


The trap of call drop

No relief for users anytime soon

REASONS

- ▶ Operators use limited spectrum due to high prices
- ▶ Other infrastructures used here are very complex
- ▶ Shortage of mobile tower in some cases
- ▶ Inadequate fibre optic cable network outside Dhaka



MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

No matter how much you grumble about that call suddenly going dead, the situation is unlikely to improve anytime soon.

Officially, only 5,193 complaints of call drop were lodged with the regulator last year, but industry insiders say it happens a few hundred crore times a year.

There are 15.7 crore active mobile connections in the country as of December.

Call drops happen for many reasons, mainly technical. Key among them is the spectrum used by the operators.

In Bangladesh, mobile carriers use limited spectrum because of the unusually high price, the highest in the world. As a result, the network gets crammed, which in turn leads to call drop.

The situation is worsened by the strange arrangement of call transfers

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A man paints a sign at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday, as part of the last minute preparations for the Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela. The month-long book fair opens today.

Ekushey book fair begins today

A record 499 publishers taking part

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The month-long Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela 2019, the country's largest book fair, is set to commence today at the Bangla Academy premises and the adjacent Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital, with a record number of 499 publishers participating this year.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to inaugurate the fair at 3:00pm. She will also unveil a book titled "Secret Documents of Intelligence Branch on Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (Volume - 2)" at the opening ceremony.

With Bangla Academy President Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman in the chair, two foreign guests -- Indian poet Shankha Ghosh and Egyptian Writer

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2 Gonoforum MPs-elect will not join JS

Says Dr Kamal
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two MPs-elect from the Gonoforum will not be joining parliament, the party has decided.

Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain, also a top leader of the Jatiya Oikyafront, made the announcement while talking to reporters at his Motijheel chamber yesterday, following a meeting of the opposition alliance's steering committee.

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QUESTION PAPER LEAK Two rackets busted

CID says wide range of people from govt officials to school peons involved
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The gangs that had been leaking questions of public exams and government recruitment tests included government officials, schoolteachers, printing press employees and Dhaka University students.

Two major rackets have been busted with the arrest of 46 members and ringleaders in the last one and a half years, the Criminal Investigation Department of police said yesterday.

"We have come to know that they have amassed around Tk 30 crore by leaking question papers of different public examinations through digital devices and from the printing presses," Molla Nazrul Islam, special superintendent of CID, told a press conference at the CID headquarters.

"All the arrestees have confessed to their crimes before courts," he said.

However, most of them are on bail now.

In the investigation that took 16 months, the CID found that the questions were mainly leaked in two ways: from the

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Equal rights for all

PM pledges
UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government's goal was to ensure equal rights for all, irrespective of their religion and caste.

"There should be equal rights for all people, irrespective of their religion, race, caste and ethnic community. We want to ensure this and we certainly will. It's our goal," she said.

The PM said this while speaking at a programme organised at the Prime Minister's Office to distribute scholarships among meritorious students of small ethnic groups.

The scholarships were

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NEWS ANALYSIS Democracy vs graft

Lessons from Transparency International index
SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Corruption Perceptions Index released by the Transparency International on Tuesday provides food for thought on corruption and democracy.

Its cross analysis with global democracy data reveals a link between corruption and the health of democracy in 180 countries.

Full democracies scored an average of 75 out of 100 on the CPI while flawed democracies got an average of 49.

Hybrid regimes, which show elements of autocratic tendencies, scored 35. Autocratic regimes performed the worst, with an average score of just 30 on the CPI, according to the analysis.

Bangladesh ranked 149th, scoring only 26 against the lowest global average of 43 in

the index. Needless to say, it is an embarrassing performance. The score tells where we stand in the categories in terms of functioning of the government.

The reasons behind the poor performance of many countries are more or less the same. The persistent failure of most countries to significantly control corruption is contributing to a crisis of democracy around the world, says the TI analysis.

TI's remarks on the impact of corruption are relevant to all, and we are no exception.

Just a day before the TI released the index, our High Court released the full text of the verdict that doubled BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's five-year jail term in a corruption case. The court made a critical observation on the impact of corruption.

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Children cross a rickety bridge in Pirojpur's Jhalakathi Madra village on Wednesday. The bridge has been in such a poor shape for the last four to five months, causing sufferings to the locals, especially the school-goers.

To Promote and meet prospective students and their parents in Bangladesh Principal, Mr. I.S. Sekhon will be available @ Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka on 15th & 16 of February from 9.30 am to 11.30 am & 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm

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Second grader raped in Jashore

STAR REPORT

A second grader was allegedly raped by her neighbour in Jashore's Jhikargachha upazila on Tuesday.

The incident came to light on Wednesday when the girl's mother filed a case with Jhikargachha Police Station in this connection, said Nazmul Hossain, officer-in-charge (Investigation) of the police station.

The accused, Nur Islam, 43, is a resident of Kamarpara village in the upazila.

Victim's mother, while

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MANWAR HOSSAIN TRIUMPH IS HIS SECOND NATURE!

Group Managing Director of Anwar Group of Industries Manwar Hossain has been honored with prestigious Global Asian of the Year 2018 award in business leadership category on 21st January at Marina Bay Sands, Singapore by an international business magazine AsiaOne for his dynamic leadership. AsiaOne Global Asian of the Year is a prestigious annual selection of the most prominent persons of Asian origin all over the world. Highest of diplomats in Singapore, Iconic Indians, Asian Business Leaders, have been awarded here.

Anwar Group family is enthused to congratulate him.

