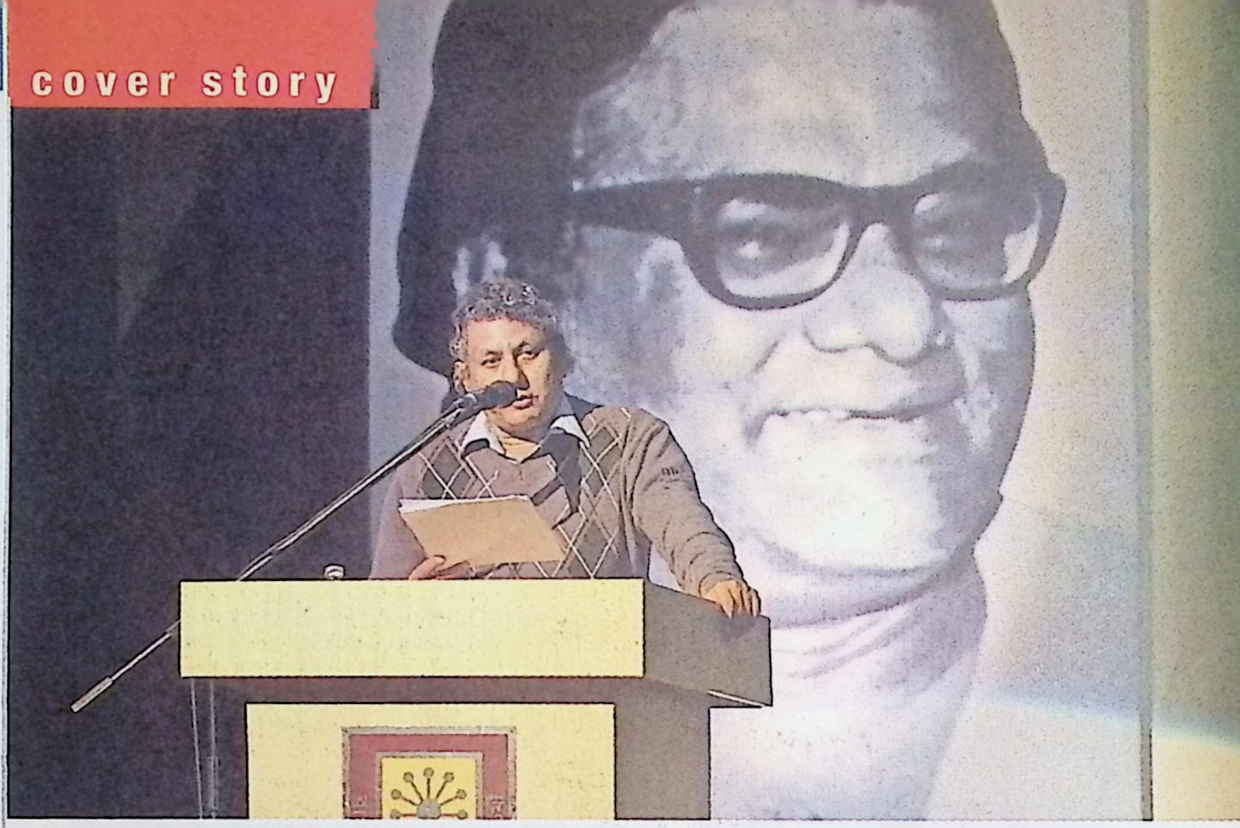


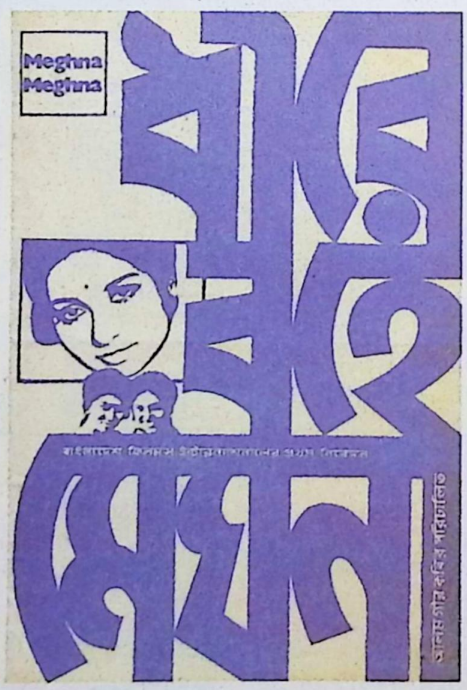
Tanvir Mokammel termed him as an auteur filmmaker.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

over a movie are so great that they are regarded as the author of the movie. According to him, "Though the subject matter and backdrop of Alamgir Kabir's six feature films and a dozen short films depict diversity, there is a common criterion of all his films; Alamgir Kabir was an auteur filmmaker. He was not only a director but also a script and dialogue writer and cinematographer."

Alamgir Kabir tried to make commercially viable, good quality films. Commercial film is a market sensitive sector and caters to an audience which is solely interested in entertainment. Kabir believed that such mainstream films would naturally be made but other types of films should flourish as well. However, his approach to film was different from his contemporaries. He incorporated animation, using negative films in a film roll, for the first time in Bangladeshi cinema.

Kabir translated his experiences as a communist activist onto the celluloid. In his acclaimed film, 'Shimana Periye', he tried to bring together two people from two different classes. The film was a kind of experiment, to see what would happen if two people from two different classes were stranded in an isolated island. Kabir tried to contrive a third meaning through creating affection and love between a modern bourgeoisie girl Tina and a poor peasant Kalu in the film. Here, the narrative might be fiction, but according to Freudian psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan, this theme has a connection with truth. Subconsciously, says Jacque, people with lower social standing fantasise about mingling with people from the elite class.



Alamgir Kabir tried to make commercially viable, good quality films.

PHOTO COURTESY: MIR SHAMSUL ALAM

The same sort of fiction appeared on the screen with another one of his films, 'Surjo Kanya'. Some critics embraced the movie, as it allowed a feminist voice to surface from the subjugated class. However, in the film the revolutionary female character appeared on the screen as a dream of the male protagonist, Lenin. The film didn't