

SKETCH: YAFIZ SIDDIQUI

MAD GENIUS

LOUIS ISADORE KAHN

March 5 1901 – March 17, 1974

Louis Isadore Kahn, popularly known as Louis I Kahn is an American architect who was considered by some as "America's foremost living architect." His meticulously built works, his provocative proposals that remained unbuilt, and his teaching and service as a design critic undoubtedly made him one of the most influential architects of the twentieth century. To Bangladeshis, he is best known for his architectural masterpiece, Bangladesh National Parliament, one of the must-sees of Bangladesh. From 1957 until his death, he remained a professor of architecture at the School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania. Kahn's buildings followed a style that was monumental and monolithic; his heavy buildings for the most part do not hide their weight, their materials, or the way they are assembled. Throughout his illustrious career, he achieved a number of awards- AIA Gold Medal and the RIBA Gold Medal are the most significant ones.

thestarmagazine@gmail.com

THE INDIFFERENT CROWD

Today I was crossing GEC circle, and saw a child being abused and tied up in public near Well Food Centre, a popular restaurant in Chittagong. I saw and heard from the crowd that this girl (around 7 years old or less) was tied up for more than 40 minutes in public. Seeing the girl, anyone could tell she was from a very under privileged background. As I found everyone ignoring her and not doing anything to "save" her, I quickly parked my car, untied this girl and rescued her with another gentleman. Then I shouted at the crowd for not reacting to injustice. It is because of our silence such injustice and wrong is done in our society. I could not help but tell them that they are the reasons why this country is in such an awful state. I would say that the best moment was when I hugged this baby girl and she cried on my shoulders. The best feeling was when she saw that someone was there for her.

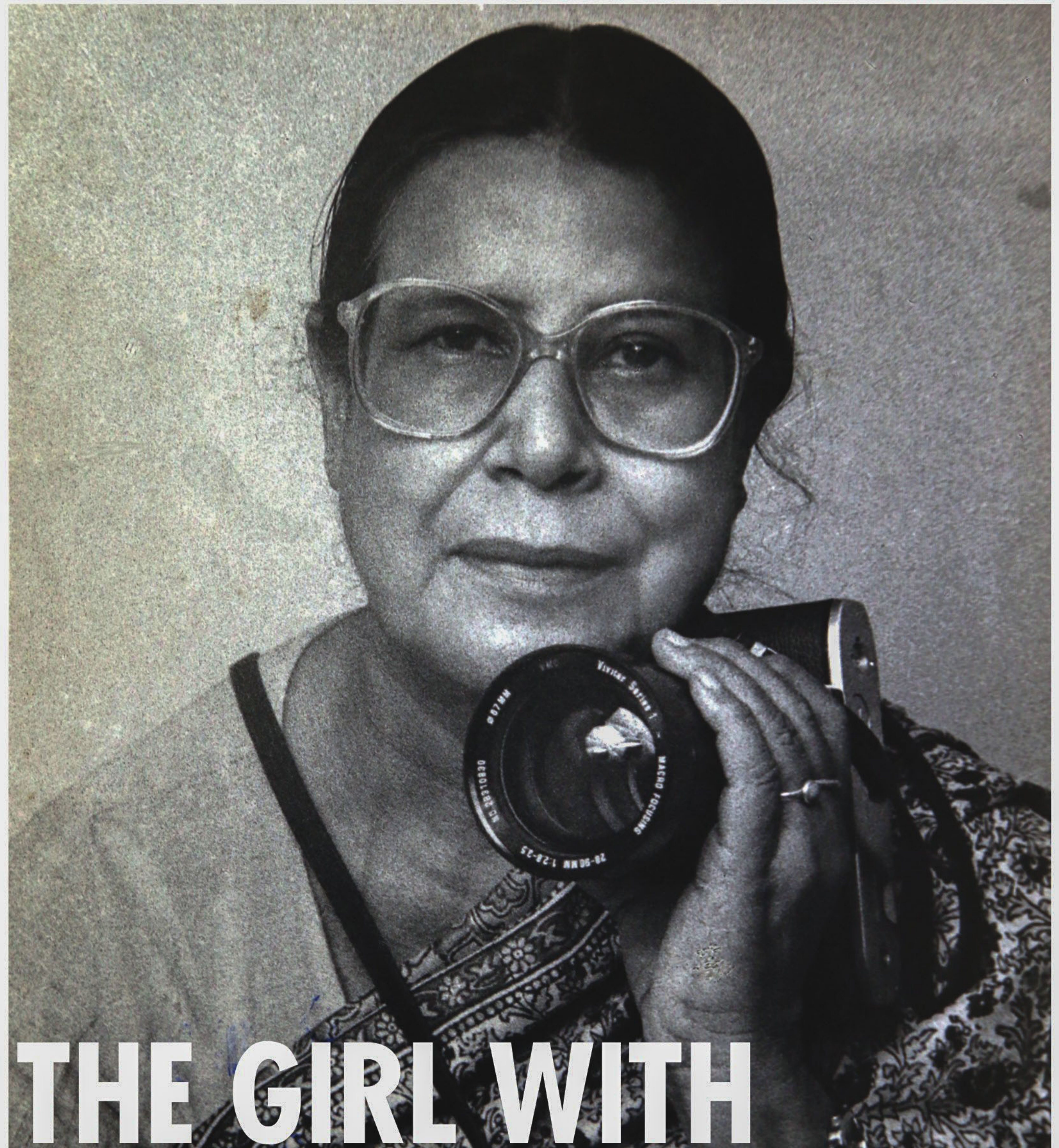
Akib Kamal
Chittagong



WEIRD OBSESSION

Why are we so obsessed with white skinned foreign models? A young man has set up a barbershop in my locality a few days back. The shop has flashy signboards and is covered with pictures of white-skinned, red and blonde haired foreign models, actors and football players that indicate the imprints of colonisation have not disappeared completely. The other day while coming back from the office I made an impromptu decision to walk in as I am not particular about my haircut and too many questions always bother me. I always prefer saying short or medium and leave the rest on them. But this time, I was offered an elaborate catalogue, again filled with photos. The staff members were very warm and nice, but they did not bother to find me a haircut that suits my face shape, my preference or comfort. All they were worried about was which high profile western celebrity I wanted to look like. While I looked around as I sat on my chair, I had many thoughts coming in my mind. I could see more posters all around me, which was not even very aesthetically pleasing. I understand that international celebrities do encourage this industry and everyone wants to be trendy. But why can't we think beyond that? Why can't we stop this absurd obsession over looking like white skinned foreign models and become rational?

Arif Tanveer
Nikunja, Dhaka



THE GIRL WITH A ROLLEICORD

FAYEKA ZABEEN SIDDIQUA

Imagine women entering the field of photography that has been historically dominated by men. That too during a time when women were confined to certain socially constructed roles.

Continued to next page

PHOTOS: COURTESY