

Dhaka Day by Day

'You Have to Hold on to Your Dreams'

by Fayza Haq

Three days of shooting and zap! Out comes an experimental short film. It is complete with a heroine, scenario, action, theme and plot. That is how Mitchell Loch operates, using students as his assistants and a nondescript extra for a protagonist in his story.

While producing "Starring Rosy", the purpose of Loch's visit to Dhaka was to run a workshop, so that a group of young film makers would get some ideas as how to go about making an effective film. They are making short films at the moment but they can go on to make feature and experimental films," Loch commented.

Originally planning to be a doctor, the film director had the experience of working in hospitals and even nursing his dying mother. His contact with the suffering world put him off his medical career. He decided to forge ahead in some other field and make his mark. "The time I spent with Frank Capra inspired me and made me decide that I could make an important impact as a film director," Loch said.

While running the workshop for a fortnight, Loch discussed potential problems and pointed out important points in film making to the students. As he was searching for a theme, somebody drew attention to an extra who was standing outside the FDC gates, in quest of a job. "I suggested that they should concentrate on this extra and build a film around her. The movie is just not about Rosy but about film makers and the challenges they are confronted with. It is a film about film making. We are blending different aspects of a film in this project. There is story telling, documentary and experimentation," he explained.

What were the challenges that this lanky, blond young and intense film maker faced while in Dhaka? "There was the problem of having to get the film to Dhaka without it being X-rayed. The schedule at the FDC studio had also to be adhered to and we had to adjust ourselves," he said simply. "Every film has its problems. When this opportunity of making a film in Dhaka was offered to me I certainly welcomed this challenge," he added. Incidentally, he was still suffering from jet-lag while talking to the press. His involvement in the crash course made his mind more fuzzy when some complex questions were thrown at him.

How did he make his selection of the heroine? "We interviewed six junior artistes in one hour, and she was the first one that appealed to me. She was direct, clear, personal, very willing to work, and was prepared to

come on the weekend too. She may not be glamorous but she was definitely interesting," he commented.

In the three days that they had to shoot, they showed Rosy being interviewed while she was being made up. There was a screen test. There were shots of Rosy's home which were very intense. There was also a rickshaw ride included in the film. The production again brought in statements of the students and included the director's experience too. Loch commented about "Starring Rosy" as being "a luxurious experience of making a movie at someone else's cost."

The film makers had to pay the "mastans" Tk 300 to allow the filming to be done in peace. Rosy got into trouble with her landlady "Motki" and had to find shelter for herself somewhere else eventually. She was paid Tk 1500 for her troubles.

Talking to Loch I gathered that he felt that there was too much of sex and violence in the western Hollywood type films for a very long time.

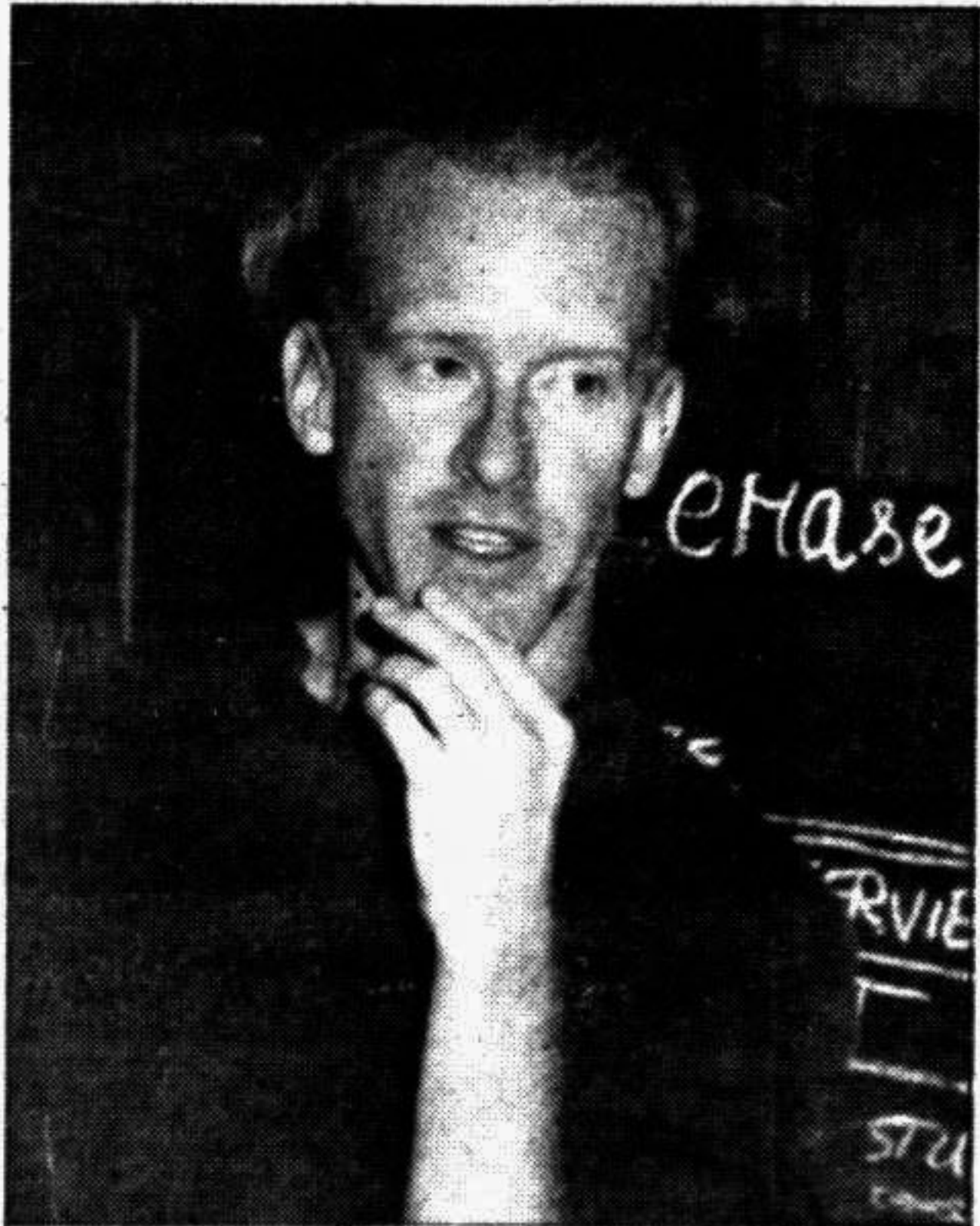
While this film in Dhaka cost Tk 4 lakhs, his normal budget is about 3 million dollars in USA. He has directed five films and written three others. The next one that he makes, he will be writing, directing and producing "I Smell A Man". This is a comedy about a woman who can only smell women, as Loch explained.

What did this young film maker — all dressed in black like Batman — consider the most important in the film: the story, actors or the directing? "The story is the most important. Even though actors have their significance great actors cannot make a bad story interesting," he commented.

His next target is a musical piece for the stage in New York city "I think I'd like to try my hand at something else," he added.

What advice did he have for film makers in Bangladesh? "Film making is difficult anywhere. If you fight for it collectively you can make any movie that you want. You must hold on to your dreams. If you have compelling stories about Bangladesh you can send your ideas to film makers all over the world and perhaps they can help you make it if you cannot tackle it yourself. The most important thing is to express yourself honestly."

Loch, who comes from San Francisco, has had a number of awards such as the Best Dramatic Video in '90 at the 14th Atlanta and Video Festival. He has won other awards before like the 2nd prize for "Most Promising Film-maker" at the Ann Arbor Film Festival.



Mitchell Loch: Film-making is difficult everywhere.

Tk 66.45cr city water sewerage project underway

LORD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar said Monday the government was determined to solve the sanitation and water supply problem in the country, reports BSS.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the construction work of a pumping station of Dhaka WASA under the storm water sewerage system project at Kalyanpur here the minister said the government was committed to improve the living condition of the people and providing civic facilities.

The implementation of Tk 66.45 crore storm water sewerage project is in progress with the Japanese assistance, he said adding when completed it would benefit about one-fifth of the city population covering the areas of Shyamali, Mohammadpur, Dhamondi and the adjoining areas.

Mr. Salam Talukdar said the feasibility study for improvement of drainage facilities of Dhaka city had already been completed with Japanese co-operation.

The Minister said on the basis of ADB recommendations

the western areas of the city would be taken up for flood protection and improvement of drainage system in the first phase. The drainage system of the eastern part of the city would be taken up in the second phase, he added.

Mr. Talukdar said the integrated project with drainage components costing about Tk. 158 crore was in the final stage of approval of the government. He said the execution of work of the project would begin soon and was expected to be completed within the next three year.

He said the government was undertaking a study on "Greater Dhaka flood control and drainage project" covering Dhaka city, Narayanganj, DND, Savar and Keraniganj.

The final report of the study is expected to be available by the first half the next year, he said.

He said the government was also planning to provide better drainage facilities to other cities and towns.

Mr. Talukdar asked the WASA officials to complete the

project on time. Reminding them of the importance of proper operation and maintenance the Minister said storm drainage facilities in the city were inadequate compared to the requirement.

Mr. Talukdar, attributing the present water-logging and drainage problems to un-planned urbanisation and negligence of the past, sought co-operation of all concerned for the improvement of the situation.

Mayor of Dhaka city Mirza Abbas, Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Abdul Hye, Local Government Secretary Mushfequr Rahman, the Charge d'Affaires of Japan Yasuyoshi Ichihashi and Chairman of WASA Nurul Islam also addressed the function.

Mrza Abbas said Dhaka City Cooperation had already taken up programme for repair and development of city roads. Describing water-logging as a major problem of city dwellers, Mr. Abbas sought co-operation of all the relevant agencies for proper maintenance of roads and improvement of civic facilities.

He further said with limited resources of the DMC would do his best to improve civic facilities in Dhaka.

Activities of Information Ministry reviewed

The first meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Ministry was held in Dhaka Monday with Information Minister, Nazmul Huda in the chair, reports BSS.

Speaking briefly, the Information Minister said under parliamentary system, Standing Committees on different ministries are accountable to the people for the activities of the concerned ministries. As a result, he said, the responsibility of the Sangsad Members has been enhanced manifold.

Canada aided projects reviewed

The annual consultations between Canada and Bangladesh was held in Dhaka Monday to review various programmes and projects funded by Ottawa in the country, reports BSS.

The Canadian High Commissioner Emile Gauvreau, led the donors delegation at the meeting held at the Economic Relations Division office at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. K M Ejazul Haq, Joint Secretary of ERD, headed the home side.

Both delegations agreed that Canada-Bangladesh assist-

It's new just for you

The Daily Star is pleased to introduce a new column where individuals and organisations can publish Birthday and Anniversary Greetings, Congratulatory and Condolence Messages, Get-Well/Good-Luck Wishes, Birth/Death Announcements, In Memoriam, etc. at nominal charges.

For booking details, please contact: Advertisement Manager Phone: 246023-4, 863035

Dhaka-Beijing ties to grow further

Visiting Chinese military goodwill delegation led by Deputy Chief of General Staff of the People's Liberation Army Lt Gen He Qi Zong called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban Monday, reports UNB.

During the meeting, they hoped that the bond of relations and close neighbourliness between China and Bangladesh would continue for the benefit of the two peoples.

General He Qi Zong said, China has a treasure of love and trust for the people of Bangladesh and has full respect for the democratic system introduced in the country.

He said his country would extend more cooperation and support in all fields of development, including economic and communication sectors.

Emphasising the need for exchange of visits between the two countries, he said this would help enhance friendly ties and understanding among the two peoples.

General Zong assured that the Chinese leadership was al-

ways interested in working together with Bangladesh to achieve peace in the world as well as in the region.

He also conveyed greetings of Chinese President Yang Sang Kun to President Biswas.

President Biswas highly praised the existing bonds of friendship between the two countries and recalled the recent visit of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to China, which contributed in further consolidating the friendship between the two peoples.

The President mentioned the contribution of China in the construction of two friendship bridges in the country and hoped that the proposed bridge on the river Mohananda would be assisted similarly by the Chinese government.

He said their assistance to the rehabilitation programme for the cyclone victims of the coastal areas immensely helped in our efforts and thanked the Chinese government for the timely response in the hour of need.

24.4 pc pass in RU B.Sc. B.Com (Pass) exams.

RAJSHAHI, Nov 25: The results of B.Com (Pass) and B.Sc (Pass) examinations of 1990 held in May-June this year under Rajshahi University were announced here Sunday, reports BSS.

Two thousand and ninety-six of the eight thousand five hundred eighty-two students who appeared in the B.Com (Pass) examination came out successful. The percentage of pass is 24.4. Nine were placed in the first division.

One hundred and forty-four candidates passed in the second division while one thousand nine hundred and fifty-two got third division.

A total of six thousand five hundred and sixty-eight candidates appeared in B.Sc (Pass) examinations of which one thousand five hundred and one passed. None was placed in the first division.

TV Tuesday

- 5.00 Opening announcement.
- 5.10 Al Quran, programme summary
- 5.20 Reading from the Geeta
- 5.30 Cartoon film: The Challenge of the Gobots
- 5.55 Educational programme for mothers
- 7.05 Nazrul songs
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Drama series
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Film show: War and Remembrance
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.45 Close down

UNICEF asked to make MacGyver goodwill envoy

Richard Dean Anderson, the popular MacGyver of the TV screen has sent his autographed photograph to Noreen P Chowdhury a fifth grade student of the American International School, Dhaka, for her and other children of her school, reports BSS.

According to a UNICEF press release in Dhaka Monday Mac gave it in response to a letter that Noreen had written to UNICEF Chief James P Grant suggesting that MacGyver would make a very effective UNICEF goodwill ambassador for Bangladesh, especially for children.

The UNICEF Chief highly appreciated Noreen's suggestion. In a letter to her, James P Grant said: "He is not one of the UNICEF goodwill ambassadors, but because of your suggestions, we are making contact with him."

"If he agrees to help UNICEF it is possible that one day he will come to Bangladesh, and you will be the reason that he does" — wrote Grant, the press release said.

BMA demands arrest of Milon's killers

A delegation of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) Monday submitted a memorandum to Home Minister Abdul Mattin Chowdhury demanding immediate arrest and trial of the killers of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon, reports BSS.

The Home Minister assured the delegation that the present government was determined to bring all culprits irrespective of their political affiliation under the purview of law, according to an official source in Dhaka.

He stressed that the government had taken all measures for immediate arrest of the persons accused in the Dr Milon killing case. The efforts would continue in future till they were taken behind bars, he said.

The BMA delegation who met the Home Minister included Vice President Dr Delwar Rana, Prof Nazmun Nahar, Prof Syed Modassar Ali, Dr Kanak Kanti Barua, Dr Badruzzaman Bhuiyan, Dr Mohammad Sarafuddin Ahmed, Dr Nazrul Islam, Dr Kamrul Islam Khan and General Secretary Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin.



Bangladesh Medical Association brought out a procession in city on Monday demanding immediate arrest and trial of the killers of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon. — Star photo

What's on today

Rotary Club of Dhaka

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel at 5 pm today (Tuesday). Mohammad Salam, Commissioner in Charge, Dhaka Metropolitan Police will speak on "Traffic on crime situation in Dhaka" in the meeting as guest speaker.

Chittagong Samity

An emergency meeting of the Trusty Board of Chittagong Samity in Dhaka will be held at 63, Central Road, Dhanmondi, at 3 pm today (Tuesday).

National Professor Dr Nurul Islam, Chairman of the Board will preside over the meeting.

Rotary Club of Ramna

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Ramna will be held at 5.30 pm at Hotel Sonargaon today (Tuesday). Dr Saleh Ahmed Wasimi, an Associate Professor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) will address on water resources potential and flood control in Bangladesh as guest speaker in the meeting.

. . . . and tomorrow

A seminar jointly organised by Social Institute, Jubo Academy and PRIP/PACT on "the role of government and NGOs on rehabilitation of landless people on 'khas' land" will be held at BMDC auditorium, Sobhanbag, Mirpur road, at 9 am tomorrow (Wednesday).

State Minister for Land Kobir Hossain will attend the inaugural session of the seminar as the chief guest while Secretary of Land Ministry, Aminul Islam will attend as the special guest.

Mohammad Shahidul Alam, Director General of NGO affairs bureau will preside over the function.

Weather

Dry weather to continue

By Staff Correspondent
Met office forecast on Tuesday that light rain or drizzle is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi division but the general weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere in the country during the next 36 hours.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Country's lowest temperature 11.3 degree Celsius was recorded on Monday at Shimangal.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Monday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	27.5	15.5	67	60
Chittagong	26.8	16.5	67	66
Rajshahi	27.4	14.6	62	83
Khulna	28.2	15.2	86	74
Barisal	27.5	14.4	80	81
Rangpur	26.7	14.3	79	80
Cox's Bazar	27.8	16.5	67	74
Feni	20.6	14.0	77	73

Tender Notice No-55 of Chittagong Road Division during 1991-92

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from bonafide enlisted contractors of different class of Roads & Highways Department as mentioned below through Bangladesh Form No-2911 for undermentioned works:

Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Class of contractor	Time for completion of works
Construction of approach road of Shikal Baha pre-stressed concrete Girder Bridge at 6th K.M of Patiya- Anowara- Banshkhal Road for 1991-92 (Earth work/flexible pavement) during 1991-92.	Tk.50,35,582/-	Tk.1,00,712/-	"A" and "B" class of general category contractor	90 (Ninety) days from date of issue

Schedule of items, specification, terms and conditions etc. can be seen and purchased from the office of the undersigned/Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Noakhali/Cox's Bazar/Planning & Programming Division Dhaka/Preliminary Engineering Division Chittagong/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Chittagong Sub-Division No-1/II/III/1st Line Workshop Chittagong by cash payment up to 23.8.98 Bangla/8-12-91. Eng. during office hours only.

Tenders will be received by the undersigned, Superintendent Engineer, RHD, Chittagong Road Circle, Chittagong/Add: Chief Engineer, RHD, Chittagong Zone, Ctg and Superintendent Engineer, RHD, Project Control Circle, Dhaka up to 12.30 PM on 9-12-91 Eng/24.8.98 Bangla and the same will be opened on the same day on 12.45 PM in front of interested tenderer who likes to remain himself present on the occasion.

Md. Abdul Khaleque Miah
Executive Engineer, RHD
Chittagong Road Division
Chittagong

DFF (G) 13793-21/11
G-965



Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority International Tender Notice

141-143, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka

Date : 02.9.91
Credit No. 2048-BD
IFB No. DH/TRS/2-135/1278

Dated '02.9.91

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of the Third Flood Rehabilitation Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this Credit will be applied, through the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), to eligible payments under the contract for procurement of 1 set Short Range Electronic positioning system.

The Director of Hydrography, BIWTA, BIWTA Bhaban (10th Floor), 141-143, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka, Bangladesh now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of 1 set Short Range Electronic positioning system.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of the Director of Hydrography, BIWTA, BIWTA Bhaban (10th Floor), 141-143 Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka, Bangladesh, CABLE ADDRESS: AUTHORITY, DHAKA, TELEX NO. 642787 BIWTA BJ.

A complete set in duplicate of the Bidding Documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk. 2,050/- (Taka two thousand fifty) only.

All bids must be accompanied by a security of not less than two per cent (2%) of bids amount and must be delivered to the above office on or before 1100 hours on 9.1.92.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 1115 hours on 9.1.92 at the office of the Director of Hydrography, BIWTA, BIWTA Bhaban (10th Floor), 141-143, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

PR-148/91
DFF(G) 13769-21/11
G-962

Director of Hydrography