

Dhaka Day by Day

Let's Not Watch TV!

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

If you are not the biggest party animal and a little light on the wallet chances are that your primary source of entertainment is being glued to that square tube called the tv. Now while BTv has come up with some very good productions such as the drama serials and programmes like 'Dristi Kon', and 'Mati O Manush', there seems to be something very lacking in its so called 'cultural programmes'. Once in a blue moon one may have the pleasure of watching a show with exceptionally talented artists. Most of the time, however, it is a substandard programme with

'artists' handicapped for their lack of talent and sophistication.

Nazrul Geeti seems to be one of the prime victims of this invasion of mediocrity. Programmes that pretend to have Nazrul Geeti have been reduced to nothing more than out of tune wailing competitions. The performers go to great lengths to sound as mournful and monotonous as possible so that after half an hour of this miserable cacophony the viewer is thoroughly influenced and has a strong urge to burst into tears.

Looks are not important or so the hypocrite says. But when it comes to the telly, the viewer must have something to look at if he must turn many talented singers both known and undiscovered, do these uninspiring faces with their rusty vocal chords fill up the tv screen again and again? Surely Bulbul Academy, Chayanaut and der the name of 'Adhunik Gaan' or Contemporary Songs by new 'artists'. Either these people



Dramas — the only relief on BTv.

are all relatives of the television staff, judging from their tuneless howling or BTv's selection committee has really gone off its rockers. It is painful enough to hear these performers singing in a way that threatens to crack the screen. But to have to actually watch these exhibitionists show off their strange dress sense is a bit too much to bear. The women all seem to be going to a wedding (probably their own) with their multi coloured 'benarasis' and thirty 'bhoris' of gold. Makeup too, is worn with such generosity that faces look like things out of a technicolour horror movie with blue eyelids, scarlet cheek bones and bloody lips. Not to be out done, the men sport their bright red and shocking pink polyester shirts, white fake leather shoes complete with dark gold rimmed glasses and semi Elvis hairdos.

To top it all are, of course, the sets. The set designer seems to be a little fixated on science fiction, preferring to use the strangest looking and strangest coloured objects hanging out of nowhere. The overall effect is one thing... Strange.

Coming back to the 'performers' or rather non performers the unanswered question keeps nagging on: why? Why, when there are so many talented singers both known and undiscovered, do these uninspiring faces with their rusty vocal chords fill up the tv screen again and again? Surely Bulbul Academy, Chayanaut and der the name of 'Adhunik Gaan' or Contemporary Songs by new 'artists'. Either these people

Bangladesh, Palestine ties to grow further

State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof M A Mannan said here Sunday that the fraternal ties between Bangladesh and Palestine would grow further, reports BSS.

The people and the government of Bangladesh would continue to support the national struggle of the Palestinian people for realisation of their national rights including their right of self-determination and establishment of an independent state of Palestine, he added.

He was addressing as chief guest at a function marking the observance of the 5th anniversary of Independence Day of the State of Palestine organised by Palestine Freedom Fighters Coordinating Association at JPC auditorium here.

Presided over by S M Mostafa Hamid Chowdhury, Advocate Supreme Court, the function was addressed, among others by Ambassador of Palestine Mohammad Shahta Zarabi, Libyan Charge d'Affaires Hamid A Abdal Wahed and others.

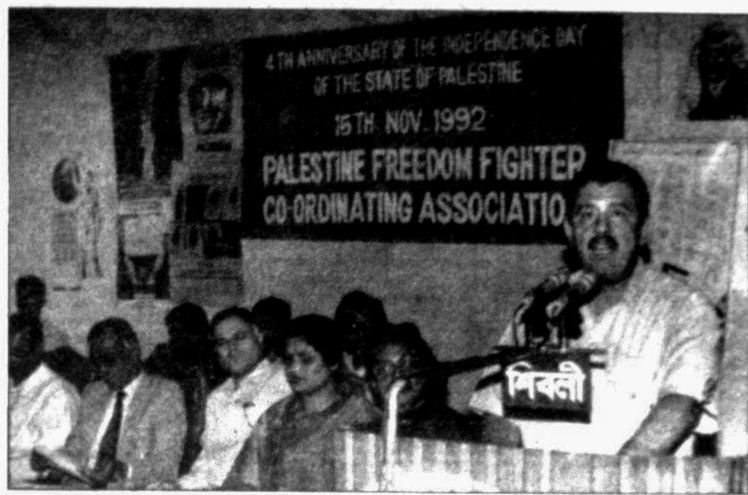
Nasir Ahmed Chowdhury laid to rest

Nasiruddin Ahmed Chowdhury, a former minister, politician, parliamentarian and legal practitioner was laid to eternal rest Saturday at the family graveyard at village Pyatim under Madhabpur thana of Habiganj district, reports BSS.

An ex-minister of the United Front government of the erstwhile East Pakistan, Nasiruddin Ahmed Chowdhury died of old age complications in his Bakshibazar residence of Dhaka on November 13.

The body was taken to his village home Saturday for burial at the last desire of Chowdhury.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at his village home which was attended by a large number of people.



Md Shahta Zarab, Palestine Ambassador in Dhaka speaking at a seminar on the 5th anniversary of the Independence Day of Palestine in the Jatiya Press Club auditorium yesterday.

'Stirling engines run by solar energy capable of supplying electricity'

Stirling engines run on solar energy are capable of supplying electricity for heating and cooling day and night, reports BSS.

This was stated by Dr J Kleinwachter, General Manager of the HTC Solar Centre, Germany while delivering a lecture on possibilities of solar energy technologies in Bangladesh here yesterday.

Organised by BCSIR Laboratories Dhaka, the lecture was presided over by Dr M Waliuzzaman, Chairman of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR).

Dr Kleinwachter, in his lecture, emphasized that the basic infrastructure for running such engines is available in the Institute of Fuel Research and Development, BCSIR here. What is needed, is the coupling of the Stirling engine with the solar collectors developed in the BCSIR, he added.

Depicting the possibilities of application of Stirling

engines in Bangladesh, Dr Kleinwachter said that the country is endowed with plenty of sun shine and this engine can go a long way in solving the energy problems especially in the rural areas.

He further said that besides solar energy this engine can run on by any other fuels if solar energy can not be made available for a long period. In this regard offered establishment of cooperative projects on the applicabilities of this engine in Bangladesh.

Dr M Eusuf, member, (Science and Technology) of the BCSIR said that if the Stirling engine can be made workable under climatic condition in Bangladesh this will really be a break through in the energy situation in this country.

Dr M Waliuzzaman, in his presidential speech appreciated the offer of Dr Kleinwachter saying the BCSIR would be glad to start a joint project on Stirling engines as the council has already the infrastructure for it.

JS body on agriculture meet held

The fifth meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on agriculture and irrigation, considering environmental aspects yesterday stressed the need for discouraging the use of sub-soil water where surface water is available, reports BSS.

The concerned officials were also instructed to find out the reasons of water scarcity in different irrigation project areas and make recommendations towards solving the problem.

Presided over by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Majid-ul-Haq, the meeting discussed matters on irrigation facilities, increase of irrigable land, diversification of food grains and use of irrigation water.



Monday

- 5:00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:25 Recitation from the Geeta
- 5:30 Sports programme
- 6:30 Open University
- 7:05 TV debate
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Janamat
- 9:00 Upahar: Magazine programme
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Film: Hill Street Blues.
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11:45 Closing.

KG Assoc team meets Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday underscored the importance of spreading education and improving its quality and standard to grow the children as the worthy citizens of the country.

The President was talking to an eleven-member delegation of Bangladesh Kindergarten Association led by its Chairman Tahera Khanam, when they called on him at Banghabhan.



ITI theatre festival begins today

A week-long Theatre Festival of selected Bangladesh theatre group productions organised by Bangladesh Centre of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) will begin today, says a press release.

Andre-Louis Perinetti, Secretary General of ITI will formally inaugurate the festival at 7 pm at the Mahila Samity auditorium. The opening evening's play is 'Iblis' to be performed by Aronyak.

The festival coincides with the international seminar on 'Impact of international interaction in contemporary theatre' organised by Bangladesh ITI to be held in Dhaka from November 19 to 21. Prof Jahanara Begum, State Minister for Culture will formally inaugurate the seminar on November 19 at Shilpakala Academy. An exhibition on 'Bangla theatre tradition and international interaction' will be held on November 18-24.

The board meetings of two ITI permanent committees — the Communications Committee and the Cultural Identity and Development Committee will also be held on November 17 and 18.

About 20 foreign delegates are expected to participate in the seminar.

Weather

No change in night temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country during the 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Monday) with partly cloudy sky over the coastal regions.

The Met office forecasts, night temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged across the country for subsequent two days.

The lowest temperature of 12.4 degree Celsius was reported yesterday (Sunday) from Srimangal while the highest temperature of 32 degree Celsius was recorded in Tangail.

The sun sets today at 5.12 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 6.15 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity in some major cities and towns of the country recorded by the Met office yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius	Humidity in percentage
Dhaka	30.0	16.8
Chittagong	30.5	18.8
Rajshahi	30.3	16.0
Khulna	29.9	18.5
Comilla	30.5	16.8
Sylhet	29.5	16.5
Dinajpur	29.0	13.8
Barisal	30.4	17.8

'Bhasani's patriotism made him legendary'

Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani became the legendary leader of the oppressed millions by dint of his strong sense of patriotism, honesty, dedication and commitment to the commonman throughout his 75 years of political career, reports BSS.

This was observed by the speakers at the inauguration of the three-day discussion organised by Bhasani Smriti Sangsad to make the 16th death anniversary of Moulana Bhasani in the city. With Smriti Sangsad Chairman Ahmad Nazir in the chair, the inaugural function was addressed, among others, by former minister Abdur Rahman, sangsad secretary Nazmul Huq Nannu, peasant leader Abdus Sobhan, Journalist Abu Saleh, and sangsad leaders Mia Shahid Hussain, Moslemuddin, Altafuddin Talukdar, Abdul Kalam Azad and Anisur Rahman Najat.

Reminiscing their association with the great leader of the region, the speakers said Moulana Bhasani's charisma as a political leader could only be compared with that of Gandhi. Former Minister Abdur Rahman, said Moulana Bhasani had always advised for building a national character filled with spirited patriotism to save the country's hard-earned independence and sovereignty.

"Good deeds are the way of emancipation and this he preached always among his fol-

lowers as well as others," he said and called upon all to follow Moulana's ideals to build a happy and prosperous nation.

The sangsad secretary Nazmul Huq Nannu expressed his regret that no government research organisation had ever taken any initiative to write a book or study the life of this towering political leader who dedicated his whole life to the service of the oppressed people of Afro-Asia and Latin America.

He urged the government to establish a university, hospitals for free medicare and schools for free education of the children of the poor people after the name of Moulana Bhasani.

The speakers regretted that Moulana Bhasani, who led the Language Movement, protested against the oppression of the Pakistan's central government and remained at the forefront of all movements, was not being acquainted to the young generation. They said the Islamic University established by Moulana Bhasani was yet to get government recognition.

The speakers urged all research-oriented organisations at both private and government levels to launch a study on the life and work of Moulana Bhasani and publish books to help the coming generations know about the legendary leader of this soil.



Slum dwellers held a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club demanding their rehabilitation yesterday. — Star photo

Avoid alien culture: Rafiqul

Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia yesterday stressed the need for preserving and nourishing national culture and avoid alien culture for the greater interest of the nation as well as the coming generation, reports BSS.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of a week long cultural programme arranged by the students' cabinet of Sir Salimullah Medical College.

The function was addressed, among others, by Ashraf Hossain, Whip of Jatiya Sangsad Prof. Kasimuddin Ahmed Principal of the college and Dr Anwara Begum, chairperson of the observance committee.

Lauding the initiative taken by the students for observance of the cultural week, the minister said the students of a medical college could devote themselves to serve the humanity.

Ashraf Hossain said the present government had taken steps to establish more medical colleges in the country.

50-Tk prize bonds draw results

The 42nd draw of 50-Taka Bangladesh Prize Bonds was held yesterday at the conference room of the Commissioner office, Dhaka Division, here. The Commissioner, Dhaka Division, presided over, says a PID handout.

The following common numbers were drawn from amongst numbers 000001 to 0500000:

- First prize of Tk. 2,50,000/00.....0254449.
- Second prize of Tk. 50,000/00.....0366656.
- Four prizes of Taka 5,000/00 each: 0191800 0359148 0382723 0406458
- Four prizes of Taka 2,500/00 each: 0174827 0448632 0457232 0485730
- Ninety prizes of Taka 500/00 each: 0001871 0012418 0013531 0015037 0016560 0036068 0039117 0049873 0050255 0056263 0062206 0063665 0068826 0075724 0078599 0081911 0096372 0101329 0105038 0111036 0118794 0124702 0125929 0126150 0126540 0128064 0131464 0133020 0137608 0159023 0160927 0161343 0173185 0174056 0181601 0184116 0201146 0215846 0234815 0235128 0244688 0267976 0271566 0272198 0283695 0297290 0304051 0326054 0344833 0347337 0347885 0348111 0349998 0351305 0352098 0352814 0370554 0379845 0386051 0387082 0387509 0389871 0401072 0407156 0407699 0414116 0423036 0427078 0429954 0430027 0446584 0451092 0453197 0455221 0455521 0458468 0462181 0466524 0468462 0470767 0471554 0477738 0483281 0484298 0484578 0486228 0486338 0488085 0495558 0497458

University of Dhaka Tender Notice

University of Dhaka : Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide Agent and Suppliers of Lifts for "Fortnightly checking and monthly servicing of 5 Nos Lifts of Dhaka University during the year 1992-93" and will be received by the Executive Engineer (Electrical) upto 12 Noon on 26th November, 1992 and will be opened on the same day in presence of the contractors who may remain present. Contractors will have to deposit as Earnest Money a sum of Tk. 1,900/- only in Demand Draft/Pay Order from a scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favour of Executive Engineer (Electrical), Dhaka University. Specifications and others particulars may be had from the Office of the undersigned upto 12 Noon on all working days except on the date fixed for submitting the tender and on application duly supported by a certificate from an officer not below the rank of an Executive Engineer under whom they completed such work during the last five years and on payment of Tk. 45/- only (Non-refundable) to the Janata Bank of Dhaka University Branch, Dhaka. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason. The contractors is liable to abide by the decision of the authority.

Md Mazir Hossain Khan
Executive Engineer (Elec.) (Incharge),
University of Dhaka.

D-621

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NOTICE

The following Chartered Accountants have been proposed by some Shareholders for appointment as Auditors for 1992-1993.

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- M/S. SIDDIQUI WALI & CO. : 9/G Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
- M/S. RAHMAN THAKUR & CO. : 44 Naya Paltan, Dhaka.

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