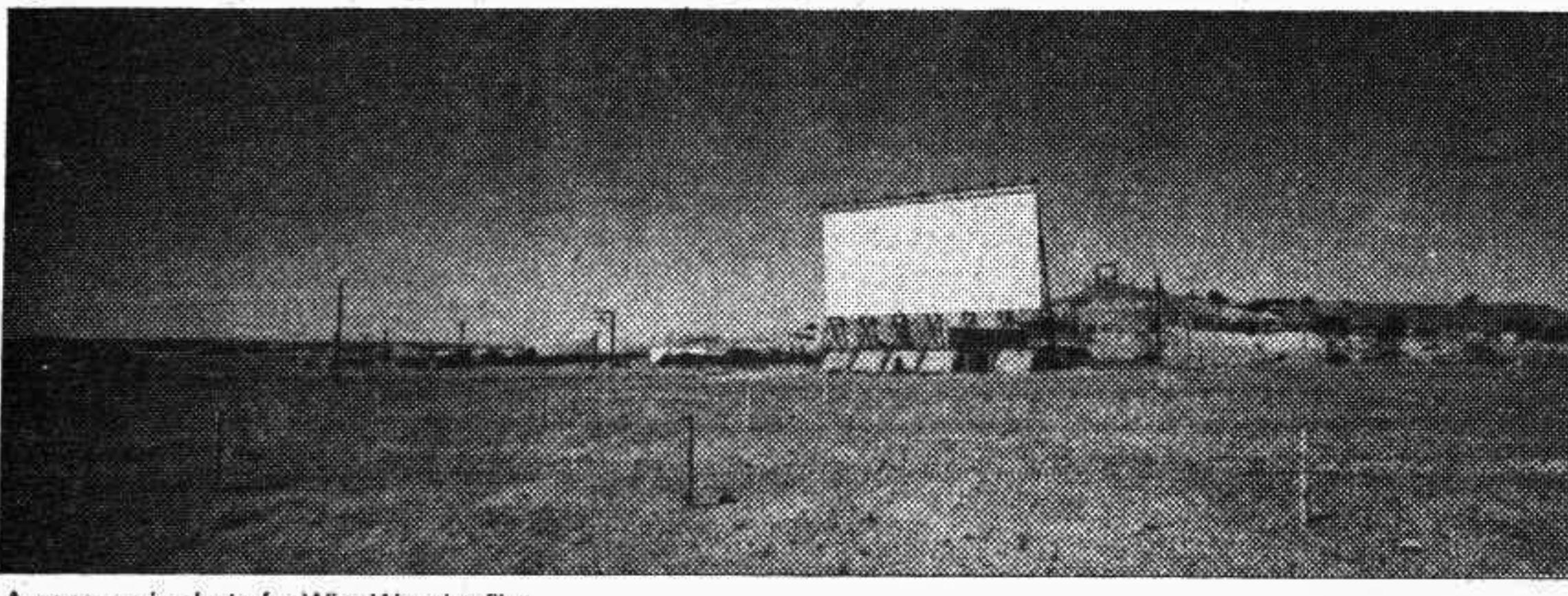


cinema

Wim Wender's Quest for Signs not Symbols

Great German film-maker Wim Wenders' 6-day long retrospective opens today at Goethe Institut Dhaka.



A panoramic shot of a Wim Wender film

Even today, despite films like "All Rivers Run", "East of Eden" shown on BTV and earlier films like "Mutiny on the Bounty", we in the subcontinent, have still have to know much about the beauty and serenity of the continent of Australia. This is especially so in the subcontinent and for the average citizen in Dhaka. Wim Wender's series of films and his photographic exhibition which will be inaugurated at the Goethe Institut today, will provide in-depth analysis of not only Germany but also cities of Australia which,

by Fayza Haq

Wenders visited in '77 and '88. The work of the film-maker and photographer will be held with cooperation of Chalacitram Film Society and the Goethe-Institut Dhaka at the GI auditorium today.

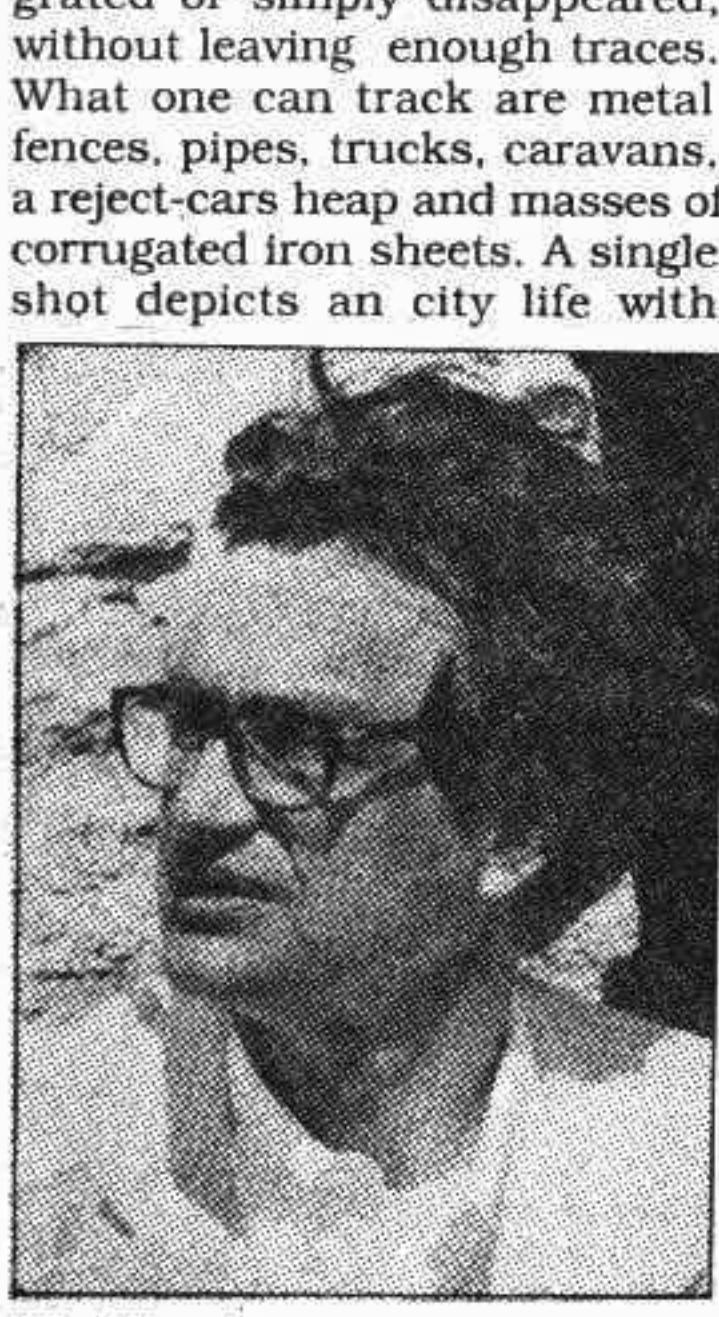
Wenders is famous as a film-maker and he is one of the rare German film directors who have made tremendous progress in the international field. The director's partiality are the long shots which present scenes and individuals who play important role in the films, and by which the viewer is invariably fascinated.

Everytime he gets ready to shoot a film, he takes several pictures to eventually decide the 'state of affairs'. In all his films, allusion to photography proves to be his passion.

While travelling, Wenders took photos of both Australia and America, in which he has a penchant for showing the marvellous scenes of both the continents, and to demonstrate that he is in quest of signs not symbols. These photos represent the sense of wonder felt by a German post-war teenager for the wide expanse of Australia, which is not just a different country but a new one to many.

Wender's Australian photos present overwhelming panoramas of flat regions which appear two dimensional and this is surely remarkable. Nowhere on earth is such flat and barren region found in such expansive regions.

The film-director and photographer aims at presenting areas that have buried and rusted civilization, from where the original people have mi-



Wim Wender almost haunted lit-up office rooms.

Born in Dusseldorf, Germany in '45, Wenders studied at the Munich College of Television and Film from '67 to '70. He wrote reviews for 'Filmkritik' and 'Suddeutsche Zeitung'. He has won many national and international awards for his film direction such as that for 'Ribbon in Gold' for 'The American Friend' '78, Paris, Texas, '83 (Film Ribbon in Gold), 'The Story of Things' for which he won the 'Golden Lion' at the Venice Film Festival in '82, the 'Palme d'Or' at the Cannes Film Festival in '87 for 'Paris, Texas' and the '88 'European Film Prize' for 'Wings of Desire'.

'Kings of the Road', screened at 7pm, the same day, has the story of two heroes whose everyday lives are delineated with humour and sympathy.

'The American Friend' with its adoption of Patricia Highsmith's novel "Ripley's Game" bringing together the talents of actors and directors from USA, breaks the rules of film-making, to create what the director believes to be a cinema full of both love and hate. This will be screened on 16th March at 5pm.

"Until the End of the World" which is based in '99, and depicts a world at the edge of total chaos, brings a adventures that take the protagonists to the ends of the earth. This will be shown on the same day at 7pm.

"Lisbon Story" screened on 19th March, the film opens up with a strange cryptic postcard. It deals with the film world and romantic notions of filming including the use of the microphone and hand-cranking camera as seen used by Buster Keaton in 'Cameraman'.

The film processes begin in Lisbon and so the choice of the title.

"Summer in the City" is about misfit, Hans, who haunted by his past, becomes a vagabond travelling to places like Munich, New York and Amsterdam. This film portrays the lack of hospitality in the big cities and the futility and is appointment in the pointless motions of flights. This will be screened today at 6pm.

"The Goalkeeper's Fear of the Penalty" is about the vicissitudes of life of a goalkeeper Josef Bloch, who insults the referee, follows a girl from the cinema, kills her for no apparent purpose, and gets away scot-free despite the news flash in the papers about the murder. This will be screened on 15th

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"Alice in the Cities" is about a journalist, Philip Winter, who wants to return to Germany after his assignment is over. Due to an air-strike the hero is compelled to stay at Lisa's at Amsterdam, and they wait for Alice to join them. The film tells the story of the quest for self-identity, and the friendship that develops between Philip and Alice. This will be screened the same day at 7pm.

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