

Dhaka Day by Day

Respite from the Tenacious Caller

by Aasha Mehreen Amin



SHARIER '96

Answering the telephone has become quite a pain lately. Most callers think that the person at the other end has all the time in the world to take messages, chat or give out information even if he/she has no clue as to who the caller is. At times these calls reach such irritating proportions that one almost wishes one could go back to a time where Graham Bell had not been born.

At the office, just when one has sat to do some work that requires exclusive concentration, the phone will ring and ask for someone who is not there. If you are female, the caller will immediately assume you are someone's personal secretary and will enquire when he will be back, how long ago did he go out, whether he may come after half an hour, an hour or perhaps just before *magrib*. The messages to be taken will also be quite elaborate: if so and so comes between 3 and 4 pm tell him to call at this number, otherwise tell him to call at that number and if he does not come at all today, tell him that the caller will be in the next day at 5 pm. Gritting one's teeth (at this point one gets quite murderous) one may politely write down all this, cursing the peon for leaving the phone on one's desk.

At home it is perhaps even worse. A large number of callers have the rude habit of asking "Who is this?" without even saying who they are or even who they wish to speak to. Again, if the person the caller wants is not at home, the receiver will be subject to the same kind of mental anguish. This is especially true when the caller is very remotely acquainted to whoever he/she is calling. All sorts of questions will be hurled at you by this virtual stranger who claims to be so... and so's cousin's stepmother's brother-in-law: "Are you his mites? No? Oh so sorry, are you his mother? No? Then who are you? Oh, Apa, if you don't mind, is he in the army? No? Then why does he live in cantonment? What kind of business does he do?" None of your business will be the untold

response of the receiver of the call. Of course very few of us are too polite to say that. Hence we must endure this kind of interrogation.

Then there is the talkative caller. This particular brand of caller can prove to be quite dangerous. Your rice may be burning or your child may be falling off the crib, yet there is no way that you can disentangle yourself from the phone because the caller has just begun to talk about the complexities of her gut problem. After answering all the usual enquiries, one may think that finally one is off the hook (literally speaking) only to find that the caller has just warmed up. He or she will go on to explain the complicated relationship you have with him or her — "Your *shoshur* (father-in-law) used to call me *mama* which makes you my *natni*, but do call me *bhai* because your husband is also a distant cousin. Oh, by the way, your father's aunt is also related to me..." Meanwhile your house may be on fire.

There are several strategies one may adopt to avoid falling prey to such callers: Exclaiming that your child is threatening to demolish all the dishes on the table and saying "Can you call after five minutes?" and hanging up immediately, is one. Pretending that the line is really bad and you can't hear a word he/she is saying, yelling "Hello" several times before the caller curses under his/her breath and hangs up. You can always put the phone off the hook after this or let it ring incessantly before the final surrender.

Of course these are rather extreme measures that only the over-polite Dhakaites must resort to. If one can be a little less sensitive, such calls can easily be cut short. As one will find that often when one calls someone and he is not there, the receiver will just say "no" and hang up on one's face. This kind of monosyllabic answer seems to be the only way to save oneself from the inquisitive, talkative, remotely acquainted caller.

Photo journalists barred from covering Book Fair opening

By Staff Correspondent
Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association (BPJA) yesterday expressed its anguish and condemnation for restricting the invited photo journalists by the security force from attending the opening function of the *Ekushey Book Fair*.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurated the fair at the Bangla Academy yesterday morning. BPJA in a statement regretted that the nation was deprived of the photographs of the opening session due to the government's hindrances to the press photographers in discharging their professional duties.

The statement further added it has been observed for quite sometime that photo journalists of the national newspapers were not being able to cover the Prime Minister's projection rallies when pictures of the PM's programmes were being supplied by a 'controversial news agency' at the government's cost.

BPJA, however, hoped that the government would ensure necessary co-operations in discharging the professional duty independently by the photo journalists.

Exam timings changed

The February 3 degree pass course exam, Islamic studies (1st paper) under National University (NU) will now begin from 2 pm instead of 10 am, says a press release.

The NU authority have taken the decision in view of unavoidable circumstances.

BUET

The February 3 level-1, term-2; and level-2, term-2 examinations of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) will now begin from 2 pm on the same day, says a press release.

Abu Sayeed's anniversary of birth observed

Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury National Memorial Council observed the 75th birth anniversary of the former President in the city Wednesday, says a press release.

Chaired by the former Chief Justice Kemaluddin Hossain, the programme was addressed by, Shaykat Ali Khan, Baset Mazumdar.

DU exams postponed

Dhaka University authorities postponed all examinations scheduled for February 1-3 at the Arts Faculty Centers due to unavoidable circumstances, reports UNB.

The fresh schedule will be announced later on.

The examination of last part of LLB Commercial Law (7th paper) scheduled for February 3 will now be held on February 8.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

We are a leading international bank looking out to recruit young Bangladeshi nationals of high calibre and outstanding ability in the following management positions:

ANALYST PROGRAMMER

The incumbent must possess a Masters or equivalent degree in Computer Science, other Science disciplines, Business Administration with orientation to Information Systems or Engineering with at least two first divisions/classes.

The candidate must have at least three years' experience in programming with FOXPRO/CLIPPER, COBOL, BASIC and C/C++, and adequate knowledge of supporting/troubleshooting PC and PC-LAN environment. Experience in communications would be an added advantage.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

The incumbent must possess a Masters or equivalent degree in Computer Science/Engineering or other Science disciplines with orientation to Communications with at least two first divisions/classes.

The candidate must have at least three years' experience in communications and computer inter-networking and adequate knowledge of supporting/troubleshooting routers, modems etc. Experience in programming with CLIPPER and C would be an added advantage.

For highly experienced candidates, academic qualifications may be relaxed.

The successful candidates for the above positions will be required to study independently and understand the objectives and functioning of the existing Information Technology infrastructure and thereby support the same and also to design, develop and implement IT systems to satisfy the growing business needs. Demonstrated ability to work under pressure to meet deadlines, together with strong organisational and human relations skills are essential.

Both the positions carry excellent prospects for personal development and career advancement. We are an equal opportunity employer and offer a highly competitive remuneration package.

Candidates interested in a banking career and have the zeal to work in a competitive environment, should apply with a resume, a recent passport size photograph and names and addresses of two referees to: GPO Box No. 502, Dhaka-1000.

The last date for receiving applications is February 15, 1996. Applications should be addressed to Manager Human Resources and marked with the name of the position applied for.

The bank reserves the right to accept or reject any application without notifying any reason whatsoever.



Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury cutting a cake on the 21st founding anniversary of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, in the city yesterday. Inspector General of Police, A S M Shajahan is also seen. — Star photo

SC obituary reference

By SC Correspondent
On the death of Justice Md. Ismailuddin Sarker and 11 members of the Supreme Court Bar Association a full court obituary reference was held in the Supreme Court yesterday.

The obituary reference participated by the judges of the Appellate Division and High Court Division of the Supreme Court and lawyers was held in the court-room of the Appellate Division.

Chief Justice Abu Taher Mohammad Afzal, on behalf of the Bench, Attorney General M Nurullah, leader of the Bar and Advocate T H Khan, President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, spoke in the condolence meeting.

As a mark of respect to Justice Md. Ismailuddin Sarker, judge of the Appellate Division, Advocate Abdul Momin Talukdar, former State Minister for Commerce, Professor Nurul Islam Chowdhury, former State Minister for Industries and Defence, Md. Yakub Ali, A M M Abdul Jalil, A K M Zahirul Huq, S M Abed Ali, Aftab Uddin Bhuiyan, Abu Musa Miah, Anwar Hossain Khan, Firozuddin Ahmed and Md Anwar Hossain of Bogra, the participants of reference rose in silence for two minutes and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

Astrologers' meet

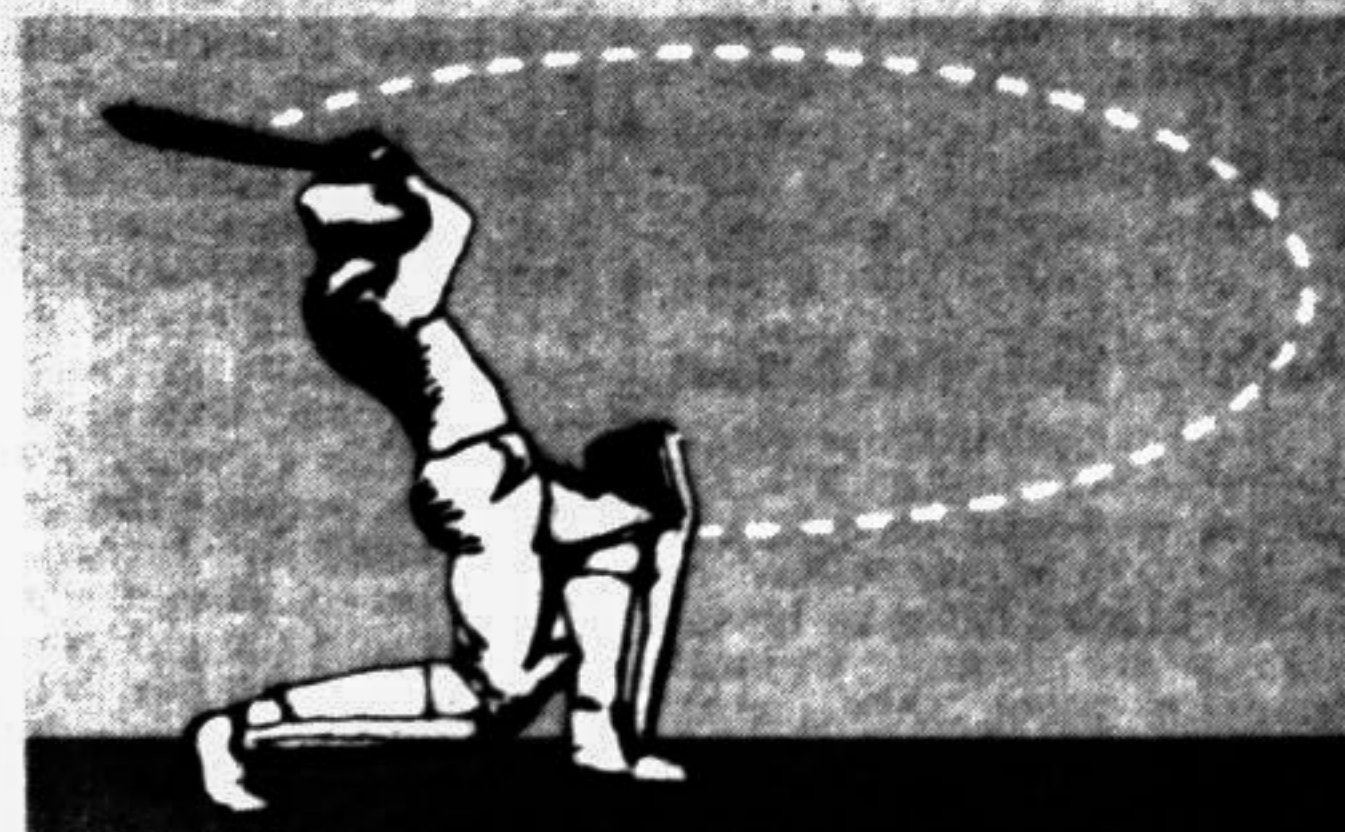
World Astrology Society held a discussion on palmistry research here recently with national professor Dewan Mohammad Azraf as the chief guest, reports BSS.

President of the society Prof Hawlader was in the chair.

Appointment

CHITTAGONG, Feb 1: Professor Dr. Abdus Sayeed, a senior teacher of the Department of History, Chittagong University, has been appointed the director of the Centre for Historical Studies, reports BSS.

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NOTICE

AUSTRALIAN AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AusAID): AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION SCHOLARSHIPS (ADCOS) 1997 INTAKE

Applications are invited from Bangladeshi tribal and non-tribal students to study under the Australian Development Cooperation Scholarship (ADCOS) scheme at undergraduate and postgraduate level in Australia.

2. Total No. of Scholarships: 18

Undergraduate	6
Tribal (Male)	1
Tribal (Female)	1
General (Male)	2
General (Female)	2
Postgraduate	12
Tribal (Male)	2
Tribal (Female)	2
General (Male)	4
General (Female)	4

3. Fields of Study Available

Undergraduate level:

- Agricultural Science and Farm Management
- Engineering (Civil/Mining/Electrical)
- Environmental Studies
- Economics
- Computer Studies
- Accounting
- Business Studies/ Business Administration

Post-graduate level:

- Public Health (including Community Nutrition, Public Health Care etc)
- Demography
- Development Economics
- Agricultural Science (Farm Management/ Water Resources/ Irrigation Planning)
- Public Administration
- Engineering (Civil/Mining)
- Environmental Studies
- Marine Science
- Computer Science
- Business Studies
- Community Development

4. Candidates fulfilling the following conditions may apply:

- Tribal candidates must submit Certificates of tribal descent duly signed by the respective Deputy Commissioner
- Age: Applicants for undergraduate study should not exceed 25 years of age on 1 January 1997 and applicants for postgraduate study should not exceed 40 years of age on 1 January 1997.
- Minimum Qualification:
 - i) Undergraduate:** Tribal Candidates: No third division in SSC and HSC results (or O/A level equivalent). General Candidates: Two first divisions in SSC and HSC results (or O/A Level equivalent)
 - ii) Postgraduate:** Tribal Candidates: No third class in SSC/HSC/ Undergraduate/ postgraduate results (or equivalent). Minimum four years undergraduate/ postgraduate results (or equivalent). Minimum four years undergraduate or combined undergraduate /postgraduate course (s) passed.

5. Candidates fulfilling the above conditions may apply in English on plain paper (two sets) along with Bio-data, passport size photograph, copies of all certificates and marksheets (duly attested). Bio-data must contain (a) Name (b) Father's Name (c) Present Address and Phone Number (d) Permanent Address and Phone Number (e) Certified Educational Qualifications including (i) Name of Examination (ii) Board/University (iii) Year of passing (iv) Division/Class (v) Total Marks with percentage.

Candidates may only select one (1) field of study. The proposed subject of study should be clearly indicated in capital letters on the top of the Bio-data. Candidates must submit a separate statement, in English and typewritten, stating why they have selected this field of study. In particular candidates should outline how the proposed field of study will benefit them on return to Bangladesh. Candidates should be aware that English language proficiency will be taken into account in the selection process.

- Applications must be placed in an envelope and delivered to the gate of the Australian High Commission (AHC), 184 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan, Dhaka or may be sent by post. The last date for submitting the plain paper application is **17 February 1996**. No applications received after this date will be considered. Candidates must write "ADCOS 1997" on the top of the envelope. Envelopes should be addressed to the "First Secretary, AusAID".
- Those who submit fake documents or make false statements will be automatically eliminated.
- Candidates who are in service should apply through the proper channels.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Candidates who are already selected for any other scholarships will not be considered.
- The decision of the AHC shall be final.
- THE AHC WILL CONTACT SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS ONLY. APPLICANTS SHOULD NOT/NOT CONTACT THE AHC REGARDING THE STATUS OF THEIR APPLICATION. SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL BE ADVISED BY 15 APRIL 1996. IF APPLICANTS ARE NOT ADVISED BY THIS DATE, THEIR APPLICATION HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL.**