

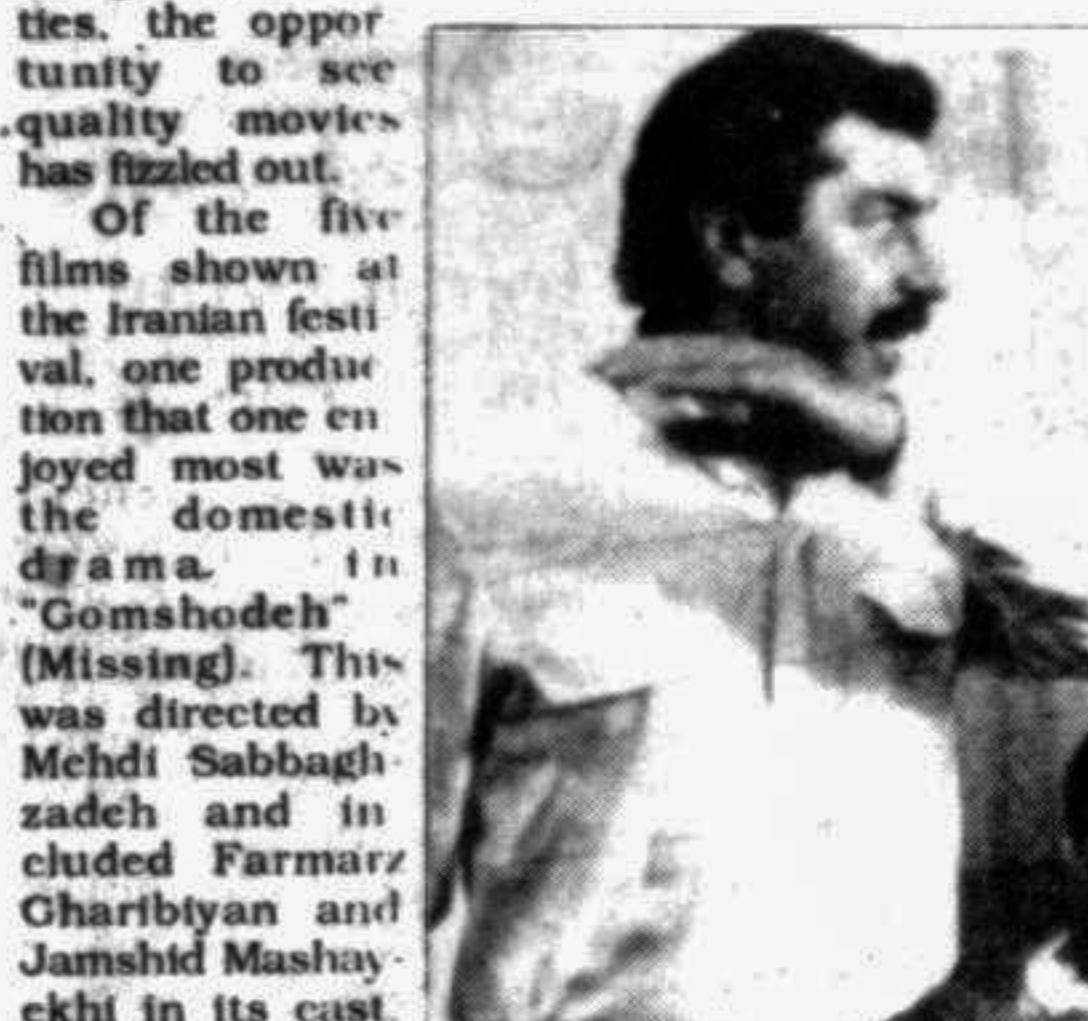
Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

A wholesome family entertainment from Iran

by Fayza Haq

With the Gulf War and the recent elections in the backdrop, there was a chance for people to learn more about the Middle East from the recent five-day Iranian Film Festival...



A scene from 'Missing'

singing and dancing," says Houshang Ali Madadi, the Iranian Cultural Attache. "If you cut the singing and dancing there is very little left. In Iran today, on the other hand, the government is helping make serious sophisticated films...

"After the revolution," Mr. Madadi points out, "there has been a renaissance in the Iranian cinema. Before the revolution a lot of people avoided going to the films as they were afraid of being influenced by the materialistic west."

Producers did not hesitate to flaunt nude women simply to get more revenue. Today the Iranian films are against the stark thoughtless display and prostitution of the Attache adds.

"Our target in showing this film festival," says Mr. Madadi "is to point out that Islam is not anticulture and that good, wholesome entertainment need not all come from the west. Our films respect the tradition of the people and at the same time entertain. They are not out to simply teach a dull, pompous lesson."

"There are many connections between the life style shown in the Iranian films and the mode of life in Bangladesh," comments S. A. Masawi, the Assistant Director of the Iranian Cultural Centre. "The local viewers wept to see the heroine cry, and clapped when the happy finale came."

"Our culture is the same," Mr. Masawi adds. "Seven hundred years ago Persian was the court language in Bangladesh. Through the language the Persian culture has travelled into this country. Recently the Bangla Academy has translated Firdousi into several volumes."

Of the five films shown at the Iranian festival, one production that one enjoyed most was the domestic drama, "Gomshodeh" (Missing). This was directed by Mehdi Sabbaghzadeh and included Farmarz Gharibyan and Jamshid Mashayekhi in its cast. The film showed how a couple should control the home and not allow outsiders like the mother-in-law to interfere. Majid, a bank clerk, returned home from the office to pick up an argument with his wife. They hurled accusations at each other, resulting in the wife leaving the house.

Also entertaining was "Ejarch Neshin" (Lodgers) with Ezzatollah and Entezami in the cast. This was a comedy about four families who lived in an old crumbling four-storied building. Abbas Agha, who lived on the ground floor, planned to drive out the rest of the tenants. The message of the film was that a family or a nation must unite or be destroyed.

"Pedar Bozorg" (The Grandfather) was a prize-winner and once again had a story of disagreement in the family. Respect for the older generation was the theme of the film.

In the popular Indian films all you see is

Mass Upsurge Day '69 observed

By Staff Correspondent

The Mass Upsurge Day '69 commemorating the 22nd anniversary of the martyrdom of Shaheed Matur Rahman was observed throughout the country yesterday.

Several political parties and socio-cultural organisations chalked out programmes to observe the day.

The All-Party Students Unity (APSU) placed wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar in the morning in memory of the martyrs of the day.

Shaheed Asad Parshad held a discussion meeting and a cultural programme at the TSC. Speakers at the meeting urged Government to uphold the ideals of the martyrs.

The meeting was addressed by Prof. Yasuddin Ahmed, Dr. Sakhawat Ali Khan, Khairul Kabir Khokon, General Secretary of the DUCSU, engineer Nurul Islam and the brothers of Shaheed Asad, Rashiduzzaman and Dr. Nuruzzaman.

A newly formed students organisation, Bangladesh Chhatra Mukti, also placed wreath at the Shaheed Minar.

Rishis Shilpa Goshti organised a discussion meeting and cultural programme.

Lokayata, a study centre on the significance of the Mass Upsurge Day organised a discussion at the Institute of Modern Language of Dhaka University.

The discussion meeting was addressed by Sardar Fazul Karim, Prof. Anisuzzaman, Mansur Musa, Ahmed Safa, Sayed Abul Maksud and Dr. Harun-ur-Rashid.

Matur Rahman, a student of class nine of Nabakumar Institution was shot dead in police firing while he participated in a procession in Dhaka city in 1969 which sparked off the mass upsurge forcing the then autocratic Ayub regime to step down.

APSU call to stop toll collection by miscreants

The All-Party Students Unity urged the law-enforcing agencies to take stern measures to stop extortion of toll and harassment of businessmen by armed miscreants in the name of APSU, reports UNB.

The Unity in a press release issued by DUCSU, General Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokon on Thursday condemned the miscreants, saying it was designed to tarnish the image of students.

The APSU leader also called for handover of such miscreants to APSU's central room at the DUCSU bhaban.

Prayer offered to end Gulf war

Special prayers were offered in mosques of the country on Friday seeking divine blessing for an end to the Gulf war and protection of lives and property of the Muslims, reports UNB.

Thousands of devotees also prayed for the welfare, unity and integrity of the Muslim Ummah.

A number of processions in support of the Iraqi President Saddam Hussein were also brought out in the city and elsewhere in the country.

Organisations which brought out processions after jumma prayer included Khalafat Andolon, Khalafat Majlish and Jamaat-e-Ah-lesunnat.

Processionists carried portraits of the Iraqi leader and chanted anti-American slogans.

Iraq and multinational forces lead by USA are now locked in a war over the issue of annexation of Kuwait by Baghdad.

Khalafat Majlish which staged a rally at Baiful Mukarram premises, demanded immediate withdrawal of Bangladeshi troops from Saudi Arabia.

Processionists burnt a

number of effigies of President Bush in front of the National Press Club.

Police did not report any untoward incident from diplomatic enclaves of Gulshan and Baridhara where security measures have been tightened to ensure safety and security of members of foreign missions.

Kazi Kader in his speech described late Mr. Sabur as a national leader, who had always fought for democracy and the people.

Among others, Mr. Serajuddin and Mr. Zamir Ali spoke on the occasion.

A Milad mahfil was also held on the occasion.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes 'Answer to Previous Puzzle' section.

'Some parties to exploit votes for own interest'

The Convener of the Five-Party Alliance, Mr. Khaliquzzaman Bhuiyan, on Friday said that peoples' interest was minor to such parties which exploit votes for party and individual interests, reports BSS in Dhaka.

Addressing a public meeting at Gurdakalindia of Chandpur, he said the country was beset with manifold problems and it was necessary to make concerted efforts by the patriotic forces to overcome those problems. Instead, Mr. Bhuiyan deplored, some parties were more keen about their own interest rather than the national and peoples' interest.

The Five-Party Alliance Convener urged the government to exempt agriculture loan upto Taka 5,000 and withdrawal of the certificate cases and taxes on water.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. Alamgir Hossain Dulal and addressed, among others, by Mr. Shahjahan Tahukdar, a press release said.

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Media Centre at Sonargaon

As per the instructions of the Press Information Department the PID Media Centre will be set-up in the Sonargaon Hotel to provide professional facilities to media personnel covering the country's ensuing Parliamentary Elections effective February 22, 1991 to March 2, 1991, both inclusive, says a Press release.

The Media Centre will operate round the clock at the hotel's Surma Room. Banquet Rooms with modern audio-visual support system have been reserved for the purpose of Press Briefing and Press Conference of any size ranging from 20 persons to 1500 persons.

The management of the Sonargaon Hotel - A Pan Pacific Hotel has taken adequate measures to provide 5-star luxury and comfort to all the media persons covering the election.

Further, to facilitate the movement of journalists from the Press Club to the Sonargaon Hotel and return, a complimentary shuttle bus service will be provided by the hotel every day from February 22 to March 2, 1991.

CIRDAP seminar ends

The closing session of a week-long seminar on "Development of Modules for Training on Integrated Approach to Rural Development and Disaster Management in Bangladesh" was held Thursday at a local hotel, says a press release.

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Parties urged to be tolerant

Speakers at a discussion meeting yesterday called upon all the political forces to exercise tolerance and forbearance to reach the ultimate goal of mass upsurge of 1969 for which they fought, reports BSS.

The discussion meeting was organised by the Lokayat Patha Kendra to mark the mass upsurge day of 1969. The speakers stressed the need for

establishing basic rights of the people in order to materialise the objectives of the mass upsurge of '69. The discussion among others, by Dr. Anisuzzaman, Prof. Sardar Fajul Haq, Ahmad Safa, Dr. Haroon-or-Rasid, Dr. Mansoor Musa.

Dr. Anisuzzaman said, we had not taken a lesson from the mass upsurge of 1969, that was why we had to rise again against autocracy.

Weather

Low persists over Bay

Intensity of cold to remain unchanged

The intensity of cold over Bangladesh is likely to remain unchanged for two days ending Sunday morning, the Meteorological Department says. The weather will remain dry.

On Friday the night temperature fell by two to four degree Celsius over Dhaka, Faridpur, Madaripur, Ishurdi, Jessore, Khulna, Satkhira and Chuadanga, and rose by two degree Celsius over Cox's Bazar. Elsewhere the night temperature remained nearly unchanged.

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Members of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi rendering songs at a function organised by Sammilita Sanskritik Jote in city on Friday.

Academicians plead for Bangladeshi troops return

Dhaka Jan 25: Noted academicians at a discussion here Friday strongly criticised sending of Bangladeshi troops to Saudi Arabia and resented the caretaker government's silence over the issue, reports UNB.

They said that by sending troops to the Gulf, the ousted regime of President Ershad had violated the Constitution and breached Bangladesh's commitment for non-Aligned foreign policy.

The discussion on 'Impact of Gulf war on Bangladesh's Politics and Economy' was arranged by Political Research Centre at the TSC auditorium this afternoon.

A number of political scientists and economists, including Dr. Emajuddin Ahmed, Dr. Harun-ur-Rashid, Dr. Syed Anwar Hossain, Mafidul Huq, Dr. Wahiduddin Mahmood, Dr. Attur Rahman and Dr. Selim Jaham, took part in the discussion.

Some of them criticised the

country's political parties for not taking a clear stand on the Gulf war.

Economists, who participated in the discussion, expressed deep concern over the Gulf war, which they said, might pose an additional threat to the "constantly fragile economy" of Bangladesh.

Foreign aid inflow would be seriously affected and revenue earnings of the government would fall sharply, they cautioned.

Dr. Emajuddin Ahmed, Professor of Political Science of Dhaka University, vehemently criticised Bangladesh government for not condemning the widespread killing of civilians in the Gulf war security of Bangladeshi troops stationed in Saudi Arabia would be threatened any moment with escalation of the war, he added.

Dr. Attur Rahman observed that austerity was hardly being practised in the upper strata of the administration and society.

The poor should not be pressed for austerity in the name of Gulf war," he said.

Dr. Selim Jaham of the Economics Department of Dhaka University warned that the Gulf war would lead to decline in the foreign aid inflow into the country by at least 50 million US dollars annually.

The government would also lose revenue of around Tk 500 crores due to lower imports and contraction of domestic demands, he said.

He said agricultural output would be seriously hampered due to price hike of diesel. The indigenous industries, particularly the garment sector, would also face threat because of recession in industrialised countries, he added.

The government earlier estimated that Gulf war would deprive Bangladesh economy of at least 500 million US dollars this fiscal year alone.

Convener of the centre, Ferdus Hossain, presided over the discussion.

Qul Khwani

The Qul Khwani of Md. Riad Faisal, son of Mr Abdul Gani will be held today (Saturday) after Asr Prayers at Gofur Mansion, 42/C West Malibagh, Chowdhury Para.

Riad, a student of a Class Eight of Dhaka National Bank Public School, died of malignant histiocytosis on Jan 23. He was 14.

ODA executive in city

Mr Richard Manning, Under Secretary of the British Overseas Development Administration (ODA) arrived here Friday to lead his country's delegation at the annual Bilateral economic cooperation meeting with the Bangladesh Government, reports BSS.

The Joint Secretary of the Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance, Mr Fazur Rahman Chaudhury received the Under Secretary at the Zia International Airport.

Abide code of conduct in polls: ML

President of Bangladesh Muslim League, Mr Muhammad Aynuddin on Thursday issued a statement stressing a fair and violence-free election for implementing the hopes and aspirations of the people, a party press release said.

He also urged upon all quarters to abide by the codes of conduct for holding the polls peacefully.

BNP forms 20-member election body

BNP formed 20-members election committee on Thursday with Abdu Salam Talukder secretary general of the party, as convener and A. K. M. Firoz Noon as membr-secretary.

Other members of the committee includes Prof Chowdhury Badruddoza, Emran Ali Sarkar, Jahannara Begum and Abdul Matin Chowdhury.

Two more committees one on publication and publicity and the other on election manifesto, were formed with Lt col(retd) Mostafizur Rahman and Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury as convenors respectively.

Goyeshwar Roy has been made member-secretary of the Publication and publicity committee and Maj Gen(retd) Majedul Huq, Saifur Rahman, Nazmul Huda, A. K. M. Firoz Noon and Shamsul Islam have been made members of the manifesto committee.

MBA graduation ceremony held

The Graduation ceremony of Thursday 21st batch of MBA (Master of Business Administration) was held with certificate giving ceremony at its auditorium in Dhaka. A large number of MBA students took part in the ceremony, reports BSS.

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Let Press Council function: BFUJ, DUJ

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Journalist Union (DUJ) leaders on Thursday urged the people and organisations to settle any dispute between them and the newspapers arising out of publication of any news item through the Press Council.

In a statement issued by Mr. Rezauddin Ahmed, President of BFUJ, Mr. Amanullah Kabir, Secretary General of BFUJ, Mr. Zahurul Haque, President of DUJ and Mr. Ruhul Amin Gazi, General Secretary of DUJ the leaders said that Dhaka Metropolitan Court on Wednesday issued a Warrant of Arrest against the Editor of Daily Millat in connection with a libel case.

They said a person has the right to seek judgement from the court if he is somehow hurt by reports of any newspaper.

But the journalists unions thought that any dispute created between any person or organisation and the newspapers should be settled through the Press Council.

The Press Council was set up with this view upon persistent demand of the journalists' union, the leaders said.

The leaders observed that the autocratic Ershad regime tried to obstruct the effectivity of this institution by surpassing it and by taking one-sided actions against the newspapers.

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Bangla Academy Ekushey book fair from Feb 5

By Staff Correspondent

'Ekushey book fair '91 will begin on 5th February at the Bangla Academy premises.

Noted scientist and educationist Professor M. Innas Ali will inaugurate the 21-day fair which will end on 25th February.

More than 200 publishers and book sellers will have stalls in this year's fair. Bangla Academy authorities have given preference to the publishers of creative books in allotting stalls. Erection of stalls starts from 25th January.

Bangla Academy has finalised its programmes for Ekushey book fair. Main programmes of Bangla Academy will start from 15th February. Eminent intellectual Professor Serajul Islam Chowdhury will deliver his speech titled Amar Ekushey on the first day.

Other programmes include speeches on our mass movement and films, role of art and literature in advancing democratic values, revolting spirit in recent plays, role of education in building democratic society. Amar Ekushey: Liberation Struggle and Hasan Hafizur Rahman, mass upsurge of '90.

Bangla Academy will also organise painting competition for children, recitation and music competitions.

A photo exhibition on mass upsurge-'90 will also be shown during the book fair.

BUET exams schedule

The second semester examinations of under graduate course of second year, third year, fourth year classes for the session 1978-88 and first year, second year classes for the session 1988-89 of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) will begin of February 2 and 3, reports BSS.

According to an announcement, examinations of first year and third year classes of all departments will begin on February 2 and that of second year and fourth year classes, of all departments will begin on February 3.

Examinations of all year classes of Architecture Department will begin on February 2.

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The agrieved students who were appearing in the admission test for medical colleges damaged the doors and windows of the Dhaka University Arts Building on Friday.

TV Saturday

- 5-00 Opening and recitations from the Holy Quran.
5-10 News in Bengali.
5-20 Programmes Summary.
5-22 Recitation from Tripitak.
5-25 Esho Gan Shikhi: Music Lessons for Children.
5-50 Cartoon Film: Popeye & Son.
6-15 Nabo Taranga: Programme on family planning.
7-00 Banshori: Folk Songs.
8-00 News in Bengali.
8-30 Sangeet Probaho: Musical magazine.
9-00 Ujjan.
10-00 News in English.
10-30 Film Serial: The Last Outlaw.
11-30 News in Bengali.
11-40 Closing announcement.