

Dhaka Day by Day

Please Get Off My Line'

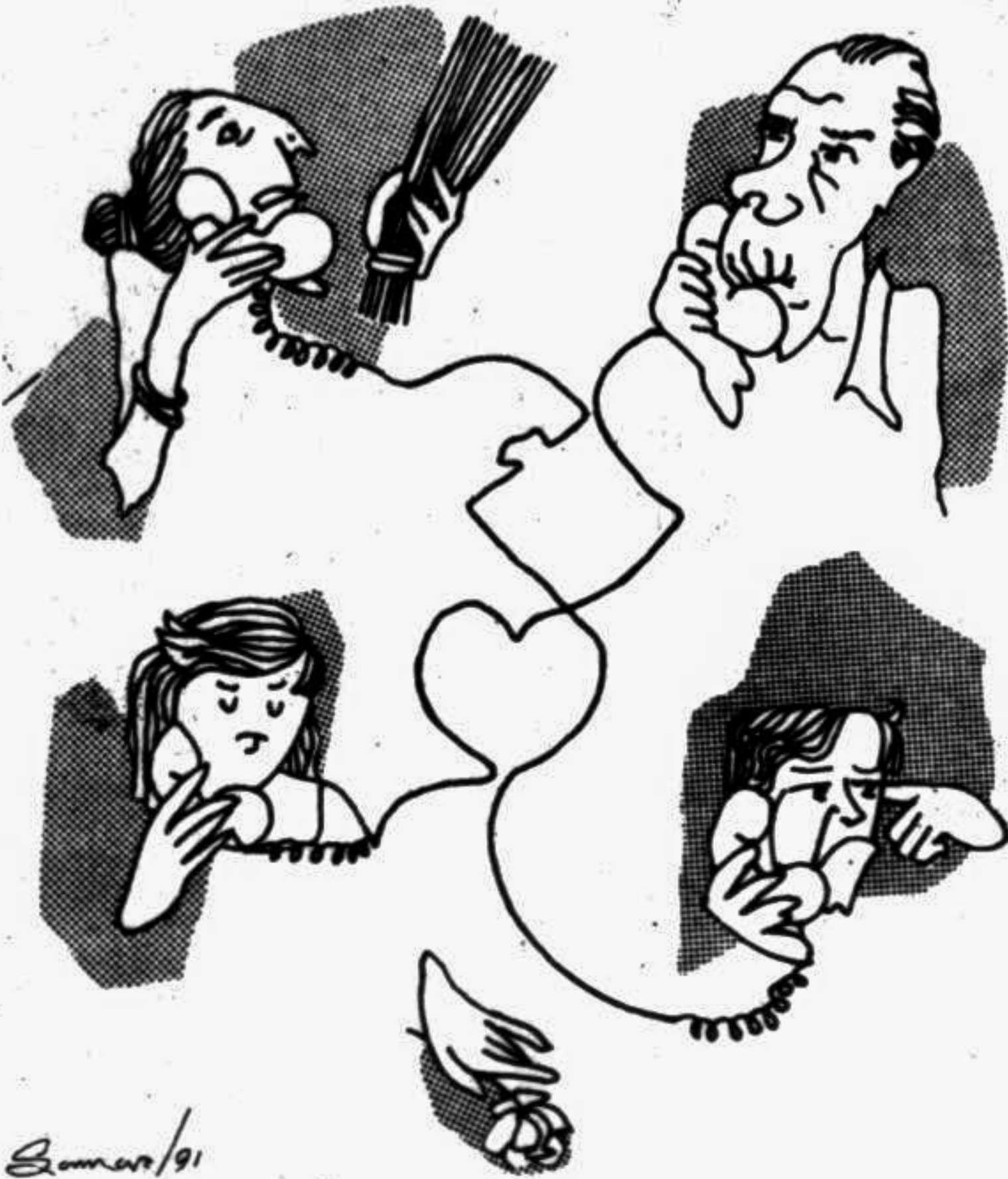
by S M Ali

"I am afraid," an unfamiliar voice alerts you as you dial a number, "we have got a cross connection." The advice is seldom so polite. It is always you who have got the cross connection, not us, and so it is your fault that you have become entangled in a messy, unwelcome situation, and it is your job to hang up.

When you do not follow the advice, perhaps because you already hear your party at the other end, you may get a sharp rebuke, "Please get off my line."

Here, one is tempted to ask, "What makes you think that it is your line?" After all, I dialed a number and got through to my party. So, it could very well be my line. Or for the sake of politeness, let us treat it as our line, which we must share at least for the duration of this call, with four persons talking at the same time.

Is it possible, a friend suggested the other day, that some telephone lines are shared by two parties which do not know each other, but under two different numbers? Then, since a telephone subscriber pays even for a wrong connection, how does one pay for a cross connection? Are the charges doubled? That should indeed be a good source of revenue for the authorities.



that I had a terribly urgent call to make to my brother and that it would not take more than two minutes.

"My pleasure", the party said and put down the phone. Now, the line was all mine. Great! It is rarely as simple as that. In fact, a cross connection can produce a most difficult exchange.

Just as I had dialed a number the other day, I got a cross connection. As I was about to hang up with an uncalled for apology for the wrong connection, a husky voice said, "There is something wrong with your number. We are always getting cross connections."

"But this is the first time I hear your voice. There is really nothing wrong with my phone."

He reacted to my answer rather angrily. "I know, you live in Banant. You may well be one of my neighbours. What is your telephone number?"

"I won't give you my telephone number. As

It is no laughing matter. You call a hospital to check on the condition of a patient; you get a cross connection in which two young voices are arguing over a TV programme. You phone the airport enquiry for a flight information which you want fast, you are again in a cross connection with someone booking a table for a dinner in a restaurant. You call a friend to confirm an appointment and, then, there comes a surprise, a voice which sounds almost like that of your friend says, "No, no, I cannot make it on Sunday." In a moment, you realise that you are caught in a cross connection.

The most sensible thing to do in a cross connection is for one party to hang up. Unfortunately, this is seldom done. Once a party puts down the phone, he may not get through

to the number he wants for another five minutes. Besides, who should get off the line? One who has been chatting over the most inconsequential subject for five minutes or one who is anxious to know the condition of a patient in a hospital? This compassionate approach sometimes works.

Caught in a cross connection, I told the party which was already on the line with all the humility that my voice could command. "I do hope, I am not your neighbour."

For a moment, he calmed down a bit. There was a silence for a minute or so. But I could hear his deep breathing.

"Will you do me a favour?" he asked when his deep breathing had stopped. "Will you please complain to the telephone people that you are always getting cross connections?"

This time, it was my turn to get tough. "I have no intention of complaining to the telephone company about getting cross connections. That's your business. But if you want my number, here it is: 999-999."

And I put down my phone. Since then, I have been getting fewer cross connections, and never with the party that may still be trying to figure out whom does the number 999-999 belong to.

A bit of relief? Perhaps. But there are times I miss those cross connections!

What's on today . . .

Discussion on Ashura

Bangladesh Islamic Party will hold a discussion meeting today (Tuesday) at 10 am at the party central office at 124/1, New Kakrail road in observance of holy Ashura, the 10th of Muharram.

Central leaders of the party will address the meeting.

SIPHSAs meeting

A general meeting of Smoking and Intoxicant Preventive Human Service Association (SIPHSAs) will be held today (Tuesday) at 4.30 pm at Malibagh Bitan (1st floor) in the city. Members are requested to attend the meeting.

Dewanbagh Jalsa

A one-day jalsa (Islamic gathering) will begin today (Tuesday) at 10 am at Dewanbagh Pak Darbar Sharif, 154, Arambagh in the city.

The day's programme include recitation from the holy Quran, discussion and Milad Mahfil.

Moulana Mahbub-a-Khoda Dewanbaghi will conclude the jalsa leading an 'Akheri munajat'.

. . . and tomorrow

Discussion on Tajuddin

Tajuddin Smriti Sangsad will organise a discussion on the first Premier of Bangladesh Tajuddin Ahmed tomorrow (Wednesday) at 4.30 pm at 751, Satmasjid Road, Mohammadpur, in the city.

As part of its programme in observance of the 66th anniversary of birth of late Tajuddin, the Sangsad will also hold an exhibition of photos of Tajuddin and his works. The exhibition will remain open for all for three-days everyday from 4 pm to 7.30 pm.

Astrology Instt. convocation

Bangladesh Institute of Astrology will hold its convocation at the Sonargaon hotel tomorrow (Wednesday) at 4 pm.

In the convocation, certificates among the passed-out students of the institute would be distributed. A reception would also be accorded to the noted astrologers Dr Hafizur Rahman, Salahuddin and Sulaiman Khozra in the function.

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas will attend the function as the Chief guest while governing body chairman and Editor of the daily Al-Amin Alhaj Md Makbul Hossain will preside over. Dainik Janapad Editor Alhaj Mujibul Haider Choudhury will be the special guest.

Rotary Club Assembly

The Club assembly of the Rotary Club of Dhaka-Buriganga will be held tomorrow (Wednesday) at 3.30 pm at the Hotel Sonargaon in the city.

The assembly will be followed by the meeting of the club at 5.30 pm.

Dr Quazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad, an eminent economist will speak on market mechanism in Bangladesh as guest speaker.

Bangla School meeting

A joint meeting of the former and present students, teachers, members of the management committee and the well-wishers of Bangla High School will be held tomorrow (Wednesday) at 4 pm at the office of Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners and Manufacturers Association at the DCCI building, Motilal Commercial Area in the city.

All concerned have been requested to attend the meeting.

Discussion on Dhaka-Moscow ties

A discussion meeting on the "Soviet-Bangladesh Relations Today" will be held on Wednesday 24 July 1991, at 5.30 pm at the venue of Soviet Cultural Centre, 510, Dhanmondi R/A, Road No 7. Mr A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Foreign Minister will grace the meeting as the Chief Guest, while Soviet Ambassador to Bangladesh Mr Yuri K Alexeev will be present in the meeting as the Guest of Honour.

Course on foreign trade ends

The fifteen-day course on "foreign trade and foreign exchanges," concluded in Dhaka Monday at the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM), a BIBM press release said, reports BSS.

This was the 4th in the series of seven courses to be conducted during the current year.

A total of officers from different bank and financial institutions participated in the course.

ABM Mahbubul Amin Khan, Director, BIBM, presided over the concluding session of the course and gave away the certificates to the participants.

Khan, in his speech, expressed the hope that the participants would use their newly acquired knowledge and expertise in discharging their respective institutions.

SK Harun-or-Rashid and Dr. M. Zainul Abedin, faculty members of the institute, co-ordinated the course.

Eid reunion

The Eid reunion & stipend distribution ceremony of Mahendgonj Upazila Samity in Dhaka will be held on July, 25 at 4.30 pm at the I. C. M. A. Bhaban auditorium, Nilkhet, a press release said.

Honourable Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Abdur Rahman Biswas will be present as the Chief Guest. Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury will preside over the meeting.

Corrupt settlement officials to face stern action

Stern action will be taken against the settlement officials found indulging in corrupt practices during land survey and record now continuing all over the country, reports UNB.

The warning came in Parliament Sunday from the State Minister for Land Zamrudin Sircar while responding to a call notice.

Sircar said 25 survey officials had already been thrown out of job following investigations into allegations against them and disciplinary actions were taken against 93 others.

Work on land survey and record was continuing in 209 upazilas by teams, each headed by a settlement officer with status of Deputy Secretary, he added.

The State Minister said 677 allegations were received against them till last June. Investigations into 567 complaints have been completed and other allegations are being looked into.

He said chances are slim of giving a poor farmer's land to others through corrupt practices for the final record will

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Ishtiaq Faruq Bhuiya, who died Saturday, will be present today (Tuesday) after Asar prayers at House No 59, Road No 8A, Dhanmondi, reports BSS.

Political instability sparks off unrest in society: Hasina

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina on Monday said the autocratic system still exists in the country despite the fall of an autocratic regime in the face of mass movement, reports UNB.

"The success of democracy mostly depends on uprooting the autocratic system", the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament told a seminar organised by World Peace Council at the National Museum auditorium.

The seminar on "South Asian Cooperation for Peace, Friendship, Stability and Development" was presided over by Prof Muhammad Shamsul Huq, Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC).

There was no practice of democracy in this country, Hasina said calling for concerted efforts to establish peace and stability in the society.

Political instability is the main reason behind all disturbances and unrest in the society, Hasina remarked emphasising on united efforts of all South Asian nations to build a happy and prosperous region.

The Leader of the Opposition also called for writing true history of the nation to present the past to the future generation in its correct

Ferry services resume at Aricha

Ferry services on the Aricha-Daulatdia route have resumed Sunday midnight after a six-hour suspension due to foul weather.

Rough weather and turbulence of the Jamuna as well as bad condition of the Ghat due to monsoon had forced the temporary suspension between 6 pm and midnight Sunday.

BIWTC Traffic Controller at the Aricha Ghat told UNB that more than 600 vehicles, including about a hundred passenger coaches, were held up on both sides during the period.

When contacted, BIWTC officials in Dhaka Monday said ferry operation had been slowed down, not suspended, because of bad weather.

A BIWTC press release said that a total of 433 vehicles were ferried in 34 trips on Aricha -Daulatdia route on Sunday.

About 600 to 700 vehicles are carried by the ferries every day in normal times on the Aricha-Daulatdia route.

WUS meet held

JU Correspondent

A meeting of the World University Service (WUS), Jahangirnagar University unit, was held Monday at the Administration office with Vice-Chancellor Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed in the chair.

The meeting was attended by the WUS Secretary Dr Khaliquzzaman Elias, Prof Bazur Rahman Khan, Prof Mirza Mafizuddin, Ahmed Reza, Shariful Islam, Mir Abul Kashem.

The members exchanged their views on the WUS curriculum.



Government employees holding rally in the city on Monday demanding implementation of Pay Commission immediately. — Star photo

Collaboration with Oxford University to be explored

Fellow in International Relations of Nuffield College, University of Oxford Dr Gower Rizvi is in the city to discuss and explore possibilities of joint collaboration between Oxford and academic institutes in Dhaka, reports UNB.

The Bangladeshi scholar will be giving a talk on "The revolt against Western dominance" on July 27 at 5 pm at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies.

Dr Rizvi, also Editor of "Contemporary South Asia", will leave for London on July 28.

US official calls on JS Whip

Chief Counsel of the US House Judiciary Sub-committee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Administration of Justice, Michael J. Remington, called on Chief Whip of Jatiya Sangsad Khondker Delwar Hossain at his office Monday morning, reports BSS.

They discussed matters of mutual interests and those relating to parliamentary, human rights and political development in Bangladesh. They also discussed different issues relating to judicial and parliamentary matters.

TUESDAY

- 4.30 Opening announcement Al-Guran
- 4.45 Recitation from the Ceeta
- 5.00 Asian Club Cup Football — live telecast
- 5.20 News in Bengali
- 7.00 Telecast of Club Cup Football
- 8.00 News in Bengali
- 8.25 Remaining part of the football match
- 9.00 Drama Serial — Ayoony
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.25 Parliament round-up
- 10.40 Film: War and Remembrance
- 11.30 Khabar/The news
- 11.45 Closing down

WORLDNET dialogue on July 29, 31

By Staff Correspondent

The WORLDNET, world's first satellite television network, will host an interactive on voluntarism on July 29 and on US economic assistance and the role of the private sector in development on July 31. Wellknown Bangladeshi personalities will take part in the dialogue scheduled to be beamed at 6-7 pm on July 29 and at 7-8 pm on July 31, according to American Cultural Centre sources on Monday.

The dialogue aims at establishing a rapport with the Third World opinion leaders.

Last WORLDNET interactive with Ambassador Thomas R Pickering, the US Permanent Representative to the United Nations was beamed early this month. The dialogue was conducted in Dhaka, Kathmandu, Colombo and New Delhi.

WORLDNET was created on November 3, 1983, with the original "Dialogue," a live, unrehearsed telepress conference between world newsmakers and European

journalists. WORLDNET telecasts daily to capitols and major cities in Europe, Africa, Latin America, Asia, Australia and the Far East.

WORLDNET enjoys an international reputation for imparting balanced and objective knowledge about America — its culture, its politics and its society. In addition to its impartial coverage of global issues on "Dialogue," it presents unbiased, uncensored news, informative reports on medicine and technology, educational programs on language and the arts and entertaining features on American lifestyles.

WORLDNET currently telecasts a total of 12 hours of news, information and family entertainment each weekday to Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa. This innovative network's management and creative management of satellite television has made it a major element in USA's effort to tell America's story abroad.

Weather

Downpour likely

Rain of thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind with moderately heavy to heavy fall is likely to occur at most places over the country, during the next 24 hours commencing 6 pm on Monday, reports Meteorological Department.

Heavy rainfall warning: Heavy rainfall is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong and Khulna divisions and the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna and Bogra during the next 24 hours.

The day temperature till Wednesday morning may remain nearly unchanged over the country. On Monday the highest temperature recorded at Sitakunda was 31.6 degree Celsius while the lowest temperature recorded at Mymensingh was 23.6 degree Celsius.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five days: Weather likely to improve.

The temperature and humidity in some cities and towns of the country on Monday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	29.5	25.6	85	85
Chittagong	30.4	34.8	92	95
Khulna	29.7	25.4	95	85
Rajshahi	26.4	24.8	100	90
Rangpur	31.2	26.6	90	85
Sylhet	30.7	24.7	97	95
Feni	27.5	23.7	95	87
Sitakunda	31.6	24.5	93	86
Mymensingh	29.8	23.6	92	90