



What BTV meant for me A 90'S KID



Do you remember the iconic series 'Alif Laila', the fantasy drama that transported us to a magical world filled with Jinns, fairies, magic lamps, and flying carpets? Every Friday evening, I would eagerly sit in front of the TV, waiting for the 8 pm news to end on Bangladesh Television (BTV), so I could discover the latest antics of Princess Gulafsha in the new episodes.

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

BTV wasn't just a channel for us; it was more like an emotion. During my childhood, it was the primary means through which I connected with the rest of the world. My mornings began with my favourite cartoons, and my nights concluded with my preferred foreign dramas.

Today, the younger generation might not comprehend the allure of this once-popular channel, but for us, the '90s kids, BTV gifted us a treasure trove of brilliant serials that continue to hold a special place in our hearts. Who could forget Baker bhai from *Kothao Keu Nei* or the quirky yet endearing family from *Aaj Robibar*?

Even now, I get goosebumps when I recall Baker bhai's introductory scene. With *Hawa*

Mein Utta Jaye playing in the background, our beloved gangster, sporting oversized black sunglasses, savoured his coffee while sharing a laugh with his two close friends. Baker bhai, portrayed by Asaduzzaman Noor, became a cherished member of our family. I can vividly remember the streets coming to a standstill when Baker Bhai met his fate on screen.

On the other hand, the eccentric psychiatrist Asgor and the love triangle involving Titli, Konka, and the young tenant, Anis, tickled our funny bones. Anis' obsession with memorising math equations and his iconic line, *Meyeta Rege Gelo Keno*, have resurfaced in recent years as a hilarious meme.

While my family was engrossed in Humayun Ahmed dramas, I found solace in the adventures of *Captain Planet*, *Sinbad*, and *Robin Hood*. Every Sunday at 3:30 pm, BTV aired *Woody Woodpecker*, whose zany antics never failed to brighten my day. The channel featured various cartoons scheduled for different days,

including *Godzilla*, *Jumanji*, *Captain Planet*, and *Mogli*, all of which captured my imagination.

Amongst the foreign cartoons, I had a soft spot for the evergreen *Meena*. I always wished for a talking parrot like Mittu and a wonderful friend like Meena, who encouraged me to chase my dreams. The *Murgi Chor* episode, where Meena and the villagers chased a thief, was so comical that I couldn't help but burst into laughter. I remember shouting, 'Go,



look in *Robin Hood* by growing long hair and sporting a French beard.

During that era, it was trendy to have stickers and pencil boxes adorned with images of your favourite characters. I, for instance, had a *RoboCop* pencil box because I was captivated by his shiny metal armor and laser-beam eyes. My younger cousins were enamored with *Mr. Bean* and his hilarious adventures. His lifelong companion, Teddy, might be an inanimate object, but their friendship demonstrated that the strongest bonds can form in the most unexpected ways.

Last but certainly not least, Hanif Sanket's *Ityadi* was something I wouldn't miss for anything in the world. I eagerly awaited the skits, featuring foreigners attempting to speak Bengali gingerly and the magical performances by Subir Nandi and Sabina Yasmin. These segments on *Ityadi* were undoubtedly the highlight of the show. While the glory days of BTV may have faded with time, its presence still resides deep within our hearts. A significant portion of our childhood will forever be grateful to BTV for bringing us one step closer to the outside world.

Arifin Shuvoo shares spotlight with Bollywood stars at 48th TIFF



Bangladeshi sensation Arifin Shuvoo graced the same spotlight as Bollywood luminaries Anil Kapoor, Shehnaz Gill, and Bhumi Pednekar at the prestigious 48th Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), an exciting moment that has gained widespread attention across media. Recently, the photos were shared on the festival's official social media handles.

The premiere of the Bollywood film, *Thank You for Coming*, was a highlight of this year's Toronto International Film Festival. This star-studded occasion brought together celebrities from diverse nations, with Arifin Shuvoo proudly representing Bangladesh.

Expressing his enthusiasm, the acclaimed actor remarked, "I am honoured to have been invited by the festival organisers to participate in this remarkable event. It's a privilege to stand alongside international stars and represent Bangladesh on this global stage."



'Antarjal' to premiere at 150 international multiplexes

The long awaited moment has finally arrived for film enthusiasts as the first cyber-thriller film of Bangladesh, *Antarjal*, is poised to hit the theatres on September 22. The movie is all set for a simultaneous international release in the United States and Canada.

Antarjal is gearing up to set a new milestone as it will be screened at 150 multiplexes just within America and Canada.

COUNTRYWIDE/NEWS

Off-season watermelon shows prospect

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Farmers in Sharankhola upazila are delighted by growing off-season varieties of watermelon, which is usually a summer fruit, thanks to the introduction of a new farming method.

From a distance, it looks like hanging gourd or pumpkin, but when one gets closer, he can see juicy watermelons are hanging from a shed made of nylon threads.

Believe it or not, farmer Bimal Chandra Majhi of Uttar Rajapur-Amtala village in Sharankhola upazila has witness a bumper watermelon production in just four months.

Bimal said as he has no land of his own, he used to cultivate fish and paddy on one acre of land, taking lease from a local farmer.

Off-season watermelon cultivation is quite usual like gourd or pumpkin cultivation.

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Bimal said it he can continue cultivating the off-season variety for a few more years, he will be able to maintain his family quite well.

Some traders already contacted him and express their desire to buy his watermelon for Tk 60 to Tk 65

per kg, he added.

Like Bimal, many farmers in the upazila are now opting for off-season watermelon cultivation due to its good price and easy cultivation process.

According to the upazila agriculture department, about 400 farmers at different villages in the upazila have cultivated off-season watermelons on nearly 41 hectares of land this year.

Moreover, the agriculture department expects more land will be brought under the cultivation in coming years.

Another farmer Asim Kumar said he cultivated watermelon on 33 acres of land and hope to get a good yield as well.

Sharankhola Upazila Agriculture Officer Debobrata Sarkar said farmers are becoming interested in watermelon cultivation as they have been providing necessary training and agricultural inputs in this regard.

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