

Dhaka Day by Day

Worldnet Provides a Model for BTV

by S M Ali

WITH two other participants from Dhaka and a few more in India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka, I was caught in the Worldnet — mind you, it is one word, just another linguistic innovation — last Wednesday. Then, nursing a bad cold, I travelled to space to talk to Thomas R Pickering, the US Permanent Representative to the United Nations, fighting a sneeze and controlling a cough. I had no intention of blocking the satellite transmission between New York and South Asian capitals with unwelcome guttural noises.

No, we did not exactly travel to the space, but sent our voices. This gave Ambassador Pickering one advantage over us. We could see him, projected on a large television screen, looking confident as any US envoy should in the changed climate at the UN. But he could not see us. No big loss.

Now in its seventh year, Worldnet, the pioneering global television network, has lost

much of its original dramatic novelty. But it remains a highly effective information — some would say, propaganda — tool in the hands of the United States Government.

Here is just one example reflecting the tremendous growth of television as a medium of information in the developed world, the kind of growth that has not touched our television network.

What Worldnet does at the global level should be attempted on a regional basis, through such an organisation as the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU). What's more, Bangladesh Television (BTV) should use the format on a national scale.

The technology involved in such an exercise is simple and, at a price, readily available to all.

Countries like India and Indonesia, in this region, which have their own domestic satellites up in the sky are in a better position than others, including Bangladesh, to try out national hook-ups in news and information distribution. For the less fortunate ones, options are different.

With the technology available to BTV, it should be possible for a national leader —

Prime Minister or her cabinet colleague — to chair a discussion on any government policy, with participants from different parts of the country phoning in their questions. In other words, as in Worldnet programme, TV viewers would only hear the voices of participants from outside Dhaka, but see the picture of the leader — the Prime Minister or a cabinet member — explaining the issues under discussion.

Years ago, we used to see this kind of programme screened on TV networks in the Philippines, yielding considerable public relations benefits for the then president, the late Ferdinand Marcos.

Let's imagine how this format would work here.

While the Prime Minister, perhaps assisted by a cabinet colleague, would be answering questions on, say, the education policy, from a small panel here, a student of Chittagong University might ask how the government planned

to deal with the rising violence in his institution. By the time the question phoned in from Chittagong had been answered, we might get another question from Rajshahi, Khulna or Sylhet on a different aspect of educational reforms.

If the format works well with one subject, it should work just as well with the whole range of national issues, from national budget to the VAT controversy, from the debate over the form of government to population control.

Just imagine the excitement of a student in Chittagong putting a question directly to the Prime Minister or of a trader in Sylhet questioning the Finance Minister as to how the introduction of VAT would benefit the economy of the country. And, at this end, a government leader would get an idea about the thinking of a common man, in a place far away from the capital, on a national question. It would be an unrehearsed feedback, raw and down to earth.

This is what the two-way communication is all about, a concept that has eluded the country's electronic media — perhaps even the press as a whole — for all these years. However, it is never too late to make a start.

that the market situation would soon settle down and urged the people not to be panicked. Officials of the concerned department were keeping constant vigilance in this regard, he said.

He said VAT was not imposed on small hotels and restaurants. It was imposed only on the more expensive hotels and restaurants in the metropolitan cities and the district towns.

Hussain, who is also the Secretary of Internal Resource Division, expressed the hope

ICTVTR faces serious crisis

The 17th meeting of the Board of Directors of Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR), Dhaka, a subsidiary organ of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) concluded Saturday in a local hotel, says a Press release.

The meeting adopted the Report of the Director General

BSRS collects Tk 58 cr

Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS) has collected Taka 58 crore during the financial year 1990-91 of which Taka 26.25 crore was recovered from project loan and Taka 31.75 crore from other sources, reports BSS.

The total overdues of the sangstha is Taka 374 crore, according to an official hand-out in Dhaka Saturday.

In the light of the recent government decision BSRS published a list of 83 defaulting borrowers each of whose overdues is above Taka one crore. BSRS has already taken legal measures against many of those defaulting borrowers.

Despite the devastating cyclone and the Gulf war, BSRS was able to recover Taka 13.33 crore through persuasion, motivation and taking legal stringent measures.

The government has asked the all financial institutions to take strong measures against the defaulting borrowers to recover the loans for the greater interest of the nation.

Solo painting show begins

The fifth solo exhibition of Prof Shamsul Islam Nizam titled "Sun and Wheel" began at the La Gallery at Banani in Dhaka on Saturday, reports UNB.

The exhibition on paintings and ceramics was formally inaugurated by State Minister for Information Nurul Huda Saturday afternoon.

In all 66 paintings are on display in the exhibition, will remain open from 9 am to 8 pm till July 27.

Nizam, Chairman of the Department of Sculpture at the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University who had been painting consistently over more than two decades about the socio-cultural scenarios of Bangladesh.



Sunday

- 5-00 Opening announcement Al-Quran, programme Summary
- 5-15 Recitation from the Bible
- 5-20 News in Bangla Jhilmili
- 5-30 Cartoon Film : Abbott and Costello
- 6-20 Sports Programme
- 7-05 Tagore Songs
- 8-00 News in Bangla
- 8-30 Probaho
- 9-00 Drama series: Oshin
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-25 Parliament roundup
- 10-40 Band Show
- 11-30 Khabar/The News
- 11-45 Closing

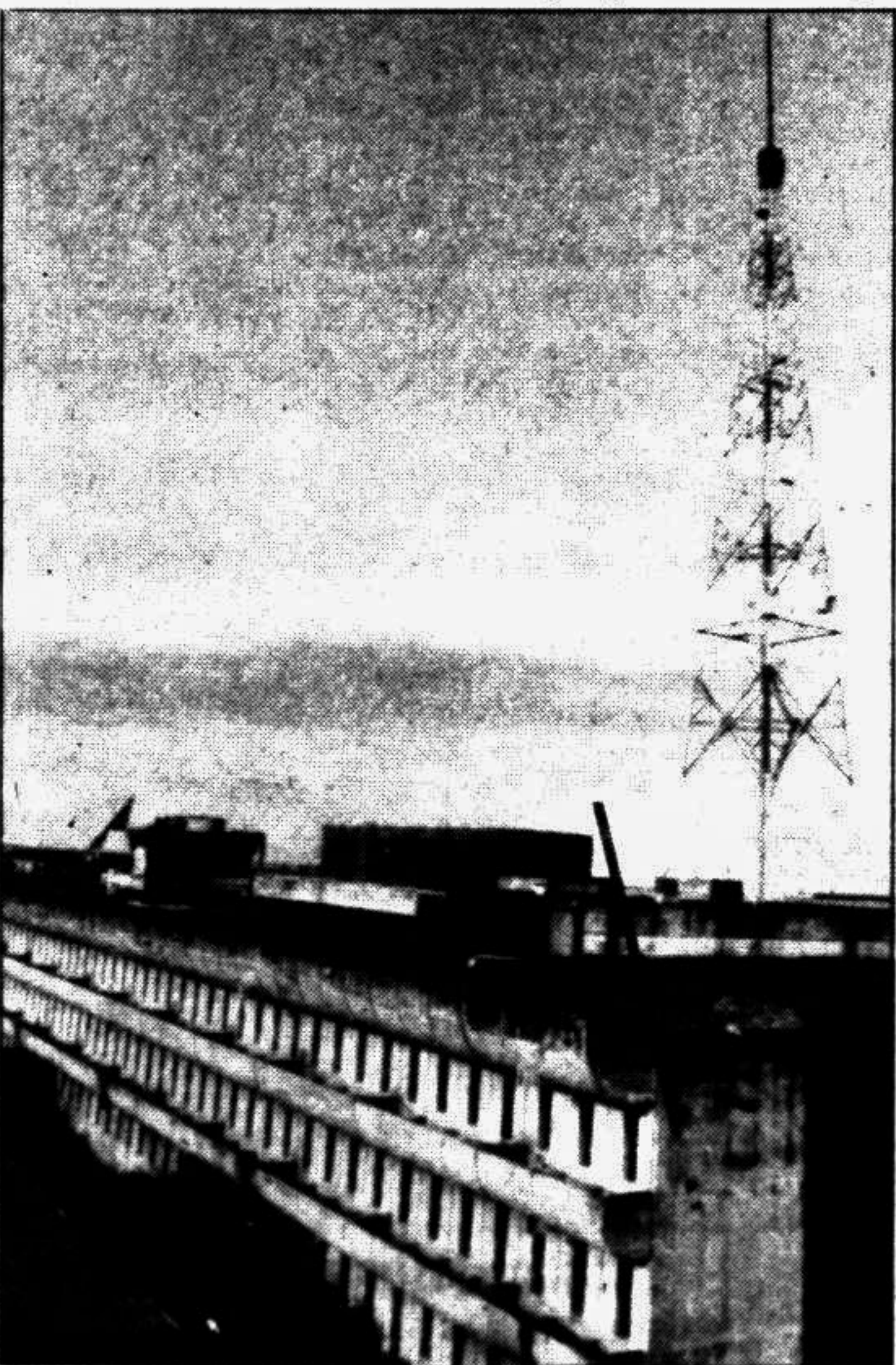
ROTARY FOUNDATION AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR 1992-93

Applications are invited from Bangladesh nationals for the following categories of Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship for the academic year 1992-93:

1. Post-graduate Scholarship for one academic year.
2. Freedom from Hunger Scholarship for Master's degree in Agricultural studies for a period of upto two years.
3. Japan Programme scholarship for 21 months language training and academic studies in Japan.
4. Vocational, journalism and teachers of handicapped Scholarship for one academic year.

Candidates must be between 18 and 30 years of age for the Post-graduate scholarship and between 21 and 50 years for the others. For admission to US/Canadian universities a minimum TOEFL score of 550 is required.

Candidates must apply with their academic transcripts and one passport size photograph, to GPO Box 459, Dhaka, Bangladesh by 22nd July 1991.



Rampura TV station: Any chance of a two-way communication?

The next step was to send out applications for the research fellowship. And believe me it took some doing. Hunting for addresses. Electric-typing each application. Photocopying all the certificates. And stamps, stamps, stamps. Posted each envelope personally. Settled down to a long wait. The postman became Man of the Year. But every evening found an empty mailbox. Until a moment ago.

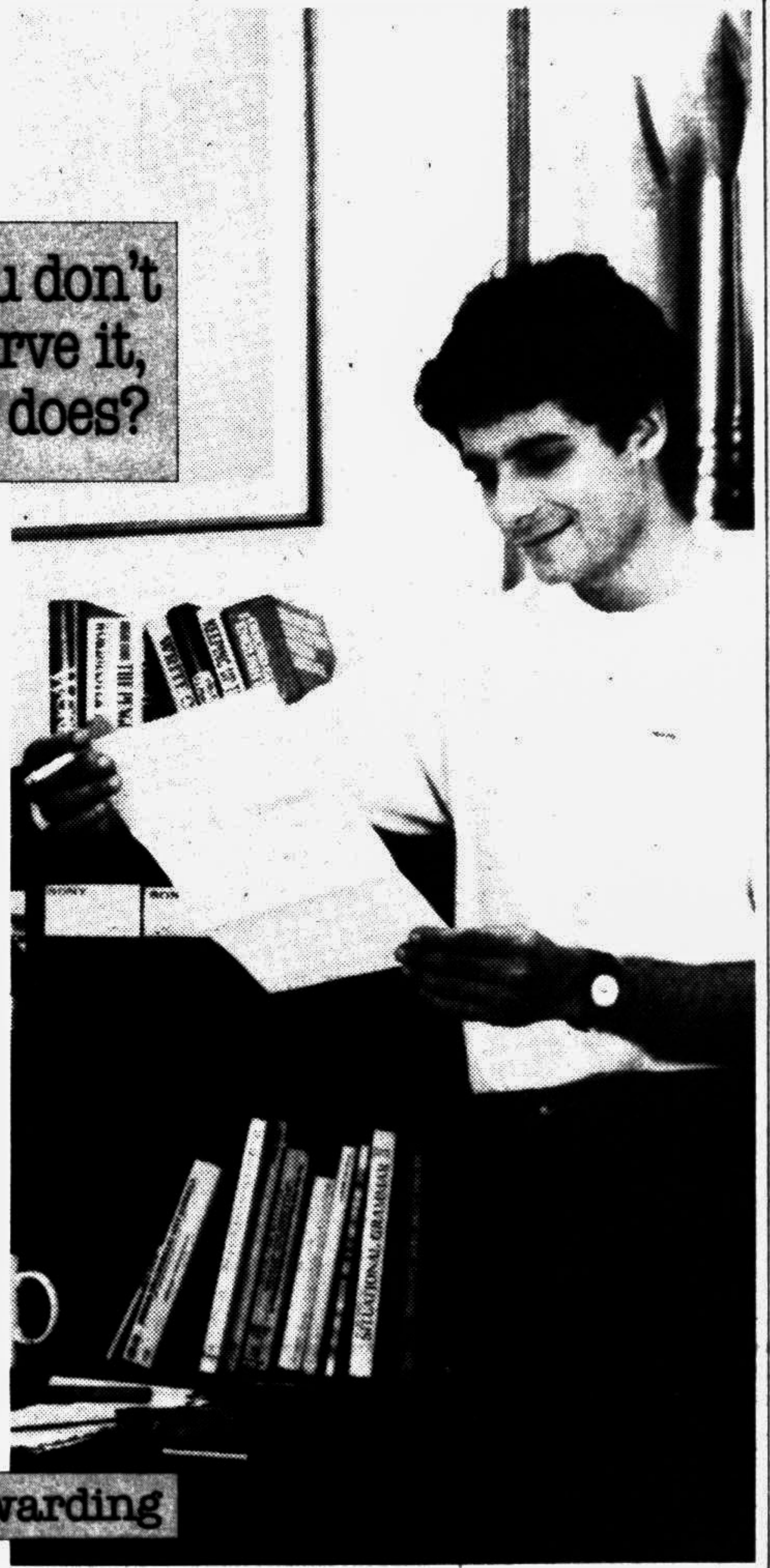
If you don't deserve it, who does?

"It's Harvard, no less!" I think I deserve a Gold Leaf now.



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সর্ববিধক সন্তোষজনক: কৃপালান স্বাস্থ্যের জন্য কৃতিকর



No VAT on daily necessities

Businessmen mislead people: NBR chief

Chairman of National Board of Revenue (NBR) Nurul Hossain Khan Saturday said no Value Added Tax (VAT) was imposed on daily necessities, agricultural products, textile product, retail and wholesale business, but some businessmen were misleading the people taking advantage of their

lack of information. Talking to BSS in his chamber Hossain said people should be aware of this situation and create resistance against those who were exploiting their ignorance.

Hussain, who is also the Secretary of Internal Resource Division, expressed the hope

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

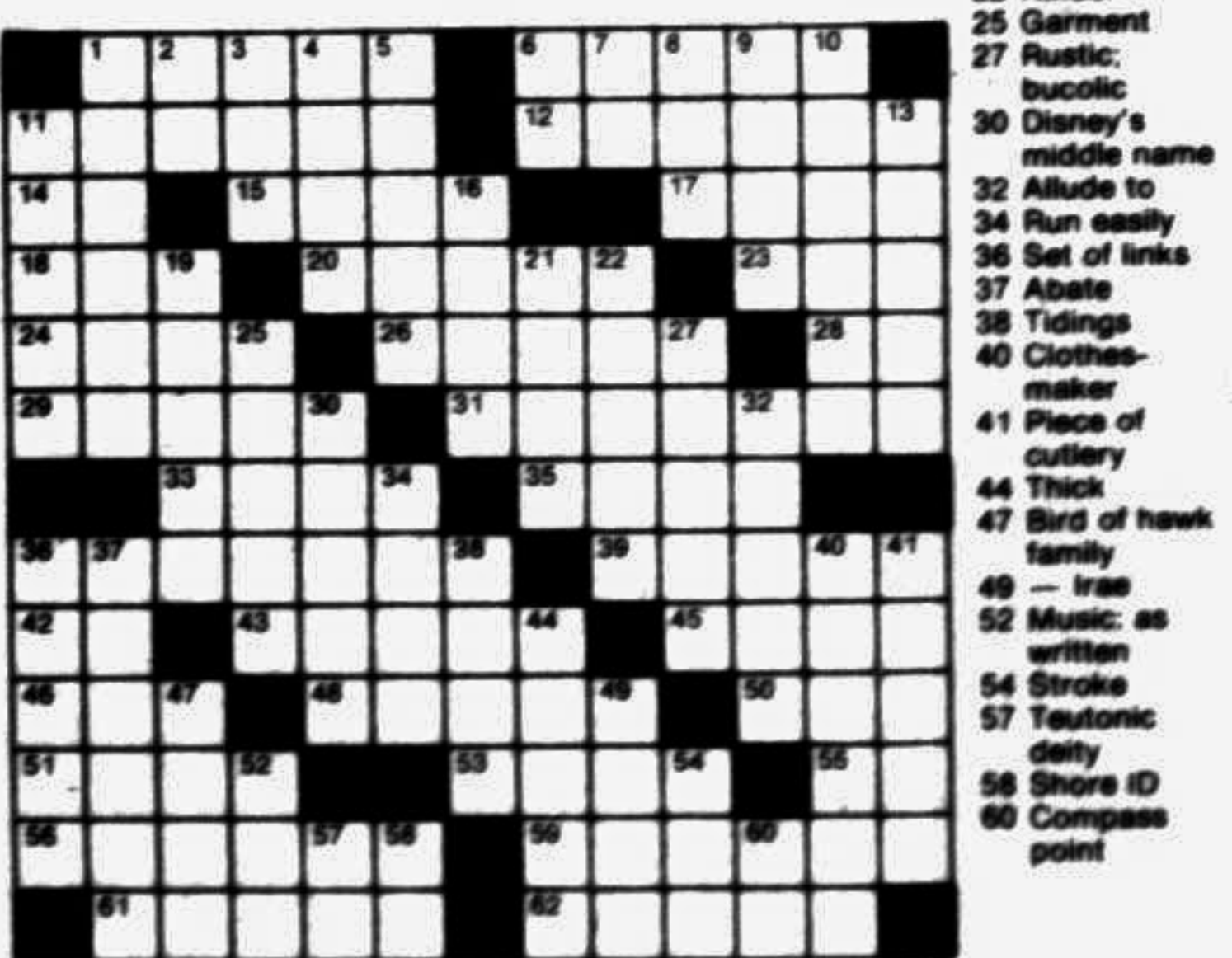
- 1 Scamp: reascal
- 6 Lucid
- 11 Decline
- 12 Passageways
- 14 — a standstill
- 15 Roman tyrant
- 17 Location
- 18 Sever
- 20 Took one's part
- 23 Gratitude
- 24 Goddess of discord
- 26 Downy duck
- 28 Sodium symbol
- 29 Viper
- 31 Innate
- 33 Brook
- 35 Simple
- 36 Kind of trumpet
- 39 Floate
- 42 That man

DOWN

- 1 Come back
- 2 "Days — Our Lives"
- 3 Weapon
- 4 Employs
- 5 Uncanny
- 6 Calcium symbol
- 7 Chinese
- 8 Kind of curve
- 9 Landed
- 10 Eye part
- 11 Speed
- 13 Flower part
- 16 Norse god
- 19 Crown
- 21 Kind of cheese
- 22 Hinder
- 25 Garment
- 27 Rustic, bucolic
- 30 Disney's middle name
- 32 Allude to
- 34 Run easily
- 36 Set of links
- 37 Abate
- 38 Tidings
- 40 Cloth-maker
- 41 Piece of cutlery
- 44 Trip
- 47 Bird of hawk family
- 49 — Iraq
- 52 Music: as written
- 54 Stroke
- 57 Tautonic daily
- 58 Shore ID
- 60 Compass point

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACNE	GRIN	NAG
GOAL	RENO	ADD
OR	KEEP	WIT
RE	MEED	FADS
LEST	TAIL	LET
ESSED	LEIF	SE
SPEARS	SERAPE	
SO	ROTS	SENR
ENS	PUTS	TINS
EDEN	NUTS	LD
NIL	DENT	EL
LEO	ELIA	HONE
EAR	DOOM	ENTE



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