০ টাকা
 মোডেল: KE-37-469 মূল্য: ১৩০০.০০ টাকা