

Dhaka Day by Day

TV News Poses Challenge for Radio

by S Y Bakht

If anyone assumes that the BBC is scared to death over the proliferation of new networks, the person to set the record right is Elizabeth Smith, the Controller of English language services of the prestigious London-based broadcasting corporation, which is heard all over the world in 38 languages besides English.

Now visiting Dhaka, Smith, a veteran broadcaster herself, is in fact quite optimistic about the challenge posed by the world-wide television news services.

As she put it to The Daily Star: "We welcome the challenge, I think it will be good for us as the competition will make (radio programmes) try harder" to improve programming.

In an interview, the BBC executive also discussed the steps being taken to strengthen the BBC Bengali service and the possible areas of cooperation with both Bangladesh radio and television.

Referring to the recent proliferation of TV news networks around the world, Smith, however, acknowledged that it may temporarily reduce radio listenership.

"Usually when TV comes the radio listenership declines momentarily and then steadies over a period of time as radio does have a permanent listenership."

But she is not worried about the radio listenership declining here in Bangladesh because of the spread of TV news. "The strength of BBC here is the Bengali service."

Moreover, she noted, BBC is initiating a series of steps to gear-up both transmission and programming for the sub-continent countries.

Three new frequencies have been added, from September 27, in addition to the existing nine for the three times a day Bengali service broadcasts.

Under a hiring agreement with the Moscow-based Central Administration of Radio Broadcasting Network, BBC will use a transmitter located at Tashkent, Uzbekistan to add new frequencies in its Bengali, Hindi and Urdu language services.

The Russian transmitter at Tashkent, which was earlier used to jam BBC programmes, will now be used for opening the new frequencies," she explained.

The local timings of the three new frequencies are: 0630 to 0645 at 7315 kilohertz (khz) on the 41 metre band, 1930 to 2010 at 9725 khz on 31 metre band and at 2230 to 1700 at 9725 khz on the 31 metre band.

"This will be on an experimental basis and thus we will like to receive feedbacks and reactions from the listeners," Smith said.

The BBC Bengali service will also begin broadcasting health programmes on a regular basis soon, she said, and will also add educational programmes in the future.

"BBC specialises in producing educational programmes which are also entertaining," she pointed out.

BBC will also seek to establish cooperation in various fields with Radio Bangladesh. An offer has already been made, she said, to allow local radio stations to broadcast BBC's 'Tigers Eye' series - a programme on teaching the English language.

"We would also be very keen and interested in relaying the BBC World Service news on Bangladesh Television," Smith eagerly said, when told that CNN programmes will soon be shown on local television.

She said BBC will set up a new relay station in Thailand by 1994 to add to those already in operation in Kranji, Singapore and in Masrah Island in Oman.

"We hope to increase our Central Asian coverage in the future," she said, adding that two new services in the Albanian and Ukrainian languages have already been started this year.

With a degree in history from Edinburgh University, Smith joined BBC as a studio manager in 1958. She was also a news producer and later for the World Service TV news before joining her present position.

Her husband, Geoffrey Smith, is also a well-known media personality. A former correspondent of The Times, he specialised in British and American politics and has written extensively on the political affairs of both the countries, she said.

During a reception hosted for her by Sir Colin Imray, the British High Commissioner, on Saturday evening, Smith met a cross-section of the educated elite of Dhaka.

As she told a Bangladeshi broadcaster of BBC she was pleased to note how popular the BBC service was among the people of Bangladesh who listen to it in both English and Bengali.

Accompanying her on this trip was Scrajur Rahman, a long-time resident of Britain but a Bangladeshi in origin who plays a key role in the production of the Bengali language programmes at BBC, a man who is sure and confident and most certainly conversant with what people in Bangladesh want to hear through BBC.

The primary purpose of her visit to Bangladesh, her first, she said, was to extend an official invitation to Prime Minister Khaleeda Zia to participate in a BBC phone-in programme along with other South Asian leaders sometime in February next.

She has already met the Prime Minister and the invitation to take part in the BBC programme 'Its Your World' was accepted, Smith added.



A procession of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Inu) demanding the withdrawal of anti-terrorism bill in the city yesterday. — Star photo

8 lakh unlettered to be educated

Tk 44.38cr non-formal edn project being implemented

A three-year non-formal education programme is being implemented in the country by the government to educate some eight lakh unlettered people.

The expansion of integrated non-formal education programme (INEP) under the division of primary and mass education is carrying out the programme involving a sum of Taka 44.38 crore, official sources told BSS yesterday.

The non-formal education programme (NEP), an experimental project of the INEP, will be followed by an expanded education programme from 1994.

The NEP is to supplement the government's compulsory primary education programme that began in 68 thanas early this year with the objective of "education for all by the year 2000."

The experimental NEP project that got off in May this year is expected to be completed in June 1994. The gov-

ernment is giving Taka 5.48 crore to the project while the rest 38.90 crore Taka comes from the donor countries and agencies as project aid, the sources said.

The purpose of the NEP is to strengthen the adult literacy programme, introduce pre-primary level education system and bring back the drop-outs to the schools.

The NEP comprises five components: pre-primary education, basic education, adolescent education, adult education and continuing (life-long) education.

At the initial stage, the INEP introduced the adult and continuing education programmes through 1,720 literacy centres under 43 thanas from May 2 this year.

A total of 69,299 learners, including 33,523 female, have been admitted to the literacy centres for a one-year course ending in April 1993.

The official sources said the response and presence of the

learners were very positive and satisfactory.

The literacy centres and housed in schools, madrasahs, clubs and out-house of any residence subject to the convenience of the learner.

The teachers of the programme have been chosen from the school teachers, retired teachers, educated unemployed youths and trained imams. They are being given an honorarium of Taka 400 per month.

One hundred and twenty-nine supervisors have also been appointed to oversee the achievements of the literacy centres. Their honorarium is Taka 1,000 per month.

A five-member literacy centre management committee was formed for each centre. The committee consists of local union member, school teacher and the elite who encourage pursuit of learning.

The INEP has provided three primers, each for three months, to each learner.



Prof Suferul Huq in city

By Staff Correspondent

Professor Syed Suferul Huq, Vice Chancellor and Rector of the International Islamic University in Uganda arrived in Dhaka recently.

Prof. Huq, the first Bangladeshi appointed the Vice Chancellor of a foreign university, will stay in the country for two weeks.

During his stay, he is expected to call on the president, the prime minister and the foreign minister.

The International Islamic University in Uganda, which was conceived in the summit conference of head of states of Islamic countries in Lahore in 1974, came into being in 1988.

Muktijoddha Sangsad EC meet Sept 30

A meeting of the executive committee of Muktijoddha Sangsad will be held on September 30 at 10am at the Agriculture Research Council at Farmgate, reports BSS.

Weather

Heavy rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Meteorological office Sunday forecast heavy rain at one or two places over Rajshahi division and the region of Mymensingh and Tangail during the next 24 hours commencing 6pm Sunday.

Elsewhere of the country, moderate to moderately heavy rain is likely at most places over Khulna and Chittagong divisions and many places over Dhaka and Rajshahi division during the period.

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Most part of the country experienced rain on Sunday. 67mm rain was recorded in Tangail, 52mm in Bogra, 48mm in Dinajpur, 25mm each in Khulna and Srimangal, 23mm in Feni, 19mm each in Bhola and Sandwip 14mm in Faridpur and 4mm in Dhaka.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 5-49 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5-50am.

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

| Cities/Towns | Temperature in Degree Celsius | | Humidity in percentage | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|------|------------------------|------|
| | Max | Min | 9 am | 6 pm |
| Dhaka | 29.6 | 24.7 | 77 | 83 |
| Chittagong | 31.8 | 26.0 | 73 | 87 |
| Rajshahi | 29.3 | 23.0 | 100 | 98 |
| Khulna | 26.2 | 25.0 | 97 | 93 |
| Barisal | 30.0 | 25.0 | 80 | 93 |
| Jessore | 27.6 | 22.5 | - | - |
| Dinajpur | 26.0 | 23.6 | 97 | 95 |
| Mymensingh | 28.1 | 23.5 | 84 | 93 |
| Sylhet | 31.0 | 21.5 | 87 | 98 |
| Cox's Bazar | 31.2 | 24.4 | 78 | 78 |

Laws need change, says Hafiz

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz Saturday called for establishing a corruption and terrorism free society to promote national development, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at the installation ceremony of Dhanmondi Law College unit of Bangladesh Law Students Federation at the college premises, he said laws needed to be changed to suit the need

One arrested from SSMCH campus

By SSMCH Correspondent

Police arrested a troublemaker from Sir Salimullah Medical College campus yesterday morning.

Sources said that the arrested person Habibour Rahman Tipu, 22, along with others was making violent activities in the college for long time.

Tipu, son of an employee of the College, is a student of Jagannath College, sources said.

DUJA team meets VC

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University Journalists Association (DUJA) members met the DU Vice Chancellor yesterday morning to discuss the award giving ceremony scheduled to be held on October 1.

of the time for bringing dynamism in society.

Presided over by Shah Alam, President of the Dhanmondi Law College unit of the federation, the function was also addressed, among others, by Shudhangsu Shekhar Halder MP, Ziaur Rahman Khan MP, Syed Rezaur Rahman Khan, Acting Principal of the college and Moinuddin Ahmed.

Mirza Golam Hafiz reminded the law students of their responsibilities in the future and said in every sphere of social and national life the necessity of law existed and that was why the lawyers had a role to play.

He said rule of law was a pre-condition for a democratic society.

Biswas stresses proper projection of national leaders' contribution

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday underscored the need for preserving the historic documents related to the life and works of great leader Sher-E-Bangla A K Fazlul Huq for the posterity, reports BSS.

He said the contributions of other national leaders should also be remembered with gratitude through properly projecting their sacrifices and dedications.

The President was exchanging views with a nine-member delegation of the Sher-E-Bangla National Academy at Bangabhaban.

President Biswas stressed the need for more publications and research on the contributions of national leaders with a view to recalling their services for the commonman.

Among others, Dr Kazi Din Mohammad, Prof Afsar Uddin,

A K Fazlul Huq, Dr Nazimuddin Ahmed, Mohammad Tofazzel Huq Malik, Motahar Hossain Siddiqui, Advocate Kazi Abdur Rashid, Advocate Ehsanur Rahman, A K M Zahurul Islam and Ahmedul Hoq were present on the occasion.

The President was presented with a publication on Sher-E-Bangla named 'Satabdir Surya'.

Bakerganj-Patuakhali team meets

President Biswas yesterday called upon the people to work unitedly to consolidate democracy and help build a self-reliant Bangladesh.

The President was talking to a 60-member delegation of the Bakerganj-Patuakhali Association when they called on him at Bangabhaban.

Reception date shifted

The reception scheduled to be held on October 4 (Sunday) at Hotel Sonargaon on the occasion of the National Foundation Day of Republic of Korea has been rescheduled due to unavoidable circumstances, reports UNB.



| Time | Programme |
|-------|-------------------------------------|
| 5:00 | Opening announcement |
| | Al-Ghurab |
| 5:10 | Programme summary |
| 5:20 | News in Bangla |
| 5:25 | Recitation from the Gecia Avinandan |
| 6:10 | Sports programme |
| 7:05 | TV debate competition |
| 8:00 | News in Bangla |
| 8:30 | Aparar Shastha |
| 9:00 | Vhora Nadir Baky |
| 10:00 | News in English |
| 10:30 | Film: Mill Street Blues |
| 11:30 | Khabar/The News |
| 11:40 | Tuesday's programme summary |
| 11:45 | Closing |

BCIC International Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

Managing Director, Kamaphuli Paper Mills Limited, 92, Sadarghat Road, Chittagong invites sealed quotation on C&F(C) Chittagong basis under IDA/YEN Credit/any suitable source of financing for the following items:

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|-------|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1 | F/07/MPIC-62/92/POP | Laboratory Apparatus | 26-10-1992 | Tk 50/- |
| 2 | F/33/MPIC-40/92/POP | Metal Detector for Chipper | 26-10-1992 | Tk 50/- |

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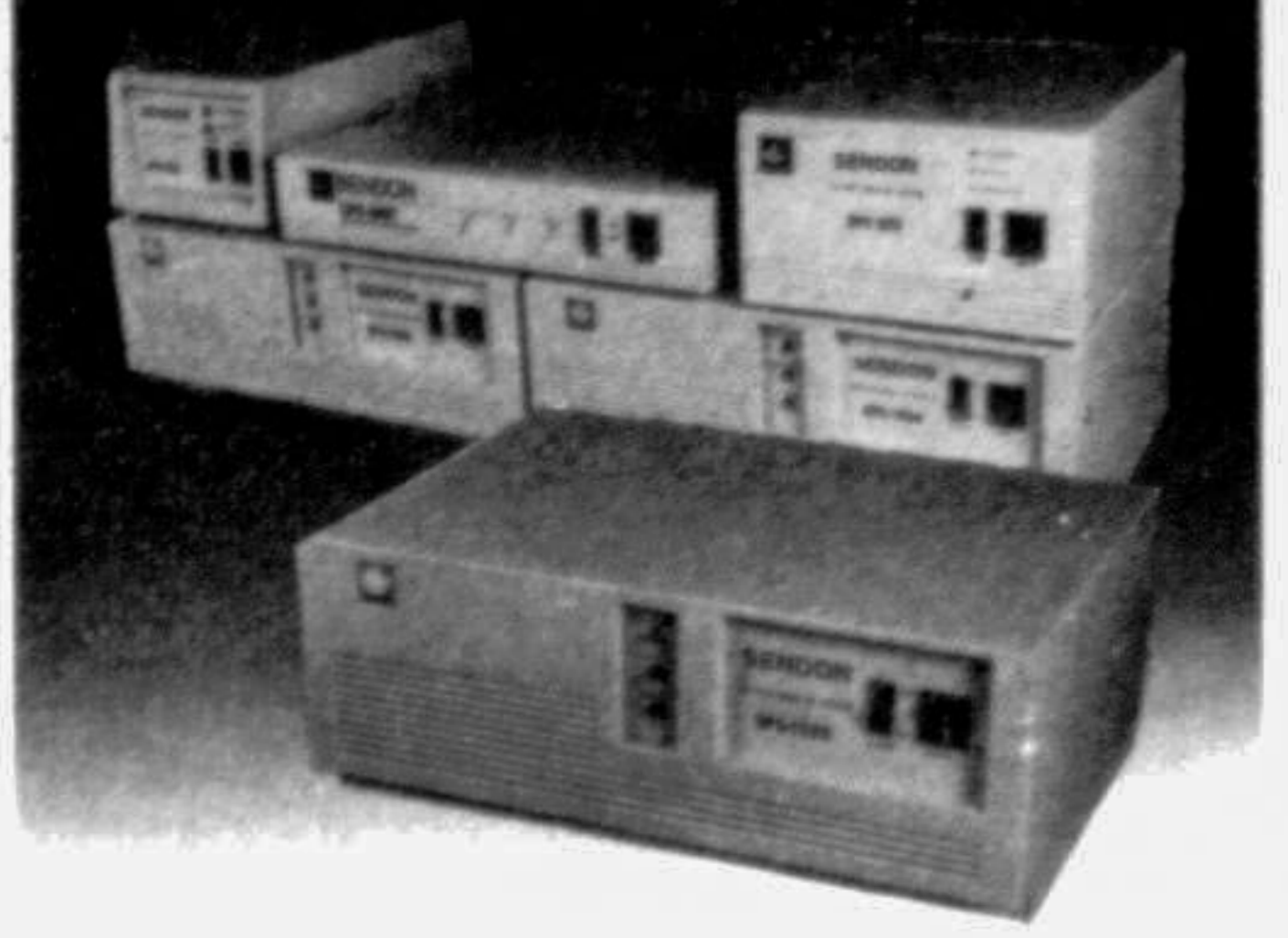
BCIC-847-20/9
DFP (BA) 9314-22/9
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DU exam dates shifted

The B. Sc. Honours and B. Pharm. Part-3 examinations of 1990 under annual course system of Dhaka University which were scheduled from October 17, will now be held from November 17, says a press release.

Detailed time-table of the examinations will be announced in due course.

SENDON UPS



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