

Dhaka Day by Day

Youths Celebrate Books Better

by Raffat Binte Rashid



The youths have a better way with books.

"Won't you step in ma'am? I'm sure you'll find the book you are looking for."
"This is the latest of Humayun Ahmed."
"Just see if you like my stall, you don't have to buy anything."
"Please promise you'd come back again."
This particular persuasive style of salesmanship at the Ekushey Boi Mela — the series of queries, the innocent suggestions and not to forget the faint hearted demands — clearly suggests that the persons behind the counters can be no other than owners or sales people with their first ever stall. Youth is always colourful, vibrant and their zealous excitement for life is contagious.
Like every year the Bangla Academy arranged the book fair at its premises on the occasion of Ekushey but with a slight difference this time. Fewer stalls both on and outside the academy premises and a restriction to few things made the fair look spick and span (minus the dust and dirt of course). A few stalls in the fair, always decorated their allotted areas and not only that their teenager counter boys and girls set a different trend where customer services is concerned.
These eager youths, who have either completed college education or are freshmen in universities consider such deals of managing a stall or helping any publishing house or setting up their own shops as opportunities to break free from their monotonous life and get a taste of the real 'grown up' world. These choices allow them to test their business acumen as well. For instance, those who do well here later somehow manage to materialise the secret dream of owning a shop. Sometimes toying with books here land them in the business of publishing and distributing and so on.
"This is, you may call it if you please, my maiden business venture," says vibrant and confident Rabbi, a student of the Institute of Fine Arts. He is a small shop, outside the Bangla Academy premises, on the streets. It is a tiny stall whose walls are made of white cotton cloth and has a tiny book case that looks more like a table. There are a handful of books displayed on it. Though these books of Humayun Ahmed or Imdadul Haq Milon are not his main attraction, he sells them only for the

sake of the festival. It is the extra ordinary punjabis hung or pinned on the walls of his stall. Magenta, blue, yellow, green, orange — such are the bright colours on a canvas of black, beige and white that make his punjabis different but highly attractive.
Embossed fabric paints make the intricate and artistic designs on the cloth come to life. "I thought of going into small business now for many reasons but mainly because I thought this is the time for tests and trials and I want to see what I can do and where it lands me," Rabbi explains.
He has an elaborate future plan. With the profits of this stall he would plan his second sale and if he really gets into the groove, he would start dress designing. But this venture is not his alone. With the help of a few friends he wants to get going. This fair for books gives many like him and his friends a second option in life along with the pre-determined profession of being an economist or doctor or even an artist.
There are exceptions too, for a group of six Bishwa Sathitya Kendra friends this is a time to pass; an educative way to wait for university admission tests.
"We like books and promoting rather than recommending them is fun. We have no plans to set up any book stores of our own, in fact we are just helping a senior *bhai* with his publishing work at the moment," says one of them. This smart group of six seem to be elated the moment someone buys their books and become restless, the next second when someone just browses through and picks none.
This year the sale is very dull, on Fridays, the previous years, our daily sale leaped to Tk 10 to 12 thousands and this year even by 7 pm (on Fridays) it's nowhere near that amount," sighs an university student, quite unhappy with his sales.
A group of young men who took a fancy for such amateurish sale of books at the academy *boi mela* are said to have launched the book market at the Aziz super market near Shahbag. Are we to welcome more such book markets — thanks to the entrepreneurship of the youths — in the capital or elsewhere? That will be a bonus for us on top of the book fair.

Steps to help prevent oppression on women One woman SI, one ASI, five constables in each dist HQs

Necessary steps are being taken to appoint one woman sub-inspector (SI), one woman assistant sub-inspector (ASI), five women constables in each district headquarters to help prevent oppression on women, reports BSS.

This was disclosed at the fourth inter-ministerial coordination meeting on prevention of oppression on women and children at the Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday with State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Begum Sarwar Rahman in the chair.

The meeting stressed that the urgent need for appointing one woman ASP in each district for inspection and moni-

toring of cases related to oppression on women and children and one woman ADC in each district for speedy disposal of such cases.

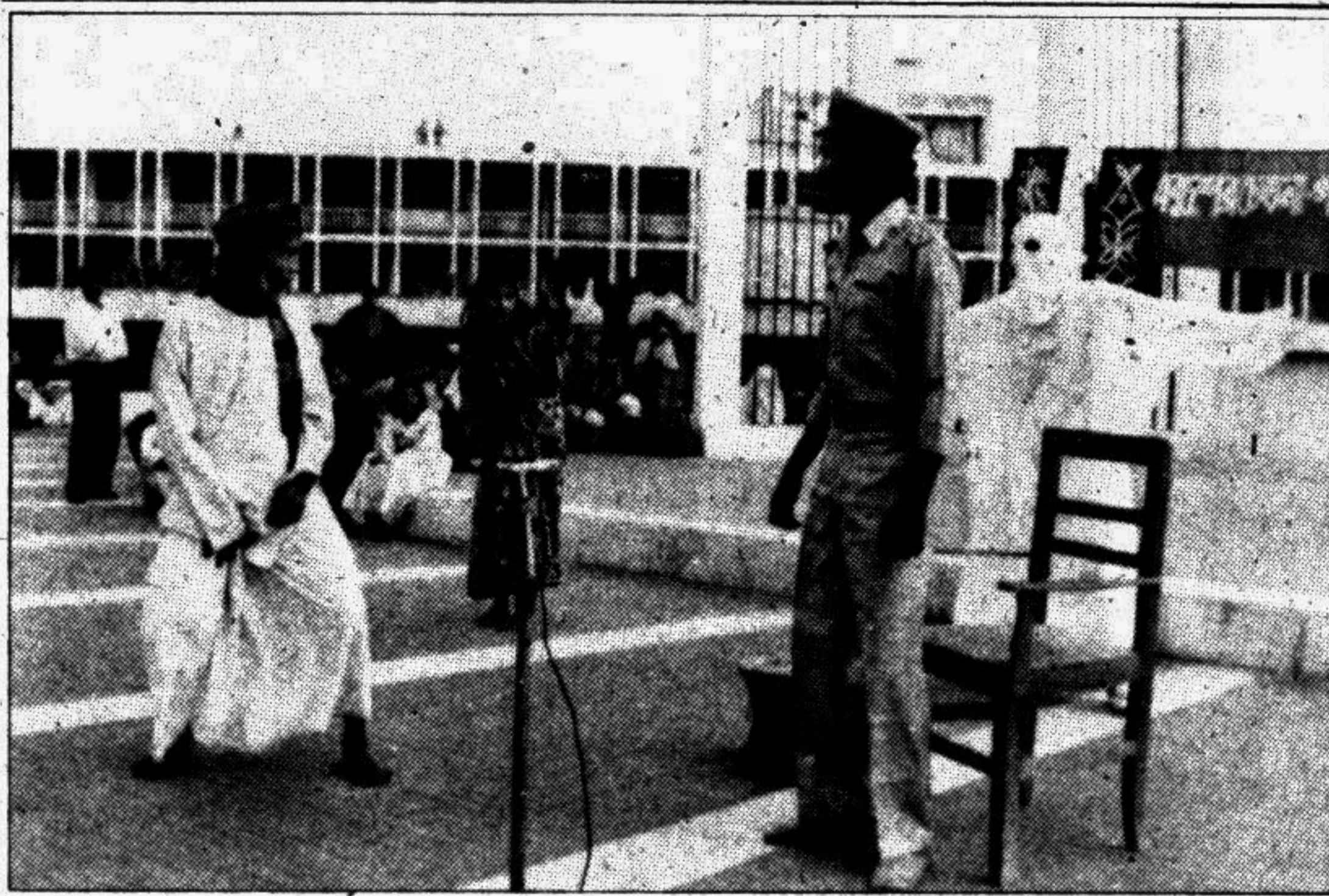
Decision was also taken at the meeting to direct the Law Ministry to accelerate the appointment of *Kazis* in each union for facilitating the marriage registrations and collecting of the minimum marriage registration fees which is already fixed at Taka five to help the poor women in particular.

The meeting observed that the Information Ministry should take steps to undertake wide media publicity, particularly in television and radio, for highlighting the existing laws

related to prevention of oppression on women and children and punishment for such offences.

The meeting also reviewed the nature, reporting and disposal of cases related to oppression of women and children submitted by Law Ministry and Home Affairs Ministry.

Khaleda Rabhani MP, Begum Lutfunnesa Hossain MP, additional secretary in-charge of Women and Children Affairs Ministry Md. Matur Rahman, high officials of different ministries and additional inspector general of police attended the meeting.



The Ritwik Nattya Ghoshti staged a drama at the feet of the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday as a part of ongoing *Ekushey* programme organised by the Sammilito Sangskritik Jote.

4th Int'l Short Film Festival begins "Censorship restricts film-makers' expression of thoughts"

The Fourth International Short Film Festival with the slogan free cinema, free expression opened in the city yesterday.

The Bangladesh Short Film Forum, the organisers of the festival, called for the abolition of government censorship and lifting of the tariffs on films in a declaration at the opening ceremony in the Public Library auditorium.

"Censorship violates film-maker's democratic rights and restricts their expression of thoughts and therefore, we demand an end to it," the declaration read by Manzare Hossain said.

Films reflect all spheres of our lives and I sincerely thank all those who have familiarised our country to people abroad through their films," elderly poet Begum Sufia Kamal said this while inaugurating the festival as chief guest.

"Images are powerful to deny our nothingness and I hope, through this festival of films, we will find our reasons *deux*," said Salahuddin Zaki, chairman, festival committee, in his welcoming speech. He also paid tribute to noted film-makers — Alamgir Kabir and Najir Ahmed, to whom this year's festival is dedicated.

Earlier, doves and balloons were released in a colourful ceremony in the courtyard of the library. Noted singer Kalim Sharafi lighted *prodeeps* (earthenware lamps) and artistes of Ananda Dhani rendered songs.

Among those present at the opening were, the high commissioners of Great Britain and Australia, Kumar Shahani, Kabir Chowdhury, Obaidul Haq, Sayeed Ahmad and others connected with the film industry at home and abroad.

The festival authorities,

meanwhile, cancelled its today's 11 am session, due to 6-hour hartal, called by the Left Democratic Front, in the city. The films due at the session will now be screened on February 20, according to the organisers.

A question-answer session for the viewers and the press entitled 'meet the director' will be held every afternoon at 4 pm from tomorrow at the festival office on the library premises.

Although the festival has been well organised and attended, a spokesperson for the

organisers, the Bangladesh Short Film Forum, told The Daily Star, "We're a little bit disappointed this year. The festival has been growing since its inception, the number of film-makers' interest has increased as well as public interest. However, we were not able to raise the amount we would have liked, to achieve our full potential this year."

With only ten lakh taka, we could have produced a fantastic festival. We only managed to raise four lakh, or so, mainly from private donations, some advertising and ticket-sales. Many interested film-makers from abroad, wishing to participate, were turned away as we just did not have the resources to put them up in the city. We also had to turn down many films.

"Prospective sponsors are not aware or don't understand the millage they themselves can get out of the visual medium, and so are unwilling to come forward. Our brochures are sent to many major film festivals, including Cannes. Sponsors would be getting global exposure. But most of the large corporations we approached were just not interested. It is the same with the government — the only support we get from them is permission to hold the festival."

"But a festival of this sort is more or less a cultural conference between the different nations taking part. It should be supported and encouraged as much as possible."

The week-long carnival of creative films, mostly known for their classic and aesthetic abstraction, was organised by the Bangladesh Short Film Forum (BSFF). It also organised the festivals earlier in 1988, 1991 and 1993.



Anwarul Islam Bobby's death anniversary today

The first death anniversary of the Anwarul Islam Bobby, founder-Editor of the Morning Sun, will be observed today, says a press release.

A *doa mahfil* has been arranged after Asr prayers today at Gulshan Shooting Complex in the city. Relatives, friends and well-wishers of the deceased are requested to attend the *mahfil* and pray for the salvation of his departed soul.



A *guyehana janaza* of an industrial labourer Abul Hashem, killed during blockade, was held in the city yesterday.

জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
সাতার, ঢাকা।
প্রথম সমাবর্তন অনুষ্ঠানের
পুনঃ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, অনিবার্য কারণ বশে কিছু সংখ্যক সমাবর্তন অনুষ্ঠানে যোগদানে বাতিল নির্ধারিত সময়সীমার মধ্যে আবেদন করা দিতে না পারায় আগামী ২৫-০২-৯৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত সমাবর্তনে যোগদানের আবেদন ও 'ফি' জমাদানের সময়সীমা বর্ধিত করা হয়েছে। আবেদন জমাদানের নিয়ম ও 'ফি' পূর্বক থাকবে।

মোহাম্মদ আলী
রেজিস্ট্রার।

D-186

Death Anniversary
The First Death Anniversary of Mr. Shuja'uddin Ahmed, Retired Chief Engineer, P.W.D will be observed on 16-2-95
(Thursday) after Asar-Prayer at 31, Agamashi Lane, Dhaka. All relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the Milad Mahfil and pray for the departed soul.
Tel: 258882, 239844
Mrs. Shamsun Nahar Ahmed

Wanted

A) FOR HIGH SECTION (male teacher)

- One English, one Math & Sci. teacher with B.A./M.A. B.Ed. B.Sc./M.Sc. B.Ed. respectively with 10 years teaching experiences in class IX & X, from a reputed school.
- One Agri. Science teacher with B.Sc. B.Ed. and training in Agricultural Science.
- One Christian Religion teacher with B.A. & Training in Theology.

B) FOR PRIMARY SECTION (female teacher)

- Three English teachers with 1. A., 1. Sc. P. T., B.A. & English speaking with teaching experiences from reputed school.
- One I. Sc. P. T., two B.A. B.Ed. with teaching experience from reputed school.

Please apply in own hand written application with true copies of all certificates by 25.02.1995 to

The Headmaster
St. Placid's High School
G. P. O. Bpx. No. 152
Chittagong 4000.

S-106

The British Council presents

The Martin Taylor Jazz Quartet in Concert

Friday 17 February 1995 7.30 pm
Saturday 18 February 1995 7.30 pm
at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, Dhaka

Tickets: Taka 150/- available at the British Council
Taka 50/- available at the British Council
Jesse, Gulshan and Dhaka Sheraton Hotel
Library members only, available at the British Council

Sunday 19 February 1995 7.30 pm
at Hotel Agrabad, Chittagong

Tickets: Free of Charge available at the British Council and Hotel Agrabad

Hungary keen to import leather, Jute goods

Hungary has shown keen interest to import various items including jute and leather goods as well as tea and shrimps in larger quantity from Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Senior officials of the two countries here yesterday discussed ways to further

strengthen the trade and economic cooperation between Dhaka and Budapest.

Hungarian Deputy State Secretary of the Foreign Ministry Zoltan Perexezlenyi, who arrived in the city Monday night on a four-day visit, led

his country's delegation at the talks. Additional Foreign Secretary (West) Kahirul Anam led the home side.

The two sides exchanged views on signing agreement on avoidance of double taxation and investment protection.

Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES
ZIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KURMITOLA, DHAKA. PHONES: 894771-9, 894730-4. CABLE: AIRBANGLA. TLX: 642649 DARG BJ
Ref: DACPL/26/94-95/381 Dated: 12-02-1995

Tender Notice No: 16/94-95

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Biman Bangladesh Airlines on two envelope system (Technical & Price Offer) from interested Manufacturers/Distributors/Suppliers for the supply of any or all the items mentioned below (12 items) as per details/specifications mentioned in the schedule:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01. Computer Paper Plain, 1 Part (100000 Sheet). | 07. 65/35% Tetron-Cotton White Shirting Cloth (15000 MTR). |
| 02. Stencil Paper Plain (800 PKT). | 08. a) Best Quality Poplin Cloth, Ash Colour (3000 MTR). |
| 03. Data Printing Paper for Digital PABX (24-PKT). | 08. b) Best Quality Poplin Cloth, Green Colour (1600 MTR). |
| 04. Computer Paper Roll White, 2 PLY (17500 Roll). | 09. Best Quality Black Leather Shoe with Lace (1000 Pair). |
| 05. a) Printer Ribbon (24 Pcs). | 10. 100% Pure Silk Tie (12000 Pcs). |
| b) Computer Tape (100 Pcs). | |
| 06. a) Developer, Kodak/Anytec (5 Jar). | 11. Toilet Roll White, 2 PLY (40000 Roll). |
| b) Fixture, Kodak/Anytec (5 Jar). | 12. Kleenex Tissue, 2 PLY (40000 PKT). |
| c) Dampening Solution (6 Jar). | |

Tender schedule mentioning full details/specifications of items, terms and conditions will be available from the Accounts Officer, Cash Payment Unit of Finance Directorate, Admin Building, Biman, ZIA, Dhaka on payment of Tk: 500/= (Taka five hundred only) per set (Non-refundable) during any working day up to 27-02-1995. Some items are to be supplied in two years contract which have been mentioned in the schedule.

Sealed tenders should be dropped in the tender box kept in Local Purchase Section; latest by 11-00 hours on 01-03-1995 and will be opened on the same day at 11-15 hours (BST) in presence of the tenderers (if any).

Biman Management reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity in the items and can accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Dy General Manager (S&P) Commercial
Stores & Purchases Directorate

Panther CONDOM
For protection and satisfaction



SOCIAL MARKETING COMPANY