

Dhaka Day by Day Number Please!

by Parveen Anam

When Alexander Graham Bell discovered the telephone, mankind was ecstatic. Now at last, he could talk to his loved ones miles away and not feel quite as isolated. Letters take long, telephones are so much easier. Ah, but that was in the days of old. Remember the warm feeling spreading through your soul as you picked up the receiver to hear a familiar voice ask politely and with interest, "Number please." As you breathlessly gave the number, you could hear yourself being connected and the person you want at the other end. If the individual of your choice was not available, 'number please' who you thought as a child was the name of the person asking, would take your message and thoughtfully pass it on. And of course, 'number please' was a close friend of yours anyway, ready to give advice, take and pass on messages, soothe your fears when you were alone at home, help out at times with the number tables and know quite a few domestic secrets as well.

But those were the days when the T&T was not invented. Overnight, everything changed. Things had to be more efficient. 'Number Please' was obsolete. Thus began our woes. Telephones became more a chore than a joy. Calling your near and dear ones, sent shivers down your back as your spent hours, literally, dialling again and again the number of the loved one. First there is no connection, then it's a wrong number, then about three guys are on the line simultaneously each shouting and cursing till you are about to scream and tear your hair. Or better still, there is no sound at all. If at all you are lucky to make a connection, you will probably have to shout so hard

the entire neighbourhood can hear your conversation with no effort and you have a sore throat for days.

Now, of course you also have to pay for the convenience of that little gadget sitting so cheekily on your tabletop. The T&T is the ultimate in making the choice of your bills. Depending on how much you have paid out in excess the previous month to the line man and the 'billion man' you get your dues. Your telephone of course is 'out of order' twenty seven days out of thirty in a month. But the bill you get is a hefty, healthy amount of twelve thousand taka, along with an ultimatum. Pay up or your line will be disconnected, you are informed in no uncertain terms. You are delighted and ask "them" to take the blasted thing away. You can do without it, thank you. It's much easier to write a note or drop by to see your 'near and dear ones'. Plus, you will no longer have to deal with the rude people at the T&T.

Ah, but the T&T does not like that. Their major source of income is the extra money they collect from the 'ghost bills'. How can you not have a phone? You need a phone so they can have their share. The equation is quite simple. To them, it's hair-tearing, teeth gnashing, blood pressure raising, agony. The wiser ones of course have the 'mobile phones' which, it is told, is a wee bit more difficult to fiddle with for the T&T. Although one wouldn't put one's bets on it. They will work their way round that too. Where oh where, you mutter to yourself, are the good old days of 'Number please' and that wonderful sense of belonging?



Abdur Razzak MP addressing a rally of the Nir-mul Samannya Committee in the city's Gulistan area yesterday. — Star photo



ADAB Chairperson Khushi Kabir speaking at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. — Star photo.

JSD leader killed in road mishap

By Staff Correspondent

Treasurer of the executive committee of JSD Engineer Anisur Rahman was killed in a road accident in Brahmanbaria Friday.

Anisur, a freedom fighter, was 43.

He joined the Chhatra League as a student of the Engineering University in 1967. He actively participated in the mass uprising in 1969.

During the War of Liberation in 1971, he was an instructor in the Mujib Bahini training camp in Dehradun, India.

After independence, he joined the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and its sister organisation Jatiya Krishak League.

He left behind parents, wife, one son, relatives and a host of admirers.

JSD leader Kazi Aref Ahmed and Hasanul Haq Inu and other leaders expressed deep condolence at the death of their colleague.

In a separate statement, Left Democratic Front central coordinator Nirmal Sen also condoled his death.

Seminar on democracy today

By JU Correspondent

A seminar on "Working of parliamentary democracy in Bangladesh" will be held at the Social Science Gallery of the Jahangirnagar University (JU) today.

Organised by the Department of Government and Politics of JU, the seminar will be attended by Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University Prof Emajuddin Ahmed as chief guest.



The artistes of the Nazrul Academy presenting songs at the Institution of Engineers' auditorium in the city yesterday marking the 30th founding anniversary of the academy. — Star photo.

JU admission tests from June 11

By JU Correspondent

The written tests for admission into first year honours classes of the Jahangirnagar University (JU) in 1993-1994 session begins June 11.

A total of 26,520 students will vie for about 700 seats. Among them, 5580 students have applied in the 'Ka' (Science) Unit and 8480 students in the 'Kha' (Social Science) Unit while 6890 students have applied in the 'Ga' (Arts) Unit. Besides, 5570 more students have applied in the 'Gha' (Biological Science) Unit.

Computer confce begins today

A five-day system conference on computer and communications, organised by the World Vision of Bangladesh, will be inaugurated at Midtown Hotel, in the city today at 8 am, says a press release.

The main aim of the conference is to share the latest development of computer and communications technology with World Vision system personnel and to develop a common system strategy for Asia region relating it to the World Vision International's strategy on future computerisation.

A total of 14 World Vision staff from Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Pacific Development Group, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Bangladesh will take part in the conference.

James Hilton, Executive Director of World Vision of Bangladesh, will inaugurate the event.

Russian festival from June 7

A six-day long Russian Food and Cultural Festival begins at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel from June 7 to 12, says a press release.

Two master chefs from Russia are already in the city to help prepare authentic Russian cuisine.

Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, Aero-flot and Unique Group are the main sponsors of this festival.

An 18-member cultural group of the famous "Siberian Kaleidoscope" will arrive in the city tomorrow.

EUARC exhibition held

Newly formed 'Engineering University Amateur Radio Club (EUARC)', the first in the country, held a day-long exhibition at the auditorium complex of BUET June 2, says a press release.

Inaugurating the exhibition, Prof M Shahjahan, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), assured the organisers of necessary financial help to purchase equipment for the club.

BUET's Director of student welfare Prof AS Kurni, founder president Dr Saiful Bari and founder secretary general Obaidul Gani Anis KE4AFB of the club were present at the function.



Sunday

- 4:30 Opening announcement
- Al-Guran programme summary
- 4:45 Anu Parmanu
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:20 Cartoon: Tom and Jerry
- Kids Show
- 5:35 Cartoon: Meena
- 5:55 Documentary on WC Football 94
- 6:15 Population Programme: Jiboner Jonnya
- Open University
- 6:50 Tagore songs
- 7:15 News in Bangla
- 8:00 Special programme on World Environment Day
- 8:30 Drama series: The Sword of Tipu Sultan
- 9:05 News in English
- 10:00 Magazine programme
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:45 Closing

What's on today . . .

Nazrul conference: Final musical competition will be held on the last day of three day programme organised by the Nazrul Academy. Venue: Institution of Engineers. Time: 2 pm. A musical soiree will also be held at 6:45 pm at its second session.

Rainbow Film Society: Will hold a condolence meeting on centenarian journalist Md Nasir Uddin. Speakers: Begum Sufia Kamal, Obaid-Ul-Haq, Justice Kemal Uddin Hossain, Prof Kabir Chowdhury and Rokunuzzaman Khan (Dadabhai). Dr Md Muniruzzaman will preside. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre. Time: 5 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka West: will hold regular weekly meeting. Venue: Gulsan Club. Time: 5:30

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka division during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says moderately heavy falls are likely over the region of Sylhet.

Weather may, however, remain mainly dry elsewhere across the country with cloudy sky.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period over the country.

South west monsoon in likely to advance over Chittagong region at the first half during the next five days, the Met office added.

Country's highest temperature 37.4 degrees Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest 21 degrees at Rangpur yesterday.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 6:43 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 5:11 am.

Give democracy a permanent shape: B Chowdhury

Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said that the government and opposition shared the same responsibility in preserving democracy, reports BSS.

Prof Chowdhury, who was speaking as the chief guest at a meeting in memory of late journalist and parliamentarian Mahbubul Huq, appealed to all quarters to give the hard-earned democracy a permanent shape through joint endeavours.

He said the hard-earned democracy would have to be protected at any cost and conditions should be created so that the anti-democratic forces get no opportunity to be benefited.

Journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury presided over the memorial meeting.

Teenage boy killed in road mishap

By DMCH Correspondent

One 14-year-old boy was killed in a road accident in the city while two others were stabbed in separate incidents yesterday.

The boy, Momin, died on the spot near Shiya mosque in Mohamadpur at around 1:20 pm when a bus ran over him. Momin was crossing the road.

In another incident, a Foreign Exchange dealer Rashed, 34, was stabbed by his friend at Dilu Road near Moghbazar in the city yesterday morning. The incident took place following an altercation with his friend.

In a similar incident, contractor Shahid Hossain, 23, was stabbed at the AGB colony premises at around 1 pm.

Both the victims were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Russian Food & Cultural Festival

Tuesday 7th June-Sunday 12th June, 1994
At the Dhaka Sheraton Grand Ballroom



Enjoy authentic Russian dishes prepared by

Master Chefs from Russia.

Witness the spectacular Ballet and Breathtaking

entertaining performance by

Siberian Kaleidoscope Cultural Troupe.

7th June to 12th June- Dinner plus Cultural Show

Price Tk. 850/- from 8 pm.

8th June to 12th June-Cultural Show with Snacks

Price Tk. 400/- from 4 pm.

Tickets available at the

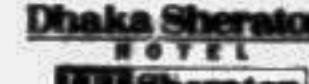
Dhaka Sheraton Hotel lobby. Tel: 863391, 861191

Video Connection Tel: 602525

Organised in cooperation with

Russian Cultural Centre Dhaka.

Co sponsors



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

A leading international bank wishes to recruit a young Bangladeshi of high calibre and outstanding ability for service with their branch network in Bangladesh in the following position:

MANAGER DATA CENTER

The candidate must possess a Masters or equivalent degree in Computer Science, other Science disciplines, Business Administration (with Science background) or Engineering with at least two first divisions/classes. The candidate must be familiar with systems development tools/languages such as LOTUS, DBASE, FOXPRO, CLIPPER, C and BASIC in PC and PC-LAN environment. Experience in LAN implementation and administration and supporting mini/mid range computers will be an advantage. The candidate is expected to be in his/her mid-thirties.

The successful candidate will be expected to study independently and understand the objectives and functioning of the existing Information Technology infrastructure and thereby support the same and also to develop and implement work-flows, and implement computer based systems.

The above position provides a remuneration package commensurate to the demanding environment.

Candidates who are interested in the above position and have the drive to work in a competitive environment should apply with a CV, recent passport size photograph, copies of educational certificates and names and addresses of two referees to GPO Box No. 502, Dhaka 1000.

This advertisement is valid till June 15th, 1994; no applications will be entertained after this date. All envelopes should be addressed to the Manager Human Resources and marked with the name of the position applied for.

Candidates selected for a preliminary interview, on the basis of an initial screening of CVs, will be notified in writing of the venue, date and time of the same. The Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any application without advising any reason whatsoever. The Bank will only advise successful candidates, those who do not qualify for subsequent stages of the recruitment process will not receive any notification.

নানা প্রকার রাসায়নিক ও পারমাণবিক পরীক্ষা-নিরীক্ষা, বৃক্ষ নিধন, অতিরিক্ত জ্বালানী কাঠ ব্যবহার, যানবাহনের কালোধ্যা ও কলকারখানার বর্জ্য ও কালোধ্যা তেল শোধনাগার ও তেলকুপ সমূহে অগ্নিকাণ্ড ইত্যাদি কারণে

ভূমণ্ডল উত্তপ্ত হচ্ছে

খালে

ঘন ঘন বন্যা, খরা, ঝড়-ঝঞ্ঝা, সাইক্লোন, টর্নেডো, জলোচ্ছ্বাস সহ নানা প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগ ও তার তীব্রতা বৃদ্ধি পাচ্ছে

বৃক্ষ বাতাসকে সজীব রাখে, তাপ শোষণ করে, মাটির ক্ষয় রোধ করে, প্রয়োজনীয় প্রাণী ও পতঙ্গকুলকে আশ্রয় দান করে, মানুষের জন্যও একাধারে ঝড় ও আবাসগৃহ উপহার দেয়

এবং
পৃথিবীকে শীতল রাখে

জন্ম থেকে মৃত্যু পর্যন্ত মানুষের জন্য গাছ অপরিহার্য

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পরিবেশ আমাদেরকে রক্ষা করবে।



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পরিবেশ ও বন-মন্ত্রণালয়,
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