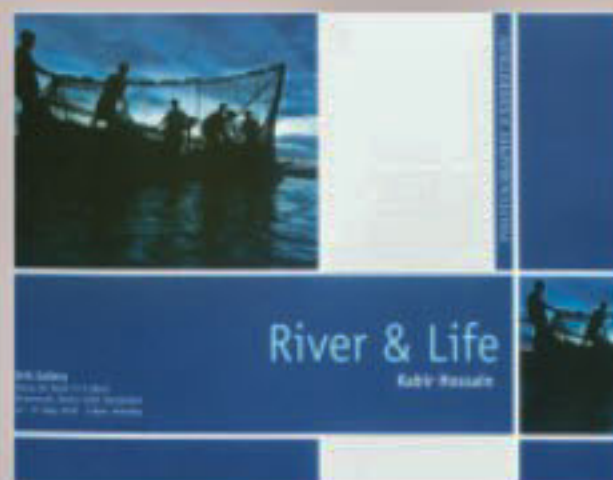


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Photography Exhibition

Title: River and Live
Photographer: Kabir Hossain
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: July 12-17
Time: 3-5pm



Theatre Festival

Organiser: Theatre Art Unit
Venue: National Theatre Hall & Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: July 9-14
Time: 7pm everyday
July 14: "Court Martial" (Theatre Art Unit) & "Ghum Ne" (Mahakal)



Solo Art Exhibition

Painter: Samiran Chowdhury
Title: Connecting with Nature
Venue: Galleri Kaya H-20, R-16, Sector-4, Uttara,
Date: July 2-15
Time: 10am-8pm



Group Art Exhibition

Title: Tone One One Six
Venue: Zainul Gallery 1, Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University
Date: July 8-14
Time: 11am-8pm



Sohel Rana: My heroines



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Sohel Rana's initiation into Bangladeshi filmhood happened as a producer in 1972 through the film "Ora Egarojon." As an actor and director, his debut film was "Masud Rana" (1974). He produced the film as well. To date, he has acted in over 200 films and has been honoured with two National Film Awards. Among other recognitions are Bachshas, Zahir Raihan and Sher-e-Bangla awards and more. The veteran actor speaks about his leading ladies in this instalment of 'My heroines.'

Kabori: The way poetry subtly but indisputably brings out the true beauty of Bangla language, Kabori epitomises Bengali romanticism on screen. She's an actress of superior calibre. We've been paired in quite a few films. Kabori is kind of 'moody' when it comes to punctuality. She'd arrive on the set around noon, even if it was her own production. Kabori didn't have much academic education but through her endeavours proved that she is capable of accomplishing a lot. We still maintain a friendly relationship and I enjoy our conversations. I recall us hanging out and chatting on the beach at Cox's Bazar after shooting. I consider her the best among actresses of our time. Among notable films that I've done with her are "Prem Bandhan" and "Gopon Kotha."

Babita: Babita is another leading actress with whom I've worked in several movies, including "Gunahgar," "Shukh Dukkher Shathi" and "Gherao." She has worked in some films under my direction as well. Babita stands apart from other actresses of her time. I wouldn't call her arrogant or reclusive but she was not as laid back as Kabori. Babita is Babita, incomparable. Having said

that, I recall her being somewhat impulsive.

Rozina: Rozina has this ability to lose herself in a character. Becoming 'Rozina' from Renu, she has come a long way through her determination and hard work. Her sincerity and devotion to her commitments helped her achieve the heights of stardom in our film industry. I respect her for these reasons. I remember casting her in my film "Mintu Amar Naam" and later recasting Babita in that role. I'm aware that Rozina was hurt by that decision. Years later, when I cast her in Parvez Films' production "Bidrohi," she said, "I'm delighted that I'm getting an opportunity to work in your own production."

Shabana: Shabana and I've been cast in several films. If Kabori was the symbol of vivaciousness, Shabana epitomised composure. She became the quintessential icon of the ideal, homely Bengali woman. On the set, she was equally amicable towards everyone. The whole cast and crew would be delighted when they heard that Shabana was doing the film. She threw none of the so-called 'tantrums' stars are typically accused of.

Shabnam: Shabnam and I had only done one film. Shabnam was one of the leading actresses in Pakistan. However, I found her to be quite down to earth when working together. I learnt quite a few things from this seasoned actress. Not everyone can embrace all the people around them; Shabnam has this quality.

Shuchorita: I've worked with Shuchorita in several films. Of them, I can recall "Jibon Nouka" at this moment. Shuchorita doesn't listen to orders or straightforward directions; she has to be coaxed into something. She has this ability to excel in emotional scenes. As a person, she was as real as one can be.



Veteran actress Sultana Zaman's condition deteriorates

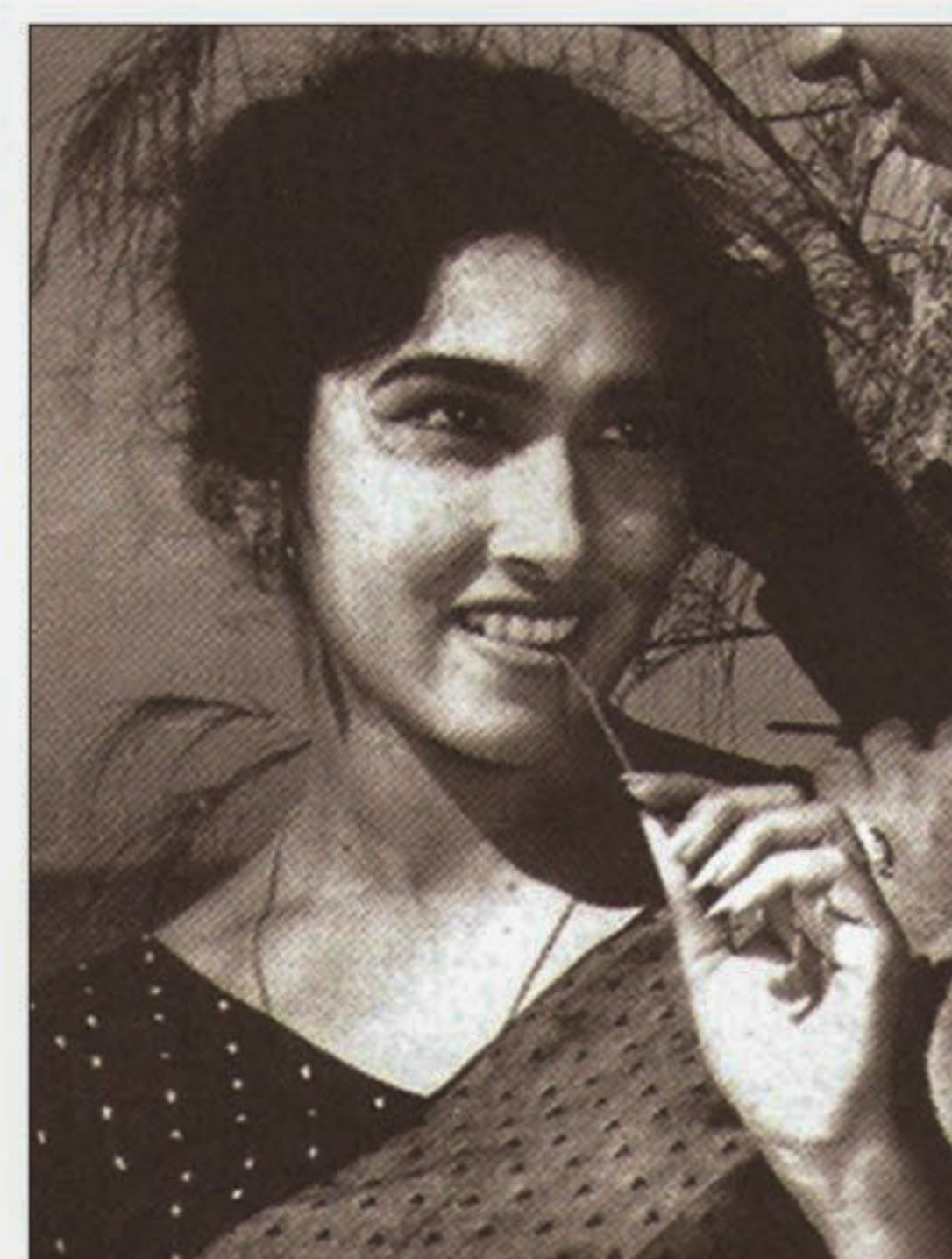
Renowned film actress of yesteryears, Sultana Zaman, was admitted to United Hospital on May 23 for kidney-related ailments. She has undergone dialysis 25 times so far but her condition has not improved. In fact after the last dialysis, her physical condition has worsened, says a press release.

"We don't know what's going to happen. We want everyone to pray for her," said Sultana's Zaman's daughter in law, Munira Zaman.

Except for noted actresses Shabnam and Kabori, no one from the film fraternity has come to visit her or called since she's been admitted to the hospital, a family source said.

Zaman's treatment is being supervised by nephrologist Professor Nurul Islam.

Sultana Zaman was born in Natore. Her debut film "Matir Pahar" was released in 1959. The film was produced by SM Parvez and directed by Mahiuddin. Story, script and dialogues were written by Syed Shamsul Haq. Sultana Zaman received a Chittrakash Award for her role in the film. Among her other memorable films are "Chanda," "Notun Digonto," "Onekin-er Chena," "Jowar Elo," "Janajani," "Shonar Kajol," "Shatrong," "Mala" and "Ujala." She produced "Chhoddobeshi" and "Bhanumoti." Zaman played the titular role in Ehtesham's "Chanda." Her co-artist in that film was Shabnam.



"Guns and security dilute the beauty of Kashmir" -- Bipasha Basu on her latest film

Bipasha Basu seems to have come full circle within the first decade of her film career. The actress started her career with a glamorous role in "Jism," and went on to star in all kinds of films including thrillers ("Race"), action ("Dhoom 2"), comedies ("All The Best," "No Entry") and dramas ("Omkaara").

The actress' latest is serious, deglam role in "Lamhaa," which is directed by acclaimed director Rahul Dholakia. The film also stars Sanjay Dutt and Kunal Kapoor.

In a recent interview Bipasha shared what to expect from "Lamhaa."

What was your first reaction when "Lamhaa" was offered to you?

Bipasha: My first reaction was, are they sure they want me to play a Kashmiri girl? Because I have such a Bengali face! But after speaking to Rahul Dholakia, I was confident that I could do the role.

Tell us about the film.

Bipasha: "Lamhaa" has a strong story. It talks about the sentiments of the Kashmiri locals. It is a film of international standards, on the lines of "Bourne Ultimatum." Not even one frame of "Lamhaa" is typical. The songs are very

good too.

My character Aziza is working for a political party. To get her message across, she even kills people, and engages in hand-to-hand combat. She is a fiery person, fighting for the freedom of Kashmir.

What is your earliest memory of Kashmir?

Bipasha: I went to Kashmir when I was five years old. I have pictures and memories of me in Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Dal Lake.

When I went this time (to shoot for "Lamhaa"), everything still looked the same. Only, now there are too many guns and security. That disturbs and dilutes the beauty of Kashmir.

Did that scare you?

Bipasha: No. But the fact that it's such an unpredictable place makes you nervous.

You have done movies with Aishwarya Rai ("Dhoom 2") and Katrina Kaif ("Race"). But you still manage to make your presence felt. How do you do that?

Bipasha: Tough question (laughs). I don't know. It's just me, I guess. Whatever job I get, I work sincerely -- no mat-

ter how frivolous it might seem to you.

So I like to do it well -- be it "Dhoom 2" or "Race." I have to get into the shoe of the characters. The film industry gives you a chance to be various people. And I enjoy that.

It has been nine years since you joined the film industry.

Bipasha: It doesn't feel like nine years. Everyday is new for me. People are new, there is so much freshness. I really don't feel that I have been here for nine years.

What do you love about being an actress?

Bipasha: Acting is a very fulfilling profession. You get a lot of fame and money. You get a lot of love from strangers all over the world. It gives you the power to speak out and push the causes you support. It gives you a platform.

Today, you say Bipasha is bringing out these health DVDs, does it mean her acting career is getting over? I believe that is a stupid discussion. For me, I have just realised that this is amazing platform so why not benefit people and do things that I am passionate about.

Compiled by Correspondent



Bipasha Basu in a scene from "Lamhaa."

Shammi Kapoor returning to the big screen

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

He is in his late seventies, bound to a wheel chair because of illness but the old spark is still there.

Yes, we are talking of 78-year-old Bollywood star Shammi Kapoor who will be facing the camera after almost a decade with a cameo in "Rockstar" in which his grand nephew Ranbir Kapoor plays a lead role.

The senior Kapoor flew to Delhi for the shoot of the film, to be directed by Imtiaz Ali based on the story of music industry.

However, as he flew to Delhi, the veteran actor said he "is nervous and



excited about the role."

"Doing a cameo in Imtiaz Ali new film

"Rockstar" with Ranbir. Am excited and nervous," said the "Junglee" star in his page on microblogging site Twitter.

It must be said to the credit of Imtiaz Ali that he has managed to persuade ailing Shammi Kapoor, who has to undergo dialysis thrice a week, to appear in a film after such a long hibernation.

"Rockstar" is Imtiaz's next film after the hit "Love Aaj Kal" which was released last year. The director has not yet chosen a female lead for the proposed movie.

Imtiaz said he will be mindful of Shammi Kapoor's frail health and make all arrangements on the shooting locale so that the actor is not inconvenienced.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Theatre Repertory production "Shylock and Sycophants" was staged at the Studio Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, recently. Adapted from a novel written by Shahzad Ferdous, the play is scripted by Hasan Shahriar and directed by Azad Abul Kalam of Prachyanat. The story of the play narrates the effect of capitalism centring on the protagonist Sekandar's ambitions. Azad Abul Kalam, Taufiqul Islam Emon and Reetu A. Sattar of Prachyanat and Dipok Sumon of Aranyak Natyadal perform in the play.