The Daily Star 11

Through the present book, Dr. A. M. M. Shawkat Ali, a brilliant development administration 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. The book contains six chapters which are interwoven; each chapter discusses development of agricultural credit system in Bangladesh in logical and chronological sequence.

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. This helps the reader recapitulate the subjects discussed earlier and the

Through Credit Reviewed by Syed Naquib Muslim Agricultural Credit in Bangladesh. A. M. M. Shawkat Ali,

Financing Agriculture

Bangladesh, Centre of Development Research 1990. Pages: 104.

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

various sources of institutional

and non-institutional credit

that were accessible to the

farmers. The author shows

thematic coherence is also

fact, the best part of the book. A professional researcher, Dr. Ali draws here a few conclusions basing on his study and experience. He exposes the in tricacies of credit management and rediscovers the truth that politics can hardly be delinked from credit delivery system. Whereas the earlier chapters were on politics of credit management, chapter V deals with

# BOOK BEVIEW

the cooperative Agricultural Credit Societies. cooperative banks and other official agricultural loan-giving agencies evolved. The operational features of these credit agencies and the factors constraining their efficiency have been critically assessed. The chapter portrays the socioeconomic condition of the Bangladeshi farmers from 1883 to 1959; it reveals the author's noble bias for simplification of cumberous loan procedures and for decentralised eredit facilities through rationalisation of the existing

Chapter V and VI are, in

polities in credit management. Dr. Ali reflects his sharp critical insight by unfolding the critical factors that influence politicisation of the agri-credit delivery system in Bangladesh. Chapter IV emphasises that the huge credit requirement can be met not merely by publie agencies but also by the NGO operations - 'the Grameen Bank and NGOs cannot substitute but can supplement the efforts of the public sector in agricultural credit". (p.97) One of the positive aspects of NGO's credit operation is that "The perception of 'our money' has not made any inroad into their system" (p99) Dr. Ali deserves thanks for raising the issues of macrolevel credit needs determination, lender-clientele linkage and prevalence of 'our money' concept in public agencies.

The book is at once an evalnative and an explorative study on the institutional credit system operating in our agricultural sector. Data and information have been derived mostly from the secondary sources and from the author's empirieal knowledge. The book is the outcome of the author's onthe-job experience gathered while working for BKB as Managing Director.

This time the cover-design. colour-combination, quality of printing and paper are much better than those in earlier books produced by Dr. Ali. Terms, concepts used in various chapters are up-to-date, specific, concrete and rele-

Cliches like it is important to note, 'it is needless to say could better be avoided or dropped in the next edition. Spelling of a few words are not uniform as these have been spelt in both British and American fashion. Printing mistakes are noticeable at page 35,45,48,56,67 and 97. I believe that both in respect of substance and cosmetic features, the book is comparable with any Western book written on this subject. Serious students of agriculture might be hurt for withholding discussion on Grameen Bank's credit operation system. This has been done deliberately because, in the author's own words, "there is no dearth of

the essence of its dramatic

aesthetics. Plays are performed

on the bare boards of the stage

so that nothing diverts the au-

dience's attention from the ac-

tor the transformation of

whose soul is the focus of the

performance. The theatre's

media are gestures, move-

ments, metaphors and sym-

bols. Words play a secondary

dience to participate in the

action, to forget about their

daily concerns and think about

The theatre invites the au-



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. -Star Photo by Enamul Haque

literature on Grameen Bank. The book is decidedly an authentic document of the

agricultural credit system of Bangladesh. Both foreign and local readers having interest in

agricultural financing will definitely find the book informative, interesting and useful. For the policy-makers it will work as a valuable source of direction as it critically examines

the experiences of the defunct and existing agricultural financing agencies, their promises and performances, their opportunities and threats. I must thank Dr. Ali

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 at abroad.

Geeta Dutt Ki Yaaden : Mu-

Stokade (thriller) Charlie

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.

HOSE who go to see a performance by the Moscow drama studio "On the Boards" for the first time are in for a great surprise. The theatre is really unconventional.

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

'On the Boards' Drama Studio

dental because any of our actions is based on thoughtsometimes clear and well formulated, and at other times

spontaneous and subconscious. "We wanted to plunge into the depths of human consciousness and study man's transformation from the moment he begins to think," Kurginyan said. "The purpose of those dramatic and psychotry, the studio finally got the official status of a professional theatre working on the princi ples of cost-accounting.

Today its repertory includes "Me!" 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

eternal questions, rather than just watching a sad, funny or tragic story. We do not want the audience to remain passive onlookers. That does not mean, though, that our actors go down to the auditorium and pull people onto the stage. which was in fashion, not so long ago. We want the audience to take part in the process of thinking which should capture and unite the actors and the

> audience. Most of the theatre actors began to work with Kurginyan 15 years ago. At that time they had different professions and now they are graduated actors. Of course, they are still like minded people. Young actors are joining the studio too.

> The drama studio enables the actors to replenish their nervous and emotional energy through communication with the audience, Kurginyan says. Our actors give their all but shake up the spectators. The latter begin to think, and the energy of their thoughts and participation in the common process of thinking give new strength to the actors.

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. Kurginyan's studio has actually turned from a cost-accounting group into a theatre financed by these firms.

The centre's construction will be finished in a few months and the theatre will get its own house with an auditortum for 200 people.

-- Natalya Pivovarova.

## 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 based with multiple stars in the cast. Yeh Aag Kab Bujheg, Starring Rekha, Kakr Bedi and Sunil Dutt is now leading the chart, is a commercial movie with re-

venge as the theme. Afsana Pyar Ka and Aaye Milan Ki Raat are romantically based story. Amitabh's fantasy movie Ajooba is well placed in the hit chart. Anil Kapoor comes out of hibernation with Benam Badshah. Two musical (songs) cassettes, Memories of Nuturn and Geeta Dutt Ki Yaaden is worth

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

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

**Hindi Top Chart** 

Yeh Aag Kab Bujhegt Rekha. Kabir Bedi, Sunil Dutt, Afsana Pyar Ka: Amir Khan,

Ajooba: Amitabh, Rishi Kapoor, Dimple, Sonam, Karz Chukana Hai : Govinda,

Neelam.

Juhi Chawla, Benam Badshah : Anil Kapoor, Juhi Chawla,

Aaye Milan Ki Raat : Shaheen, Aumnash, A.Kher, Shikari: Mithun, Nascerud-

din Shah Varsha, Natasha, Viki Daada : Naagarjuna, Juhi Chawla. Do Matwala: Sanjay Dutt, Chankey Pandey, Sonam, Ekta,

Khatra: Sumit Saigal, Ekta,

Memories of Nutun : Musi-

**English Top Chart** The Cook the Thief his lover and her wife (romance) The Fifth Monkey (adven-

cal (songs)

sical (songs)

ture) Ben Kingsley

The Grifters (thriller) John Cussack

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.

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

Physics and Mathematics, decided to create his own the atre. At the beginning, it was a close group of like-minded people carried away by a com mon idea but unable to imple ment it within the framework of the official theatre culture. Kurginyan's stage experiments did not fit into the pattern of the famous Stanislavsky sys tem. Their subject was human thought, its origination in the depths of consciousness and its evolution. This is not acci-

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

in the stagnation period, Kurginayan's amateur theatre was not favoured by bureau erats in culture. They closed it many times, evicted the theatre from its premises and forhade it to show the unusual performances. Only in 1987, in the epoch of democratic changes openness and freedom of creativity in this coun-

works by Pushkin, Dostoyevsky and Anton Chekhov, and other performances.

Of course, a complex psy choanalytical orientation of Kurginyan's performances presupposes a specific metaphoric language. The disign of the studio's performances is closely connected with its ul timate goal. There is no pic turesque scenery or bright costumes. The basic colours are black, white and red

The theatre's name conveys

WRITE TO MITA



Dear Mita.

I like the way you advise people it's really effective. So. here I am asking you for some advise as it's been long since this problem is bothering me. You see, I've been married for 2 years now. My husband is a wonderful person. He is the man of my dream and he is also very happy with me. But there are few problems that sometimes makes me upset. The first thing is until today my husband has, not for a single day. called my parents 'Abba' and 'Amma'. He talks to them but without any name. I've tried my level best to make him call my parents by 'Abba' and 'Amma' with no success so far. Now tell me what to do or how to make him understand that it's really frustrating to my parents also? More so because I am the only daughter of my parents. Please give me a suggestion so that I can be relieved of this problem.

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. Most of them relent over time and fall into the normal pattern. If your husband is a wonderful man as you say and is happy with you then he should understard your problem and give in to this simple demand that you are making on him. Explain to him that you respect his parents and are willing to call them by any name that he wants, then why should'nt he reciprocate? Talk to him frankly and pursued him to tell you the reason for his behaviour. Once you find that out the solution should be

Dear Mita.

I am a married young man of 30. We married seven years back. We have a pretty daughter of four years. My confrontation with my wife is mainly based on values. She is an under SSC. I am a first class technical graduate from Dhaka University and am sure of going abroad soon for higher studies through a Commonwealth Scholarship. From the very beginning of our conjugal life, she has not honoured my academic feat, rather she looks down upon it. Sometimes her attitude becomes intolerable. According to her, education without big money earning capacity is valueless. My current dilemma is whether I should take her with me abroad. I fear she will not help build up my academic career, instead she may stand as an obstacle to my studies. Please advise what I should do.

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. Well, my answer is - leaving her behind is no solution and will further widen the present distance between you. Furthermore, you have a daughter to think about who needs a complete family. Your wife's attitude could be in reaction to your sense of superiority because of your 'academic feat' as you call it. Being the intellectually superior one it was your responsibility to slowly change your wife's values regarding money and education. Many women study after marriage, I don't know if you have encouraged her to do so. Your wife needs to be apprect ated for her own qualities. Only then you can expect her to appreciate yours.

Dear Mita.

I am very embarrassed and ashamed to write about my problem but cannot find anyone to turn to. I think my husband is seeing another woman. I am so upset and depressed that logical thinking has become impossible. If I challenge him I know he will deny it but there is no doubt in my mind

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. If what you say is true then before going to a lawyer a frank and open talk with your husband is advisable. This is one of the most complex issues of marriage and should be dealt with utmost care and maturity. Remember any decision you take will effect the future of your entire family. I do not have enough facts to counsel you but in all stricerity I cannot advise you to break the marriage just because your husband is allegedly seeing another woman. Please get to the bottom of this and also think about your relationship with him.

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. I am fed up meeting the same people and having the same conversation everyday. The group that I am, forced to socialize with is very small and I don't find them interesting anymore. What can I do? Apart from watching videos and talking on the phone there is nothing else to do. Please

Sufia, from abroad.

Dear Sufta,

Your problem is the same as many expatriate women who have chosen to follow their husbands on their postings. I agree it can be boring, tiring and even frustrating but I do not agree that you cannot do anything about if other than watch videos.

What your 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. Learn about the city and the country you are living in. You will be surprised at what you discover. You can also think about learning to paint, sing etc. if you have the aptitude. Another outle't for your energies could be getting involved in social services activities.

### 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.

Please address letters to Mita, The Daily Star. GPO Box 3257 or to 28/1. Toynbee Circular Road, Motijheel. Dhaka-1000.

## **Inner Strength'**

From preueding page

His life in Europe and Pak istan is carefully touched upon. while the film focuses on how he re-enters the art world with the mid-seventies glorify ing the Bengali peasantry.

What is surely marvellous about the film are the old stills from Sultan's youth, which few in Dhaka have seen. The highlighting of the details of his latest paintings about the Bungladeshi farmers is also enlightening.

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 of the farmers, never the farmers. It gets stuck in the city. If the foreign aid is cut off today what will happen? The city will die. But in the village, nothing will happen. Nothing will change.

The peasants will always survive. Sultan also comments. "We are dangling loans in frunt of their eyes. They are so poor and simple they jump at the opportunity, thinking it will help them change the situation. The bank makes them mortgage all their land. Eventually they can hardly manage to repay their loans on time."

The manner in which the artist creates his own canvas and paints, as the film depicts is also educational. It should inspire all those Bangladeshi painters who constantly complain of the expense of the oreign paints.

The photography by Ashfaque Munier is artistic and imaginative. The music by Puluk Gupta is adequate and sometimes remarkable. He combines eastern and western musical therries, as suited to the situation. The editing by Nazrul Islam is also satisfactory. Although the film has taken a number of years in the making it has certainly been worth it, and is a definite hallmark to film making to



From penceding page unseasonable allusions. topics which may irritate, he is seldom prominent in conversation, and never wearisome. He makes light of favours while he does them and seems to be receiving when he is conferring. He never speaks of himself except when compelled never defends himself by a mere retort. He has the quality of interpreting everything for the best. He is patient. forbearing, and resigned, on phtiosophical principles. He submits to pain, because it is inevitable, to bereavement, because it is irreparable, and to death, because it is his destiny He may be right or wrong in his opinion, but he is too clearheaded to be unjust. Sultan knows the weakness of human reason as well as its

strength, its province and its >

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

Ironically enough, his works have attracted profit hungry art dealers. And the middle-class intelligentsia who have ignored Sultan for so many years have suddenly started to appreciate his works in their and are craving to own a piece of Sultan's unique

We are struck by the tremendous rhythm and movement and the overtones of excitement and joy in Sultan's work. Whether we shall have one like him in years to come, time alone will