

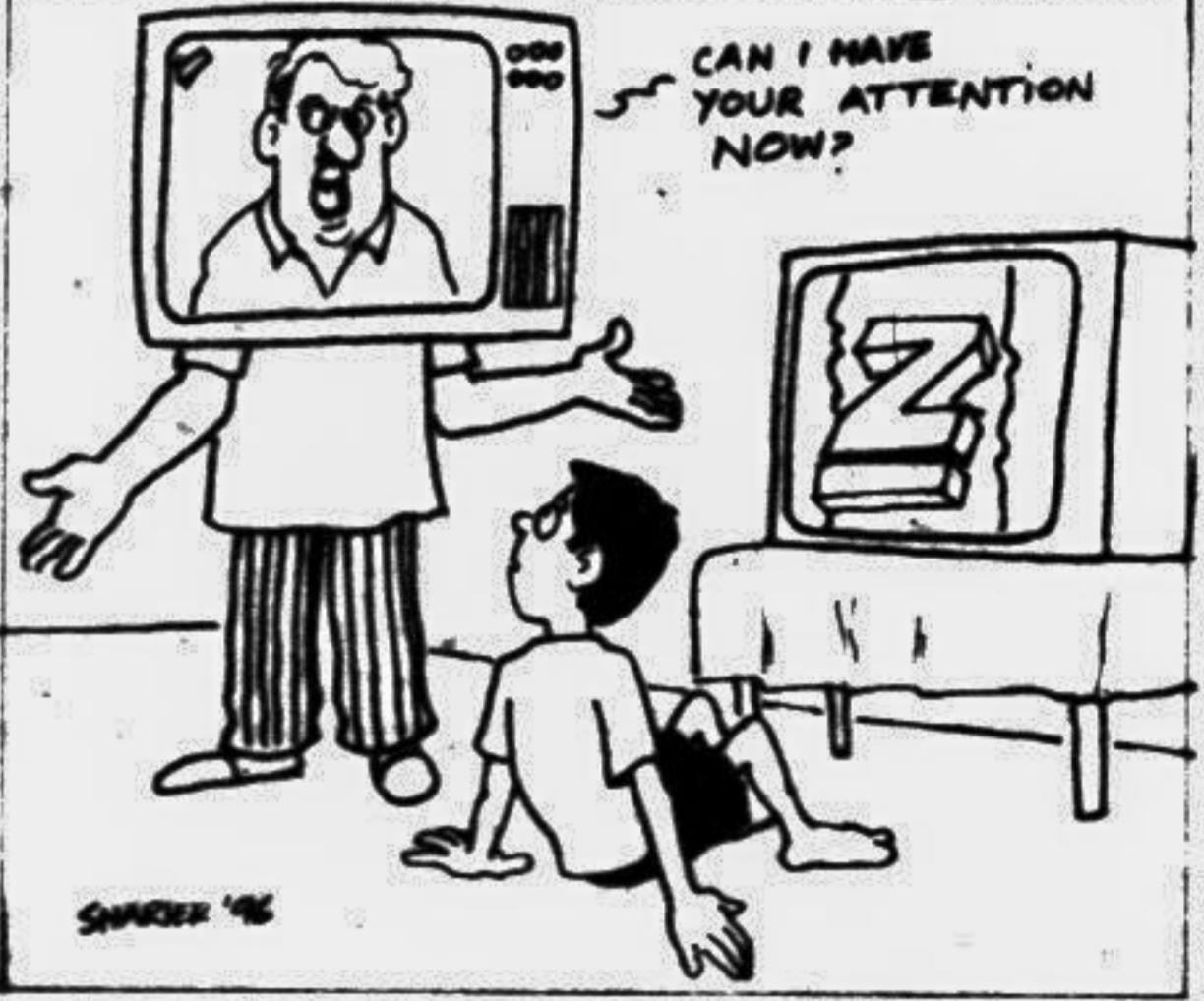
Dhaka Day by Day

Time to Check Our TV Habits

by Tulip Chowdhuri

These days mothers often complain of the excess TV watching by their children. "My eight-year old son is practically glued to the TV. He eats well while watching the TV. He does his homework in front of it, he spends most of his leisure hours in front of it and all he talks about is TV programmes," says Ihsrat Khan. Another mother, Mahbub complains, "Children these days are matured beyond their ages because of TV, cinemas and other programmes they watch on the TV."

Does the fault really lie on the TV or the children? Of course not. We seem to be making wrong use of this wonderful source of information and entertainment. With the arrival of the cable TV network we have a wide range of choices of TV programmes open to us. There is always something interesting on any one of the channels. Throughout the day and into the late hours of the night somebody or the other will be



in front of the TV. If a little girl, Preety is not watching her favourite cartoons her Dad will be watching the Prime Sports or Mom is passing her leisure hours watching the ZEE cinemas. Elsewhere on the second set of TV her elder brother may be having his soul out with the Channel V. These family members seem to have forgotten that there are some other wonderful things they can do together beside watching the TV.

The choices we have on the TV channels seem to land us in trouble sometimes. Family members get involved in arguments over who is to watch what. Kids get into fights over whose choice of the programme shall get the preference.

"Hey it's time for my 'Wind in the Willows', says little Rony to his brother Munna who gives him a box on the ear and says, "You had your choice yesterday and today I get mine. Now I'll watch Beverly Hills 90210."

But soon Dad saunters in and shooes the children off as he switches over to BTV and

settles in the armchair reserved for him. However, half an hour later Mom enters the room and sweetly says, "Darling have you finished watching your programme? It's time for my 'Bold and the Beautiful' on Star Plus."

A couple stopped talking to each other for three days over a row over the TV programmes. Next thing they did was to buy a second set of television.

Some people have the habit of spending long hours in front of the TV everyday. This habit gives their 'pot-bellies' a wonderful chance to rise a little higher. It feels so good to sit in front of the wonderful programmes, channel surfing to ones heart's content and nibbling away on some potato chips or sipping cups of tea or coffee.

Child viewers of the TV often go for long hours of unrestricted TV shows. The rules for watching the television at a distance of two metres and not watching TV for more

than one hour at a time goes unheeded and their eyesight may suffer. There are varieties of TV programmes. But all of them may not be suitable for the children. The cinemas on Star Movies are not censored. Even some of the Hindi cinemas are also sexually provocative. Hence sex and violence which are parts of many TV cinemas are very harmful for the emotional health of the

children. Many parents and guardians are not tactful enough in selecting their children's programmes. Children should watch the television under strict supervision of their parents and there should be a limit to their television viewing. According to the US Department of Education, three factors: absenteeism, the lack of varied reading and excessive television watching are reason for nearly 90 per cent of lower achievement test scores. Their studies also show that academic achievement drops sharply for children who watch more than ten hours of TV during the school week.

Tk 11cr Islamic Foundation budget

State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof M A Mannan yesterday said Islamic Foundation has a budget allocation of about Tk. 11 crore for the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

He was addressing as chief guest the bi-annual conference of the official of Islamic Foundation held at the conference room of the foundation. The function was also addressed by the general secretary of Sramik League Mojibul Rahaman Bhuiyan, joint secretary of Religious Ministry Dr Juardar Abdur Rashid and the director general of Islamic Foundation Syed Ashraf Ali.

Referring to mosque based mass literacy, sewing project, mosque based libraries, publication of Islamic books, development of library, Islamic cultural centres and rehabilitation of the distressed. The minister said these should properly be completed in the interest of the people.

BCAS seminar

A seminar on Increasing Employment Opportunities through micro Enterprise Development was held on Thursday under the auspices of the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), says a press release.

Chaired by Dr. Atiq Rahman, Director of BCAS, the seminar has been participated by all its directors, fellows and a host of BCAS researchers.

Md Al Mashuk in his paper pointed out that the increased employment opportunities for the unskilled and semi-skilled are constrained by the lack of access to commercial credit for small and micro enterprises, inadequate business skills and business regulations. BCAS director Dr Atiq Rahman chaired the seminar.

Guests at a fashion show organised by modelling house Jhalak in the city recently.

Mementos of '69 for War Museum

Family members of shaheed Asaduzzaman, a martyr of Mass Upsurge of '69 will hand over his memorabilia to Mukti Juddha Jadugor (War Museum) today, says a press release.

Father of shaheed Matiur and family members of other martyrs will also hand over memorabilia in the same ceremony.

Poet Shamsur Rahman will be the special guest of the ceremony, falling on the 27th anniversary of Mass Upsurge of '69.

Hasina protests police action

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has strongly protested the police action on peaceful procession of her party and arrest of party workers during the Election Commission Office gherao programme in the city Thursday reports UNB.

In a statement she said law enforcing agencies used hot water, baton and tear gas on Awami League procession, leaving more than 100 injured and over 50 arrested.

The party's Agriculture Secretary Begum Matia Chowdhury, Juba League General Secretary Kazi Iqbal and Qamruzzaman Ansari, were among the injured leaders and workers.

Hasina said like the past autocrat, the Begum Khaleda Zia's government won't be able to suppress the demand for national election under a non-party, neutral caretaker government by unleashing torture and repression.

The Awami League chief called for advancing the movement for caretaker government to its goal.

Camel jockeys

Shishu Adhikar Forum concerned

The Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum, a children welfare organisation, yesterday expressed concern over the use of Bangladeshi children as camel jockeys in the Gulf, reports BNS.

The forum demanded of the UAE and Bangladesh governments to take immediate steps to repatriate the child victims mostly trafficked from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, said a press release.

It also urged the law enforcing agencies, border security forces and immigration authorities to take stronger measures to check child trafficking from Bangladesh.

According to a recent report published in a local daily, 10-15 year old boys rode camel backs in the week-long highly prestigious grand Zayed Race during the first week of January.

Chaka's premiere in Paris Jan 23

The internationally acclaimed film Chaka (The Wheel), directed by Morshedul Islam is going to have its premiere in Paris on January 23, says a press release.

The film will be screened in three cinema halls on February 14. This will be the first Bangladeshi film to be released commercially in a European country.



Nominated for Who's Who

Professor M Afsaruddin has recently been included in the 1995 edition of Asia's Who's Who, says a press release.

Afsaruddin, a former chairman of the Sociology Department, Dhaka University has had a distinguished career having taught in reputed institutions such as Mankato University as a Fullbright visiting professor.

Besides, he was a member of the Bangladesh delegation to 35th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1980.

He has authored ten books.

Rotary meet

An inter-city meeting on group study exchange programme of Rotary International was held in the city on Monday, reports UNB.

The meeting was organised in honour of the visiting GSE team from the Netherlands and USA.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Rotary District 3280 governor Emdad-ul-Haq, past governor Prof Jalal U. Ahmed, RC Dhaka North President SA Hakim, RC Dilukhul president Kazi Wahidul Alam, RC Midcity president Khan Akhtar Alam and Rotarian Huq Ara Huq.

Speaking on the occasion, the visiting members lauded the culture, traditions and warm hospitality of the people of Bangladesh. Both teams will visit important and historical places of Bangladesh for one month.

The function was followed by a sitar recital.

Metropolitan



The pavement adjacent to the Science Laboratory is being occupied by the vendors causing difficulties to the pedestrians.

— Star photo

BNP tried its best to bring opposition to polls: Rafiq

BNP Standing Committee member and Housing and Public Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia said here Thursday that there was no alternative to elections for sustaining democratic norms and practices and maintaining constitutional process, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at a function organised by Motijheel Chawkush Cultural and Sports Sangsad in the afternoon, Barrister Rafiq said there was no option but to participate in the February 15 general elections for the sake of maintaining the democratic and constitutional obligations.

Dwelling on the sincere efforts to bring all the political parties to the election.

Apex body

The annual general meeting of the Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara Welfare Society was held Monday at Gulshan Club, says a press release.

Presided over by Jamal Uddin Ahmad, president of the society. The meeting approved the report of the executive committee and passed the audited accounts of the society.

Jamal Uddin Ahmad, former Deputy Prime Minister was unanimously re-elected president of the society for the second term.

The meeting also elected a new executive committee consisting of K Z Islam, Maj Gen (Retd) M I Karim, Abdur Rashid Talukder, Lt Col (Retd) S Kalimullah, Abdur Rahman, Mohammad Shamul Alam, Saleh Ahmed, Nashiruddin Ahmed, S Hidayetullah, Rezaur Rahman, Fazlur Rahman, M Shamsul Alam, A K M Rafiqul Islam, Talebullah Rahman and K Reza.

Golam Kader chaired the meeting.

Free eye camp from today

A noted ophthalmologist of UK Prof Dr J C Chawla and the chief consultant of Lions Eye Hospital Dr S M Munirul Haq will jointly conduct a four-day operation and implantation of intraocular lens at BLF Eye Hospital, Dhaka from today from 8:00 am to 01:30 pm, says a press release.

The Election Commission, an independent constitutional body, had shifted thrice the election schedule providing enough opportunity to the opposition parties for their participation, he said.

Barrister Rafiq said the BNP had tried its best to ensure their (opposition) participation.

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