

The week in re(ar)view



WHO says idleness cannot be a fruitful amount of (non)activity. We are always idle and look what we come up with. Ever wonder what's a "trumour"? It's a rumour that is true but everyone pretends it is not. You learn something everyday.

What goes up must continue upward

The theory that what goes up must come down only applies to actual objects actually going up in the air. In case of prices and other abstract things these continue going upward and the response time is very fast indeed. For example the moment the price increase of fuel was announced, a bill was passed and within minutes pump owners bought new paint to change the old markings. On the other hand, taxes on cars and even on cell phones were reduced but that apparently will take a lot longer to go down. In fact by the time it goes down it will be time for the prices to increase again.

Teaching kids not to be kids

If you want to shame children into behaving properly then take them to a session of the Jatiya Sangshad. On June 12 the Awami League lawmakers staged a walkout because BNP legislator Moshir Rahman said that Sheikh Hasina sought blessings from Golam Azam (former Jamaat chief) by touching his feet. Yep, that reminds us of kids going to teachers complaining that someone had said a 'bad word' to them. It seems anything goes in the green carpeted hall where lawmakers can use any bit of slander, rumour or even 'trumour' to diss someone. When we say they act like kids it is a whole lot of disrespect to actual kids. We bet that if kids see such grownups acting like 'kids' they (the kids) would stop being kids.

We love holidays

Here's yet another race Bangladesh can win right after the Most Corrupt Nation honour. It can also be the country with the

BANGLADESHI ENTRY AT WORLD TECH EXHIBITION



most holidays. Let's face it, we have so many hartals during political debacles that we can rightfully call them holidays albeit ones spent at home. This week has seen a 36 hour hartal and there are many more to come. It's a holiday because tired workers get to stay at

home and children get a break from school. Then there are people who need exercise go about breaking cars, setting things on fire and lobbing bricks as a means of becoming more active.

By Gokhra and Mood Dude

Bangladesh and Anime The 90s' Connection



FROM CENTRE

Foes. Of course, the hero hovers near the brink of death only to burst forth with hitherto unseen powers galore; a certain Mr Goku can attest to such a formula. However, the fight scenes were still superbly entertaining and it was quite an imaginative show as well. The recent and super-popular anime *Naruto* owes many of its fight scenes, techniques and what-not to *Flame of Recca*. Recca Hanabishi, *Naruto* fans all over the world salute you!

Now, while *Samurai X* and *Robotech* retain a certain timeless quality, others faded from my memory. (Kudos to Lancer for the heads up.) One such anime was *Ninja Robots*. Yes, it of the same fight scene... over and over and over again! And now that I think about it... how did *ninja* fit into the context anyway? Somewhere in Japan, stealthy masked assassins are taking their own lives. Jokes aside, this has to be said: no matter corny or lame *Ninja Robots* may seem now, I (and plenty of others.... 'fess up you all) actually, honestly and genuinely liked and enjoyed the show. Besides the blatant copy-pasting of the aforementioned fight scenes, some of them

were quite entertaining. The story wasn't too bad (or maybe that has to do with the fact that I reached an age where I could understand 'plotlines' - sorry, *Robotech*) and the artwork was quite decent. Let's not forget the, bless it, 'catchy' theme song - courtesy of the whole Americanisation process. Still, no matter how many times the Princess ended up being kidnapped (once you realise you can't count off your fingers, it was no longer funny), when Joe, Michael and Jenny (and later, Damien) strapped up into their robots to rescue her, you were rooting them on to victory. *Cybertroooooooooooooooooooooon!*

And, you cannot talk about anime in the 1990s without mention (unfortunately, that's all this one gets) of the one, the only... *Speed Racer!* *cue large-eyed, lopsided-mouth gasps of 'Oh!' ala Speed himself* What can you say about *Speed Racer?* (Preferably avoiding expletives). Nothing much. Of course, you could do some of those character expressions - they're a great hit when you and a bunch of friends go all nostalgic regarding TV shows. *Speed Racer* was embarrassingly corny and the constant exclamations made you roll your

eyes, but hey, it was somewhat entertaining. Also without that Volcano Mountain race with the whole Snake (or was it Viper?) racing team, you wouldn't get that brilliantly hilarious parody episode of *Dexter's Laboratory*. Speaking of which, *Dexter* was at its satirical zenith during that time - the newer version lacks much of what made the old *Dexter* so bloody brilliant. Sad.

Lastly, and on a more serious tone, was the Anime Fest on Animax during the end of 1999. As a fitting end to that decade (and this article), that week highlighted some great anime films, particularly the subliminal *Ghost in the Shell*. That was the time when they also released *The Matrix* (the first, and brilliant, one) which shared much in common with Mamoru Oshii's animated opus; it was a doubly sweet dose of sci-fi centric philosophical musings. More importantly, it was also an indication of the burgeoning International audience for anime. And within a few weeks, we celebrated the New Year... the year 2000.

That golden decade ended on a fantastic note and was a forerunner of things to come. Cartoon Network picked up the slack with the loveable *DragonBall Z* and rather fun *Cardcaptor Sakura*. Unfortunately, it also started showing the inexplicably popular *Pokemon*, *Digimon* and *Beyblade*, and so on. *One Piece* is due to air soon (avoid the English dub, read the manga - bloody brilliant stuff!) The anime channel *Animax* commenced a few months back and we got access to anime like *Gundam*, *Cowboy Bebop*, *GetBackers*, *Inu Yasha*, *Ghost in the Shell: Stand Alone Complex*, *Ranma 1/2*, *Samurai X*, *Escaflowne* and other wonderful shows. The sublime *FullMetal Alchemist* and entertaining *Great Teacher Onizuka* are due soon. Whoever's writing this piece in 2010 will need all of RS for that article then!

Baluchor news!

APPARENTLY, due to an overload of visitors (especially a few "obnoxious polapain" as per the Bashundhara officials) to the Bashundhara Baluchor, the area has been recently blocked to visitors. This new off-limit to one of the prime 'romantic' spots in Dhaka has come as a great and bitter disappointment to all, especially its regular visitors mainly comprised of adventure lovers and love birds.

On inquiring one of the workers there, he said, "It is good that the area is now blocked off. This is a very dangerous area especially at night, although thanks to the RAB and Bashundhara guards, there are very few to no cases of thievery or other sort of 'bad things' in this area.



RESTRICTED AREA

Nonetheless, this new rule also lets us workers work in peace. However, seeing all those jolly *kopath kopathies* around while working did make my heart happy, and I do feel sad for them. After all, there are very few places like this in Dhaka."

Very true indeed, there are very few places like this in Dhaka; so peaceful and serene. I do wonder how long they are going to keep this off-limit for visitors, or whether this is the end to this tourist spot. However, we Bengalis can never be shackled down. If there is a will, there is a way! Therefore, if you are ready to walk more than usual, you can still visit this wonderful beauty of nature. Just remember to follow the mud-laid path on the left of all roads!

By Adnan M. S. Fakir

Theatre school at Alliance Francaise De Dacca

FRIDAY Theatre School is a weekly theatre school students are taught theatre tools as communication skills.

The curriculum is split into three courses: Foundation, Indoor production, and a one-year long course, which culminates in an examination.

As well as preparing young people for the magic of the stage, the curriculum is designed to fulfil the following goals:

- 1) To provide some primary information about environment, history, Geography, existing nature and every day life.
- 2) To introduce better understanding about family and society.
- 3) To create an awareness for themselves about all kind of environmental issues.
- 4) To increase academic interest within children's community.
- 5) To allow for artistic exchange floor between student and international theatre/media practitioners.
- 6) To create a platform for children's ideas and insights.

Class timings are 9AM-11AM, 11AM-1PM, 3PM-5PM. There is an admission fee of Tk 2000, and a monthly fee of Tk 500. For further details, contact the reception at the Alliance Francaise De Dacca RS Desk