

FOCUS

BTV Must Come out of the Mess

by Nilratan Halder

A commission formed earlier to prepare a report for the autonomy of the BTV has sought a time extension for submitting the same. Until or unless that report comes out, it is premature to question the sincerity or the intention of the government.

Old habits of the organisation really die hard!

We do not know. But we are serious about knowing where exactly things go wrong. We say this even after we have come to the conclusion that the TV can no longer be called a monopoly... The BTV can never be one party's property. Nor the government in power seems to retain the status quo.

can be without knowing the guidelines to be set for the TV when it turns autonomous. The government is not explicit if this is an ad-hoc measure necessitated by the extremely poor quality of programmes.

The committees ability to deliver has been questioned and not for nothing. Our only TV channel need to be modern and, at the same time, focus on our special local issues.

Political issues apart, there are educational, environmental, agricultural, health, sports, travel and above all entertainment programmes.

duced by the BTV is at a primary stage. If justice is to be made to these subjects, the organisation must go through a sea-change in terms of approach, subjects and structure.

The BTV is indeed playing a very pathetic role. Its job is not only to entertain but also to educate and create taste for better things in life.

No party or government must try to control it for narrow purposes because that impedes its growth. To turn it into a modern, responsive and efficient organisation, there must be vision.

The BNP's complaint against partisan attitude of the BTV sounds hollow, because you never know if they will be a better lot in respect of the medium's independence.

Stunted Kids Lurk Behind Asia's Economic Miracle

by Juan L Mercado

STUNTED, wasted and underweight children — 156 million in South Asia alone — emerge as the starkest indicator of disparities that splinter Asia's economic miracle.

South Asia accounts for 43 per cent of stunted and 56 per cent of wasted children in the developing world, asserts the just-released Sixth World Food Survey.

Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore — are reigning in this region. These countries are flush with cash. And their nutritional supplies are more adequate and rising.

Perhaps, one of the Survey's more significant aspects is its presentation of "changes over time." These publish findings from World Health Organization analysis of surveys, over almost two decades.

The overall picture is one of a varied pattern of change in the proportion of underweight children," the Survey notes.

Some of the conclusions: * Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka show the prevalence of ill-fed kids declining.

South-east Asian countries reveal similar inroads against this problem, namely: Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam. But the problem has been exacerbated in Myanmar and Laos.

What the Survey sketches is a rapidly shifting picture. FAO Regional Representative AZM Obaidullah Khan says. The evidence is the proportion of undernourished kids declined over the last 20 years.

But the problems remain daunting. Today, 16 out of every 100 Asians — children and adults — still lack adequate food. Given Asia's large population base, the ill-fed still add up to about 512 million.

The rundown to the 21st century will require a new matrix of policies to raise more food on constricted slivers of land and reduced water supplies, the FAO official said.

More important is more food must reach the vulnerable groups. No nation can advance on the backs of stunted, wasted and underweight children, Mr Khan said.

"Both poor and nouveau riche Asian countries have to work together — or stagnate separately."

The "economic tigers" —

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The "economic tigers" —

Dhaka Day by Day

A Costly Craze

by Samia Islam



A sweeping fad.

— Star photo

Dhaka is a snack-food connoisseurs' paradise. At the rate these shops are creeping up all over the place, it's hard for the public to keep up with them.

The teenagers and twenty something crowds are ecstatic of course, and who can blame them? The only place they can hang out at is the food joint.

This doesn't say much about the culinary practices of our youth, hence, the future of the country. Given that there is no getting out of it and since one does need to go out once in a while, let's look at what exactly entails an evening out for people who are on a budget.

Here's the big picture though: you really enter the pad and survey four corners as if you were king of all that eye beholds. Then you choose a booth that's placed just right, already gyrating to the beats emanating from the CD.

All things considered, the turnout at these joints are far from dwindling as economic factors might have predicted but the snack food shop owners need not be too smug.

Rather they should thank their stars that they are doing thriving business in a city that has no recreational venues.

Tom and Jerry



James Bond



Metropolitan



City Cell opens sales centre in city

The first mobile cellular chain sales centre of Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited was inaugurated at Kakrail in the city by Samson H Chowdhury, President, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, yesterday afternoon.

Yusuf tells 50th World Health Assembly Mortality due to preventable diseases declining in country

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf has said that the epidemiological transition in Bangladesh has gained momentum, reports UNB.

Call to implement NEMAP

Participants at a workshop in the city Monday called for immediate implementation of the national environment management action plan (NEMAP) to promote sustainable development and quality of human life, reports BSS.

Weather

Thundershowers likely

Rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka and Sylhet, and at one or two places in Barisal and Chittagong divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Rajshahi, Pabna and Bogra in the next 12 hours till 6 pm Wednesday, reports UNB.

New Navy ship commissioned in Khulna

CHULNA, May 6: The commissioning ceremony of a logistic support ship of the Bangladesh Navy, BNS Imam Gazzali was held at Digraj here today, says a press release of ISPR.

Call to include women trafficking issue in SAARC summit agenda

Three NGOs yesterday urged the government to include women and child trafficking issues in the agenda of the summit of the SAARC, to be held in the Maldives capital Male in the second week of this month, reports BSS.

Theatre performs in Calcutta

Theatre, one of the leading drama groups of the country, staged three of their productions — Spordha, Kokilara and Meraj Fakirer Ma on May 2, 3, and 4 respectively at Madhusudan Mancha, Calcutta in a programme titled 'Natya Sanghati Jonye Theatre (Bangladesh)', says a press release.

Canada Bangladesh Friendship Society

A meeting of the Canada Bangladesh Friendship Society was held at its central office yesterday. Shah Alam, president of the society presided. The activities of the organisation was discussed, says a press release.

Sheikh Burhanuddin College

State Minister for Jute and Textiles A K Faizul Haq yesterday urged the students to achieve proper knowledge to

Makbul's 16th anniversary of death today

Makbul Hasan Trust will observe the 16th death anniversary of Makbul Hasan Moni FCA (England & Wales) in a befitting way today, says a press release.

Bangabhaban refutes claim made in poster

The claim made in a poster, circulated in Dhaka and Sirajganj, that President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed was to inaugurate an organisation titled 'Kudrati Bhandar Sharif' on May 1 at Nimongi of Birajganj district is totally false and baseless, reports BSS.

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam handed over the Commissioning Forman of a newly inducted logistic vessel to its Commanding Officer at a ceremony held at Digraj in Khulna yesterday.

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam attended the function as the chief guest. He read out the Commissioning Forman and later handed it over to the Commanding Officer of the ship. It was followed by hoisting of commissioning pennant and boarding of the ship by crew.

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HERE and THERE

prepare themselves for the challenges of the twenty-first century, reports BSS.

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