

The Queen of Dhaliwood returns

In conversation with **Shabnur**

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Since her arrival in films in 1993, Shabnur has taken giant strides to cement a niche in the hearts of Bangladeshi movie-goers. The length of her stay at the popularity zenith, in fact, stays uncontested till date. The talented actress received the prestigious National Film Award for her performance, along with 10 Meril Prothom Alo Puroshkar as the best actress. After a year-long break, two new Shabnur movies were released this month, and the actress talked to *The Daily Star* about her latest and past endeavours.

You have been holding the spot of the top movie actress in the country for years. How did you accomplish this?

Shabnur: I am an actress who is completely dedicated to her work. When I stand in front of a camera, there's nothing else in my mind. I must have done some good work that has brought me closer to the audience. And it is up to everyone else to decide whether I'm the most popular.

Have you ever been nervous in front of the camera?

Shabnur: No, I've always been spontaneous in front of the camera. So when shooting begins, I don't feel jittery.

What is your response to the announcement that cinema should be considered an 'industry'?

Shabnur: The Prime Minister made the announcement at the latest National Film Award ceremony. It is a positive news for our cinema. But we would also expect to see the announcement being realised.

As an artiste, do you think that FDC should be modernised?

Shabnur: If FDC is really modernised, then our film industry will turn around. The audience gets blurred pictures and distorted sounds when they go to watch films at cinema halls now. Nobody should pay to watch out-of-focus images. That is why I believe that FDC should be modernised.

Why did it take a year to get two of your latest movies get released?

Shabnur: Truth be told, the long hiatus was my own choice. I was not in the country for eight/nine months.



PHOTO COURTESY: TUHIN HOSSAIN

On my return, I began working on new projects, while I don't have many old projects on hand at the moment. That is why it took me a year to come up with new releases.

How do you view the double release in the same month?

Shabnur: I still don't know if the movies are being released on the same date. But I'm against such a thing, as it hurts business. If a movie suffers losses, the blame also partly falls on the performers.

Tell us about the two new movies.

Shabnur: I star opposite Rashed in "Bhalobasha Saint Martin-e", a movie directed by Shahidul Islam Khokon. It has a unique plot. The other movie is MM Sarker's "Attogopon", an action movie where Zayed Khan plays opposite me.

What is your experience with the rookie actors?

Shabnur: We must welcome the newcomers, or else new blood will never be able to rise on the scene. We were also rookies in the past. If new actors are not created, then the entire film industry will remain stalled. Other newcomers who I have worked with include Nirob, Emon and Zaman. All of them are doing great.

Why are new movies not becoming commercially successful as before? What is your opinion on the frequent closure of cinema halls?

Shabnur: The film industry is passing through a very dark time. But I'm hopeful that the shadow will pass soon. However, new artistes, directors and producers will have to step up their efforts to bring forward the change. Only then will our films make a turnaround.

You are also set to emerge as a film director?

Shabnur: Yes. I'm gearing up to become a director. I had also fixed a name for my debut effort, but will now change the title. But I hope that audience will soon find me as a director.

Outside your work in the movies, you recently opened a school. Tell us more about it.

Shabnur: I set up Sydney International School in Baridhara, Dhaka last year. It's a joint venture by Bangladesh and Australia. I act as an advisor for the school. It began admitting students this January. Apart from local teachers, the school also has several Australian teachers.

You had been living for a while in Australia. Do you plan on becoming a permanent resident there?

Shabnur: My sister lives in Australia, so whenever I get the chance, I visit her and stay for while. This time around, I stayed longer than usual. But I'm not becoming a permanent resident in Australia. If there were any plans, you would know. Australia is a beautiful country, but my country is also beautiful to me.

There are rumours that you got married in Australia. Is there any truth to it?

Shabnur: Not at all. When I get married, I'll have a grand ceremony. After working for so long in the media, how can it be that I will not let anyone know about my wedding?

An evening for artists at the Korean Embassy



Ambassador Taiyoung Cho

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The red lanterns interspersed with blue fairy lights set up the ideal ambiance at the residence of the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Taiyoung Cho, who was hosting a reception in honour of leading artists of Bangladesh on June 3.

Singers, painters, art collectors, law-

makers and other dignitaries attended the function that began with a welcome speech laced with humour by the Korean ambassador. The ambassador briefly narrated his stint in other countries, especially Italy. He recalled how artists were held in highest esteem in a country proud of its unrivaled culture.

Suraiya Begum, secretary in-charge, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, of Bangladesh, spoke about the friendly relations between the two countries. This was followed by a video presentation highlighting the vibrant culture of Korea. A beautiful solo recital by a Korean vocalist was followed by a piano performance. Next, the students of Dhaka International Music School and College, smartly turned up in black, performed Korean and Bangla songs to the warm applause of the guests.

Korea and Bangladesh have enjoyed excellent bilateral relations since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1973. The reception acknowledged that both countries have potentials to provide opportunities for people to enjoy and appreciate the universal world of art and culture.



Artistes perform at the programme.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.



A Tireless Traveller Shahadat Parvez's photo book on Dadu

JAMIL MAHMUD

A whole trend of art zooming in on one person, who is not otherwise "famous", is a rare instance in our culture. Momin Ali Mridha, widely known as "Dadu" (grandfather) -- at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University -- has been the subject of drawings, paintings, photographs and sculptures by the teachers and students of fine arts.

Dadu, who died last year as over hundred-years-old, was the first model of Charukala. Photographer Shahadat Parvez had been snapping portraits of the model for the last eight years.

"I have met many in this city but I have never seen a simple man like Dadu. He used to sing and walk, in a pensive mood" -- Parvez demonstrated his fascination with the elderly model. Dadu used to sell clay jewellery on the sidewalk in front of Charukala and that's where Parvez met him.

A book of photography, titled "The Tireless Traveller from Bangladesh", featuring photos of Dadu -- taken by Parvez -- will be published this afternoon at the Dhaka Art Centre in Dhamondi. The book, published by Oitijjha, features 70 photos taken in the last eight years. Airtel has supported the project.

Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman and artists Mustafa Monwar and Rafiqun Nabi are expected to be present as guests at the book launch.

An exhibition featuring 20 selected photos will go on the wall

as well at the centre -- from today till June 8.

As a young man, Dadu travelled to distant places of India including Dimapur, Kohima, Manipur and Meghalaya. The World War II broke out when he was young.

Mridha becoming "Dadu" has an interesting background. Parvez said that artist SM Sultan used to call him that. But the fact is he has earned this endearing term by virtue of his love for every living being.

"Dadu carried weapons and ammunition during World War II and he lived in Dhaka with his family during the Language Movement," wrote noted author Muhammed Zafar Iqbal in his prologue for the book.

Dadu moved to Dhaka when the Language Movement was at its peak. He worked as a gardener at the bungalow of the then district magistrate Ali Ahmed. That is where he came in touch with Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin who brought Dadu to the Institute of Fine Arts as a model. Since then, he had met many artists.

Parvez, a senior photojournalist at the daily Prothom Alo, took photos of Dadu whenever he could manage time. During their interactions, Dadu shared numerous stories from his life with Parvez. Dadu's ancestral home is at Gharisha, in Shariatpur.

"Dadu always considered Charukala to be his home. He believed in art with the commitment of an insider, and had decided to stay at Charukala till his last breath," says Parvez.



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

ATN BANGLA

11:20 Business and Finance
12:15 Vision 2020
05:15 Obiram Bangladesh
08:00 Drama Serial: Palabar
Poth Nei
11:30 Drama Serial: Cafeteria

03:00 Gaan R Gaan
05:00 Durpath
06:00 123 Sisimpur
06:30 Obak Prithibi
12:30 Total Sports

Maasrange Television

01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
04:20 Amar Chhobi
06:20 Robin Hood
07:50 Shera Nachiye
Banglar Pothey

03:00 Bangla Feature Film
05:30 Amazing Animals
Binodan Sharadin
Drama Serial: Khonikaloy
Modhyrater Train

CHANNEL 1

01:05 Rupamdhuri
04:10 Janar Achhie Bolar
Achhey
06:10 Shubho Shondhya
09:00 Glamour World
11:30 Drama Serial: Terminal

09:15 Bangla Feature Film
06:00 Classic Cartoon
07:00 Shekor Shondhy
Drama Serial: Apon
Apon Khela
11:15 Moner Ronge Rangabo

CHANNEL 9

11:00 Radio Foorti

07:30 Hello Dhaka
Morning Express
No Tension
Dhaka Calling
Knight Riders
RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
05:00 Shondha Tara
07:00 Shaj-er Maya
09:00 Raat-er Akshay
11:00 Galper Shesh Nei

07:00 Tobey Tai Hok

RADIO

abc radio FM 89.2
06:00 Bhorer Janalay
09:00 Mukhori Jiboney
12:00 Duran Dupurey
03:00 Duranto Bilekey
05:00 Shondha Tara
07:00 Shaj-er Maya
09:00 Raat-er Akshay
11:00 Galper Shesh Nei

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Harire Gechhe Khuje Pabona

On Rtv at 07:30pm
Memorial
Programme on
Azam Khan
Guest: Ayub
Bachchu, Asif Akbar



Modhyrater Train

On Maasrange
Television at
11:00pm
Thriller Story
Host: Mridul Ahmed



ETV

11:30 Ekushey-er Business
04:30 Gaaner Opare
05:30 Binodener Bishwa
07:50 Music Station
10:10 Golpo Shalpo Gaan

09:30 Drama Serial: Jadur
Shahar
Drama Serial: Ekaki
Ganchil
Talk Show

Boishakhi TV

10:40 The Business Show
05:30 Shudhu Cinemar Gaan
08:00 Drama Serial: Istikutum
08:35 Dollywood Korcha
11:00 Reporters Dairy

03:05 Attack Force
04:40 The Full Monty
07:00 Anger Management
08:45 Homeland
09:45 Once Upon A Time
10:35 Rio

Fox Movies

10:40 The Business Show
05:30 Shudhu Cinemar Gaan
08:00 Drama Serial: Istikutum
08:35 Dollywood Korcha
11:00 Reporters Dairy

03:05 Attack Force
04:40 The Full Monty
07:00 Anger Management
08:45 Homeland
09:45 Once Upon A Time
10:35 Rio

BANGLAVISION

01:05 Bangla Feature Film
06:05 Sports Time
06:30 Shoudorjana Kotha
09:05 Nacho Bangladesh
11:25 Raat Biratey

11:10 Old School
02:55 Final Destination
04:55 Frozen
06:55 Valentine's Day
09:30 No Strings Attached
11:35 Honey 2

Rtv

12:35 Bangla Feature Film
05:00 Cinema R Gaan
08:15 Drama Serial: Parsho
Protikria
09:50 Look at Me
12:05 Business Talk

04:30 The Big Bang Theory
08:00 How I Met Your Mother
09:30 Jr Master Chef
10:30 Castle
11:30 Two and a Half Men

Desh TV

12:35 Bangla Feature Film
05:00 Cinema R Gaan
08:15 Drama Serial: Parsho
Protikria
09:50 Look at Me
12:05 Business Talk

11:10 Old School
02:55 Final Destination
04:55 Frozen
06:55 Valentine's Day
09:30 No Strings Attached
11:35 Honey 2

Star World

04:30 The Big Bang Theory
08:00 How I Met Your Mother
09:30 Jr Master Chef
10:30 Castle
11:30 Two and a Half Men

Drama Serial

08:40pm Rupantarer Manush
09:20pm Poush Phaguner Pala
Rtv
09:35pm Longkakando
08:15pm Dewal
09:45pm Ochena Protibimba
Boishakhi TV

08:40pm Ognipath
BANGLAVISION
08:15pm Bokulpurer Jatri
Rtv
09:05pm Boyra Paribar
Ural Pangkhi
Desh TV
11:30pm Radio Chocolate