



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

DECODING AYNABAJI

Back in the day, when the grass was greener and the movie theatres used to be vibrant with an array of citizens from the different walks of life, cinema played a rather vital role as a means of entertainment for the entire family. It was the era that gave us classics like "Roopban", "Jibon Thekey Neya", "Beder Meye Josna" and many more. It used to be a part of our culture to go with family and friends and submerge ourselves in such works of art. But somehow down the line, in the midst of the race towards modernity, we have lost that essence of film making and viewing. Not to say that good movies were/are not being made, but that the trend itself seemed to have lost its magic; a piece of the puzzle was always absent.

Just when it seemed overdue, lo and behold, "Aynabaji" hit the box offices and history was made. Not only did Amitabh Reza and his team went against all odds of the template-like formula for successful films in Bangladesh, but they defied the convention and ended up with an instant blockbuster hit. "Aynabaji" is a treat to our senses. Using state-of-the-art technology, it was able to nurture the essence of the age old Dhaka that many of us seemed to have forgotten. Amitabh Reza's capability to bring out the best from the actors, who themselves were unaware of their brilliant potential, along with the sense of humour, played an eccentric role behind the success. Jeopardy was at stake, as Nabila, the lead actress is a new-comer in the industry and "Aynabaji" did not have any "item song"

either, which seems to be a must in commercial films today. Nonetheless, the team took a daring leap, and are now reaping the rewards. The Showbiz team decided to sit with the team of "Aynabaji" to learn how they found that last piece of the missing puzzle. **"Aynabaji" has created a trend in Bengali cinema and even after a few weeks into its release it remains the talk of the town. We would like to know your thoughts on it.**

Adil: It was a challenge and truly a big achievement. We had planned everything in details prior to the production and thankfully it paid off. It was a hit from the first day onwards. We did not get to screen it in as many halls in the starting, but later on, we got more theatres.

Shaon: The problem in Bangla cinema is the lack of ability in storytelling, in which I believe Amitabh Reza has done a fantastic job. And that is the reason why many are flocking to the theatres, many of them for the second or third time as well. **Now that you have set a milestone in Bengali cinema, how much longer does the audience need to wait for something of a similar calibre?**

Shaon: We as producers should not take this success for granted. Instead, what we need to do is keep the trend for good cinema alive and strive to produce better films. Even though it is a business, in which the content is of great importance. Given the current situation in the lives of the teenagers of our country, it could provide for a good subject to base a film upon.

Has "Aynabaji" been able to bring back the younger generation in to the theatres?

Shaon: If "Aynabaji" was not able to achieve what it has so far, I believe we would be indebted to the younger generation. It was a must on our behalf. It will also serve as an inspiration for various young people and also teach those who are intrigued by film making, the many aspects of it. A lot was at stake while making this film, so we had to play it right; we simply could not afford to put any one down. **Partho and Nabila, did you even realize during the shoot that "Aynabaji" would be such a success? What are your thoughts to continue acting?**

Partho: I had a firm belief from the beginning that this would have an outstanding