



## What BTV meant for me A 90'S KID

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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 Uda 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, Konkra, 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.

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 Mitthu 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,



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,

Meena! Go,' in front of the screen while my sister looked at me in bewilderment.

In the '90s, kids, often referred to as Generation X, were greatly influenced by characters like Robin Hood and MacGyver. Young boys would play-fight while imitating them, and young adults attempted to emulate Matthew Porretta's

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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after mixing organic fertilizers with the soil, Bimal said, adding that although it does not require much cultivation cost, it needs a lot of take care.

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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.

### PM joins banquet hosted by Biden

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"Yet, we ranked fifth globally in Covid-19 recovery by one index. From the start, we had to strike a balance between saving lives and protecting livelihoods," she said.

She said they adopted a National Preparedness and Response Plan with the support of WHO.

She mentioned that from zero facilities, testing laboratories were set up in 885 centres. Oxygen supplies were secured in almost all hospitals. About 11,000 doctors and 13,000 medical support staff were recruited within months. With a fatality rate of 1.46 percent, the frontline workers did wonders.

She also said that a dedicated digital app was launched to administer vaccines entirely free of charge.

### PM GETS BROWN UNIVERSITY HONOUR

Hasina was accorded special honour by Brown University on Tuesday (New York time) as the UN recognised her brainchild community clinic model to reach healthcare services to the Bangladesh people's doorsteps.

Her Deputy Press Secretary Md Noorelahi Mina told a press briefing.

Mukesh K Jain, senior vice-president for health affairs and dean of medicine and biological sciences of The Warren Alpert Medical School of the university, handed over a citation to the PM at her place of residence, The Lotte New York Hotel.



Dengue patients being treated on the floor at Narayanganj General Hospital as all the 100 beds at the facility were occupied on Tuesday. PHOTO: SAURAV HOSSAIN SIAM

### Dance pioneer Zeenat Barkatullah no more

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private hospital in Dhaka due to a lung infection, along with an internal bleeding in her brain. She was in the ICU for five days.

In her illustrious career, Zeenat Barkatullah served as the director of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (production department) while overseeing its dance and music departments.

She was recognised for her performances for a wide range of dance styles, including Kathak, Bharatanatyam, Manipuri, and folk dance.

In 2022, Zeenat was honoured with the second highest civilian award — Ekushey Padak — for contributions to the field of dance.

She achieved many other accolades, including Sher-e-Bangla Memorial Award (1985), Natya Shabha Award

(1987), Cadet Core Award (1989), UNESCO Award (1996), Tarokalok Award (1997), Millennium Award (2000), Amritabazar Award (2001), and the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Award (2008).

She was featured in around 80 tele-fictions during her career, which began with the project "Maria Amar Maria" in 1980. She was later seen in "Ghore Baire", "Osthaeye Nibash", "Boro Bari", and "Kotha Bola Moyna", among others.

Born on October 3, 1951, Zeenat Barkatullah was a student of Gazi Alimuddin Mannan while she was only four years old. She earned her master's in Sociology from Dhaka University and joined the Performing Arts Academy.

She also completed a certificate course from Bulbul Lalitakala Academy

and another in ballet and dance choreography from North Korea.

Zeenat's namaz-e-janaza will be held today after Zuhr prayers at Baytul Aman Jame Masjid in Dhanmondi 7. After that, the artist will be laid to rest at the Kalshi cemetery. State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid expressed deep condolences on the passing of the stalwart and extended his heartfelt sympathy to the grieving family in a condolence message.

In the message, the minister emphasised the significant role Zeenat played in the cultural movement for an independent Bangladesh. He also stated she would remain a vital figure in the development of dance discourse through her work.



Off-season watermelons hanging from sheds along fish enclosures is now a common scenario in Bagerhat's Sharankhola upazila. PHOTO: COLLECTED