

Dhaka Day by Day

The Telephone Healer

by Afifa Raihana



Mosharraf at work

Admittedly, the many advantages of telephone facility is not without its attendant problems. Once out of order, it may take ages to have the set fixed. We often face some very critical problems with our phones. For example, you dial a number, it will go to a wrong number or the sound is not clear, a whole lot of undesirable noises may disrupt the conversation. Cross-connections is another very common problem. Sometimes there is no dial tone, at other times it becomes a one-way traffic — from one end the voice is heard loud and clear and from the other it is inaudible. Yet at other times, the phone becomes activated only with incoming calls but goes dead with any attempt to connect numbers. The caprice knows no bounds.

There are two possible reasons for such disturbances. First, there may be a problem in the line, second, there may be a problem in the set. If it is a line problem then you call in the lineman, but if you have a faulty set you don't know whom to turn to.

In our country till date most of the telephone sets are analogue. At present only the digital sets are being produced. The production of analogue sets has stopped. As people are using thousands and thousands of analogue sets, there has to be a workshop where these sets can be mended. But the government has no such workshop. Some of the linemen whose job is to work on

the telephone line, on their own accord fix the set also, which is definitely not their duty. Mosharraf Hossain is one such lineman who has been working for the IG Gate telephone exchange for about twenty years. He was first appointed to this post in his father's place when his father was killed by the Pakistan army during the Liberation War. Since then he has not got a promotion or any other extra privilege for the extra duty of fixing telephone sets, he has been doing.

Mosharraf Hossain has no institutional training. He learned to fix the sets all by himself. Now that the production of analogue sets have stopped, it is very hard to get the spare-parts of the sets. But he has some unused sets and he switches spare-parts from one set to another and fixes the set. He charges no extra money for his service. Mosharraf Hossain fixes approximately 15 to 20 sets per month.

Men like Mosharraf Hossain, who knows his trade well, could better use their talent and skill if only they were given the right opportunities. Problem sets could find a cure rather conveniently in a workshop, preferably maintained by the Telegraph and Telephone Board. Surprisingly, this simple expertise has not even attracted many to repairing the faulty telephone sets as an occupation in the private sector either. The question how sets developing problems get corrected is bewildering indeed.



Bangladesh Women Journalists' Forum president Sitara Musa speaking at a memorial meeting on late S M Ali organised by the Forum yesterday. — Star photo

Health ministers of Southeast Asia call on President

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday told the health ministers of Southeast Asia that the present government of Bangladesh was committed to ensuring basic health care of the people to achieve 'Health for All' by the Year 2000, reports UNB.

Ten Ministers, State Minister and Deputy Ministers of Health of the countries of WHO Southeast Asian Region, attending their 11th meeting in the capital, called on President Biswas at Banghaban.

Exchanging views with them, he observed that health is one of the basic needs of the people and a prerequisite for socio-economic development.

The government is making sustained efforts to reach medicare to the people and thereby improve their quality of life, Biswas said, adding much emphasis has been given on population control, mother and child health care and mass education.

"Our achievement in extending programme for immunisation of children has earned applause."

He appreciated the WHO endeavour for promoting better health globally and in fostering mutual cooperation and understanding among the member states.

Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, B. Shanuram, Minister of Health and Family Welfare of India, Dr Kim Young Ik, Minister of Public Health of Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Prof Dr Sujudi, Minister of Health of Republic of Indonesia, Renuka Herath Ranaweera, Minister for Health and Women's Affairs of Sri Lanka, Dr Ram Saran Yadav, Minister of State for Health of Nepal, Dr Abdul Sattar Yousuf, Deputy Minister of Health of the Maldives, Col Than Zin, Deputy Minister of Health of Myanmar, Dr Udornsil Srisangman, Deputy Minister of Public Health of Thailand, and Serajul Haq, Deputy Minister of Health and Family Welfare were present.

Bangladesh environmental team returns from US

Officials responsible for environmental protection in Bangladesh have completed a journey to eight US states where much of the latest technology working for a cleaner environment is employed. They agreed that they may be able to implement some of the concepts in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

"I am sure that we can implement things that we learned here," A M Mubash-Shar, a director of Dhaka's Chamber of Commerce and Industry and an official of the Emem Rubber Products Ltd, said in a USIA interview at the conclusion of the tour.

He and the other Bangladeshi officials were participating in a month-long US Information Agency-sponsored tour examining how the United States handles environmental problems.

Beginning in New York city, the group met with environmental scientists and with officials of the United Nations committee working with the role of business, government and non-governmental organisations in solving global environmental problems.

From New York, the group traveled south to Atlanta, Georgia, to see a sewage treatment plant, covering more than 1,600 hectares, which converts solid waste into fertiliser, thus becoming a fully self-sustaining enterprise.

In Mobile, Alabama, on the Gulf of Mexico, the group went to the Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium, where they saw the efforts being made to ensure that waters in the Gulf remain pure, and marine-based business thrive.

At the Scott paper Company, they were able to observe an environmentally sensitive corporation's treatment of both timberland and paper production.

The group then flew to Des Moines, Iowa, where they visited the soil conservation service, a part of the US Department of agriculture's network that works with farmers to address soil erosion, soil quality, toxic

contamination of land or water, and farming methods that effect the fertility of the land.

In northern Wisconsin, the group visited a small college whose curriculum concentrates heavily on environmental issues, and visited nearby Lake Superior and the Chequamegon National Forest.

Traveling to Spokane, Washington, the visitors met with Chamber of Commerce officials to gain an understanding of how the Chamber can influence corporations to consider environmental factors.

The Bangladeshi officials also went to Pacific Northwest Laboratories at the Battelle Memorial Institute, a giant scientific institute employing a staff of 8,000 scientists, engineers, and other specialists dealing annually with some 4,900 projects.

On the West Coast, the group visited Riverside, California, where South Coast Air Quality Management district is based. Possibly the country's premier air pollution control organization, it deals with air pollution problems such as auto emissions, industrial particulates, even forest fire smoke.

Finally, the group flew to Washington D C, where they had discussions with officials at the department of state and at the environmental Protection Agency, the federal government's manager and overseer of the environment.

Mubash-Shar said he had appreciated being able to gain a "practical understanding from (those) who are involved in environmental issues." While some concepts may be "too expensive, or some are redundant," he said, the group will select those concepts which are "the most useful for Bangladesh."

Khaleda welcomes regional disaster centre concept

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia welcomed the concept of Southeast Asian Regional Disaster Centre mooted by the Health Ministers of the region, reports UNB.

Begum Zia suggested that the centre should be set up in Bangladesh, a disaster-prone country.

The suggestion came from the Prime Minister when the Health Ministers, State Minister and Deputy Ministers of India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, DPRK, Nepal, Maldives, Myanmar and Thailand called on her at the International Conference Centre, after the inaugural session of the 11th meeting of the Health Ministers of WHO Southeast Asian regional countries, which began in the capital yesterday.

Begum Zia put emphasis on measures to check different diseases in the region, particularly deadly AIDS and said her government was continuing efforts to mount effective campaign against the killer disease.

Health Minister Kamal Ibne Yusuf was also present during the meeting.

Principal Yunus Khan, State Minister for Education, addressing as special guest an award giving ceremony of the International Relations Alumni Association (IRAA) at the Officers' Club yesterday. — Star photo

Weather Light shower likely

By Staff Correspondent The weather forecast for the next 12 hours commencing 6 am today (Tuesday) says, the sky will remain cloudy over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions, and partly cloudy elsewhere.

Table with 4 columns: City/Towns, Temperature in degrees Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in Percentage (9 am, 6 pm). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Dinajpur.

Discussion on S M Ali held

By Staff Correspondent The Bangladesh Women Journalists' Forum at a discussion meeting yesterday termed the contribution of late S M Ali, Founder-Editor of The Daily Star, the priceless treasure for journalists and the profession of journalism itself.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES The containerised cargo ex M.V HOECHST EXPRESS V-11341 from Busan, ex M.V OCEAN SIRIUS V-56AB from Karachi, ex M.V NANTA BHUM V-163 from Bangkok, ex M.V PERMIT SURIA V-85 from Kuantan, ex M.V HAKARTA V-9355F from Yokohama, ex M.V NORTH SEA V-11542 from Keelung have been relayed to M.V KOTA BUANA V-021 imp. Rot. No. 875/93 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 2-11-93 from Singapore.

La Galerie congratulates the participants and organizers of the 6th Asian Biennial Art Exhibition. 54 Kemal Ataturk Ave, Banani 1213, Tel: 600589/607980. La Galerie's special event: 3rd Annual Grand Auction-Exhibition Dec 9th to 15th, 1993.

Gallery Tone Congratulates the participants and organizers of the 6th Asian Biennial Art Exhibition. Gallery Tone's Very Special Event 1st Tone National Miniature Art Exhibition Nov: 16th-30th 1993. Road # 1, House # 29/B, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205, Tel: 864560.

Notice Inviting Tender No 19 (1993-94) Itemwise rate quoted basis sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are invited from the Special Class contractors of PWD/1st Class enlisted E/M contractors of PWD having valid ABC Supervisory and Contractors Licence from Licensing Board, Govt of Bangladesh.

SHILPANGAN THE CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY WELCOMES THE SPECIAL GUESTS, JUDGES AND ALL THE PARTICIPANTS OF 6TH ASIAN ART BIENNALE BANGLADESH 1993. WE ARE THE BIGGEST PRIVATE ART GALLERY OF BANGLADESH. YOU CAN GET FROM ZAINUL ABEDIN TO ALL CONTEMPORARY AND MODERN ARTISTS' WORKS IN OUR GALLERY. 6 DAYS EVERY WEEK YOU CAN SEE AT LEAST 125 ARTISTS' PAINTINGS OF ALL MEDIA AND SCULPTURE.

SAARC workshop on teachers training begins. A three-day SAARC workshop on teachers training began yesterday at the National Academy for Educational Management (NAEM) here, reports BSS. Inaugurating the workshop State Minister for Education Principal Yunus Khan said education was imperative for meeting the common challenges of the region posed by poverty, under development, low levels of production, unemployment and population pressure.

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা ভাটার ও ক্রয় বিভাগ আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন। পুনঃ বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি (৪র্থ বার) ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের ভাটার ও ক্রয় বিভাগের পুনঃ বিক্রয় বিভাগের অধীনে টিকা বাতির চৌক বিক্রয়ের জন্য বাংলাদেশ ফরম নং ১৯১১-তে তালিকাভুক্ত টিকাদার/ব্যক্তি বাতান মালামাল ক্রেতাদের নিকট হইতে (যাহাদের টিকা বাতান/ইনকাম ট্যাক্স সার্টিফিকেট আছে) সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।