

FAHMIM FERDOUS

**My father vs the actor:**

As a child I was amazed by my father's ability to juggle two careers — acting and civil engineering. Abbu (Abul Hayat) would take me to his workplaces; engineering sites, rehearsal rooms, recordings and shootings. Since childhood, I took great pride that my father was unlike my friends' fathers. My reading habit started from his library, and my artistic self developed under his guidance. It is because of him that I was drawn to acting.

When we work, it's never in our minds that we are father-daughter. We've played roles of conflicted father-in-law and daughter-in-law; on stage when we did "Dewan Gazi'r Kissa", we played brother and sister, I would address him as "Makhon bhai". When we worked, we both wanted to stay true to our characters and give the output that the director wanted.

**Best thing about abbu:**

My father was supportive of my desire to study art, but my mother wanted me to study

architecture. In those days, art was not considered a viable career path. Abbu persuaded Ma about it, and I am very grateful to him. However, I cannot separate my mother and my father's contributions to my life; they have such good understanding, and have always taken decisions together about me and my sister. We have seen a beautiful example of male-female coexistence and equality. I have never seen my father undermine any woman.

My parents raised me and my sister as human beings, and not just as daughters. They showed us the right path, but our priorities were always valued. For instance, Abbu never asked me to start acting, but he never had a problem with it either.

Deep down, my father is a very idealistic person; he looks at life from a very clear perspective.

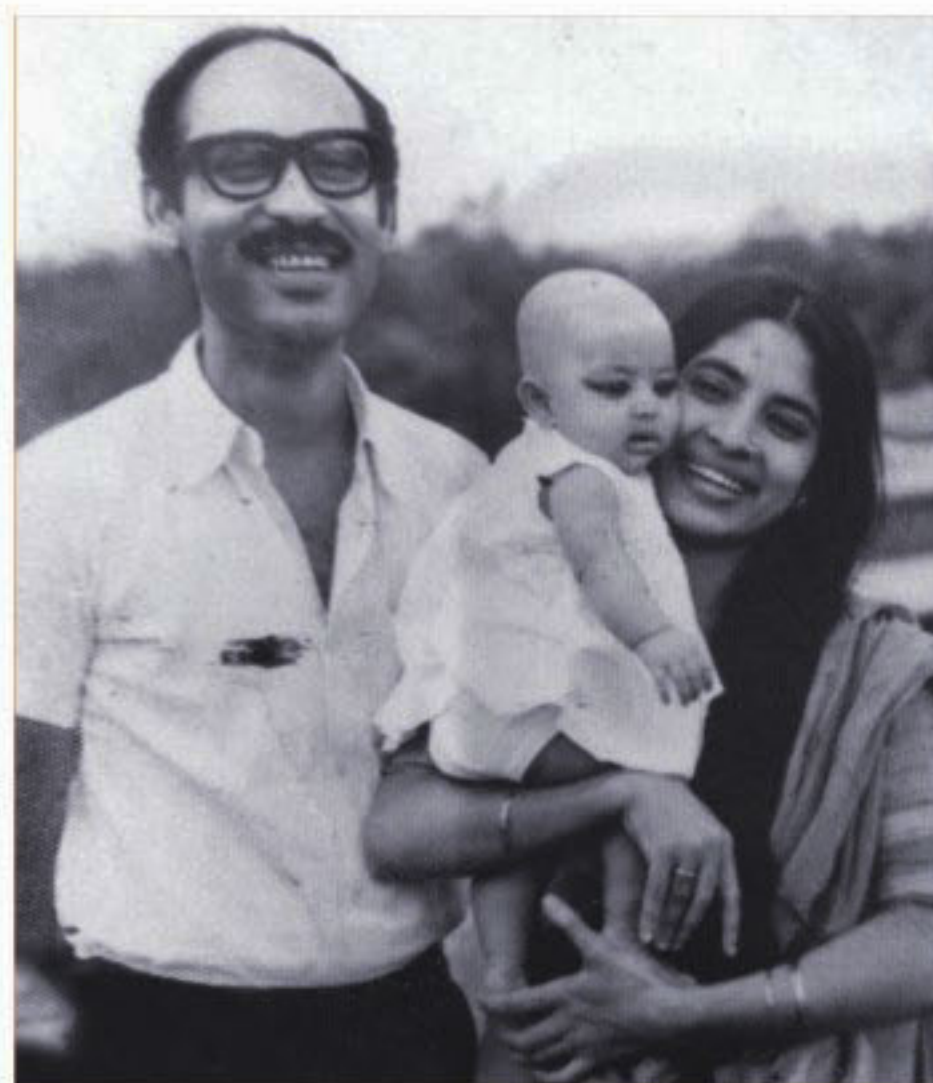
**Down memory lane:**

When I was seven, my father moved to Libya for work, and we lived there for three years. There were ruins of ancient Roman civilisation there. I am obsessed with archaeology,

**FATHER'S DAY**

# "Abbu is a very idealistic person"

-- Bipasha Hayat



Little Bipasha with parents; the two share a close bond even today (top).

and all credit for that goes to Abbu. I strongly believe that such exposure has made me the person I am today.

## "Baba Tomake" on Rtv

A CORRESPONDENT

Marking Father's Day, special single episode television play "Baba Tomake" will air on Rtv tonight at 7:40pm. Based on the story sent by an audience named Ariful Haque Munna, the play has been directed by Sumon Anwar.

The story encircles a physically challenged girl whose father unexpectedly arranges her marriage. Tisha plays the lead role in the play along with Rowan Hasan and Lutfar Rahman George.



## Sufia Kamal's birth anniversary observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate the 104th birth anniversary of Poet Sufia Kamal, cultural organisation Chhayanaut held a discussion with a musical programme at Ramesh Chandra Datta Smriti Milonkendra yesterday morning.

Chhayanaut artistes set off the event with a choral song "Hey Chiro Nuton" while eminent

cultural personality Mafidul Haque delivered the welcome address. Noted singers -- Laisa Ahmed Lisa, Iffat Ara Dewan, Chandana Majumdar, Suman Majumdar and Abul Kalam Azad rendered solo songs. Abdus Sabur Khan and Camellia recited at the programme.

Born on June 20, 1911, poet Sufia Kamal was also the founding president of Chhayanaut.

**RAMADAN CHRONICLES**

## "It always feels good to fast together with family" ... Shahed Ali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shahed Ali began his acting career as a theatre activist and it did not take him long to prove his talents as an adept televising and film actor. Despite his busy shooting schedules, he manages time to observe his fasting as well. The actor talked to this correspondent about his Ramadan memories, favourite Iftar items and more.

**When did you start fasting?**

**Shahed Ali:** As far as I can remember, I started fasting from the age of seven or eight. My grandmother inspired me to start fasting and then she used to guide me. And it always feels good to fast together with my family.

**How was the first day of Ramadan?**

**Shahed Ali:** This year, I spend the day on the set of a drama serial along with my family. My wife, my son and I were busy the whole day shooting a family drama, but it was a good day since I was surrounded by my close ones on the set.

**What are your favourite items on Iftar menu?**

**Shahed Ali:** My favourite Iftar items are juice, halim and fruits. I try to avoid anything deep-fried save for beguni. During sehri, I mostly prefer rice and a glass of milk. When I was a child my favourite sehri item was rice mixed with sugar, banana and milk.

**Any Iftar memory that comes to your mind?**

**Shahed Ali:** As a teen I went to buy halim in Old Dhaka with our housemaid and I lost her in the crowd. After failing to locate her I came back home frightened and after some times, our housemaid entered the house crying. I was relieved after seeing her.

**How busy are you ahead of Eid?**

**Shahed Ali:** I have more than half dozen plays on my hand. Of them, I have finished shooting four, and will work on a few more.

**Your shopping plan?**

**Shahed Ali:** I usually shop in Dhaka along with my wife and children. But this year I did some shopping from India.

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