

Dhaka Day by Day

In Quest of the Reality and not the Illusion

Fayza Haq

Thirtyseven-year-old Didi Danquardt from Freimann, Germany, who held a workshop of short films and videos, speaking to "Daily Star" said, "I always wanted to make political documentaries. We were caught in a political movement in 1978. At that time the video was new — it was a table recorder, half an inch with open reels and no cassettes."

"I felt it was a great way to obtain and transmit news. We could have possession of more than what was flashed on the TV. I was twentytwo when I began. I was thrilled to capture the truth and get out of the mainstream of the government news. I was involved in the 'aquator' or youth movement and we even made a couple of films which we screened in the pubs and houses. It was something like the 'Proshika' in Dhaka", the film and video expert continued.

After talking about what drew him to this profession, Didi spoke about his experience with video and short film enthusiasts in New Delhi, where he had recently been. He said that he had a marvellous experience at New Delhi. "They had a lot of information and we had a fair amount of interesting discussion, exchanging ideas and information. I myself learnt a lot from the work experience of the people from India. It was a theoretical workshop and I talked with experienced people, I analysed the structures, symbols and elements, and talked with the video and short film enthusiasts about how to write scripts. I had a seminar for ten days with film makers who made two long documentaries and had come from places like Calcutta, Hyderabad and Bombay. We dealt with different topics like breaking stereotyped concept of the TV, the future of documentary films and authentic voice. Of course, the situation in New Delhi was quite different from that found in Germany. The participants made authentic films in India for both Indian and European consumption. I saw a number of Indian films and was quite impressed."

When asked about how he felt about video and film workers in Latin America and in Bangladesh, Didi said that the situation in Latin America could not be compared with the one in either the Subcontinent or Europe. "In Bangladesh I felt the people were enthusiastic and their knowledge was not to be belittled. I found different levels of films that were more than mere reportage. In Zakir Hussain's 'Faces in the Million' for example, I found the discussion of the death of the protagonist well handled. As for Manzaer-e-Heseni's knowledge, I find it remarkable."

Discussing the importance of the video and the short film, Didi said, "The video is an art and I am essentially an artist. I am bringing a message to the people. Video and film making are crafts which are not easy to handle or master even if you spend your whole life at it. I want to say something important and not just make money. It is like being a sculptor or a painter. You can commercialise your work but that is not my cup of tea."

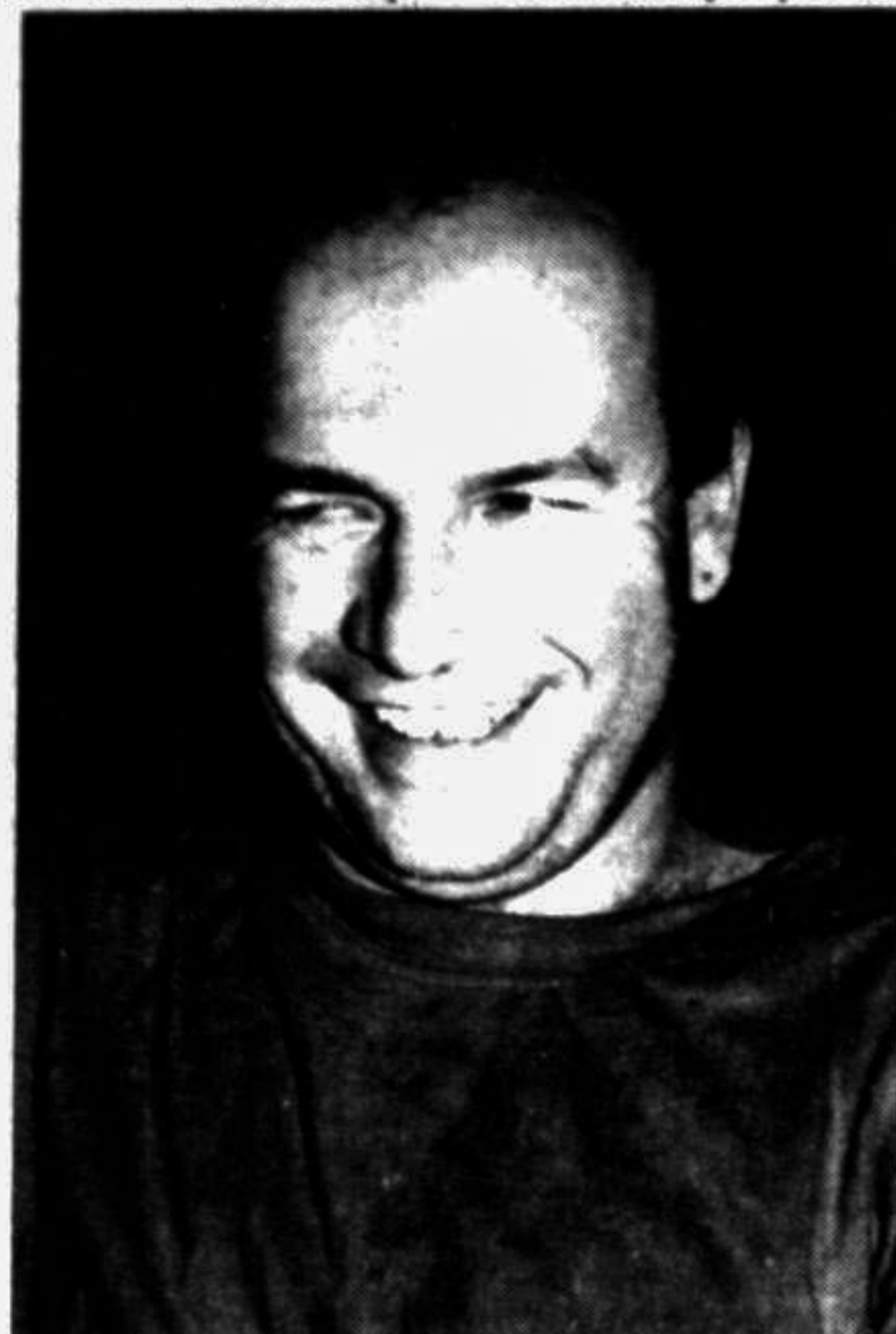
Talking about the way he went about his work Didi commented, "I want my subjects to talk frankly and openly. Sometimes it costs a fair amount of money to get a work done, and there are tight schedules to be followed. At times I must spend considerably to hire my hands. My advice to the film makers is that they should be serious and must search out the dignity of the people they are dealing with. They must, furthermore, prepare the film on the best possible montage. You can make a lot of mistakes. It is like building a house with frames and bricks. The work must be useful, imaginative and have a lasting impact."

What are the problems that he faces at work? "I must earn adequate money to keep myself going. I must then find a producer. I usually do not have difficulties with the crew as I deal with people who know the son *et al lumiere* sections well. I must have good relations with the camera workers and the editors. One must know their backgrounds and have affinity with them," Didi related.

Has he ever given a thought to making feature films? Didi replied promptly, "I am not interested in feature films, although I like the European art films. They are looking for the true film language. They supercede those from USA or the Subcontinent. I myself don't want to make feature films; I wish to capture the reality rather than the illusions."

Didi won a prize for his 'Stare of Pammit's' from the German Documentary Film Critics. It dealt with the handicapped people and the subject of euthanasia. "If a man wants to die you should help him. Yet I don't want euthanasia to be legalised," the film-maker commented.

Didi is married to Segred, who is a physio-therapist, with a sixteen-year son. He loves watching football on TV, and apart from listening to Beethoven, Mozart and Chopin, he also has a penchant for Jazz, specially Coltrane from USA, and Gaberak from Sweden. He also enjoys good rock like Sting.



Didi Danquardt

Dean, Provost election to JU Syndicate today

By JU Correspondent

Election of the Dean and Provost to Jahangirnagar University Syndicate will be held today (Wednesday).

Some 200 teachers will exercise their franchise at the Teachers-Officers Club today to co-opt one Provost and one Dean member to the university Syndicate.

Dr Khaliquezaman Elias, Provost of AFM Kamaluddin Hall and Dr Enamul Haq Khan, Provost of Maolana Bhashani Hall are contesting in the Provost category while Dean of the Science Faculty, Prof Amir Hossain Khan and Dean of the Arts Faculty Dr Ataur Rahman are vying in the Dean category to the Syndicate.

Polling will continue without break from 9 am to 12 pm. Meanwhile, lobbying of the aspirant candidates and their supporters marked the final hours of electioneering yesterday.

Foreign cloths recovered in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Sept 22: Detectives of Chittagong Metropolitan Police recovered imported foreign cloths worth taka four lakh from Burichhar under Hathajari thana here last night, police said today, reports BSS.

Six persons were also arrested in this connection. The cloths imported for a garment factory were earlier stolen from a godown at Majirghat, police further said.

106 arrested in city

Police arrested 106 people from different parts of city in last 24 hours on various charges, reports UNB.

Of the arrested, seven were wanted criminals, three in arms case, six for dacoity, three on charges of theft and another three for raping.

All of them were produced before the court and legal action was taken against them, said a police press release.

Obituary

Mohammad Shafiq Alam, general manager of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company, died of cancer Tuesday at a hospital in New Delhi, family sources in Dhaka said, reports BSS.

The body of Alam will be brought back home at the earliest convenience.

Alam left behind wife and two school-going children.

Raghnath calls on Mannan

K Raghnath, High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, made a courtesy call on the State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism, Abdul Mannan, at his office Tuesday, reports BSS.



5:00 Opening announcement
Al Quran
Programme summary
5:10 News in Bangla
5:20 Recitation from the Geeta
5:25 Sports Programme: Gillette Sports
6:00 Shamachar
6:30 Documentary Film on Saudi Arabia's National Day
7:05 News in Bangla
8:30 Sangbad Parikroma
9:00 Film show: MacGyver
10:00 News in English
10:30 Mukhomukhi
11:30 Khabar/ The News
11:40 Thursday's Programme Summary
11:45 Closing announcement

Sircar stresses use of atomic energy for uplift

Minister for Education, Science and Technology Jamiruddin Sircar Tuesday laid emphasis on a global action plan for using atomic energy to achieve socio-economic uplift of the developing countries and save the world from the threat of green house effect, reports BSS.

Speaking at the plenary session of the 36th general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna he said, the developing countries were facing difficulties in evolving appropriate technology for using atomic energy and require global co-operation.

He is leading a four-member Bangladesh delegation to the conference. The Education Minister said, the developing countries should have access to nuclear technologies which might solve their socio-economic problems efficiently, economically and effectively.

He hoped that the future generations would appreciate the efforts of the predecessors in saving the world from a possible nuclear war.

Jamiruddin Sircar said Bangladesh had already started using nuclear technology in medicare, preservation of food, sterilization of medical products, agriculture, electronics, hydrology, exploitation of minerals and research works.

He said that technical and other types of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) assistance for development of human resources and transfer of nuclear technologies benefited the developing countries including Bangladesh.

He also called for leading role of IAEA to solve energy problem and promote alternative technologies for power generation on a global basis.

He has been elected vice-chairman of the conference and presided over the session Monday.

Army medical team to be sent to Pakistan

The government is sending a 16-member medical team to Pakistan from Army medical corps to help the victims of the recent devastating floods there, reports BSS.

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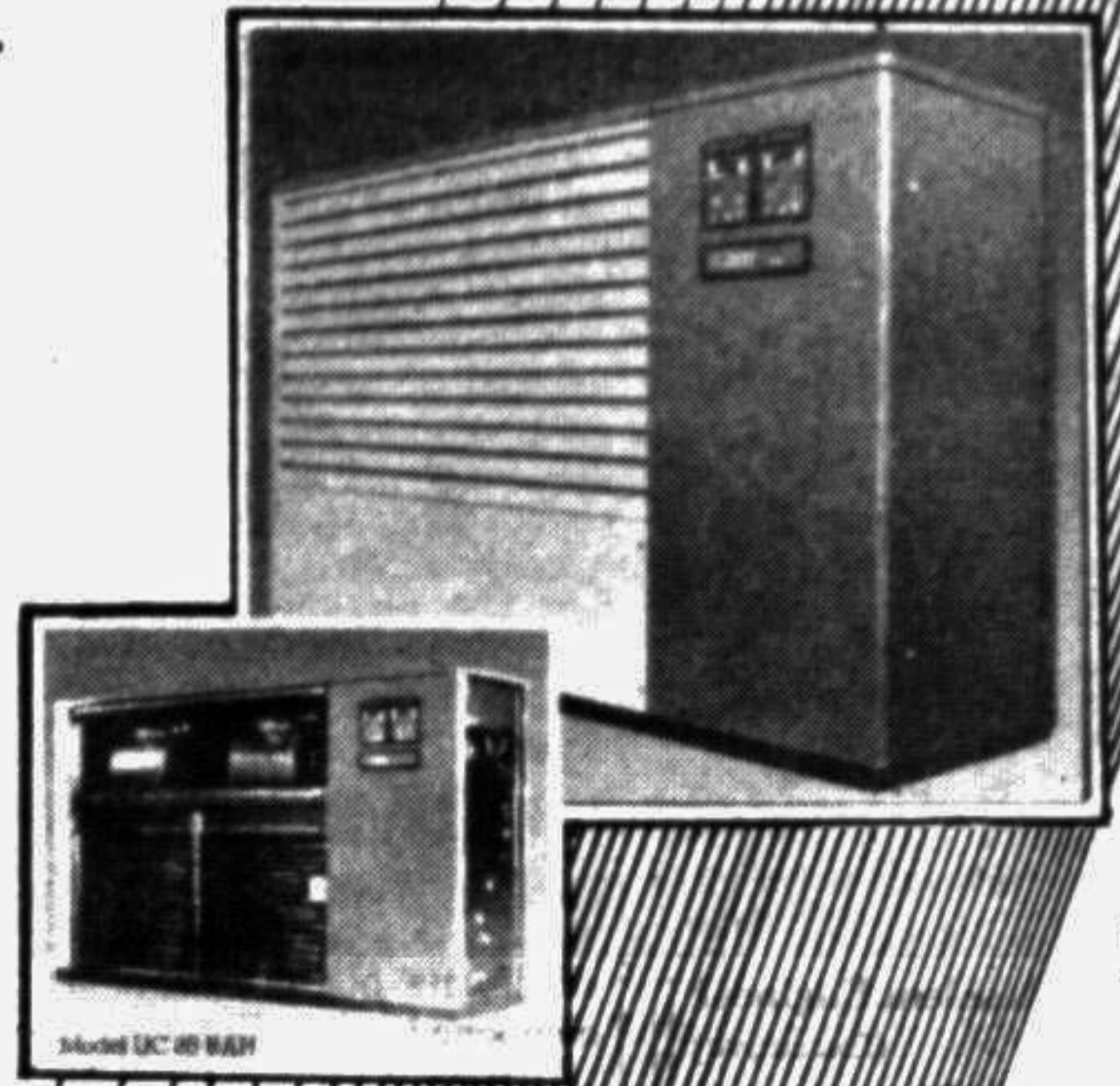
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New agriculture policy to be formulated: Majid

Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid ul Haq Tuesday said that the government had taken a decision to formulate a new agriculture policy on the basis of actual socio-economic and environmental situation of the country, reports BSS.

He was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of a national seminar on 'Agriculture and Environment' arranged by Agricultural Association of Bangladesh (AAB) at BARC auditorium in Dhaka as the chief guest.

Three hundred participants from different fields of agriculture have been taking part in the seminar. Presided over by veteran agriculturist M A Samad, the inaugural function was also addressed, among others, by agriculturist Dr M Yusuf Majumder and Agriculture Secretary A N M Eusuf.

The Agriculture Minister said that 85 per cent of the total people of our country were engaged in agriculture and most of the national income was coming from this sector. So, considering all agriculture

related subsectors, such as livestock, fisheries, mineral resources, environments and overall socio-economic condition of the people, the government was preparing the new agriculture policy and 50 per cent of its preliminary work had already been completed, he added.

Haq said that healthy environment and agricultural development were closely related. He said that demand of every essential commodity had been increasing with the population growth but the cultivable land was getting scarce day by day. The minister said that majority of the people in our country were farmers and that was why agriculture related departments had to take initiatives to find out the ways and means to save the environment.

He advised the agriculturists to work out new policy and technology by happy blending of old and new ideas to ensure the balance of environment.

DCs ordered to simplify system of khas land distribution

State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain yesterday directed the Deputy Commissioners to work as bridge between the government and the people by simplifying the procedures of distribution of khas land among the real landless of the country, reports BSS.

The simplified procedures would have to be implemented at the earliest, he said.

Hossain was addressing the Deputy Commissioners at the two-day revenue conference in Dhaka yesterday. DCs and ADCs (Revenue) of the Dhaka division including the EEC consultants are attending the conference.

The conference reviewed the simplification procedures relating to payment of land tax, land reforms, land administration, jalmohal management, principles and implementation of 'Adarsha Gram' projects.



Anniversary of Abu Hena's death today

By Staff Correspondent

Today is the third death anniversary of Professor Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal, a renowned educationist, poet, lyricist and literary researcher. At the time of his death in 1989, at the age of 53, Dr Abu Hena held the post of Director-General of the Bangla Academy.

A successful teacher who earned the respect as well as affection of his numerous students, Prof Abu Hena was born on March 13, 1936 in Pabna. During his long teaching career spanning three and a half decades, Dr Hena taught at the universities of Dhaka, Chittagong and Rajshahi, and Pabna Edward and Rajshahi Colleges.

During the 1980s, he served as Director-General of Shilpakala Academy and Bangla Academy.

As recognition of his contribution in the fields of literature and culture in general, Dr Abu Hena was awarded the Alawal Literature Award and the Ekushey Padak.

Among his published books, Bengali Press and Literary Writings in the 19th Century, Apan Jauban Boiry, Jekheto Jonmandha, Akranta Gazal, Shilpi Rupantar etc. are some of the more prominent ones.

CU exam date shifted