



STAR PHOTO

Flimsy features of the film archive

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

Bangladesh Film Archive (BFA) is still striving for a permanent infrastructure 25 years from its launch.

Although the government allotted a plot for the building in Agargaon 12 years ago, no work on a structure has seen the light of day.

The BFA has accumulated only 909 films of different categories -- 240 feature films and the rest documentaries. Most disappointingly, the BFA has preserved only 12 feature films on the Liberation War.

The BFA has been working under the information ministry since 1978 to preserve culture and heritage using films as the media.

Collecting local and foreign films and related objects and preserving them are BFA's objectives. The authorities are expected to arrange seminars, film shows, symposiums, workshops and meetings on the industry.

Activists believe the BFA has failed to uphold its commitment, an employee said, adding it cannot even preserve collected films, let alone other activities.

Asaduzzaman Noor, actor and lawmaker, complained that some films were missing from the collection.

"The BFA has lost the lone copy of *Jey Nodhi Moru Pothey*, erasing the film from history," he said.

Aminul Islam, director general (DG) of the BFA, denied the allegation and said: "It takes time to look for any particular film. That doesn't mean it is lost."

Mamunur Rashid Chowdhury, joint secretary of the information ministry, denied the allegation. "We have provided support like infrastructure, budget and efficient employees," he said.

He said the Copyright Act 2000 is significant in making an effective archive, as Article 38 (Kaa) emphasises that a print of each film released be submitted to the archive.

However, only 20-30 copies out of about 160 films released between 2000-2003 were submitted to the archive.

KMR Monjur, chairman of Bangladesh Film Producers and Distributors Association, said the authorities should share the cost of the print, instead of asking for a donation.

"No producer will want to donate a print that costs up to Tk 90,000," he said.

Films should be preserved scientifically depending on whether they are black and white or colour. The BFA that lacks computerised facilities does not have the technology to separately preserve each type and does not perform regular checks on films.

The archive established as Bangladesh Film Institute and Archive (BFA) saw a separation of the film institute in 1983. It was incorporated in the National Institute of Mass-media Communication (NIMCO).

Expressing disappointment at the separation, the DG said: "I believe the institute and archive are complementary to each other just as the medical college and hospital are for theory and practical work. So stands the film archive and institute."

He called for a projection hall and an auditorium to cultivate the connection between the archive and concerned personnel.

In 1981-82, the BFA ran two film appreciation courses that produced many successful filmmakers of today.

The course did not continue after 1982, depriving those interested in training on different aspects of the industry.

If training had continued, the industry would not have faced such deterioration," said Tanvir Mokammel, a participant of the maiden course. He urged the authorities to take necessary steps to re-start the course.

Information ministry officials claim that the requirements for the archive have been fulfilled, but activists consider the organisation ineffective.

With such controversies in the air, the BFA is preparing to celebrate its silver jubilee next month.

"We hope these controversies would end with the reunion chalked out as a part of the celebrations," said the director general.

"There is one company which had apparently completed the registration

formalities for taxicabs from the BRTA and is now selling the documents of each vehicle for Tk. 70,000," claimed a taxicab owner.

There are companies which have already imported taxicabs that are waiting to be registered. Sources in the cab business said the number was not less than 2,500.

Communications ministry officials

supposed to end up with 75 per cent work, which was the same as her male colleague's designated quota.

But the DCC declared that it was ready to provide 20 per cent work to the women commissioners for the ongoing fiscal. However, sources say that only four 'very influential' women commissioners with close connection to the DCC hierarchy have managed to grasp the promised quota.

"We stand to lose our credibility and popularity if the DCC does not allow us to work for our voters. Two years have passed since we have been elected, but still we couldn't fulfill the commitment made to the voters. This is very disappointing," said Commissioner Shireen Rukhsana. "We also do not receive enough amount of honorariums," added Shireen.

The 30 women commissioners elected from reserved seats requested the DCC authorities during

its budget meeting to distribute and ensure their participation in the city's development work as per the LGED rules. They alleged that the LGED authorities were apathetic to their concerns.

Some senior DCC officials also admitted the prejudice against the women commissioners.

"Many women commissioners resort to lobbying finding no other way," said a DCC high up.

The elected representation of females in local government bodies was supposed to be a major step towards empowerment of women. But the lady commissioners don't feel that way.

"The word empowerment means nothing to us because we are being termed 'half-commissioners' for our failure to deliver what we had promised the people," said Commissioner Shabida Tareq Dpti.

Women commissioners feel deprived, cry for job

Major pledges to look into their demands

SULTANA RAHMAN

Frustration is growing women among female ward commissioners of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) as they feel the authorities are prejudiced against them regarding distribution of development work in respective areas.

The women commissioners allege that they are facing discrimination and the DCC does not follow the commitment made by Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka for equitable distribution of work.

The mayor apparently had assured the women commissioners that they would get the 20 per cent allocation for various projects and jobs in each ward and would also receive other benefits just like their male counterparts. But most women commissioners complained that they have been allotted four to six per cent work at most.

Mayor Khoka reacted strongly when the Star City correspondent drew his attention to the allegation. "The women commissioners were not elected to act like contractors," he said.

Asked why the privileged male commissioners should not be termed as 'contractors' too, Khoka acknowledged that the quota was not being implemented in the cases of the women.

"We have a plan to distribute work as per the project requirements at wards of women commissioners.

From the next fiscal year, we will try to

follow a system that prevents discrimination," said the mayor.

Earlier, the Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) had decided that 25 per cent of development work against each ward would be allotted to women commissioners.

As one woman commissioner is responsible for three wards, she was

supposed to end up with 75 per cent work, which was the same as her male colleague's designated quota.

But the DCC declared that it was ready to provide 20 per cent work to the women commissioners for the ongoing fiscal. However, sources say that only four 'very influential' women commissioners with close connection to the DCC hierarchy have managed to grasp the promised quota.

"We stand to lose our credibility and popularity if the DCC does not allow us to work for our voters. Two years have passed since we have been elected, but still we couldn't fulfill the commitment made to the voters. This is very disappointing," said Commissioner Shireen Rukhsana. "We also do not receive enough amount of honorariums," added Shireen.

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Ministry decision on texicabs, CNG-run autorickshaws

Two weeks over, no step yet for registration

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The decision taken during a communications ministry meeting on April 8 to complete registration of taxicabs and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)-run autorickshaws within a week has not materialised even though two weeks have passed by.

"We have not received any notice from the ministry regarding registration of the new taxicabs and autorickshaws," said an official of Bangladesh Road Transport Association (BRTA) on April 22.

The communication ministry meeting said that registration of all new taxicabs and CNG autorickshaws has to be completed in seven days and the vehicles with fake registration must be detected and properly registered again.

The meeting was presided over by communication secretary Shafiqul Islam and was attended by representatives from the commerce ministry, home ministry, LGRD ministry, DoE, BRTA, BRTC and DMP.

Meantime, a group of unscrupulous agents and BRTA officials are reportedly taking advantage of the confusion regarding registration.

"One agent told me to pay Tk. 30,000 for registration of an autorickshaw," said an autorickshaw owner.

"There is one company which had apparently completed the registration

formalities for taxicabs from the BRTA and is now selling the documents of each vehicle for Tk. 70,000," claimed a taxicab owner.

There are companies which have already imported taxicabs that are waiting to be registered. Sources in the cab business said the number was not less than 2,500.

Communications ministry officials

said that the decision to allow early registration of new vehicles was taken to help businessmen who had already imported taxicabs. Security for the commuters was another issue that prompted the step. Detection of fake registration would increase government revenue, they said.

Security mark on the taxicab, recording the name of the com-

pany, its owner, driver and their photographs with detailed addresses etc. have been made mandatory for getting registration keeping in mind the security of the passengers.

The April 8 meeting also decided that the chassis, engine and registration numbers must be made visible to the passengers.



healthouting,taxicab&train timing

HEALTH

Hospitals

Heart

National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD), - 9130800, 9122560-59

Burn

Dhaka Medical College Hospital Burn Unit-8626812-6

Cancer

National Cancer Institute-8014914, 8826561-65

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-8612550-4, 861455-9

Diabetes

Diabetic Research Hospital (BIRDIM)- 9661551-5, 8616641-50

Mother & Child Care

Shishu Hospital- 9119119, 8116061-62

Azimpur Mother & Child Health

Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980

Eye

Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794, 9119315

National Eye Hospital- 8117202, 8114807

Dental

Dental College -9002035

Orthopaedics

National Orthopaedics (Pangu)

Hospital- 9114075, 9112150

General

Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-6

Rushmoni General Hospital- 8317819

Holy Family Hospital- 8311731-25

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital- 8612550-4, 8614545-9

Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital- 8115443, 9118202,

Azimpur Mother & Child Health

MARKET CLOSED

TAXI CAB

Yellow Cab

Navana 9558065

Salida 934477, 0171620881

Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191

Cab One 7113282-3

Nihon 8624741-2

Orion 9347277

Anudip 8125285 and 8127611

Capital 9352847

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express

Mahanagar Prabhati

Mahanagar Godhuli

Turna

Parabat Express

Joyantika Express

Upaban Express

Tista Express

Ekata Express

Upakul Express

Padma Express

Union 0130485

Kool 0171826731

Black Cab

Cab Ex 9358401

Cabline 8321162

JBS Cab 019364575

Sajan 018126036

Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611

Cab One 7113282-3

KGN 8620011

Palk