



# Bangladesh Film Archive At A Glance



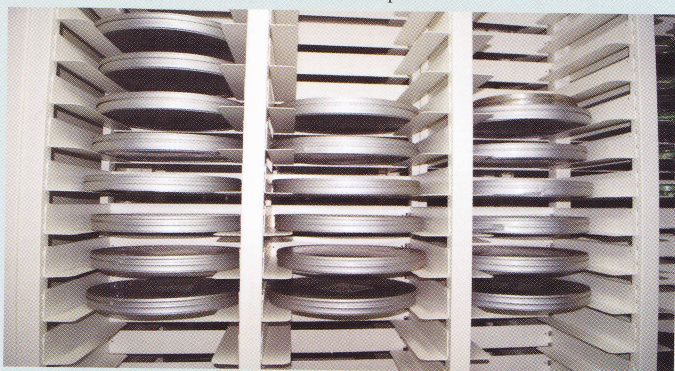
Bangladesh Film Archive  
Ministry of Information

**Introduction:** With a view to preserving the cinematic heritage of the land, Bangladesh Film Archive (BFA) was established in 1978 under the Ministry of Information of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The organization is dedicated to the conservation, preservation and restoration of moving images as well as to developing programmes to create mass awareness about cinematic heritage. Initially the organization was named as 'Film Institute and Archive' Later, in 1984, it was renamed as Bangladesh Film Archive. The organization became a member of International Federation of Film Archive (FIAF) in 1980.

**Objectives:** The prime objective of the Bangladesh Film Archive is to collect rare and classic films and allied materials from home and abroad and to preserve them scientifically for long-term. To create awareness about importance of preservation of film as well as to help people of all ages to understand and enjoy film, the BFA conducts film appreciation courses and research activities, arranges film shows and organizes film festivals, study programme, seminar, symposium, meeting and workshops.

#### **Duties and functions of BFA:**

- a) To collect films and allied materials from home and abroad;
- b) To digitize and restore collected films for long-term preservation;
- c) To preserve collected films and materials at optimum temperature;
- d) To print and re-print the rare films and classic films;
- e) To check and clean collected films regularly for long-term preservation, research and educational purpose;
- f) To collect and preserve the film related books, journals, publications, song books, posters, leaflets, still photographs, scripts and other materials;
- g) To arrange film show regularly from the collected films;
- h) To create opportunity for the film students to access to BFA's specialized library;
- i) To arrange film related seminar, symposium, workshop, discussion meeting etc;
- j) To arrange film festival abroad with native films and in the country with foreign films;
- k) To arrange film related research and publications.



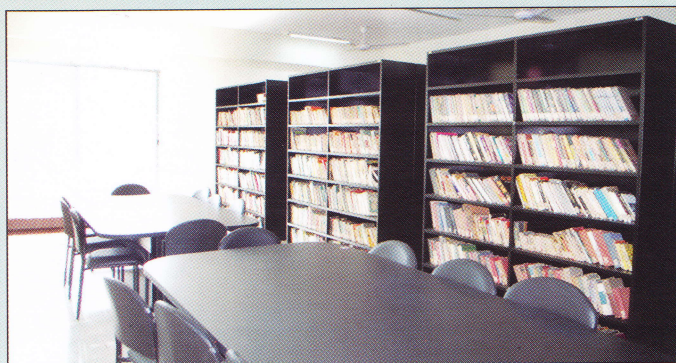
Modern Film Vault of BFA

The BFA's rare collections include *Mukh o Mukhosh* (1956), *Asiya* (1960), *Kokhono Asheni* (1961), *Shurjosnan* (1962), *Kancher Deyal* (1963), *Rupban* (1965), *Nadi o Nari* (1965), *Jeeban theke Neya* (1970), *Stop Genocide* (1971), *A State is Born* (1971), *Titash Ekti Nadir Nam* (1973), *Ora Egaro Jon* (1972), *Palanka* (1975), *Alor Michil* (1974), *Shurja Dighal Bari*, *Shareng Bou*, *Hangor Nadi Grenade*, *Aguner Poroshmoni* (1994) etc Bangladeshi film. Among the Indian films there are *Devdas* (1935) directed by Pramathesh Barua, *Pather Panchali* (1955) and *Apur Sansar* (1959) directed by Satyajit Ray. *Battleship Potemkin* (1925, Russia), *Mother* (1926, Russia), *October* (Russia), *Black Angels* (1970, Bulgaria), *Rashomon* (1950, Japan), *Golden Kite* (Hungary), *An Incident at Owl Creek* (1962, France), *The Wages of Fear* (1953, France) are also available at the vaults of the BFA.

## Collection of Bangladesh Film Archive:

### a) Film Vault:

Sl.No.	Nature of Film	Total collection
01.	Feature film (Print) (Bangladeshi)	919
02.	Feature film (Print) (Indian & Others)	76
03.	Feature film (Neg.) (Bangladeshi)	141
04.	Feature film (Dupe) (Bangladeshi)	54
05.	Feature film (Dupe) (Indian)	07
06.	Short film (Print) (Bangladeshi)	192
07.	Short film (Neg.) (Bangladeshi)	06
08.	Documentary (Print)	1076
09.	Documentary (Neg.)	665
10.	Newsreels (Print)	184
11.	Feature film (U-matic + VHS)	36
12.	Documentary Film (U-matic + VHS)	59
13.	Ad. Film (Print)	06
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3421</b>



BFA Library

### b) Library:

Sl.No.	Nature of Documents	Total collection
01.	Books on films	5043
02.	Still photographs	9401
03.	Photoset	2617
04.	Poster	7003
05.	Shooting script	2515
06.	Song book	287
07.	Short story of film	1365
08.	Film festival related	885
09.	News clipping	22749
10.	Magazine	12299
11.	Miscellaneous Doc.	1336
	<b>Total</b>	<b>65500</b>

### c) Video Library:

Sl.No	Type of Film	Total collection
01.	Bangladeshi Film	1518
02.	Indian Film	460
03.	Bangladeshi Documentary Film	424
04.	Others	557
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2959</b>



Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina laid foundation stone of BFA building on 27 February 2013

**Temperature-wise categorization of archive materials at BFA:** The BFA has got six film vaults. These are of +12°C, +8°C, +4°C, 0°C, -4°C, -8°C temperature with specified humidity levels.

Temperature of Film Vaults	Films
+12°C	Magnetic Tape (Acetate & Polyester Base): Audio & Video (Reel to Reel Audio Tapes, Audio Cassettes, U-matic, VHS, Beta cam, DV Cam); Hard Disk Drive (HDD), Compact Disk (CD), Digital Versatile Disk (DVD), Blue Ray Disc, B/W and Color Photographic Paper Print (Photo Album, Photo Set) etc.
+8°C	B/W Polyester Films and Acetate Films (Negative and Positive).
+4°C	B/W Polyester Films and Acetate Films (Negative and Positive).
±0°C	Color Polyester Films and Acetate Films (Negative and Positive).
-4°C	Color Polyester Films and Acetate Films (Negative and Positive).
-8°C	Color Polyester Films and Acetate Films (Negative and Positive).



State-of-the-Art Multi-purpose Auditorium of BFA

**Film screening:** On every Thursday, the weekly film screening is held at the Projection Hall of the BFA. In the fully air-conditioned modern theatre at the BFA, people can enjoy classical movies without any entrance fee. The list of movies to be screened is posted on BFA's website beforehand.

**Library services:** The BFA has got a very rich library on films. Books of film, cinema periodicals, cine-scripts, film-posters and film still are available in the library. The library remains open for the film researchers and general readers on working days from 9.00 a.m. to 5.p.m.

**Research and publications:** The BFA regularly conducts research activities on film related issues. So far, a total of 70 research works have been conducted under the auspices of the BFA.

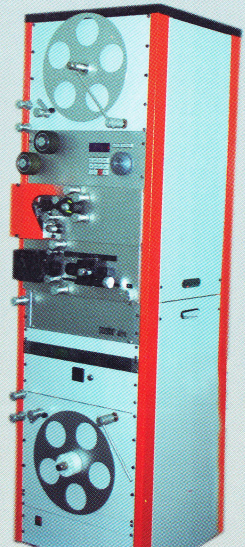
Among them, 35 research works have been published as books. 9 other books on life and works of distinguished film personalities as well as on history of film have also been published by the BFA. The BFA regularly publishes the biannual professional publication- *Bangladesh Film Archive Journal*. So far, it has published 14 issues of the journal. The BFA has published an elaborate poster album covering poster of 405 feature films that were made over a period of 30 years from 1956 to 1986.



**Film Appreciation Course:** For the cinephiles, the BFA conducts Film Appreciation Course and Advanced Film Appreciation Course. So far, a total of 8 Film Appreciation courses, 3 Advanced Film Appreciation courses and 1 Animation course were conducted successfully by the organization. About 450 participants graduated from the BFA. Renowned film-makers including Tanvir Mokammel, Manzare Hasin Murad, Tareque Masud, Morshedul Islam, Khaled Mahmud Mithu, Abu Sayeed, Kanak Chapa are among the distinguished alumni of the BFA Film Appreciation courses. The courses are going to resume from FY 2019-2020 at BFA new building at Agargaon after temporary suspension for few years because of shifting of office from place to place.

**From analogue to digital:** A development project for upgradation of film preservation system through introducing digital technology at a cost of Tk. 22.07 crore (Tk. 220 million) was implemented during 2007-2012. Under the project, modern film scanner, film recorder and film restoration units, film cleaning machine, colour correction unit, film editing and rewinding machines were procured. A good number of officials of the BFA were sent abroad for specialized training on film preservation. In fact, through this project, the BFA has attained the infrastructural and technical facilities for transforming the collected films from analogue to digital format.

**BFA Building at Agargaon:** After 39 years of its establishment, the BFA has got its own 7-storey building located at Agargaon in Dhaka in 2017. Constructed at a cost of Tk. 75 crore (Tk. 750 million), the building accommodates the office blocks, film vaults, film labs, multipurpose



Real-time film scanner for digitalization of 35mm and 16 mm film.

auditorium, projection hall, conference hall, film museum, film hospital, film centre, cafeteria etc.

**New project:** A development project entitled “Collection and Preservation of Video Footage on our Liberation War from Home and Abroad as well as Strengthening of Bangladesh Film Archive” at the cost of Tk. 71 crore (Tk. 710 million) has been undertaken which is scheduled to be implemented during 2018-2021. Once the project is implemented, video footages on Bangladesh’s glorious War of Independence of 1971 that are available with the international visual news agencies, foreign archives and other sources will be procured for research and reference.

**International recognition:** For years, the BFA had been preserving the historic March 7 Speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman- the ultimate source of inspiration for the freedom-loving people of the land. The role of BFA attained international recognition as the UNESCO conferred certificate of recognition to BFA along with 4 other organizations for their important role in preservation of the historic speech. Hon’ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina formally handed over the certificate to Director General of BFA Mr. Shachindra Nath Halder at the Prime Minister’s Office in Dhaka on 6 March 2018.



International recognition of the preservation of historic March 7 Speech

**77th FIAF Congress in Dhaka in 2021:** The 77th Congress of International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) is scheduled to be held in Dhaka in 2021. Bangladesh has been elected the ‘host country’ for the 77th annual conference of the prestigious global body dedicated to preservation of film heritage of the world. The 77th FIAF Congress will be hosted in Dhaka in conjunction with the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the glorious Independence of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. Representatives from 89 full members of 75 countries as well as 76 associate members are expected to participate in the Congress. Bangladesh is committed to organize the 7-day long programme in a befitting manner.

## Bangladesh Film Archive

Film Archive Bhaban

F-5, Agargaon Administrative Zone

Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-I207

Phone: 8802 9111772, Fax:+88029132849

Email: bfarchivebd@gmail.com