

Dhaka Day by Day

Are the BBC signals roaring?

by Fayza Haq

This intense man with his Oxford accent and blue striped shirt was ready to talk to me about his work, sitting in the Sheraton cafe, although he had only just got off the plane from Kathmandu.

Speaking about getting better equipment for clearer signals Peter Udell, Controller of the BBC Overseas Service, says, "Twenty years ago you could whisper like a mouse. Today the only way you can retain an audience is when you roar like a tiger. Over the last 10 years more than 1000 million pounds have been spent to improve BBC's audibility. There is a new relay station which broadcasts into N. China. Transmitters from the Indian Ocean are improving signals to E. Africa. There are good signals in the Arab world, in Iran, Afghanistan and down to Pakistan.

The Subcontinent is now the highest priority. The short wave service from Masrah in the Indian Ocean takes care of the western part of India. In cooperation with Radio Netherlands we are trying to approach authorities in Thailand to build relay stations there to improve the quality of reception in the eastern part of the Subcontinent," the BBC expert elaborates.

Discussing the number of listeners from S. Asia, Mr. Udell informs us that there are 8.3 million adults listening in Bengali and English from Bangladesh. He says of this 17% live in the urban area and 83% in the rural area. Of these 52% of the listeners are male. The Hindi figure in India is about 25 million while in Pakistan the figure is 8 million.

"The audience is predominantly male and we must in the future try to attract more women listeners," he comments. Dwelling on the changes in the format of the programme Mr. Udell says that over the years "We have broadcasted once a week and only for 15 minutes a programme called 'South Asia Survey'. This is an attempt to look in depth at the developments, in particular, in politics. Beginning from the end of April instead of one broadcast a week there will be five."

"This will be an attempt," he elaborates, "to cover events in details and will include items such as interviews of politicians and experts from Bangladesh, for example. In terms of output in Bengali, we have increased it a few days ago by five minutes a day. This is to have a more coherent stream of broadcast. There will be further developments of journalism in the Bengali section."

Radio Bangladesh is letting out its transmitters for relays. Is BBC interested in relaying from Bangladesh? To this Mr. Udell replies, "BBC may be interested in renting the relay transmitters as has been done in France and

Switzerland. But these will not be financial deals and this is a matter for the engineers to explore."

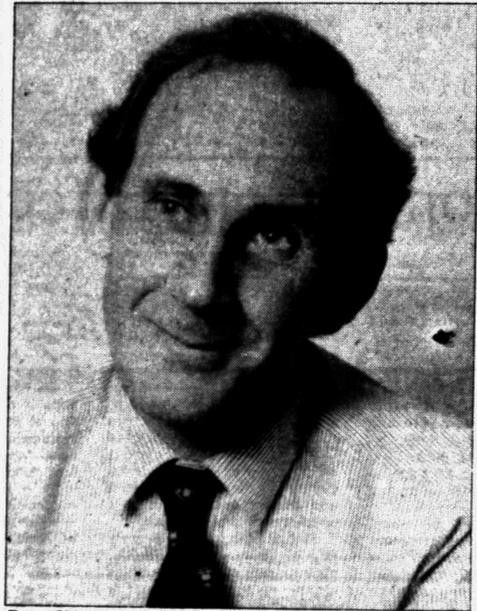
When comparing BBC with CNN, the BBC expert informs us, "There will be half an hour a day news TV bulletin for the international audience. The problem is that it has to operate on a commercial basis and cannot be like the radio programme which we offered free." He elaborates "BBC will be wholly comprehensive. It will cover sports, science, music, arts, as well as views on current affairs. We would be covering not only major world stories, which CNN is so good at doing. The BBC TV news service is more analytic while the CNN expertise is on the eye reportage. We try to combine news with analysis."

Discussing commercial broadcasting the BBC expert informs, "There will be a third commercial TV channel in UK. On the radio front there are a large number of local commercial radios. There have been arguments that BBC should try to get revenues by advertising. But conservative parties have reservations about commercial funding. The system of licensing radio helps fund BBC for the last 50 years and this is likely to continue."

Dwelling on the World Television News half hour package, Mr. Udell informs, us that BBC is working hard to launch this effectively in Europe. At what stage they will be able to seek stations around the Subcontinent is not known. This will have to be on a commercial basis. He adds "The cost for hiring satellite capacity is enormously expensive. The BBC needs to find bundles of money for that from different broadcasters."

Discussing training of personnel the BBC chief admits that they are going in for recruiting younger people. "These people are easier to train. They will chase an interview like a dog biting away at a bone. They will ask tougher questions than they asked 10 years ago. They will aim at the impossible because if they don't they cannot move beyond what is easy," he comments.

Peter Udell, born at Newmarket '41, and educated at Keble College, joined BBC as a trainee in '62, although he sent in his application late. By '88 he became the Controller of the Overseas Services, and Bengali is one of the languages that he is responsible for. He has three children, his eldest daughter works with a publisher of a children's books, his second daughter is a primary school teacher, while his son is studying to be an architect. His interests include development in the Third World, keeping fit and oriental food.



Peter Udell, Controller Overseas Services

PROGRAMME

Lions Club meet

A Board Meeting followed by the regular monthly Meeting for the month of April, 1991 of the Lions Club of Dhaka Golden will be held today, at 4:30 p.m. respectively at Sonargaon Hotel.

CIBA Press briefing

CIBA-GEIGY, Bangladesh will hold a Press briefing on Public Awareness Campaign on Depression at Hotel Purbani on Sunday, says a Press release.

French envoy calls on DU V-C

By DU Correspondent H. E. Serge Degallaix, Ambassador of France in Bangladesh called on Vice Chancellor Prof Manruzzaman Miah at his office on Thursday.

They discussed the possible cooperation and academic exchange between Dhaka University and Institutes of Higher Learning in France.

Earlier in the morning a South Korean team led by Prof Hang Jong Suh of the Hankook University of Foreign Studies met with the Vice Chancellor and sought his assistance in regard to the visit of team of students from South Korea.

Prof Hang Jong Suh was accompanied by the Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education of South Korea.

Prof Manruzzaman also received Ian Symons, Director General in-charge of South Asia of the foreign office of U.K.

Milam calls on Biswas

The US Ambassador to Bangladesh, William B. Milam, called on the Speaker, Abdur Rahman Biswas, at the Sangsad Bhaban on Thursday, reports BSS.

Prof Rauf Bhuyan dead

Prof Abdur Rauf Bhuyan, a former head of the Department of Neuro-Medicine of P. G. Hospital died Wednesday morning in Dhaka. He was 58, reports UNB.

He was suffering from cirrhosis of liver. He left behind wife, one son and two daughters to mourn his death.

After namaj-e-janaja at Baitul Mokarram Mosque Wednesday noon, the body at Prof Bhuyan was buried at Uttara graveyard. His qulhwani will be held tomorrow (Friday) after Asar prayer at 27, Isa Khan Avenue, Sector 5, Uttara.

Death condoled

Doctors and employees of the Chest Institute and Hospital Thursday held a meeting to condole the death of the former Director of the hospital late Prof Abdur Rauf Bhuyan at the hospital premises.

The meeting presided over by Acting Director Prof. A.K.M. Shamsul Huq discussed the contribution of Prof Bhuyan to the field of medical science.

The meeting expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

Joint ventures with Netherlands discussed

Mr Hehricus Gajentan, the Ambassador of the Netherlands to Bangladesh, called on Shamsul Islam Khan, Minister for Industries, at the latter's Sangsad Bhaban office on Thursday, reports BSS.

The Ambassador appreciated the free market economy programme of the present elected government



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia exchanging views with President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Reazuddin Ahmed (right) and President of National Press Club Mozammel Huq (left) at an Iftar party hosted in her honour on the club premises on Thursday. Ministers, Editors and journalist attended the party.

14 'tempo' being requisitioned daily

Star Report

Fourteen auto-tempo go off the roads in the metropolis for use on a round the clock patrol duty everyday. Three daily wage earners, the driver, an assistant and the owner, of each tempo do not earn a farthing for the day. The duties are carried out by patrol police in narrow lanes and by-lanes on board the tempos throughout the year. Each group of 14 tempos are requisitioned at least once in a month.

It is alleged that the three-

wheelers are virtually seized without any written order from the competent authority and pressed into service within the jurisdiction of 14 police stations in the metropolitan city. A police source told The Daily Star that police have no smaller transports to ply in the narrow lanes and the three wheelers are, therefore, requisitioned daily. The source confirmed that no fare is paid to the owner nor the driver and the assistant for their day's duty.

Such practice continues for the last three years and each auto-tempo is thus pressed into patrol duty without fare.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police (Headquarters) said that he had no knowledge of any order authorising the officers in charge of metropolitan police stations for requisition of tempos been issued.

Last year the government procured a number of transports for use by the police department. Smaller transports, if needed, can also easily be procured. Auto-tempo owners strongly feel that the concerned authority should take measures to stop such practice and protect the honest wage earners.



Police personnel having a ride in requisitioned auto-tempos in city. —Star photo

Khaleda attends Press Club iftar

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Thursday attended an iftar party hosted by Jatya Press Club at the club premises, reports BSS.

Shipping Minister M K Anwar, State Minister for Information Nurul Huda and State Minister for Telegraph and Telecommunication Shamsul Islam Khan also attended the iftar.

Press Club President Mozammel Huq, General Secretary Shawkat Mahmud, BFUJ President Reaz Uddin Ahmed, Secretary General Amanullah Kabir, DUJ President Zahurul Huq and General Secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi, Editors, and representatives of different media were also present on the occasion.

Begum Zia exchanged greetings with the journalists, including the women journalists.

Govt urged to protect land of WilesSchool

By Staff Correspondent

An extended meeting of the Legal Committee of the Wills Little Flower School, held with Alhaj Syed Mohammad Hedayetul Islam on Thursday, called upon the Government to protect the land of the school.

The meeting also urged the newly-elected MPs to frame laws in future so that no individual could grab land allotted to educational, religious or social welfare organisations of the country, a Press release said on Thursday.

Among those who addressed the meeting were Professor Bazul Huq Khondker, Professor Monirul Huq, Jahurul Islam Mukul, Kazi Sajjad Jahir Chandan, Bazul Rashid Feroz, Razkuzzaman Raju, Ahmed, Eklashur Rahman Masud, Syed Showkat Anwar, Syed Hassan Iman, Saikur Rahman Sayeed, Sri Ajit Baran Chakravarty, Fazlul Huq, Muhammad Shah Alam, Durra Shahwar Nasim, Nurun Nahar Chowdhury and Tasmina Reza.

Religious Minister to receive Zakat money Apr 15

State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof. M.A. Mannan will receive Zakat money on April 15 at 4 pm at the official chamber of the Director General of Islamic Foundation, reports BSS.

It was decided at a meeting of Bangladesh Zakat Board in Dhaka Thursday with State Minister for Religious Affairs in the chair.

The meeting was informed that at present the Zakat Board has a fund of Taka 35 lakh

Cultural team accorded reception

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Artists Association accorded a reception to the Bangladesh cultural team which has returned from Nepal recently, at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium in Dhaka Wednesday evening, reports BSS.

Presided over by Association GS Ali Asgar Khokan, the reception was attended by the Academy Director, Kamal Lohani as the chief guest and the Academy General Secretary Taj Mohammad as the special guest.

Frustrated admission-seekers on rampage

'A bullet awaits you', DU teacher told

A group of students on Thursday allegedly attacked some Dhaka University teachers and threatened their lives after a disqualified candidate was refused admission, reports UNB.

The Academic Council of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism condemned the threat to Dr. A.A.M.S. Arefin Siddiqi, Joint Secretary of Dhaka University Teacher Association, and his colleagues.

The assailants were pressing the teachers to recommend admission of a student who had failed admission test obtaining only 13 out of 100 marks, the Council said in a protest.

The encroachers attacked the journalism teachers in the mail area of the campus while the latter were on their way to the Vice Chancellor office Thursday noon.

teachers protested, they received misbehavior. "Are you more important than he VC?" The encroachers were quoted as telling the teachers.

One of the group introduced himself as Zakir Hossain Jamal, claiming that he is a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dall leader, he Academic Council said.

After the incidents, the Department received an anonymous phone call for Dr. Arefin. "A bullet is awaiting you," Dr. Arefin said he heard it from the other end.

The teachers' delegation led by Chairman Dr. Golam Rahman later met the VC and apprised him of the whole episode.

A case has been lodged with Ramna thana.

Plea to uphold image of Biman

The State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan called upon Biman's personnel to uphold the image and standard of the national flag carrier through competitive and sincere service, reports UNB.

The Minister was speaking as chief guest at a prize distribution ceremony of 'Biman

Tk 1.5 crore arrear as newspaper ads released

The government has taken steps to release Taka one and a half crore as advertisement arrears so that the journalists working in different newspapers can get their salaries and Eid bonus, reports UNB.

Making a statement in the Parliament Thursday, State

Minister for Information Nurul Huda said the present government was fully aware of the financial problems facing the newspaper industry.

His statement came in the wake of Wednesday's three-hour strike in all newspapers and news agencies.

The strike was called on the demand for reinstatement of retrenched journalists of the Dainik Deah and The Bangladesh Observer, stopping harassment to and repression on the journalists of Dainik Azad and speedy solution to the prevailing problems in The Bangladesh Times.

Nurul Huda traced the background of the strike of the journalists

TV Friday

Morning session 8-00 Opening and recitation from Al-Quran 8-10 News 8-15 Cartoon: Adventure of the Galaxy Rangers Natun Kuri: Children's programme 10-05 Documentary film: Voice of the Planet Moner Mukurey 11-00 Evening session 3-00 Opening and recitation from Al-Quran 3-15 Alor Dishari 3-20 Movie of the week: All the President's men 5-20 News in Bengali 5-30 Remaining part of the film 5-55 Mahe Ramzan Children's programme for the holy 'Shab-e-Kadr' 7-00 Religious programme 8-00 News in Bengali 8-30 Documentary film 9-00 Anjan Rajani 10-00 News in English 10-20 Milad Mahfil 11-15 Khabar/The News 11-30 Closing

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes 'Answer to Previous Puzzle' and a list of crossword clues.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for clues.

Weather

Gusty wind likely

Staff Correspondent

Rain and shower accompanied by temporary gust wind likely to occur over one or two places in Khulna and Chittagong division. Weather likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country. Activities for rainfall may increase during the next two days. Little change is forecast in another five days.

A fresh low lay on Wednesday over eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and adjoining areas. Seasonal low lay over south Bay. There was no rainfall on Thursday over the country. Highest temperature recorded on Wednesday at Rajshahi at 35.6 degree Celsius and lowest at Faridpur at 18.0 degree.

Sunset at Dhaka on Friday at 6:19 pm and sunrise tomorrow (Saturday) at 5:40 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded on Wednesday at important cities and towns were:

Table with columns: City/Towns, Temperature in Celsius, Humidity in percentage. Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Sylhet, Barisal, Bhola.

Advertisement for Dhaka City Corporation (ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন). Includes text about water supply, electricity, and contact information for the corporation.