

Dhaka Day by Day

Prank Calls

by Lamis Hossain



One girl was overheard telling her friend something quite incredible. "It's really exciting to get anonymous phone calls. It could be the good looking stranger you've had your eye on for ages!"

The girl obviously lives in a fantasy world. Phone calls from strangers aren't fun. They are traumatic. Besides, the prankster is more likely to be some desperate toothless weirdo, instead of the object of your admiration.

When the joker first rings, you are quite unprepared for foul play. "Hello," you answer in your most amiable voice, but the response from the other end isn't so intelligible. "Que toma. Hargh. Que toma!" You ask them to repeat it, but it's all gibberish once again. This time the incomprehensible sentence is followed by peals of laughter from a gang of conspirators in the background.

The receiver drops from your hand, as you stand there horrified by the realisation that it is a hoax. Why didn't you say anything vicious and clever that would cut the idiots down to size? Damn.

When the phone rings again, you are determined to say your piece. To play it cool, you also decide to let the other person speak first. No one says a word. "Hello, hello, hello?" your aunt's bewildered voice breaks the silence. How embarrassing. As you try to explain the odd behaviour to your aunt, she is convinced that you are getting madder by the day. Perhaps you are.

By the next phone call, you are confused as to your next course of action. To pick it up or not pick it up? Should you be affable of suspicious? When a male caller answers, you slam the receiver down without waiting for the rest. Are you getting truly paranoid or was that a suggestive and sleazy "Hello?" You are the only one at home. What if someone is watching you, following your every move? The telephone suddenly takes on a sinister new dimension.

North Korean envoy meets Jahan Ara

North Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Chang Won Sik called on State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan Ara Begum at her office in the city, reports UNB.

They discussed bilateral issues, particularly for enhancing cooperation in the field of cultural affairs.

The DPRK Ambassador on behalf of his government invited a cultural troupe to join the Spring Festival to be held at Pyongyang in April next.

Jahan Ara Begum assured the Ambassador to actively consider the invitation.

Cultural Secretary Mokhlesur Rahman was present on the occasion.

Food minister says

Stock of foodgrains sufficient for 6 months

Food Minister Mir Shawkat Ali yesterday made surprise visits to a number of rice and wheat selling centres under Open Market Sale (OMS) at Adamjeeagar under Narayanganj district and at Jatrabari under Dhaka city to see for himself the state of supply and sales, reports BSS.

He also opened several sale centres at Adamjee Jute Mills area to enable vast number of mill workers to purchase rice and wheat at retail price.

Addressing the workers at two sale centres at Adamjee Jute Mills premises, the minister reiterated that the go-

vernment had sufficient stock of foodgrains at different godowns to meet the next six months' demand. Under the far-sighted direction of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, food situation in the country is now normal, he added.

Referring to the purpose of opening sale centres of rice and wheat under OMS, Mir Shawkat said that some vested quarters had started hoarding foodgrains specially rice and wheat, on the plea of drought in the north, thereby creating an artificial crisis and price hike of foodgrains. The government was fully aware of the ill motives of these dishonest traders and therefore, started selling rice and wheat under OMS to ensure adequate supply and price stability in the market, he added. The minister also said more such centres would be opened, when and where needed.

He called upon the workers to sustain the flow of production in the mills and resist the growing trend of hartals and blockades of the Opposition who were out to jeopardise the development tempo now prevailing in the country.

Iranian envoy meets Rafiq

Mahmoud Bayat, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Bangladesh called on Housing and Public Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia at the latter's office in the city, reports BSS.

They discussed matters of mutual interests.



Wednesday

4:30 Opening session
4:40 Geeta recitation
Sports programme
News in Bangla
Children's programme: Amra Natun
Programme by tribal artistes: Bonophil
7:00 Open University
7:00 Tagore songs
8:00 News in Bangla
Dance programme: Ritter
9:00 Tale Tale
9:00 Film show: Equalizer
10:00 News in English
10:30 Magazine on Population: Protashash Alo
Khabar/The News
11:30 Tomorrow's programme summary
11:45 Close down

Metropolitan



British High Commissioner Peter J. Fowler (2nd from left) and Major General (Rtd) Nurul Haque (extreme right) signing an agreement to provide Tk 4 crore British aid to CRP yesterday at Savar. Also seen in the picture: Tariqul Islam, Minister for Post and Telecommunications (extreme left) and Valerie Taylor, CRP coordinator (2nd from right).

— Star photo

CRP to get Taka 4 cr British assistance

Britain will provide a grant of Tk four crore (0.68 million pounds sterling) to the Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Peter J. Fowler and CRP coordinator Ms Valerie Taylor exchanged letters to this effect at a simple ceremony at CRP office at Savar yesterday.

The amount will be used in improving the quality of life for paralysed people in Bangladesh.

Present at the ceremony were Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam, local MP Niamatullah Sabu, Vice Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury, Director General of NGO Affairs Bureau M A Mannan and representatives of other donor agencies.

CRP provides specialist nursing care for paralysed people, and follow-up to help rehabilitate former patients who have returned to their communities. Its work is co-funded by

Workshop on administrative reforms

A workshop on "Administrative Reforms in Bangladesh" was held in the city yesterday under the auspices of the Centre for Analysis and Choice, reports UNB.

In observance of the day the United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) held a seminar in the evening at the auditorium of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC).

Director General (UN) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Afsarul Qader was the keynote speaker while Assistant Resident Representative of UNDP Christine Spoor attended the seminar as guest speaker.

Prof Salahuddin Ahmed, Amirul Islam Bar at Law, Secretary, Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs, Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Director of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) and Syed Ahmad Hossain, Secretary General of the UNAB took part in the discussion.

The minister, who is also the chairman of the ministerial committee on administrative reforms, said the well-thought-out recommendations of the workshop, when submitted to the government, would get due consideration.

Dr Abdur Rob Khan, research director of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) presented the key-note paper while Dr Muzaffar Ahmed, professor of Institute of Business Administration, was the moderator.

Resident representative of UNDP in Bangladesh, Eimi Watanabe, also addressed the inaugural session.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely at many places over Chittagong, Barisal divisions, at a few places over Dhaka division and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Khulna divisions during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met office says day temperature may rise by one to two degrees Celsius over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and may remain unchanged elsewhere across the country.

In its outlook for the next two days the Met office predicts little change.

The country's highest temperature 35.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest 23.4 degrees at Bogra.

The sun sets today at 5:56 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:47 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures, humidity and rainfall recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday are given below:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	Rainfall in mm (last 36 hrs)
	Max	Min		
Dhaka	34.0	26.2	84	82
Mymensingh	32.0	25.3	95	54
Faridpur	33.0	24.5	91	74
Chittagong	29.0	24.8	98	89
Rajshahi	31.0	24.8	70	74
Rangpur	30.0	24.2	93	92
Dinajpur	28.0	24.2	93	95
Khulna	33.6	27.0	91	79
Barisal	32.6	27.0	93	84
Sylhet	31.0	24.5	92	88
Comilla	30.5	24.8	96	92
Cox's Bazar	31.0	24.5	85	89
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Biswas, Khaleda greet President, PM of Malta

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday greeted Dr Ugo Misud Bonnich, President of the Republic of Malta, on the occasion of its National Day today, reports BSS.

In his message, Biswas conveyed his best wishes for personal health and happiness of President Bonnich and continued progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Malta.

In another message, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday felicitated Dr Eddie Fenech Adam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Malta, on the same occasion.

Begum Khaleda Zia hoped that the existing relations between our two countries will be further developed in the years to come.

She also conveyed her best wishes for Adam's good health, long life and happiness and for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Malta.

The President of the Executive Board of UNICEF and Minister for Community Development, Women Affairs and Children of Tanzania, Anne S Makinda paid a visit to the Underprivileged Children's Educational Programmes (UCEP) Technical School for Children at Mirpur and the UCEP General School at Rayer Bazar on Monday, reports BSS.

Makinda expressed keen interest in the activities of UCEP and was very impressed with the performance of the children and the services being rendered by UCEP.

Earlier there was a briefing session at the UCEP head office in Mirpur where she was given a brief description of UCEP and its activities.

বিজ্ঞপ্তি
ট্রেড জার্নেল প্রক্ষেপন কর্তৃপক্ষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি
কর্তৃপক্ষের স্বীকৃত বিজ্ঞপ্তি
৬০/১৪৩, পুরামুক্ত বাসান্ত রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০
ফোন: ২৫১২১০, ২৫১২১১০ বাস্টার্স
৩-৪৯

শিশুদের চিত্রাঙ্কন কর্মশালা

আগস্টি ৩০শে সেপ্টেম্বর থেকে আলিয়াস ফ্রান্সেজ, ২৬ নং মিরপুর রোড, ঢাকা তিনি মাস বার্ষী শিশুদের এক চিত্রাঙ্কন কর্মশালার আয়োজন করে। হচ্ছে। ওয়ার্কশপ পরিচালনা করবেন শিশু মাসুমা খান। আগস্টি ২০শে সেপ্টেম্বর অক্টোবর সকল সাড়ে দশটার ভর্তি প্রীতি আনুষ্ঠিত হচ্ছে।

S-490

Diabetic Association of Bangladesh

Ibrahim Memorial Diabetes Centre
122, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000.

Wanted for Rent

A spacious building to house our Sub Centre at Mirpur Area, preferably on the main road having roughly 14,000 sq.ft. with space provisions for lift & parking facilities. Please send offers to the Director (Projects). D-959

Secretary General

ATTN : BUYING HOUSE & GARMENT FACTORIES

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BFA expresses anxiety

The Bangladesh Fertilizer Association (BFA) in its meeting in the city yesterday expressed deep anxiety about shortage of urea in the domestic market due to heavy diversification to export in this peak season, reports BSS.

The association noted that export was not allowed in the month of September in previous years and urged the government to immediately suspend export in the interest of the farmers.

Commemorative stamp on Nawab

Faizunnesa

Bangladesh Post Office will issue a commemorative postage stamp of Taka 2.00 denomination to mark the death anniversary of Nawab Faizunnesa Chowdhury on September 23, reports BSS.

The association noted that export was not allowed in the month of September in previous years and urged the government to immediately suspend export in the interest of the farmers.

The stamp and the first-day cover will be sold from all head post offices including four GPOs from September 23 — the commemorative stamp will subsequently be sold from all post offices including the extra departmental ones.

The counter of the concerned post offices will remain open from 10:00 am to 01:00 pm on September 23, despite weekly holiday.

House To Let

Three storied house in Gulshan, 4500 Sft each floor (3 bed/bath + 2 large rooms/veranda). Suitable for residence or office. Interested to lease to embassies, NGOs or multinationals. Please contact for further details. Phone: 601052 Fax: 883543 S-488

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গণপূর্ণ পুনঃনির্মাণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি (ততীয় আহবান)

নির্মাণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নং-০১/১৯৯৪-৯৫৫

এতদ্বারা পাইবাস্তু গণপূর্ণ বিভাগের স্টকের নির্বাচিত সার্টেড বিল্ডারের জন্য আবাসী সর্বসাধারণ ও অবসরস্কৃত ভিল্ডারের জন্য নির্বাচিত কর্মসূচী প্রযোজন করা হচ্ছে। উনিয়াম ভাকের প্রযোজন করা হচ্ছে। উনিয়াম ভাকের প্রযোজন করা হচ