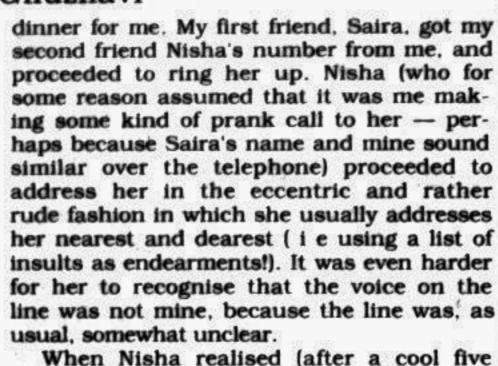
Dhaka Day by Day

Incorrigible Telephone Lines

by Farah Ghuznavi

In the last couple of years, the standards of efficiency in Dhaka's telephone system appear to have been affected by a mysterious virus that makes it virtually impossible to get any number on the first try (or even the second, and sometimes third try, for that matter!) Now when you dial a number, you have to brace yourself for a wide range of possibilities: that you will reach the wrong number (one so wrong, in fact, that it only has one digit in common with the number you dialled), that you will have a corss connection which makes it hard to make out a word that the other person is saying (so that it takes a while to figure out whether you are even speaking to the person you think you are conversing with!), that your line will be free of cross-connections, but beset with so much static that you still can't figure out who you are talking to and finally. that you will reach the correct number, only to find that you keep getting cut off every couple of minutes.

Is this an attempt on the T and T board's part to make us more efficient in our conversations, or to drive up revenues? I am certainly paying heavier phone bills than I care to, because of all these wrong numbers and "two-minute automatic cut-off point" lines! It reminds me of a cartoon I saw a few



minutes) that the person she had been addressing far too familiarly was not in fact me, she was so horrified that she called meup and begged me to reassure her that I had in fact called her five minutes ago. When I told her that it was Saira who had called to invite her to dinner, she almost died of mortification! Luckily for her, for once the unclear line helped, in that Saira couldn't understand most of what she had been saying!

On another occasion, a friend of mine who was planning to get married the following month, was "privileged", due to an unfortunate cross connection, to hear her fi-



years ago, depicting how the myriad possibilities of getting "misconnected" on the Calcutta telephone system meant that the chances of reaching the correct person were twenty-five to one!

I don't think that the Dhaka system has reached those levels yet (though there are some very frustrated people who might disagree with me!), but certainly the current situation is less than satisfactory. Quite apart from spiralling phone bills, it can give rise to quite embarrassing situations. A few months ago, a friend of mine was planning to ring another friend of mine (whom she didn't know very well) to invited her to a

into the painful details of what followed. Suffice it to say, it was bound to end in tears, and that it certainly did!

Since telephone romances are perhaps the most popular mating ritual in Dhaka, the incident was perhaps not such a remarkable coincidence. But the fact remains that one clearly has to be very careful about what one says on the Dhaka lines. You just don't know who might be listening! For the sake of forlorn lovers, smugglers and those engaged in espionage (who run the strongest risk of being adversely affected by these glitches in the system), I urge the concerned authorities to take action quickly.

NSC lottery draw

tomorrow

Sports Council Lottery will be

held at Krira Bhaban in the

city at 5 pm tomorrow, re-

Minister Abdullah Al Noman

is expected to attend the

function as chief guest. State

Minister for Youth and Sports

Sadek Hosain will be present

as special guest on the occa-

Office-bearers of

Diabetic assoc

Abdus Satter have been

elected president and gen-

eral secretary of the employ-

ees welfare union of the

Dhaka Diabetic Association.

ers and 19 executive mem-

bers of the union have also

been elected from Kabir-

Satter parishad which swept

the election of Friday, in a

elected senior vice presi-

dent, Nuruzzaman Sarder and

Abu Taher vice-presidents.

Khorshed Alam and Nurul

Haque joint secretaries.

Abdur Rashid treasurer, Hu-

mayun Kabir assistant treas-

urer. Muhammad Ali Siddiqui

organising secretary. Kazi

Abdul Haque publicity

secretary, Nur Muhammad

sports and cultural secretary.

Sankari Rani Paroi secretary

for women affairs and

Mustafizur Rahman office

Leasing out of

ferries proposed

parliamentary standing

committee on the Ministry of

Communications was held

yesterday in the Sangsad

Bhaban with Communications

Minister Oli Ahmad in the

the government could save

the cost of fuel and lubricant

of the ferries by leasing out

The meeting also dis-

cussed various activities and

programmes of Roads and

Highways Department

Bangladesh Road Transport

Corporation (BRTC) and

Jamuna Bridge Authority.

those to the private sector.

The meeting was told that

chair, reports BSS.

The 33rd meeting of the

Shamsul Haque has been

Twelve other office bear-

reports UNB.

triangular fight

secretary.

Kabirul Alam and Sheikh

Fisheries and Livestock

The 9th draw of National



Bangladesh Islamic Front brought out a procession in the city yesterday in connection with the observance of Eid-e-Miladunnabi. - Star photo

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MITSUI O.S.K LINES LTD., JAPAN NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The Containerised cargo ex. M. V. TYNE V-2265 from Lehavre and Rotterdam have been relayed to M. V. IRINI VOY - 205 Import Rotation No. 678 / 95 Which is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 30-07-1995 from Singapore

Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from FCL containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing. If the cargo is not cleared within 45 days from landing then the disposal of the cargo will be governed by the relevant Customs Act.

Agents: BIRDS BANGLADESH AGENCIES LTD.

103, AGRABAD COMMERCIAL AREA. CHITTAGONG PHONES: 500686, 502450, 502645, 500688, 712908

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

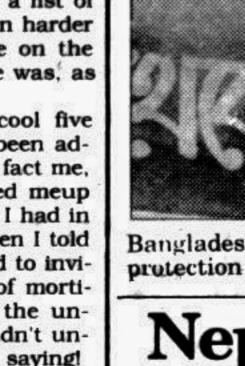
THE CONTAINERISED CARGO EX. VIRA BHUM VOY-136N FROM JAKARTA, EX. LEEWARD VOY-526S FROM BUSAN HAVE BEEN RELAYED TO FEEDER VESSEL M. V. FONG SHIN VOY -9521 IMPORT ROT. NO. 667 / 95 IS DUE TO ARRIVE CHITTAGONG ON OR ABOUT 30-07-1995.

CONSIGNEES ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE DELIVERY OF THEIR CARGO FROM FCL CONTAINERS WITHIN 5 (FIVE) DAYS FREE TIME FROM THE DATE OF LANDING. IF THE CARGO IS NOT CLEARED WITHIN 45 DAYS FROM LANDING THEN THE CARGO WILL BE GOVERNED BY THE RELEVENT CUSTOMS ACT.

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239, NEW CIRCULAR ROAD MOGHBAZAR. **DHAKA-1217** TEL:416531 / 416562 / 836860-1 FAX: (880-2) 836886



ance romancing someone else. I won't go

President Abdur Rahman tries would substantially in-Biswas said Nepal, being an upper-riparian country, could play a vital role in sharing the waters of common rivers in

He made the observation when the visiting Nepalese Minister for Finance and Civil Supplies. Bharat Mohan Adhikari, called on him at

Welcoming the Nepalese

There is wide scope for further expansion of economic cooperation for the benefit of both the countries. Biswas said laving stress on exporting non-traditional items from Bangladesh to Nepal. There is much scope for setting up various industries in joint venture as well. he added

Biswas said the volume of trade between the two coun-

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal brought out a procession in the city yesterday calling for the protection of Chandpur town and Haimchar from erosion. -Star photo

Nepal's role vital in water sharing: Biswas

he region, reports UNB.

Bangabhaban vesterday.

Minister, the President hoped the existing excellent relations between the two countries would expand further in the years to come.

crease with the functioning of SAPTA. He hoped that the 9th meeting of Bangladesh-Nepal Joint Economic Commission would succeed in adopting fruitful measures for ensuring greater economic cooperation between Dhaka and Kathmandu.

Speaking on the occasion, the Nepalese Minister also emphasised the need for bolstering bilateral relations to the mutual benefit of the two

President Biswas requested the Nepalese Minister to convey his greetings and good wishes to the King, the Prime Minister and the people of Nepal.

Among others, Secretary to the President Ataul Huq. Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen Sardar Md Ali Hasan, Bangladesh Ambassador to Nepal Syed Muhammad Hossain and Nepalese Ambassador in Bangladesh LB Shreshtha were present.

'Unregulated market ignores externalities'

By Staff Correspondent

Both intellectually and in market ignores externalities noted British development economist now on a visit here said yesterday.

"The first is of particular concern as issues of the environment and technological change loom larger while the second was revealed as a major fault-line by the growing poverty in many adjusting countries in the '80s," said Dr Frances Stewart, Director. International Development Centre, Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford.

She was delivering the 11th biennial conference address of the Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) on "Why We Need a Structured Market" at the Engineers' Institution auditorium. The address was chaired by the former president of the BEA and present executive committee member of the International Economic Association, Prof Rehman Sobhan.

"What is needed is a structured market where the state provides a structure for the market to guide it towards the achievement of economic and social goals." argued Stewart, an Oxfordtrained economist.

According to her, a structured market is a market which operates within a structure imposed by the government and within this structure the market operates freely.

"The objective of structuring the market is to avoid some of the market failures while retaining the market as

the main mechanism for allopractice, the corregulated cating resources, she said: She found four practical and is blind to poverty, a deficiencies of the unregulated market: the failure systematically to meet social needs; the special failure to meet social needs during stabilisation and adjustment; the failure to promote appropriate technology; and issues related to growth and learning.

Refuting the point of the open and market-oriented economies as model of success, she said, "in this shift the serious deficiency of the market in economic and social terms were ignored, as was the fact the 'success' stories involved a strong element of government regu-

The Malaysian New Economic Policy was devised in the direction of, what she called, a structured marketorientation.

"The success of the structured market in Malaysia in meeting its own objectives narrowing gaps between Malays and others - was achieved without undermining growth of equity," she

According to Stewart, structuring the market involves four elements: defining the goals; deriving targets from these goals: identification of instruments to achieve the targets; and continuous monitoring.

However, she said three possible difficulties with proposal to promote structured markets are apparent. They include: difficulties related to setting targets; a possible conflict with efficiency; and opposition from political and bureaucratic interests.

Merill praises Dhaka's economic growth

US Ambassador in Dhaka David N Merill vesterday said the overall economic growth of Bangladesh has increased significantly due to its export led strategy, reports UNB.

"This strategy has been proved useful for the country and the trend of economic growth is going upward gradually." he said at a meeting of Rotarians in the city vester-

The US Ambassador was speaking on "Competitive Economic Role of Bangladesh" at the meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka at Sonargaon Hotel.

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni also addressed the function, presided over by president of Rotary Club of Dhaka Sultan M Rahman.

To maintain the present trend of economic growth

market, Merill suggested steps, like maintaining the quality of products and international standard, investment in proper sector and advertisement of the products.

Merill stressed the need for concerted efforts of the business institutions and NGOs to carry forward the development activities. A good number of NGOs are interested in working with business firms, he added.

He said mutually beneficial partnership between business firms and NGOs will help augment the economic activities in the country.

The meeting was told that the Club had collected a Tk 57 thousand to distribute relief materials among the flood-affected people in different places of the country.

Reception to **Prof Sufia**

Islamic History and Culture Department of Dhaka University accorded a reception to Prof Sufia Ahmed at TSC auditorium yesterday on her appointment as a National Professor, reports

Vice Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed attended the function as chief guest. Presided over by the

Chairman of the Department, AK Idris Ali, the function was also addressed, by Arts Faculty Dean Prof Aminul Islam, Dr Ibrahim and Prof MR Tarafdar. Addressing the function,

Prof Emajuddin Ahmed said we should pay due respect to scholars of the country following the instances of the civilised nations.

Sufia Ahmed in her speech said, the respect, that has been shown to her, would encourage the women community to play a key role in developing the nation.

Employees body meeting

Convention of the greater Mymensingh unit of Bangladesh City and Municipal Employees Federation will be held at Mymensingh Town Hall auditorium today, reports BSS.

Jute Minister ASM Hanhan Shah will attend the convention as chief guest.



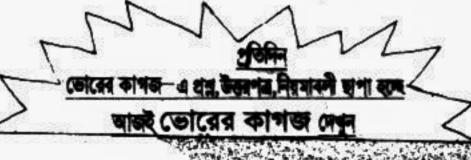
আকর্যণীয় কুইজ প্রতিযোগিতা

এতে আছে সাধারণ জ্ঞানের ওপর ৩০টি প্রশ্ন আর পুরস্কার আছে আকর্ষণীয়, অনেকগুলো-

প্রথম পুরকার : রঙিন টেলিভিশন ১টি বা ২০ হাজার টাকার প্রাইজবভ দিতীয় পুরস্কার : রেফ্রিজারেটর ১টি বা ১৫ হাজার টাকার প্রাইজবভ তৃতীয় পুরকার : সাদা-কালো টেলিভিশন ১টি বা ১০ হাজার টাকার প্রাইজবন্ড চতুর্থ পুরস্কার : ২০টি, প্রতিটি ৫০০ টাকার প্রাইজবড

> প্রতিযোগিতা সবার জন্য উনাক্ত একজন একাধিক কুপন পুরণ করতে পারবেন

ভোরের কাগজ-ফ্যালকন কুইজ প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশ নিন জিতে নিন ৫৫ হাজার টাকার আকর্ষণীয় পুরস্কার



GRAMEEN TRUST PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

SEEKING RESEARCH PROPOSALS The Programme for Research on Poverty Alleviation, Grameen Trust, seeks proposals from individuals or institutions, for research on poverty alleviation and the poor. Research could be in any discipline (including the social sciences, natural sciences, physical sciences and appropriate technology). Proposals should however be designed on the basis of consultation with the poor or with those directly

working at the grassroots. The research should result

in immediate value or use either to the poor or policy

makers. Researchers are invited to send in a seven to eight page (typed double space) proposal including, a statement of the problem, its relevance for the poor, the specific research question (s), the methodology, a tentative budget, a time schedule, and names and affiliations and experience of the research personnel. Projects with budgets of around Taka 50,000 will be given greater priority. However, projects with higher budgets will be funded provided they are appropriate

and promising. Proposals and inquiries regarding the Programme should be addressed to:

The Project Director Programme for Research on Poverty Alleviation Grameen Trust Grameen Bank Bhaban

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(OPPOSITE TO BANGLADESH TIMES)



Bangladesh Open University Project Board Bazar, Gazipur

Re-Tender Notice for **Photocopier Machine**

Memo No: BOU/Admn-37(48)/2/95/6743 Tender No: 2 (Procurement)/95-96 Loan No: 1173 (BAN) (SF)

assigning any reasons whatsoever.

1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a loan

Date: 27-07-95

from the Asian Development Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the Bangladesh Open University Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the procurement of Photocopier Machine. 2. Bangladesh Open University Project now invites sealed bids from eligible

manufacturer, agent, dealer for the supply of Photocopier Machine. 3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid and

inspect the bidding documents at the office of the Deputy Director (Procurement), Bangladesh Open University, BOU Campus, Board Bazar, Gazipur.

4. A complete set of the bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on submission of a written application and upon payment of fee of Tk 500.00 (five hundred) per set (non-refundable) from the office of the Director (Finance & Accounts), Bangladesh Open University, BOU Campus, Board Bazar, Gazipur up to 09-08-95 during office hours.

5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security money @ 2.0% of the quoted amount and must be delivered in accordance with the instructions to bidders on or before 12-00 Noon on 10-08-95 in the tender box kept in the office of the Director (Administration), Bangladesh Open University, BOU Campus (South block), 1st

floor, Board Bazar, Gazipur. 6. BOU authority will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids, including costs and

expenses related to visits to the site of the installation of the goods. 7. Validity of tender: 91 (ninety one) days from the date of bid closing.

8. The order may be awarded among the different bidders (more than one) for different items on the basis of lowest quoted rates by the respective bidders or to a single bidder on total lowest basis. 9. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without

10. Manufacturers, suppliers or their agents having proven experience and after sales service facilities of similar works are eligible to bid.

Vice-Chancellor/Project Director

D-775

Bangladesh Open University

and capture the international