

FOR an agro-based country like Bangladesh having a weak resource base and peculiar socio-cultural and geo-physical features, credit continues to be an essential input for agricultural development.

Financing Agriculture Through Credit

Reviewed by Syed Naquib Muslim

Agricultural Credit in Bangladesh. A. M. M. Shawkat Ali, Bangladesh. Centre of Development Research 1990. Pages. 104.

thematic coherence is also maintained.

The first chapter traces the historical development of the legislative and legal system meant for local agriculturists seeking loans.

fact, the best part of the book. A professional researcher, Dr. Ali draws here a few conclusions basing on his study and experience.

99) Dr. Ali deserves thanks for raising the issues of macro level credit needs determination, lender-clientele linkage and prevalence of 'our money' concept in public agencies.

The book is at once an evaluative and an explorative study on the institutional credit system operating in our agricultural sector.

This time the cover-design, colour-combination, quality of printing and paper are much better than those in earlier books produced by Dr. Ali.

BOOK REVIEW

how the cooperative Agricultural Credit Societies, cooperative banks and other official agricultural loan-giving agencies evolved.

politics in credit management. Dr. Ali reflects his sharp critical insight by unfolding the critical factors that influence politicisation of the agricultural credit delivery system in Bangladesh.

Cliches like it is important to note, 'it is needless to say' could better be avoided or dropped in the next edition.

Through the present book, Dr. A. M. M. Shawkat Ali, a brilliant development administrator practitioner of the country, provides historical background of the agricultural credit system as it evolved since 1883 and diagnoses the strengths and weaknesses of existing credit disbursement and recovery procedures in Bangladesh.

One of the unique features of the author's style is that initial paragraph of each chapter epitomises what is/are already discussed in the foregoing chapters.

Chapter V and VI are in

The theatre invites the audience to participate in the action, to forget about their daily concerns and think about eternal questions, rather than just watching a sad, funny or tragic story.

'On the Boards' Drama Studio

entl because any of our actions is based on thought—sometimes clear and well formulated, and at other times spontaneous and subconscious.

the essence of its dramatic aesthetics. Plays are performed on the bare boards of the stage so that nothing diverts the audience's attention from the performance.

THOSE who go to see a performance by the Moscow drama studio 'On the Boards' for the first time are in for a great surprise.

In the mid-1970s producer Sergei Kurginyan, Candidate of

of those dramatic and psycho-

Today its repertory includes 'Mel' based on Fyodor Dostoyevsky's works, Alexander Pushkin's 'Boris Godunov', 'The Shore' by Yuri Bondarve, Vasily Belov's 'Upbringing According to Dr. Spock', 'Exercises' based on

Now the drama studio is going through an important development stage. An experimental creative centre with the participation of humanitarians, sociologists and a number of research and production firms have been created.

The theatre's name conveys works by Pushkin, Dostoyevsky and Anton Chekhov, and other performances.



Actress Vera Sorokina in the play 'Exercises', staged by On the Boards.

Physics and Mathematics, decided to create his own theatre. At the beginning, it was a close group of like-minded people carried away by a common idea but unable to implement it within the framework of the official theatre culture.

analytical experiments was to help people study themselves and awaken their desire for self-improvement.

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'Inner Strength'

His life in Europe and Pakistan is carefully touched upon, while the film focuses on how he re-enters the art world with the mid-seventies glorifying the Bengali peasantry.

What is surely marvellous about the film are the old films from Sultan's youth, which few in Dhaka have seen.

The film includes excerpts from interviews with the artist. This gives an insight into the artist's philosophy. Sultan says, 'People are the subjects of my paintings. I can't help but feel for them—for their day to day concerns. The foreign aid that is flooding our country in the name of the farmers, never reach the farmers.'



The Painter of Peasantry

From preceding page unseasonable allusions, or topics which may irritate, he is seldom prominent in conversation, and never wearisome.

Sultan was never concerned about his material belongings. He worked continuously but never had the urge to sell. As he lived in many places, he has left behind a trail of his art works like lost footsteps in the sand.



THE SPECTATORS: Excitement run high among a group of street children watching a mock wrestling bout (not shown in the picture) participated by a couple of their friends, at Ramna Park.

literature on Grameen Bank." The book is decidedly an authentic document of the agricultural credit system of Bangladesh.

agricultural financing will definitely find the book informative, interesting and useful.

the experiences of the defunct and existing agricultural financing agencies, their promises and performances, their opportunities and threats.

for making best use of his work experience by producing this book which is a valuable addition to the existing literature on agricultural development at home or abroad.

VIDEO SCENE

S. M. Mamoon

The video market which suffered a slight slump in its business after the devastating cyclone which swept the coastal belt of the country is now coming back to its normal line of business.

As usual the Hindi movies continue to dominate the top charts. But most of the Hindi movies are commercially bagged with multiple stars in the cast.

venge as the theme. Afsana Pyar Ka and Aaye Milan Ki Raat are romantically based story.

There were quite a number of release of new English movies. The Oscar winners, Kevin Costner's 'Dances with Wolves', Jeremy Iron's 'Reversal

of Fortune, and Katy, Bates' Misery are still available in market.

Hindi Top Chart

- Yeh Aag Kab Bhujheg: Rekha, Kabir Bedi, Sunil Dutt, Afsana Pyar Ka : Amir Khan, Neelam, Ajooba : Amitabh, Rishi Kapoor, Dimple, Sonam, Karz Chukana Hai : Govinda, Juhi Chawla, Benam Badshah : Anil Kapoor, Juhu Chawla, Aaye Milan Ki Raat : Shaheen, Aumnaash, A.Kher, Shikari : Mithun, Naseeruddin Shah Varsha, Natasha, Viki Daada : Naagarjuna, Juhu Chawla, Do Matwala : Sanjay Dutt, Chanakya Parney, Sonam, Ekta, Khatra : Sumit Saigal, Ekta, Memories of Nutun : Mus-

English Top Chart

- The Cook the Thief his lover and her wife (romance) The Fifth Monkey (adventure) Ben Kingsley Stokade (thriller) Charlie Sheen The Grifters (thriller) John Cassack Most Wanted (thriller) Tom Selleck The Little Kidnappers (action) Charlton Heston The Forth Story (thriller) Mark Harmon, Mimi Rogers Almost An Angel (comedy) Paul Hogan Sources : Filmfair, Dhanmondi ; Sicily Video, Mohammedpur;

WRITE TO MITA

Dear Mita,

I like the way you advise people it's really effective. So, here I am asking you for some advice as it's been long since this problem is bothering me.

Chinu, Dhaka.

Dear Chinu,

Some men think it is an act of betrayal to address anyone else in the same way as they do their own parents.

Dear Mita,

I am a married young man of 30. We married seven years back. We have a pretty daughter of four years.

Md. Lokman Khan, Hazaribagh, Dhaka

Dear Mr. Khan,

Your question to me was whether you should take your wife abroad or not as she might be an obstacle to your career.

Dear Mita,

I am very embarrassed and ashamed to write about my problem but cannot find anyone to turn to.

about this. What can I do? What legal rights does a woman like me have? Please advise.

Samira, Dhaka.

Dear Samira,

Though you have enough reasons to be upset but I think you are being very rash. Accusing a spouse of infidelity is a serious accusation and must only be done after being sure of the facts.

Dear Mita,

I live abroad and while on a visit to Dhaka saw your column. My problem is that I am tired of being a dependent wife but find no alternative as jobs for foreigners are very restricted here.

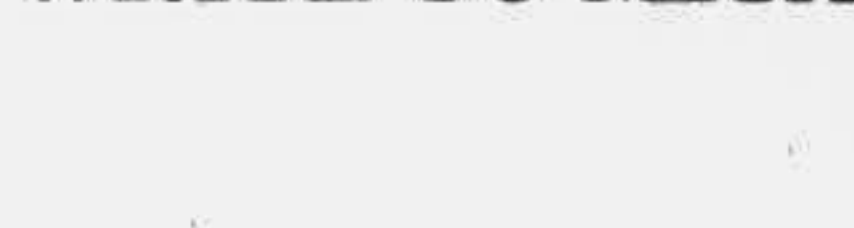
Sufa, from abroad.

Dear Sufa,

Your problem is the same as many expatriate women who have chosen to follow their husbands on their postings.

What you need to do is get out of the feeling of lethargy and self-pity and think positive. Turn your stay abroad into a time for discovery, learning and forming new relationships.

WRITE TO MITA



Run by a trained and experienced Family and Marriage counsellor, assisted by a professional team of doctor, psychologist and lawyer, this column will answer questions relating to family, marriage, health, family laws, and social and interpersonal relationships.