

# Dhaka Day by Day

## A Few Thoughts About the Film World

by Fayza Haq

S.G. Fakhruddin, an expert in film distribution since 1939, has been associated with the "New Theatre" in Calcutta. He went there to learn about film-making, specially those that are dubbed in various languages.

Mr. Fakhruddin helped K.L. Saigol in making his last film "My sister" which was directed by Hem Chandra Chandr in Bombay in 1949-50. "Then I got involved in a film 'Aye' which involved Yaqub in the main acting role," he said.

Next he got acquainted with Jaddan Bai, the mother of the famous actress, Nargis. When Jaddan Bai died in the 50's, "I linked myself with Akhtar Hussain and began the distribution office of the 'Nargis Pictures'. I was the executive director there and learnt how to export films in the world market.

In 1942, he came to Dhaka to open an office for film distribution. He called it the "Allied Pictures" and obtained some Indian films like "Shakti" for the viewers in Bangladesh. "Since then I have been fitting between Dhaka, Calcutta and Bombay," he said.

Of all the film producers Styajit Rai is undoubtedly one of the greatest. Mr. Fakhruddin commented, "It is a pity that there are not many film makers like him with his individual insight and subtlety. He is of a world-class, and remains to be paralleled in the Subcontinent. Here in Bangladesh I was left with people like Alamgir Kabir, Rozi Samad and Amjad Hussain to create what we possibly could. Despite being in the film line for more than fifty years, I have not been able to contribute anything on par with what is going on in India," he remarked.

"I guided S.M. Shaif with his 'The Rain', which has been exported abroad for 4,000 sterling pounds in 1976. This went to various cities in the Subcontinent and also to the Middle-East", Mr. Fakhruddin claimed. He said, in fact, that he was the first organiser for distribution of Bangladeshi films overseas.

What Mr. Fakhruddin loves to do is to remember and talk about the days when the Bombay film industry flourished after 1947. "Ayub, Dilip Kumar's elder brother was my friend. Raj Kapoor and Nargis were my close acquaintances."

At the age of 68, today, he remains an active

businessman and wishes that he had the energy to be actively involved with films once more. He considers Kobori as the best actress that Bangladesh has produced. What others lack, according to Mr. Fakhruddin, is the ability to bring intensity of feeling and realism into the acting of the present time in Bangladesh. He considers Anwar Hussain, Shaikat Akbar, and Amjad Hussain as fairly good.

With fifty-five years of film experience he is confident that he could help make better directors and actors with the present performers in the Bangladeshi cinema world. He feels that people in the film world in Bangladesh should descend to take tips from those who are more experienced and have been involved in the business of the cinema world.

Today, apart from experimenting with various businesses, which does not claim his mind or heart entirely, he takes refuge in hobbies such as football, cricket, and what he looks forward to is the 1994 World Cup football. He said he had no patience with the videos and which are inflicted on him by his grandchildren at his Mirpur residence.

Out of his four sons three are abroad. He has two married daughters as well. He is extremely proud of his youngest son, Sohail, who got a national award for acting in a Bengali film "Lahu Vahu" in India.

Pondering over various factors in Bangladesh, Mr. Fakhruddin told me that he was concerned about the growing population in Bangladesh and the lack of adequate housing of the common man, who live in rented hovels or sleep under the open skies on the pavements.

He is also worried about the prevailing illiteracy in the country and believes that primary education and adult literacy are one of the major cures for the country's repeated misfortunes.

"I am no one to advise the authorities about the socio-economic problems of the country but you must admit that even the poor 'rickshawpuller' and the riders of the crammed city buses have opinions of their own. If we have really obtained democracy, there should be freedom of speech to say what one thinks fit, as long as this does not harm the masses in the final analysis," Mr. Fakhruddin added.



Mr. S. G. Fakhruddin (seen in the centre) along with his colleagues from the film world.

## Anniversary of Zia's birth Jan 19

The 56th birth anniversary of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman will be observed on January 19, reports BSS.

Zia Ideology Implementation Parishad has chalked out a week-long programme to observe the anniversary.

The programmes of the Parishad include voluntary blood donation at the mazar of Zia on January 19 at 8 am, discussion, exhibition of documents and photographs on Zia.

Central committee of the Parishad has requested all its units throughout the country to observe the day in a befitting manner.

## Tk 27 cr allocated for canal digging

A total of Taka 2696.83 lakh was allocated for the excavation and re-excavation of 893.05 kilometre of canal in the current financial year, the State Minister for Irrigation and Flood Control Musharraf Hossain Shahjahan told the House Wednesday, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Nurul Islam Mond (Independent-Barguna), the State Minister said the canal digging programme initiated by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had created irrigation facilities in the dry season.

## BSS Employees Union executives

Afazzuddin and Zainal Abedin were Wednesday elected President and General Secretary respectively of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Employees Union for 1992-93, a union press release said, reports BSS.

The other elected office-bearers are: Vice-President Harunur Rashid Mollah (unopposed), Joint Secretary Ismail Tapadar and Treasurer - Mohammad Kamaluddin.

Mohammad Badruzzaman, Mizuuddin, Mohammad Siddiqur Rahman, Mohammad Fazlul Huq and Mohammad Hafiz Ahmed were elected members of the executive committee of the employees union, the press release added.

## 62 thousand posts lying vacant in govt offices

# No plan to extend age limit for retirement

There are now 62,077 vacant posts in the government offices, according to a statistics of 1990. State Minister for Establishment Nurul Huda informed the House Wednesday, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim (Awami League-Gopalganj) Huda said the appointment in government services had not been stopped.

He further said no restrictions were imposed on fulfilling the vacant posts in government services.

In reply to another question from Mohammad Abdul Awal Mia (Awami League-Kushtia),

the State Minister said present number of class one government employees was 33,051, according to a statistics of 1990.

Huda, replying to a question from Mozahar Hossain (CPH-Panchagar) said a total of 96 former CSP officers were now in service in various ministries and departments. The youngest CSP officer will retire on December 12, 2005.

He also said the government had no plan to extend the age limit to 60 years for retirement in government service.

To a question from Shamsul Huq (Awami League-Mymensingh) the State

Minister said presently there were 59 posts of Secretary 50 posts of Additional Secretary and 201 posts of Joint Secretary. At the moment 51 Secretaries, 41 Additional Secretaries and 108 Joint Secretaries are in service, he added.

## 2,148 illegal power lines snapped

A total of 2,148 illegal power lines were snapped Wednesday at Natarkul and Madhya Badda under Gulshan and Tejgaon thana in a drive by Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) personnel, a DESA press release said, reports BSS.

During the drive 14 illegal users were arrested, 125 cases were registered and a number of ~~power lines~~ were ~~snapped~~, the press release said adding that Taka three thousand was also realised as fine.

## It's new just for you

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## PDB to install Tk 483 cr plant at Ghorashal

Bangladesh Power Development Board will install another unit of 210-megawatt plant at the Ghorashal power station complex at an estimated cost of Tk 483 crore, reports BSS.

The PDB Thursday signed a contract with Technopromexport, a Russian Engineering firm, for construction, erection and installation of the new power plant.

Of the project cost, Tk 306 crore is a foreign exchange component, 50 percent of which will be provided in barter and the other half in cash. The local fund is Tk 177 crore.

Work on the project will start immediately and is expected to be completed by 1996. The Russian firm will provide material and technical

accessories for the power plant.

On completion of the unit, the 6th one. Ghorashal power station complex will be the biggest in the country with a total generating capacity of 950 MW.

The plant will use natural gas as fuel. Two transformers of 125 MVA capacity each will be installed in the power station.

The existing five power generating units in the complex have also been installed with Russian assistance earlier.

M Asharur Islam, Secretary, PDB, and Valery A Zaitsev, Deputy Director, Power Plant Department of Technopromexport, signed

the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations.

## What's on today....

### National Drama Festival '91

Today's (Thursday) drama of the month-long National Drama Festival will be staged by Khulna theatre, at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy auditorium at 6.30 pm.

The Khulna theatre will stage William Shakespeare's Hamlet.

### Lions Club of Dhaka Oriental

A special meeting of the Lions Club of Dhaka Oriental will be held today (Thursday) at 4.30 pm at the National Scout Bhavan at Kakrail.

### Jatiyatabadi Olama Dal

A meeting of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Olama Dal convening committee will be held today (Thursday) at 11 am at its office at Mintu Road.

### APEC

The annual general meeting of the Association of Pabna Ex-Cadets (APEC) will be held today (Thursday) at 4 pm at the Russian Cultural Centre at Dhanmondi.

Principal of Pabna Cadet College Abu Ashraf Noor will attend the meeting as the chief guest.

### Grand conference

A grand conference of the Action Committee formed by the students of Chemistry, Bio Chemistry, Applied Chemistry and Micro-Biology departments of Dhaka University will be held today (Thursday) at 3 pm at the TSC of the University.

The conference is called to press home the demands of the committee to amend the Article No 13 (1) of the Drug (Control) Ordinance.

### Seminar on Disaster Management

The curriculum development seminar on Disaster Management organised by South Asian Disaster Management Centre (SADMC) of the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) will be held today (Thursday) at 4.00 pm at the conference room of the Bangladesh Meteorological Department, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar in the city.

### Entomological Society Confce

The first biennial conference of the Bangladesh Entomological Society will be held today (Thursday) at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute auditorium, Joydebpur.

The inaugural session of the conference will be attended by Dr SD Chowdhury, former Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agriculture University and Fellow of the Bangladesh Science Academy as chief guest.

### Mirsarai Assoc meet

The annual general meeting of Mirsarai Association will be held today (Thursday) at 3.30 pm at the National Press Club auditorium.

All members of the association are requested to attend.

## .... and tomorrow

### Rangpur Samity meet

The first general meeting and election of the Rangpur Zila Samity will be held tomorrow (Friday) at the ICMA auditorium at Nilkhet.

Justice Mustafa Kamal will attend the meeting as chief guest and Principal Nasimuddin Ahmed as special guest.

### Death anniversary of Md Idris

The fifth death anniversary of Mohammad Idris, member, Legislative Assembly of undivided Bengal an eminent politician, will be held tomorrow (Friday).

On the occasion Quran khwani, kangali bhoj and milad mahfi will be held after Juma prayer at his Residence at Idris Manzil, 21/9 Khilji Road (Shyamoli) Block-B, Mohammadpur.

Friends and admirers have been requested to attend.

### Asiatic Society meet

The fourth biennial general meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh will be held tomorrow (Friday), at 10.00 am at the auditorium of the Society at 5 Old Secretariat Road.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas will address the meeting as the patron of the society.

Dr AM Sharafuddin, President of the Society, will preside over the meeting.

### Samajtantrik Sramik Front

Samajtantrik Sramik Front will hold a discussion meeting in observance of its 10th founding anniversary tomorrow (Friday) at 3.00 pm at Noor Hossain Square (in front of GPO) in the city.

## R K Mission's role in alleviating human sufferings lauded

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman Wednesday, lauded the philanthropic activities of the Ramkrishna Mission and said service by such organisations played a key role in alleviating human sufferings, reports BSS.

He was addressing as chief guest a function in Dhaka marking the installation of an X-ray unit at the Ramkrishna Mission donated by the Indian Government.

Presided over by Justice Debesh Chandra Bhattacharaya, the function was also addressed, among others, by State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka, Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh K. Srinivasan, Ambassador of the Vatican in Bangladesh and Swami Aksharanda Maharaj of the Ramkrishna Mission.

The X-ray unit valued at Taka 17 lakh would be added

in the free medical services maintained by the mission. Politicians including CPB President Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, NAP General Secretary Pankaj Bhattacharaya and Awami League M P S S Halder were present.

The Foreign Minister described the addition as a "new opening" for the mission in extending medical services and said this would cover a lot of needy people desperately requiring such facility.

He referred to the manifold services given by the Mission in different areas like education, health and family welfare and said the Ramkrishna Mission earned admiration of people as it extended such services without any discrimination on religious and other grounds.

Sadeq Hossain Khoka recalled his association with the Dhaka Ramkrishna Mission

since his childhood and said the spirit behind the social and other works of the Mission was well known today. He urged more and more people to get themselves involved in the philanthropic activities so that larger numbers of needy people could get the benefits.

K. Srinivasan said Indian government was happy to donate the X-ray unit to the mission, which rendered valuable services in this country during different situations like in the wake of 1989 flood and 1991 catastrophic cyclone. He also donated books and cassettes on "Mahabharata" and "Ramayana" to the mission.

Justice Debesh Bhattacharaya said all religions preached humanity and love for fellow human beings.

## Obituary

Khalil Ahmed, son of late Khan Bahadur Md Mahmud of South Bhadeswar, Sylhet died Wednesday afternoon. He was 73.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at Dhanmondi Eidgah Maidan. He was buried at Banani graveyard.

His Qul-Khwani will be held tomorrow (Friday) after Asr prayers at the residence of his youngest son Mehruz Ahmed at 131, West Dhanmondi (Modhubazar).

## JS advisory body meets today

The ninth meeting of the Jatiya Sangsad Business Advisory Committee will be held at 11 am today (Thursday) in the office chamber of the Speaker in the Sangsad Bhaban, reports BSS.

Speaker Sheikh Razaque Ali will preside over the meeting.

All members of the committee have been requested to attend.

## Thursday

- 5.00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Recitation from the Geeta
- 5.30 Bolte Paro
- 6.00 Cartoon film: The New Three Stooges
- 6.30 Jibaner Alo: Religious Programme Debate
- 7.05 News in Bangla
- 8.00 Drama of the week
- 8.30 News in English
- 10.00 Parliament roundup
- 10.25 Drama series: Twin Peaks
- 10.35 Khabar/The news
- 11.40 Friday's programme summary closing.
- 11.45

## Weather

### Night temperature may fall

Weather is likely to remain dry but night temperature may fall by 1 to 2 degree Celsius in most parts of the country during 24 hours ending 6 pm today (Thursday), reports UNB.

Met office said temperature is likely to remain unchanged in the region of Chittagong and Noakhali.

Wednesday's maximum temperature in Dhaka was recorded 23.8 degree Celsius and the minimum 12.7 degrees. The lowest temperature in the country on Wednesday was at Rajshahi 10 degree Celsius while the maximum was at Feni 25.1 degrees.

Percentage of humidity was 100 per cent in the morning and 78 per cent in the evening.

Sun sets today (Thursday) at 5.33 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 6.44 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	23.8	12.7	100	78
Chittagong	23.4	13.3	97	74
Rajshahi	24.2	10.0	91	72
Khulna	24.6	10.2	91	65
Barisal	24.0	10.5	95	81
Cox's Bazar	24.4	15.0	92	73
Srimangal	22.4	13.2	96	83
Mymensingh	24.5	13.9	93	69
Dinajpur	23.5	10.5	92	73
Rangpur	23.6	10.2	95	91
Iskhurdi	23.6	10.6	99	77

## Parjatan's River Cruise

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Minimum 12 Persons.

Price inclusive of light refreshment  
Tk. 300.00 Per Person

Pick-up time: 8.15 a.m. from Dhaka Sheraton/Sonargaon Hotel.

Vessel leaves Paglaghat VIP Jetty at 9.00 a.m. and returns to the same venue at 1.00 p.m.

For tickets and other details please contact:

- Tourist Information Centre • Tourist Information Centre
- Parjatan Head Office Dhaka Sheraton Hotel
- Phone: 327842, 325155-9 Phone: 509479, 863391, 861191/566

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