

A WALK DOWN THE MEMORY LANE



PHOTO: COLLECTED

'I have dedicated most of my life to music'

Eminent singer Ferdausi Rahman has been a household name for decades. She has voiced some of the greatest Bangladeshi songs.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Her contribution to Bangladeshi playback singing is irrefutable. Her first playback song was in the film "Aseeya", back in the 1960s.

Being the daughter of legendary folk singer Abbasuddin Ahmed, she is also praised as the 'Shilpiri Shilpi' for her proficiency in folk music, Nazrul Sangeet, Rabindra Sangeet and modern music, besides playback singing.

The acclaimed artiste has been honoured with numerous accolades, including the Ekushey Padak and Independence Award, among many others.

"I have dedicated most of my life to music," says the renowned singer. "As far as I remember, the film where I did my first playback song was never released."

"I did that song at Chhotro Studio of BG Press," says the artiste. "My song for 'Aseeya' was also done in the same studio. The film was quite popular in Bangladesh and Pakistan back then."

The musical icon shared some of her moments with her father, Abbasuddin Ahmed, as well.

Many years back, Abbasuddin Ahmed brought his family from Kolkata to Dhaka, near Islampur. Their house was in the Victoria Park area.

"I just started singing on the radio at that time," shares Ferdausi Rahman. "I still remember I got BDT 10 for the performance."

"Abba told me to save all my earnings from radio singing and I followed his advice," she says. "One day, he gave me BDT 10 and told me to spend it however I like. So, I took my brother and roamed around Islampur, but we didn't get anything."

"Abba was really surprised when we returned empty-handed, and gave him back the money," she adds.

During her college years, the artiste's family shifted to Paltan.

"Rickshaws and horse carts were the main travelling means back then, buses were still not that prominent," she shares. "I used to go to college on a rickshaw every day. I had the same rickshaw puller drop me off and pick me up." The singer was a meritorious student in college.

"Travelling in rickshaws is one of my sweetest memories. But the sound and rhythm of a horse's feet running always invokes a different feeling in me," she adds.

"Abba once said we could buy a car, but he wanted us to experience life, observe the world and learn to work hard," she shares. "Abba's words from back then have been my life mantra."

"Oki Gariyal Bhai' is among my most favourite songs," says the artiste. "It was Abba's song, and I have been singing it for years now. I feel as though I can smell the lands of Bangladesh in this song."

Television first came to Bangladesh in 1964. Ferdausi Rahman was the first artiste to sing on television, as it was inaugurated. She received BDT 200 for her performance.

The renowned artiste has also made a name for herself globally.

"I once travelled to China for an event with a team of 50 people," she says. "We started with a Bangla song, and performed two Chinese songs. The crowd showered us with claps, even the Chinese President congratulated us at the event," she added.

For Ferdausi Rahman, the appreciation she receives in her own country is way more valuable than any international accomplishments.

"I am infinitely grateful to the Almighty for all that I have achieved in my life," she concludes.

Translated by Akhlakur Rahman

Does Ayesha sacrifice her dreams in 'Boli'?

Safa Kabir talks about transformation into challenging role

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Sweet, simple and courageous Ayesha has only one thing in mind, and that is to escape her birthplace, Chheradia Dwip. Amidst all the tension and chaos, the beautiful Ayesha comes as breathe of relief. While she tries to remain calm amidst the storm, circumstances transforms her into a rebellion as she embarks in an epic feud of power verses corruption.

Prominent actress Safa Kabir portrays the resilient 'Ayesha' in Shankha Dasgupta's debut web-series "Boli", which was released on Hoichoi yesterday. The bona fide beauty has an array of successful ventures to her credit, including a number of tele-fictions.

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, the "Password" actress opens up about her character Ayesha, chemistry with Shohel Rana, among others.



Safa Kabir in 'Boli'.

"This is my first time working with Hoichoi and Shankha Dasgupta. Shankha is a wonderful director and a fantastic photographer. I have never shot for anything for such a long period of time. I was shooting outside for about 25 days, among which 19 days were in Kuakata," mentions the actress.

Safa Kabir opened up about her shooting experiences in the secluded land of Kuakata.

"Before shooting, we had to observe the location carefully, and look like its residents. The shooting took place at a remote area of Kuakata and there is no mode of communication, except for bikes. Unfortunately, bikes don't work on mud. All of us had to walk amid muddy areas in the jungle. I also saw a unique kind of fish there called 'Mudskippers' which can stay outside of water," adds Safa Kabir.

The popular actress also talked about

her character growth Ayesha in the web-series.

"It's a thriller web-series, which means it's full of violence and tension between two powerful groups. Here Ayesha comes as breathing space for audiences as they get to feel calm watching her. However in the second half of the series, her character transforms completely," mentions Safa Kabir.

The trailer also showcases that Ayesha truly wants to leave Chheradia Dwip.

"Ayesha's goal was to leave Chheradia Dwip as she thought that she had no existence here. She thinks she belongs somewhere," adds the actress.

Safa Kabir also shared that she had a wonderful time acting with her co-actress Shohel Rana.

"This is my first work with him. I have watched his work in 'Taqdeer' and he acted great in that. He is a very serious actor and a really co-operative one. Audiences will be able to judge our chemistry better when they watch us together on-screen," adds the actress.

The actress is currently awaiting the release of "Kuhulika", a web film on Zee 5. She is also shooting for Valentine's Day tele-fictions.



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

Sandra Bullock wishes she matched her kids' skin colour

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Sandra Bullock opened about her experience of parenting two African-American children in an episode of Red Table Talk with Willow Smith, Jada Pinkett Smith and her mother, Adrienne Banfield-Norris. The noted Hollywood actress admitted that she sometimes wishes she and her kids had the same skin colour.

Bullock announced in 2010 that she adopted Louis when he was 3½ months old and she is also mom to daughter Laila, 8, whom she welcomed via adoption in 2015.



"To say that I wish our skins matched, sometimes I do. Because then it would be easier on how people approach us,"

Bullock explained. She also said that she has the same feelings as a woman with brown skin being with her brown babies or a white woman being with her white babies.

Bullock - who has long been open about how she handles the topic of race with her children - has previously been praised for her raw and

honest approach, along with her decision to educate them on the subject from a young age.

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas melt hearts with 3rd anniversary celebrations



PHOTO: FROM PRIYANKA CHOPRA'S INSTAGRAM

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Shutting down rumours of divorce that were circulating on the internet, Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas celebrated their third wedding anniversary in London on December 1.

The dreamy outing was all lit up romantic by candlelight setting. Priyanka posted a photo of the dinner set-up with the caption, "Found you, married you, keeping

you."

Priyanka, in an interview with *Instyle Magazine*, revealed that Nick Jonas often flies down to her location just to have dinner with her, when she is away for work. "You know, you just have to prioritise each other, and then everything feels right," she said.

The duo met at the grand fashion event Met Gala 2017, and got married in 2018 at the Umaid Bhawan Palace.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Gems of Nazrul's 'Chiro Bidrohi Bir' in the works

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Celebrating the golden jubilee of our independence and a hundred years of the poem "Bidrohi", penned by our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Gems of Nazrul is set to release their 20th production, "Chiro Bidrohi Bir", on Victory Day.

The year 2021 and December 16th in particular will mark a historic one-of-a-kind date for Bangladesh. It will represent 3 inter-connected events that shaped the identity of modern Bangladesh - the

birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence, and the 100th anniversary of publication of Nazrul Islam's iconic "Bidrohi", the poem that lit the flames of Bengali renaissance.

"This year is indeed a milestone for us as a nation," shares Sadya Afsan Mollack. "The celebrations would be grand and so will be our effort."

Fifty prominent and promising artistes from Bangladesh will participate in this production. The performers include

musicians, dancers, and elocutionists.

Conceptualised and directed by eminent Nazrul singer and the founder of Gems of Nazrul Sadya Afsan Mollack, the music video has been shot at the premises of East West University. Acclaimed Manipuri dancer Warda Rihab is the choreographer of the production that is directed by Rommo Khan. The production will feature the songs "Tolomolo Tolomolo Podobhorey" and "Aji Rokto Nishi Bhore", alongside the recitation of the iconic poem "Bidrohi"