

Dhaka Day by Day

Instant Communication

by Rahat Fahmida

TELL someone you are an accountant, and he will see a ledger. Say you are a doctor, and one will visualise the stethoscope round your neck. If you work in an office, your background is a desk, a phone and filing cabinet. If you say you are a journalist, they immediately draw an image with a writing pad and pen in your hand. Every job by and large has an image, sometimes rather out-of-date now: most offices nowadays have a computer.

Offices are the most important centres of communication. The importance of rapid and clear communication is underlined by the development of computers which can 'talk' to each other, and systems like telex and fax which convey information in the form of a print-out at the destination as far as it is transmitted from the input point.

Telephone as a means of communication was introduced in Bangladesh during the colonial period, with the help of telegraph line way back in the year 1885. The EMB, which is a German system, was introduced in 1969. Now there are about 93,400 analogue telephone lines in Dhaka and 26,000 digital lines. The digital system was introduced only in January 1990. Though how fast and promptly they help to communicate is still a question!

A flair for working on the telephone is one of the most valuable attributes at your work, not to say even at home. In business, the purpose of the telephone is to provide a bridge between the company and the client. Alas, as we all know, all too often, quite frustratingly it can be a barrier, too!

Dealing with paperwork is something every office worker needs to be able to tackle efficiently, even though 'correspondence' today can include distributing computer print-outs or sending facsimiles (fax) as well as writing memos and letters and compiling reports.

Most business college leavers have been or rather are taught about the use of telex and fax services. People returning to an office environment often after a long break, and newcomers to office routine, like person starting up in business may not fully understand them.

Telex is an electronic system which can send words and figures from a machine in an office or so that they appear on a machine in the recipient's office. It might be inter city, within the country or between two countries. This system have been in use in this country

for a fairly long time.

Fax is a more advanced electronic system, which can transmit whole documents including pictures or diagrams as well as words and figures across the miles. Its only big minus point is - there is no privacy or secrecy retained. Communicating through fax was formally introduced in Bangladesh only after the introduction of the digital telephone system, that is in January 1990.

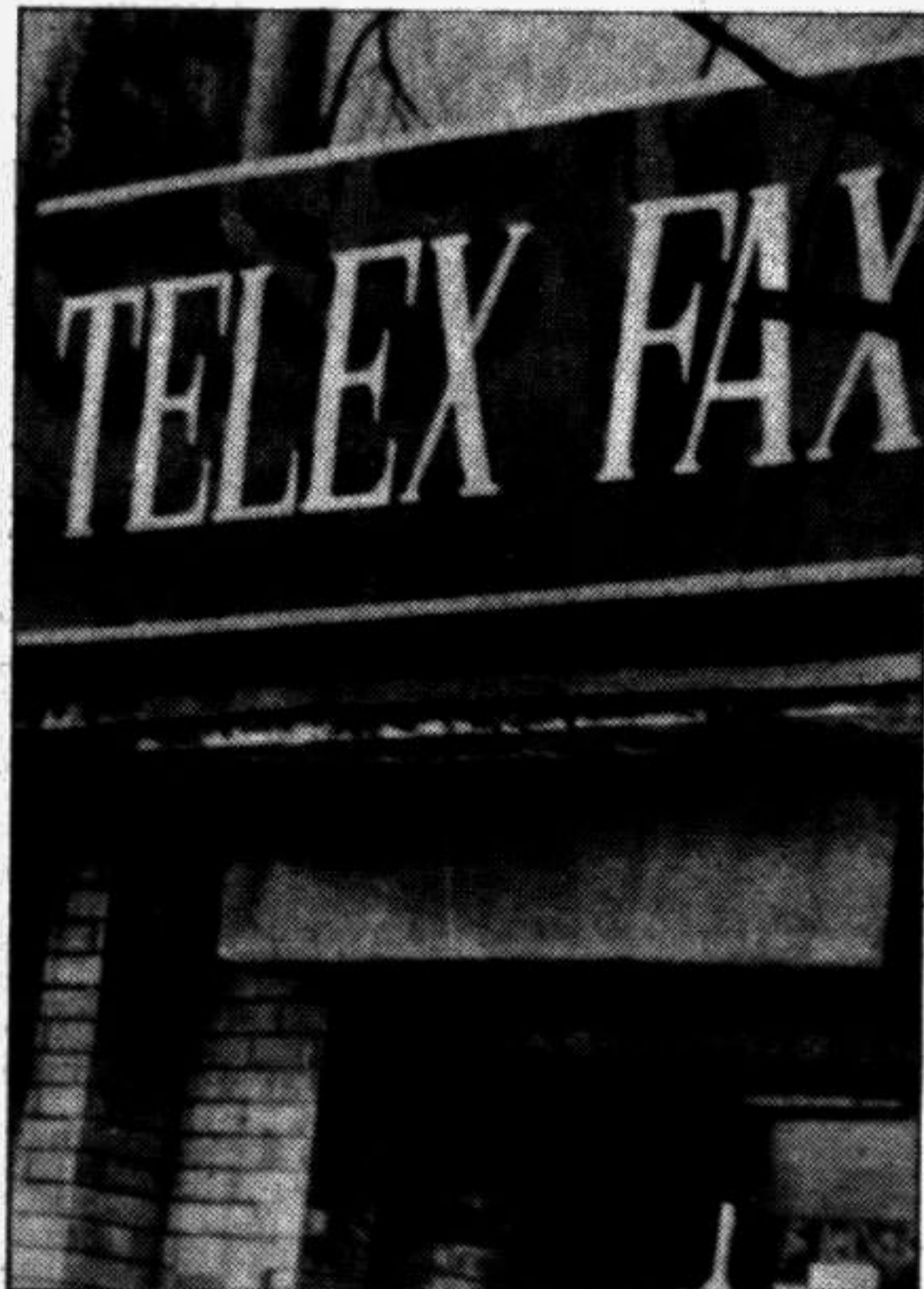
Both these systems, telex and fax, involve the use of telephone to call up the special telex or fax number to which you want to send a message. In our country, it goes without saying, that unless our telephone system improves, the effectiveness of this electronic media will remain uncertain.

Though many companies have their own telex and fax service, we frequently come across 'business centres' offering inter-district and international telephone, telex and fax services to their customers. A few years earlier this facility was only offered by the Bangladesh Telephone and Telecommunication Board, and that too was not accessible whenever required.

Now these 'business centres' have increased in numbers over the last two years, and there is one available every half a mile in busy commercial areas in town, i.e. Motijheel and Dilkhusha. In the other areas there are at least two of these 'business centres', not counting these in the two five star hotels. Their service is available at all hours of the day. The only drawback is, only a few extend their services after midnight. This obviously poses a problem for some, especially the journalists.

Now, there are systems available whereby computers can be connected by a unit called 'modem' which makes it possible to type a letter or enter a set of statistics on one computer and then transmit this material so that it appears on the visual display unit of another computer by using a special telephone connection and keying in the material by following instructions which appear on their own computer's screen.

Incidentally, this kind of electronic mailing system does not just apply between computers in the same office or the same building; it can operate between cities, too. This is quite a recent mode in communication and only a handful of offices in town has the facility.



A sign proclaiming telex/fax service.

Hasina to address several meetings

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina will address a number of public meetings from August 24 to September 9 in connection with the coming bye-election on September 11, according to a party press release in Dhaka on Tuesday night, reports BSS.

Sheikh Hasina will address a public meeting at Manik Mia Avenue at 4 pm on September 6.

The Awami League chief will begin her bye-election campaign through holding election meetings at Madaripur and Rajol thanas on August 24. She will address public meetings at different places in Shibchar thana on August 25.

Sheikh Hasina will address election meeting at different places in Rangpur and Bogra districts from August 28 to August 31. She will also speak at public meetings in Bhola on September 3 and 4.

On September 7, the Awami League chief will address a number of election meetings in Chittagong-8 constituency.

On her last leg of election tour, the Awami League chief will address a public meeting at Shibchar under Madaripur district on September 9.

Sheikh Hasina will be accompanied by the central leaders of Awami League during her tour.

Unadulterated Food Act soon

A new Unadulterated Food Act will be framed soon instead of the existing act of 1959, reports BSS.

It was decided at a high level meeting, held Tuesday at the conference room of the Health and Family Welfare Ministry with health Secretary M Mokamel Haq in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting was convened in order to ensure the production of pure and quality food items and their availability to the people.

The meeting expressed grave concern over items which is very harmful to health.

According to the decision, the Health and Family Welfare Ministry would frame a draft law and it would take prompt action after getting opinion from concerned authority.

It was also decided to hold seminars in different parts of the country from time to time to make the organisations familiar with ensuring production of pure food items. It was further decided to make propaganda for making the people aware of the unadulterated food.

Movement restricted around HSC exam centres

By Staff Correspondent
The Dhaka Metropolitan Police has announced movement restrictions in and around all Higher Secondary Certificate examination centres in the city beginning Thursday.

According to a DMP press release issued on Tuesday, movements of more than four people within 200 yards of the 24 HSC examination centres in the city has been banned. The restriction will remain in force from August 22 till September 19 on all examination days.

2000 arrested in 24 hours

The police under its Operation-Doorbar has arrested more than two thousand criminals from different parts of the country during the last 24 hours, an official sources said Tuesday night, reports BSS.

The arrested persons included, absconders in different cases, collector of tolls forcefully, mastans, miscreants and anti-social people.

During their operation, police also recovered 11 fire arms, 97 rounds of bullet, one SMG, three revolvers, two single-barrel gun and five pipe guns from Dhaka, Chittagong, Feni, Pirojpur and Bogra.

In Dhaka City, Dhaka Metropolitan Police has rounded up 135 criminals and recovered two revolvers, 12 rounds of bullet and five explosives, the source added.

Wednesday

- 5.00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5.20 News in Bangla
- 5.30 Campus
- 5.55 Sports programme
- 6.30 Samachar
- 7.00 Hijaal Tamal: Folk songs
- 7.30 President's address to nation
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Dance programme
- 9.00 MacGyver
- 10.00 New in English
- 10.30 Magazine programme
- 11.30 Khabar/The news
- 11.40 Closing

What's on today...

Show of 'Durer Jatra'

The inaugural show of 'Durer Jatra' (Miles to go), a 58-minute documentary film on the fifth parliamentary election will take place at the German Cultural Centre (House No. 23, Road No. 2) at Dhanmondi in the city today (Wednesday) at 6 pm.

Young film-maker Jakir Hossain Raju has directed the film, produced by the Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB).

Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) Sheikh Razzak Ali will attend the function as chief guest. The film show will be followed by a discussion. CCHRB President Father R. W. Timm will chair the discussion while it will be addressed by Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Suranjit Sengupta, MP, Barrister Amirul Islam, Kamal Lohani, Fayz Ahmed, Quazi Faroque Ahmed, Barrister Sigma Huda, Dr Golam Rahman, Shariar Kabir, Morshedul Islam and Sarwar Jahar.

Mahila Parishad rally

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (Women's Council) has decided to hold a rally today (Wednesday) at 4 pm in front of the National Press Club demanding of the government steps to check repression on women and improve law and order situation.

Members of the parishad and women of all sections in the city have been requested to attend the rally and raise their voice in favour of their demands. Parishad Chairperson Poetess Begum Sufia Kamal will preside over the rally.

EUCSU installation

The installation ceremony of the Engineering University Central Students Union (EUCSU) will be held at the university's auditorium today (Wednesday) at 7 pm.

Education Minister Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury will attend the function as chief guest while Chairman of the University Grants Commission Prof Shamsul Haque will be the special guest.

The installation ceremony will be followed by a cultural function.

BCPFA founding anniversary

Bangladesh-China Peoples' Friendship Association (BCPFA) observes its sixth founding anniversary at a function at the Sicy Chinese Restaurant in the city today (Wednesday).

Zhu Lu Chang, Charge D'Affair, Embassy of China in Bangladesh, will be the chief guest at the function.

Hardeo Glass Factory

Production at the Hardeo Glass Factory resumes production commercially today (Wednesday) at 12 Noon.

The factory was shifted from Hatkhola to Board Bazar of Gazipur recently.

Communications Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed and State Minister for Religious affairs Abdul Mannan will be present on the occasion as chief guest and special guest, respectively.

Rotary Club assembly

The club assembly of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga will be held today (Wednesday) at 3.30 pm at Hotel Sonargaon. It will be followed by the regular weekly meeting of the club.

Rtn. Jalal U. Ahmed will be present on the occasion.

Islamic Party meet

An emergency extended meeting of the Bangladesh Islamic Party central organising committee will be held today (Wednesday) at 5 pm at the party's metropolitan unit office.

The meeting will discuss, among others, issues, August 24 public meeting of the party, reformation of the district units and other organisational activities.

Compiled by NA

Give us time, says Golam Hafiz

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz Tuesday said the BNP government would fulfil all its electoral pledges and materialise the 19-point programme of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, reports BSS.

Addressing as the chief guest the biennial conference of the Ward No. 20 branch of the Dhanmondi Thana unit of city BNP, Mirza Golam Hafiz said, "give us time, we will fulfil all our commitments, Inshaallah."

He said despite many odds, the five-month old BNP government has materialised a number of its programmes including waiting rents up to 25 bighas of land and writing off agricultural loans upto Taka five thousand.

The conference, chaired by President of Dhanmondi Thana BNP Abu Nesar Chowdhury, was also addressed by State

Minister for Land Zamiruddin Sircar and President of city BNP Mir Shawkat Ali, Bir Uttam, MP.

The Law and Justice Minister said the name of the present BNP government would be written in the history in golden letter as the historic 12th Constitution Amendment Bill for reverting to parliamentary form of government was passed during its rule.

He said the government is committed to ensure the rule of law in the country. All are equal in the eye's of law, he said.

Mirza Golam Hafiz said some people have been conspiring against the BNP government out of jealousy.

"If you continue to support our programmes, nobody will stop our march towards progress and prosperity", he categorically said.

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2nd day of Shibirs' 72-hour strike in CU

From Our Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 20: The second day of the 72-hour strike called by Shibir backed Sangrami Chhatra Otkya passed on Tuesday amid seige of the

campus and processions by Chhatra Otkya and allied groups. Classes were not held, official activities were paralysed

and the university transport did not ferry teachers and students from the city to the campus.

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Eighteenth Annual General Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Eighteenth Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of Bangladesh Export Import Co. Ltd. will be held in the Auditorium of The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh, ICMA Bhaban (Ground Floor), Nilkhet, Dhaka-1205 on Thursday, the 12th September 1991 at 10:30 A.M. to transact the following business:

AGENDA

1. To confirm the proceedings of the 17th Annual General Meeting held on the 25th June, 1990.
2. To receive, consider and adopt the Audited Balance Sheet as at June 30, 1990 and the Profit and Loss Accounts for the year ended June 30, 1990 together with the report of Auditors and Directors thereon.
3. To declare Final Dividend.
4. To elect Directors.
5. To appoint Auditors for the year 1990-91 and to fix their remuneration.
6. To transact any other business with the permission of the chair.

Dated Dhaka the 19th August, 1991

By Order of the Board

Director

Notes:

1. The Register of Members and the Share Transfer Book of the Company will remain closed from Tuesday, 3rd September, 1991 to Thursday, 12th September, 1991 (both days inclusive) and during that period no transfer of shares will be effected.
2. Any Member of the Company entitled to attend and vote at the General Meeting may appoint another Member as his/her proxy to attend and vote on his/her behalf. The Proxy form must be stamped with revenue stamp of Tk. 2/- and should be deposited at the registered office of the Company not later than 72 hours before the time appointed for the Meeting.
3. Members are requested to notify change of address, if any, to the Company.

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