

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

The Growing Dish Culture

By A.S.M

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Our urban society, particularly in big cities, is facing a new phenomenon: fast growth of satellite dish culture. It seems to be the latest development in the field of visual entertainment. Its precursors were the VCRs and VCPs which flooded the market in the eighties and the early part of the nineties. Guardians of our social mores were critical of the impact that these electronic gadgets could inflict in the cultural and aesthetic arena of the nation. They had good reason for being so. There was absolutely no control on the entry of the video films that served as fodder to these new vehicles of entertainment. As a result, video films of all varieties — good, bad and forbidden even by Western standards were available in plenty in the video shops that mushroomed in the city as elsewhere in the country.

According to serious observers of our society, the unrestricted entry of alien video films containing pornographic and abominable crime episodes exercised deleterious effects on the morals of the young generation and finally gave rise to horrific criminal activities. All this has played an important role in eroding our traditional values, culture and ways of life, in the opinion of critics. There were ample evidence of the ominous impact of these phenomena on the increased incidence of crimes and violence in the city, as elsewhere.

The VCRs and VCPs had their heyday not for a long period. They suffered a significant setback from another electronic invader: the satellite dish antenna which was initially available to the financially solvent citizenry. There

are now fierce debate over whether the latest device has initiated the process of dismantling and mauling the vestiges of our cultural and ethical values. But no doubt, the dish antenna installed on rooftops of affluent homes of the city became an eloquent symbol of elevated status of those homeowners.

The dish antenna has now come to the plebeian level with the introduction of the so-called cable service, run in most cases by owners of video shops which have now been going through a lean period of business. At present all the important neighbourhoods of the city inhabited by TV owners have their TVs fitted with cable connection. Though initial investment for such facility and the monthly charge for it vary from one place to another in the city, they are considered affordable by most TV owners, considering the wide variety and attractions of the different programmes available through the cable ser-

vice. This new facility is now being so widely used by privileged sections of the city dwellers for enjoying foreign TV programmes, telecast almost day and night, that the daily newspapers of the city allot a good portion of their space to the printing of the daily programmes of the different foreign TV channels. Against the inroad of these foreign TV programmes, the local TV programmes seem to have no defence, because the latter appear to be insipid and monotonous. There are many cases where the TV owners of the city equipped with cable service remain constantly tuned to the foreign channels.



Vernacular weekly launched

The publication ceremony of the weekly 'Janatar Daak' was held at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. reports BSS.

Former Deputy Leader in Parliament Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury attended the function as chief guest.

Badruddoza said there is a conscious section of newspaper readers in the country who want to see objective news and views in the newspapers with-

out hurting others unnecessarily.

He said newspaper reporting is an art where hurting others unnecessarily is out of the ethics of journalism.

He also urged the press to uphold the sacrifices of the political workers and leaders in the country so that people of quality do not become discouraged in joining politics.

Presided over by the editor

of the weekly, Asaduzzaman Ripon, the function was also addressed by former Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, former Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Moniruzzaman Mia, editor of the Weekly Holiday A Z M Enayetullah Khan, president of Jatiya Press Club and editor of the daily Financial Express Reazuddin Ahmed, and secretary general of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Zahirul Haq.

Course on social policy at IUBAT

A 10-day certificate course on social policy analysis has begun at the Centre for Management Development of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT), Dhaka from April 15. says a press release.

The objective of the course is to introduce the participants current trends in social policy analysis from a global perspective.

Call for unity of nationalist forces

Jatiya Ganotantrik Party (JGP) president Shaiful Alam Prodhan yesterday called for greater unity of the nationalist forces to face future political and economic challenges. reports UNB.

Addressing a rally in front of the party office at Purana Paitan in the afternoon, Prodhan urged the caretaker government to ensure that no political party falls victim of discrimination.

Rotary Club of Dhaka: The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:15 pm. Guest speaker: Selina Hassain, Director, Bangla Academy.

Bangladesh Computer Society: The society has organised a seminar on Management of information technology: A Component-based Approach. Venue: IFST seminar hall, BCSIR, Dhanmondi. Time: 4:30 pm. Speaker: Abir Qasem, in-charge, Computer Center and faculty member, NSU.

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

Fed of University Women: The triennial general meeting of the executive committee of the Bangladesh Federation of University Women will be held. Venue: WVA auditorium, House 405/A, Road 27, Dhanmondi. Time: 3 pm.

Film show: Zahir Raihan Film Society in collaboration with the cultural section of the Indian High Commission here has arranged a film show. Two films will be screened. 'Ardhatsya' by Govind Nihalani at 3 pm and 'Vidheyam' by Adoor Gopal Krishnan at 5:30 pm. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, House 25, Road 2, Dhanmondi.

BUET lecture: A seminar titled 'Flow patterns and morphological changes around a braid bar in Jamuna river' will be held. Venue: The seminar room of Civil Engineering building. Time: 5 pm. Dr Colin R Thorne, Professor, University of Nottingham, England will deliver the lecture.

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