

BOOKS

# THE BOOK THAT REBELLED

## Arek Falgun by Zahir Raihan

AFRA ANIKA NAWAR KHAN

*Arek Falgun* by Zahir Raihan, set in 1955, revolves around a group of student protestors gathered barefoot in front of the Shahid Minar. Raihan displays metaphorical nuances of camaraderie between the student protestors – all of whom come together to make a statement.

In the novel, one of the most significant themes is the student's rejection of any kind of law enforcement in their beloved Dhaka University. In any case, why should they allow weapons to enter their fortitude where they are taught knowledge is power?

Additionally, Zahir Raihan's depiction of women involves portraying them with courage. The women in *Arek Falgun*, a book written in 1969, have autonomy as they are the ones who choose their partners, contribute proactively to conversations, and participate in the movement on their own volition. He also sparks conversation of motherhood through Asad, one of the protestors. According to Asad, had he not been an orphan, then it would hurt his mother to see him walk the path of rebellion,

While Kiyo Khan plays the significant role of an antagonist, it's Bazle Karim who



ILLUSTRATION: MAISHA SYEDA

rejects the student movement and his peers' attempt at civil obedience. In contrast to Bazle, Zahir Raihan also gives us Kobi Rasul, a poet and one of the pioneers of the student movement in 1952, in the book. Despite losing friends, and being enraged and hurt, he strives for freedom to speak in his mother tongue.

In fact, it is Kobi Rasul, who said in Bangla in response to a police officer's aggravation on not having enough room for all the detained student protestors at the end of the book – the lines which have immortalised Zahir Raihan's *Arek Falgun*: "*Ashche Falgun, Amra Kintu Digun Hobo*" (*We will be doubled by next spring.*)

OPPORTUNITIES



ELIGIBILITY

The student has to be an undergraduate student from a UGC-approved university in Bangladesh.

The student can't represent or be associated with any other media organisation.

The student must be a member of at least one student club or forum at their respective institution.

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DEADLINE: AUGUST 31, 2014



Optimizely – Product Manager

ELIGIBILITY

Minimum two years of SaaS product management experience.

Excellent communication and collaboration skills.

Ability to form relationships to work cross-functionally.

Ability to adapt to changes in priority.

Problem-solving skills and ability to make data-driven decisions.

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DEADLINE: NOT MENTIONED

UNDP – Communications Associate

ELIGIBILITY

University degree in Journalism, Communications, or related field.

Minimum of three years of relevant communications experience.

Fluency in English and Bangla is required.



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DEADLINE: AUGUST 22, 2024

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