Dhaka Day by Day

BTV's Infuriating Tinkering Continues

by Lavina Ambreen Ahmed

This writer is almost embarrassed to write on BTV, especially when only a few weeks back one of the prevalent trends of our precious channel appeared in this very column. Needless to say, that like the previous one, this too, is anything but, flattering! Then again, BTV really provokes even the most unruffled and placid individual into stridently voicing his or her vexation. What has it done this time? Let's put it this way: Have you enjoyed listening to *Time Trax* and good-looking (so who care's if he is a little dim-witted?) time travelling cop, Darien Lambert and his constant computer companion Selma, speak in our mother tongue? And alas, it wasn't one of Hanif Sanket's silly comic acts (like, *Mr Bean*) in any of the magazine programmes! This is for real. By now everyone has heard, if not seen for himself the miserable fate of the two (former) popular English series, *Dark Justice* and *Time Trax*. Yes, yet another one of BTV's 'brilliant' ideas that has managed to create the expected pandemonium among the Dhakaites. While dear BTV, without carrying out any thorough opi-nion poll, decides what's 'best' for the audience, in its typical obnoxious manner; we helplessly wait in apprehension for its next move.

If it's not the annoying news bulletin, then its the unauthorised cutting of the English series, or the *natok* (play) overdose. One wonders just how much is enough? For, how long will the audience be treated as experimental 'guinea-pigs,' having to suffer BTV's every whim?

Till now, the two above mentioned serials were the only ones worth watching. If not for the credibility of the storylines. Then simply for the fact that they were less tampered with. They each actually get one hour's time on air, which is far better than the measly 30 minutes indifferently assigned to Northern Exposure. God forbid, they consider dubbing that too! The half hour thing is bad enough, but to be deprived of the *NE* characters interesting vocabulary would be absolutely unbearable. It's a relief we get to see *nypd blue* on Star Plus, now that's a channel attentive to people's feelings.

One can only speculate what instigated this decision. It can't be to show patriotism or the 'love-for-our-mother tongue.' Otherwise, why telecast foreign shows in the first place?

Perhaps to win more audience? Does BTV seriously regard majority of its English-series fans that ignorant? If we didn't comprehend them, how on earth did American productions like *MacGyver*, *Raven*, *A-Team*, *Remingtong Steel*, *L A Law*, to cite a few, ever become such big hits here? They should take in one point. Those who aren't watching the series in question, probably are not doing so because they don't like them. After all, tastes differ! Maybe, they are drama or local programme freaks. So, presenting a Bangla interpretation might turn out to be a futile endeavour. As, instead of drawing more audience it will only succeed in losing the sizeable fraction which, even in this satellite era, regularly "tuned" to BTV at least twice a week.

There is also another major factor to be considered. Since BTV was deadset on going ahead with their dubbing intention, couldn't they have done a better job? The voice department definitely needs some improvement. Leaving aside the nitty-gritty, even the half-hearted observer couldn't help grimacing at the mispronounced names such as: 'Shambi' and 'Malisha' not to mention 'Derian' instead of 'Darien', during last week's 'Premiere'. Reading the Bengali version of Maugham, Forster or even Agatha Christie can never be compared to their authentic works. Similarly, the Bangla adaptation of any non-Bangla programme will undoubtedly ruin the originality of the dialogues and replace the sense of humour, the slangs with inappropriate, peculiar sounding phrases.

If the shows were in any other language i.e. French, German, Arabic or Chinese, the proposal to dub them would be certainly needed and appreciated. In this case, however, it was totally unnecessary.

Throwing disparagement at BTV wasn't my intention. This write-up merely tried to reflect the feelings of the outraged viewers. Many believe that it's the final blow among all the infuriating 'innovations' our national channel has so far introduced. One would imagine that in this age of competition, BTV will be more tentative about the changes. After all, we still have Star Plus, but pretty soon BTV will only be left with fewer and fewer audience.

Awami League leader Abdus Samad Azad addressing a post-hartal rally at the Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday. — Star photo

What's on today . . . .

Painting competition: A children's painting competition will be organised by the Bangladesh-China Friendship Society to mark the 20 years of Sino-Bangladesh tie. Venue: Shishu Academy. Time : 3 pm. Chief guest: Dr Khandakar Musharraf Hossain, Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources.

Sheraton Hotel safety week: The annual environment and safety week will begin. State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism, A Mannan will inaugurate.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Central: The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1 pm.

Pramanyokar: The organisation will arrange the screening of a documentary 'Man of Aran' to commemorate 100 years of cinema. Venue: Goethe Institut. Time: 6:30 pm.

French film show: The film Une Affaire de Femmes will be screened. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium. Time: 8:30 pm.

BDPC publication ceremony: The Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC) has organised the launching ceremony of the handbook 'First Aid in Disaster Emergencies'. Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 5:00 pm. Chief guest: Deputy Leader of the House Prof A Q

Zahir Raihan Film Society: As part of a retrospective of the French cinema of the eighties Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen 'Le Metro' (Subway) by Luc Besson. Venue: The Alliance Francaise auditorium, Road 3, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Dilkusha: The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Purbani Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Talk on S M Sultan: A discussion titled "Artist S M Sultan: His Life and Struggle" will be held to mark the first death anniversary of the artist. Venue: Seminar room, Shilpakala Academy. Time: 4:30 pm. Chief guest: Sayeed Ahmad.

Book launching: The book Photography Vidya by Masud ur Rahman will be launched. Venue: Children's auditorium, National Museum. Artist Mostafa Monowar will preside.

Dhaka seeks ITU assistance

Bangladesh has sought International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) assistance in devising a suitable model of a regulatory body for the country's telecommunication sector, reports UNB.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam sought ITU help when he met ITU Secretary General Dr Pekka Targanne at the latter's office in Geneva on Saturday.

Tariqul is leading Bangladesh delegation to the Telecom-95 conference and exhibition in the Swiss city. He also sought ITU assistance in development of human resources in this sector.

Issues like distribution of licences to the private sector in rural telecommunications, cellular communications and paging were also discussed.

Happy Birthday
To
SUBA

Many happy returns of the day
From: Parents, Grand Parents, Uncles, Aunts & Cousins.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Many places of Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal and a few places of Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions may experience moderate rain or thundershower with temporary gusty wind in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office forecast moderately heavy falls at places over Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divisions during the period.

No remarkable change in day temperature is expected over the country.

Meantime, Khepupara experienced the highest 56 mm rain yesterday. Mymensingh had 46 mm rain, Bogra, 41, Khulna 36, Dhaka and Jessore 33 each, Chittagong 23, Barisal 18, Faridpur 10 and Tangail 8 mm shower during the period.

Country's highest temperature 33 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 22.2 degrees at Srimangal.

Sun sets today at 5:38pm and rises tomorrow at 5:53 am.

Jatiya Party presidium member Begum Rawshan Ershad addressing a JP rally in front of Baitul Mukarram mosque after hartal hours yesterday. — Star photo

500 telephones to be restored

By Staff Correspondent

Some 500 telephone lines in the older parts of the city would be restored by tomorrow.

The telephones had earlier gone out of order due to damage of some underground cables at Chakbazar, Nazimuddin Road, Begum Bazar, Jail Road and Urdu Road areas. The damage was caused by road digging by the WASA.

Postal dept to release new stamps

Bangladesh Post Office will issue a set of six commemorative stamps on the flowers of the country and a first day cover today, reports UNB.

An officials announcement said the stamps include two sets of Tk 6 and four of Tk 10 denomination. The first-day cover is valued at Tk 6.

A special cancellor will be used on the occasion.

The stamps and the first-day cover will be sold from all head post offices, including the country's four GPOs.

Artist Golam Sarwar dead

By Staff Correspondent

Noted painter and deputy chief designer of the 'Naksha Kendra' of Shilpakala Academy Golam Sarwar died of cardiac arrest at the Shurawardy Hospital in the city at 12:30 am yesterday. He was 55.

After the namaz-e-janaza held at the Mirpur Paikpara Jam-e-Mosque, he was buried at the Mirpur Intellectuals graveyard, says a press release.

Mobarak Hussain Khan, director general of the Shilpakala Academy, Hashem Khan and Mahmudul Haq, president and general secretary respectively of the Bangladesh Charushilpi Sangsad, Rafiqun Nabi, director of the Fine Arts Institute, Dhaka University condoled the death of the artist and expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Qulkhwani of the deceased will be held at his 319/1, Ahmednagar residence at Mirpur tomorrow.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয় (সওজ)
সিলেট সড়ক বিভাগ, সিলেট
ফোন নং-৬৩৩৯

স্মারক নং-৩৩০৫ — তারিখঃ ৩০-৯-৯৫

দরপত্র আহবানের সংশোধনী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	কাজের নাম	গ্রুপ নং	প্রাক্কলিত মূল্য	বায়নার টাকা	পরিবর্তিত খোলার তারিখ	পরিবর্তিত লটারীর তারিখ
৪৩/সি,স, বি-১৯৯৫-৯৬ইং	১৯৯৫-৯৬ইং আর্থিক বৎসরে সিলেট সড়ক বিভাগাধীন সিলেট-সুতারকান্দি সড়কের ৩৯/১, ৪০/১, ৪২/১ এর এ্যাপ্রোচ পেভমেন্ট নির্মাণ কাজের দরপত্র।	-নাই-	টাঃ ৩,০৪,৪৬০/-	টাঃ ৬,০৯০/-	২১/১০/৯৫ইং	২২/১০/৯৫ইং

সৈয়দ রাশীদুল হাসান
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (সওজ)
সিলেট সড়ক বিভাগ, সিলেট।

DFP-24335-5/10
G—1467

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Supply and Inspection

Disposal Notice

The Director, Deptt. of Supply and Inspection, 48, Motijheel Commercial Area, Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Dhaka invites the tender for disposal of the following unserviceable vehicle on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS".

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description of vehicle	Value of tender (Non-refundable)	Time & date of submission
1.	S-Disposal/Dipcar-3/94-95 (USSR)	Datsun Car Model No. 1982 Regn No. Doot-59-188	Tk. 60/-	11. A.M. on 24-10-1995
2.	S-Disposal/Dipcar-5,6/94-95 (France)	I) Peugeot Station Wagon Model No. 1986 Regn No. Doot-18-45 II) Peugeot Car (Familial) Model No. 1988 Regn No. Doot-18-51	Tk. 105/-	-do-

Tender copy obtainable from the office of:
1. Director of Supply & Inspection, 48, Motijheel C/Area, Dhaka.
2. Dy. Director of Supply (Shipping), B.G.O. Building, Agrabad, Ctg.
3. Asstt. Director of Supply (Shipping), 261-Sher-e-Bangla Road, Khulna.

Abul Kalam Azad
Asstt. Director (Disposal).

DFP-24255-5/10
G-1468

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Eugenio Lopez Foundation

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