

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Chakkar: Bracing the Brunts

by Fayza Haq

Twenty-six-year-old Saiful Islam Chowdhury (Dolon) had the premiere of his film "Chakkar" at the Goethe Institut recently.

"Chakkar" is a poignant story of a day in the life of a street boy. A simple narrative is made dramatic and vivid. The protagonist acts so spontaneously that acting is furthest from one's mind. Sanaullah is an individual who has been working in a mudrodokan (grocery) owned by a friend which Dolon frequented often. Dolon has known him for five years and found him eager to act. His dark complexion and simple naive face reminded the producer of the hero of the American TV serial "Roots". Sanaullah was eager to act and it cost Dolon only Tk 50 per day to hire him. "I haven't been able to do anything for him—really."



A scene from "Chakkar."

The film "Chakkar" opens with daybreak and chirping of birds. Launches from different parts are seen arriving at Dhaka. Home-bound passengers also crowd to get room in the launches at the harbour. Amidst all this clamour Pradeep wakes up. He is a healthy and hardy boy, who at the age of 15, should have been looked after by parents and is normally expected to be at school.

But all he has are streets for his resort. He is restless and aimless and is at a loss as to how to pass the day. There is nothing to sustain him, so he resorts to stealing a handful of bananas from a fruitshop. Scenes such as these are shown with remarkable lucidity. Other people are shown stealing from the shop and then actual street accidents are brought in. Once again Pradeep tries to steal parts of a rickshaw and the hammering he gets from the rickshaw owner keeps him bed-ridden for days.

In the next shots the hero meets his road-side friends. Meanwhile, there is a political procession that passes along the streets. The street children take part in it and one of Pradeep's friends is killed in a bomb explosion in the process. The children inform the grandmother (Rowshan Jami) and there en-

sues another moving scene. Pradeep, burdened with agony and misery takes to roaming the streets. He witnesses a number of events, and yet he remains restless. He begins looking for a job but to be employed in the streets is not easy.

At last he gets a job of pushing rickshaws up a slope. Pradeep is pleased with himself and with the Tk 10 that he has earned. He decides to eat maachh bhat and enters a small way-side restaurant. The generous and sympathetic manager does not charge him any money. However Pradeep loses this money as it is stolen by a passing rascal while the protagonist is having a siesta.

As darkness overcomes the earth, the rain arrives too. Driven by hunger, Pradeep scavenges the dustbins for food. He seeks shelter at the door steps of a middle-class home but is refused by a heartless woman despite humble pleadings.

Thus Pradeep's struggle for existence continues, Dolon informs that Rowshan Jami did the role on a friendly basis. "I wasn't another character, is a maid-servant in a friend's house. Tonmoy, who is shown being fed by his mother in a park is also an acquaintance of the photographer Pantho Reza.

Scenes from all over Dhaka are brought into the film: Sadarghat, George Court, Gullistan, High Court, Ramna Park, Shishu Park, Dhaka University, Narayanganj, DIT, Gandaria, Kamalapur Railway Station are all brought in the 30 minute film.

The director had problems galore in making the film. There are spelling mistakes in the subtitles.

Dolon is inspired by Goddard, Ingemar Bergman and Satyajit Ray. This film is being shown at international festivals in Australia, UK, Japan and Portugal.

The producer-cum-director hopes to work next on "Lal Shalu" by Syed Waliullah. This story is against Islamic fundamentalism.



Ghatak Dalal Nirmul and Jatiyo Samanya Committee brought out a silent procession to commemorate the 2nd death anniversary of Jahanara Imam yesterday in the city. —Star photo

## Call for concerted efforts to fight drug abuse

Speakers at a discussion meeting yesterday underscored the need for advancing the movement against drug abuse through the coordinated efforts of the government, non-government organisations and the people, reports BSS.

They said that the drug abuse problem was no longer considered to be a problem of a particular country and added, it had emerged as a global problem. They said mass consciousness must be created among the people through depicting the wide range of adverse effects of drug abuse on human civilization.

They were speaking at a discussion meeting organised by the Department of Narcotics Control on the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse at the Shilpakala Academy.

Presided over by a K M Shafiqul Islam, Director (Administration) Department of Narcotics Control, the meeting was addressed also by Syed Rezaul Hayat, secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Faizur Rahman Chowdhury, additional secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs.

In his speech Rezaul Hayat said, strategies must be chalked out by the government, non-government organisations and the people to combat drug problem in Bangladesh.

He said Bangladesh attached priority to the cooperation with other countries and international organisations to fight drug problem.

The home secretary said, Bangladesh also has been maintaining the relationship and collaboration with international communities at bilateral and multilateral levels.

He said the members of the law enforcing agencies must be

watchful about the drug trafficking.

He also said all of us should take a vow to build a drug-free and terrorism-free society for the future generation.

In his speech Faizur Rahman Chowdhury underlined the need for holding rallies and discussion meetings and for creation of social mobilisation in the fight against drug abuse.

He said the non-government organisations and the families could play a vital role in creating consciousness about the adverse effects of drug abuse.

He also underscored the need for stopping drug trafficking, reducing the demand of drug and rehabilitating the drug addicts.

Colourful banners were hung in the around the meeting venue.

"Addiction means death, love your children," "help to build a drug-free nation" and "avoid drug addiction, save future generation" read some banners.

Earlier, a colourful procession was brought out in the city.

The rally began from the Shishu Park area and terminated at Shilpakala Academy after parading different city streets.

Another report adds: The International Agency on Tobacco and health based in London has congratulated "Adhunik", the anti-smoking national organisation of Bangladesh, for its successful campaign against tobacco here, according to a press release.

The bulletin sponsored by the cancer Research Campaign, UK, and the British Heart Foundation, London, in association with the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease in its June 1996 issue highlighted the "Adhunik" and its activities on the occasion of "World No Tobacco Day" observed in Bangladesh.

## President, PM greet Emir of Qatar

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has felicitated the Emir of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani on the occasion of the first anniversary of his Accession, reports BSS.

In a message to the Emir, President Biswas sincerely prayed that the relations between the two brotherly countries would grow from strength to strength and wished His Highness Long Life, good health and happiness.

In a separate message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina felicitated the Emir on the occasion of the first anniversary of his accession.

In the message, Sheikh Hasina expressed the hope that the cooperation between the two countries and peoples would continue to widen and deepen further, and wished the progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of the State of Qatar under his wise leadership and guidance.

## DCCI hails govt policy

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry president All Hossain has welcomed the freely policy proclamation of the government and assured all possible cooperation of the business community in any positive measures, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, the DCCI chief said the government's view to maintain a non-politicised administration would ensure the public servants to render their services free from any bias and in right earnest.

In view of the global scenario, the government's stand to pursue an economic policy would bring better results, he said.

## Stamp on Madhusudan

Bangladesh Post Office will issue a commemorative postal stamp of Tk 4 denomination on the occasion of 123rd death anniversary of Michael Madhusudan Dutt on June 29, reports BSS.

A first day cover valued at Tk 6 will be issued and a special canceller will also be used. The stamp and the first day cover will be sold from all head post offices, including four GPO's of Bangladesh with effect from June 29.

The commemorative postage stamp will subsequently be sold from all post offices including the extra-department ones.

## Bids offered for T&T bond

Bids for a total of Tk 182.20 crore was offered in the third auction of 3-year T and T treasury bond, held in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Bids for a total of Tk 139 crore was accepted. The weighted average price of the accepted bids was Tk 76.92 per 100 taka.

The corresponding yields is 10 per cent per annum, a Bangladesh Bank source said.

## NASHGAF's plea

Nadi Shikast Gono Adhikar Forum (NASHGAF) yesterday urged the new government to protect the rights of the country's river erosion-affected people, reports UNB.

The Forum in a statement congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her pre-election pledge of rehabilitation of landless people and urged her to take initiatives to implement the programme in near future.

It also called upon the new government to amend the laws of alluvion and dilution to preserve the rights of river erosion affected people.

## More Asian FMs greet Samad Azad

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, AM Nuay Voravan, has felicitated Abdus Samad Azad on his assumption as Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

In a message to the Bangladesh Foreign Minister, Voravan said that he was looking forward to working with him to further strengthen mutual friendship for the benefit of the two countries and peoples.

Meanwhile, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Nguyen Manh Cam, in separate message felicitated Abdus Samad Azad on his assumption as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

## BB bills auctioned

The 85th auction of the 91-day Bangladesh Bank bill and the 15th auction of the 30-day Bangladesh Bank bill were held in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Four bids for a total of Tk 3.50 crore and 10 (ten) bids for a total of Tk 43 crore was offered respectively against the 30-day and the 91-day bills and all the bids were accepted.

The weighted average prices of the accepted bids of the 30-day and 91-day bills were Tk 99.42 and Tk 98.15 per 100 taka respectively.

The corresponding yields are 7 per cent and 7.54 per cent per annum, a Bangladesh Bank source said.

## FFs' team calls on Biswas

A 10-member delegation of the Shaheed Family and Injured Freedom Fighters Welfare Association of Mirpur called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

The chairman of the association, injured freedom fighter Llaqat Parvez, led the delegation, said an official handout.

President Biswas paid rich tributes to the freedom fighters recalling their heroic deeds in our liberation movement and said the nation will always remember their contribution to freeing the country from occupation forces.

He said all the previous governments have tried to provide them with necessary help and assistance in respect of medicare, housing and employment.

## BPATC convocation held

The convocation of the 17th Foundation Course was held at Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC), Savar yesterday, reports UNB.

Major General (ret'd) Dr Abdur Rahman Khan, former adviser of the caretaker government, attended the ceremony as chief guest. BPATC Rector A Z M Shamsul Alam presided, said a press release.

## Clinton aide lauds people of Bangladesh

By Staff Correspondent

Anthony Lake, National Security Adviser to President Bill Clinton congratulated the people of Bangladesh for successfully exercising their democratic rights and responsibilities.

Lake said the people of Bangladesh have shown their extraordinary determination to pursue freedom, according to a message received in Dhaka.

Congressman Gary Ackerman, ranking minority member of the US House International Relations Committee, also expressed his pleasure that the democratic process in Bangladesh has prevailed and congratulated its people for their commitment to and hard work for the democratic process to flourish.

## Prize bonds worth Tk 100 available

The 100-taka new prize bonds are now available at all the offices of Bangladesh Bank and all other banks, reports UNB.

General public can buy the 100-taka bonds introduced in the market on July 2, 1995 withdrawing the 10-taka and 50-taka bonds, said a central bank press release yesterday.

## Economics dept alumni meet

The Alumni Association of Economics Department of the Dhaka University will hold its annual meeting June 29, says a press release.

The meeting will be held at the Hotel Sonargaon in the city. All members are requested to complete their registrations and pay subscription fee at the department office. For further information, please contact office secretary Md. Rafiqul Haq Thakoor (Tel: 505711).

Meanwhile, a booth will be opened at the hotel Saturday afternoon for renewing membership and to become new members of the Association. The main programme will start at 5 in the afternoon, the press release added.

## NSU lecture series

North South University will be held the first of its "Eminent Speaker Series" June 29 from 10 am to 12:30 pm, says a press release.

Speakers of the day include Pierre Landell-Mills, chief of World Bank Resident Mission, Sultan-ur-Zaman Khan, chairman of Security and Exchange Commission, Forrest Cookson, International Macroeconomist, Financial Sector Reform Project and Runa Alam, Managing Director, Peregrine Capital Limited.

## More felicitations to Hasina

More organisations yesterday congratulated Sheikh Hasina on her assumption as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The office-bearers of these organisations in their congratulatory messages expressed the hope that her government would be able to free the campuses and society from terrorism and ensure speedy development in the country during its tenure.

The organisations are: Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Shikshak Command, Bangladesh Civil Service (Economic) Officers Association, Bangladesh Fourth Class Government Employees Coordination Council, Bangladesh Fourth Class Government Employees Association, People's University of Bangladesh, Engineers Institution, Bangladesh, Colonel Taher Parishad Jabangirnagar University Shikshak Samity, Bangladesh Unani College Shikshak Samity and Bangladesh Unani Medical Association, Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh and Bangladesh Women Journalists Forum.



Prize-winners pose for a group photo on the concluding day of the cultural week of the Begum Badrunnessa Government Girls College, Dhaka, held Tuesday at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium. —Star photo

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02	Trainer (Health)	Minimum 25 years not above 30 years	Preferably a Medical Assistant, and/or a B.Sc. Nurse	At least 2 years.	5
03	Trainer (Livestock)	Minimum 27 years not above 32 years	Preferably a B.Sc. in Animal Husbandry	At least 2 years.	5
04	Trainer (Horticulture)	Minimum 27 years not above 32 years	Preferably a B.Ag.	At least 2 years.	6
05	Trainer (Fisheries)	Minimum 27 years not above 35 years	Preferably a B.Sc. in Fisheries	At least 2 years.	1
06	Program Associate	Minimum 25 years not above 30 years	Preferably a Masters in Social Science	At least 3 years.	11

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