

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Matchmaking and Misalliances

by Fayza Haq

From the time a baby is born in Bangladesh, its parents start to worry about its future marriage. This is especially so if the child happens to be a girl. This occurs not only in our villages but in our cities too. Dhaka itself is rampant with the steady flow of the enthusiasm of match-making.

I myself have been involved in numerous matchmaking sessions, and the sad ending of many romances and marriages. There was this friend of mine who had studied in Europe and it was difficult indeed to get a suitable match for her. She had ideas and opinions of her own. By the time a woman has got her Ph.D, she is no longer a rose bud at times, especially if the conditions under which she has worked has been difficult.

"Oh, she's lived in London, she must be fast. She wears 'shalwar-kameez' and that is a proof enough", were some of the comments when I showed my friend's photograph, seeking for a suitable man to fulfill her dreams.

It took a long time for her to like someone, and for that special person to send a proposal to her. My only hand in the matchmaking was that I had phoned the gentleman, and gently suggested that my friend was one of the loveliest women in town.

When the marriage split up within days, for some reason or the other, the family refused to speak to me. Fortunately, she is now happily married again — which in a place like Bangladesh is almost a miracle for middle-class families — and I see some smiles on the faces of my friend's brothers when I visit them occasionally.

On another occasion, a cousin of mine was deeply in love with a Middle-Eastern young technical expert. This was reported to me by a friend. I naturally informed my aunt, who immediately begged me to stop the marriage, by hell or high water.

I, in turn, tried my level best to twist and turn the romance so that it saw a sad demise. My cousin and her friends stopped speaking to me for years as a consequence. It was only when my father died that they made up with me, seeing my grief.

There is yet another acquaintance of mine, whom we have been trying to marry off for twenty years. He has studied in France, and earlier in Pakistan. Coming back to Bangladesh he found himself a misfit and without friends. He was too much of an introvert to sail out and get a young woman of his choice. He had returned to Dhaka because he was the only male member left to look after the women of the house.

This young man, good looking, accomplished, and suave, has refused to get married time and again, though beautiful young de-

butantes have been paraded before his eyes. You can take a horse to the water, but no more. Aging bachelors can be a bore, and now that his sisters are married, what excuse has he for not tying the knot, and letting his poor mother have some respite and pleasure of having at last got her son settled?

All the women he has ever cared to speak to were ones that his mother never approved of. As a consequence the 45 year old man remains the concern of the extended family.

He is not the only bachelor of forty and over for whom my friends and I scour the city for suitable young women. While there are constant dating and romancing in the college and university campuses, as well as cultural centres,

and even homes of accommodating friends and aunts, there are brothers, cousins and friends, who are left to face a lonely life of books, radio, TV and perhaps a computer, if they can afford it. And at 45 or 50 everyone is not ready to write one's memoirs or scribble something creative to fill one's time.

Such individuals remain the constant concern of family and friends. A colleague of mine

is constantly parading young women for the benefit of the young men of the office — whom she has taken under her wing. Meanwhile, her own daughter has no interest in marriage and dreams of little else but studying in some Scandinavian country or USA, while her poor mother is going round the bend, worrying about her daughter's future.

Her brothers, again, flaunt suitors before her nose, but the young woman herself will not take her eyes off her books. No matter how much she is scolded she insists that "she is not a cow to be bought and sold".

Yet another time we pushed a young friend into a marriage, believing the young man to be a paragon of male virtues. It turned out that the poor woman was treated worse than the house dog. One can well imagine how miserable and guilty we felt! A painful divorce ensued. Luckily the young thing had ample charms and managed to rope a second husband. They now live in California and I understand the young man adores her.

It can also happen that while the matchmaking is in progress, the young man might fall in love with the person making the match, and not care for the young woman being presented for his selection. You can well envisage the confusion that ensues in such a situation.

Marriages are said to be made in heaven. One wonders what the deities exactly do in the clouds, to ruin matches or see that Cupid's aim is on the target. Going by Greek or Roman mythologies the gods themselves chug along where "amor vincit omnia" is concerned.

said the passage of the bills was a historic triumph for the people.

The chief of Jatiya Janata Party Sheikh Asad in a statement said the switch over to parliamentary form of government through the passing of the 12th Amendment Bill was a new step for realising the rights of the people.

The president of Bangladesh Islamic Party, Forman Ullah Khan said through the passing of the bills, the roots of autocracy have been uprooted.

**Institute of Human Rights and Liberty Forum**

Justice Abdur Rahman on behalf of the Institute of Human Rights and Legal Affairs and the Liberty Forum in a statement on Wednesday said that the national consensus and unity will be sustained for amicable resolving of all the economic, social and political issues and problems.

### Friday

- Morning Session**
- 8.00 Opening announcement Al Quran Programme summary
- 8.10 News in Bangla
- 8.15 New Drama series: The Chronicles of the Narnia
- 8.40 Nutan Kuri '97
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.05 Film: Macgover
- 11.15 Maner Mukure: Ayonyo
- Evening Session**
- 3.00 Opening announcement Al Quran Programme summary
- 3.15 Recitation from the Triptak
- 3.20 Alor Dishari
- 3.40 Movie at the week
- 5.20 News in Bangla
- 5.30 Sports programme
- 6.45 Educational programme
- 7.00 Sangeta: Songs programme
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Comedy series: The Cosby
- 9.00 Salarupa
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.25 Film show: LA Law
- 11.30 Khabar / The news
- 11.45 Closing

## Govt urged to broadcast programmes on Bangabandhu

Bangabandhu Parishad (BP) Thursday called upon those who believe in independence, democracy and Bengali nationalism to observe Bangabandhu's 16th death anniversary with due solemnity, reports UNB.

BP President Begum Suifa Kamal and General Secretary Dr S A Malek in a statement said telecasting and broadcasting programmes on Bangabandhu remained banned officially since his brutal killing in 1975.

The present democratic government would make exception to the tradition, they hoped and urged the authorities to broadcast programmes on Bangabandhu with historic objectivity.

## Buddha Juba Parishad hails Khaleda, Hasina

The Bangladesh Buddha Juba Parishad, Dhaka Regional Committee, congratulated Prime Minister and Leader of the House, Begum Khaleda Zia, Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina and other members of the parliament for adopting parliamentary system of government in Bangladesh, according to a press release said Thursday, reports BSS.

## Special prayer today

Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Parishad, Bangladesh Jatiyatadabi Jele Dal and Bangladesh Tafel Jati Federation will jointly hold a special prayer session today at 7 pm in front of Dayaganj Jelepara Kaljmandir in connection with the restoration of Parliamentary form of government in the country, a press release said in Dhaka Thursday.

## Body recovered

Police on Thursday recovered a body of an unidentified 10-year-old boy from the first floor of Dhanmandi New Super Market.

Reason of his death could not be ascertained. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy, police sources said.

## Steps taken to restore order in banking sector

Star Economic Report

State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman reiterated on Thursday the government is determined to restore order and discipline in the banking sector.

He was addressing a function at a city hotel to honour the officials and employees of Agrani Bank who already served 25 years in the bank.

The State Minister said that the government had taken certain decisions under the reform programme to remove anarchy and in discipline created by the past autocratic regime.

He urged the bank officials to gear up their drive to realise outstanding loans in default, without yielding to any pressure or influence from any quarter. Steps have already been taken against the defaulters, he added.

The State Minister assured the bankers that the government, unlike their past practices, would not interfere in the banking sector and would like to help this sector to regain its lost prestige.

A total of 278 officers and employees including Managing Director (MD), three General Managers (GM), 19 Deputy General Managers (DGMs), 24 Assistant General Managers

# Resolution to refix farm loan interest rejected

The Government on Thursday rejected an Opposition member's resolution for refixing the interest on agricultural loan at 7 per cent, reports UNB.

Winding an exhaustive debate on the resolution, State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman said the agricultural banks would face bankruptcy if the interest rate is reduced to 7 from 16 per cent.

Sharif Uddin Ahmed of Awami League moved the resolution while as many as 21 Opposition MPs took part in the discussion.

Rahman said the government was giving subsidy to agricultural banks while a huge amount of outstanding loan remained unpaid.

He refuted the argument that farm production will increase if the agri-credit interest decreases.

The State Minister, however, assured the House the BNP government is committed to boosting agricultural production and improving the lot of poor farmers.

He mentioned the present government had already exempted agricultural loan up to Tk 5,000 and interest on it, which involved Tk 1000 crore.

Referring to some Opposition members' alleg-

tion of corruption in disbursing agricultural loan, the State Minister said the government would take measures against corrupt officials and employees.

The BNP government is determined to root out corruption and bring back discipline in the economy crippled by nine years of misrule of the autocratic regime, he said.



A Bangladesh dancer in a dance sequence at SAARC Cultural Programme at National Press Club auditorium on Thursday. — Star photo.

## 18 animal species extinct

Country's 18 animal species have become extinct during the current century, according to a draft report of the National Conservation Strategy, reports UNB.

The report published in last July said past misuse had led to the extinction of wildlife which had a wide distribution in the forests, fresh water and mangrove swamps.

The extinct species include rhinoceros, wild buffalo, Indian bison (gaur), swamp and hog deer, wolf, blue bull, hispid hare, black and pink headed duck, peafowl and Bengal florican.

At present there are about 119 species of mammalia wildlife, 572 including 199 migratory species of birds, 124 species of reptiles and only 19 species of amphibian wildlife in the country, the report said.

## 'Dainik Bangla was an Awami leaflet'

Leaders of the three federations of journalists, press workers and employments and DUJ Thursday termed "simply illogical" the plea of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and BSP for changing of trust newspapers, reports UNB.

"We're really surprised to note self-contradiction of Sheikh Hasina, a strong critic of denationalisation, suggesting sales of a trust newspaper," said a statement issued by the leaders.

They reacted to Hasina's remarks against the Dainik Bangla for publishing a report quoting her which the Leader of the Opposition and Awami League chief termed baseless.

The news in question was creeded by BSS and some newspapers including Dainik Bangla carried it. So, vituperation against Dainik Bangla alone or to suggest sale of the newspaper to private owners was "unwarranted and unexpected", the leaders said.

The Leader of the Opposition who vented her anguish over the news didn't comment further when BSS stood by its report, they said.

Giving background of trust ownership, the leaders said "union at that time demanded formation of trust on the basis of social ownership concept, only to save Dainik Bangla from becoming a government leaflet during Awami League regime."

The union leaders also alleged in the statement that BSP, after failing to succeed in

all sorts of conspiracy against the Wage Board award, now had resorted to abortive design to create confusion about trust newspapers — Dainik Bangla and Bangladesh Times.

Calling BSP as an "organisation of a particular newspaper owners," the leaders called for solving problems in their own newspapers instead of thinking about Dainik Bangla and Bangladesh Times.

They hoped BSP would immediately find ways of solving problems in Dainik Ittefaq, Khabar and Desh and asked if BSP would support or condemn terrorism let loose against journalists-workers in various newspapers.

BFUJ President Reazuddin Ahmed, Secretary General Amanullah Kabir, DUJ President Zahurul Haq and General Secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi, Press Workers Federation President Mosharraf Hossain, Secretary General Bazlur Rahman Milon and Employees' Federation President Jahangir Kabir and Secretary General Mir Muzzammel Hossain jointly issued the statement.

## More SAARC cooperation in culture urged

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman Thursday stressed the need for greater understanding among the SAARC countries in the cultural and other fields to make the SAARC countries in the cultural and other fields to make the SAARC more meaningful, reports BSS.

"A greater interaction in different areas like cultural arena will bring the people of the vast SAARC region still closer to each other," he said while speaking as the chief guest at a SAARC cultural function at the National Press Club auditorium here. Organised by "anandhara" a cultural organisation, the occasion was also addressed as special guests by State Minister for Land Jamiruddin Sircar, Chairman of BSS News Agency Dr. Ashraf Siddiqui and Sri Lankan High Commissioner in Bangladesh Alfred David.

Dr. Ashraf Siddiqui said culture was a strong link to bring people of different countries together and more so for a region like South Asia where people are bound by common heritage.

The cultural function was sponsored by Uttara Motors.

## 'Reversion made without mandate of people'

By Staff Correspondent. Freedom Party reacted negatively on the passage of the Constitution Amendment Bills saying the amendments were made without specific mandate of the people.

Those who rejoiced in the parliament after the passage of the bill and also the people of the country would experience a bitter taste of this reversion after some days, a statement of the party said.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Noor-E-Alam Ziku and General Secretary Humayan Kabir Hiru in a statement reacted said the passage of the bills will neither bring any change for the people and nor any benefits for the professionals and worker.

## WANTED

Applications are invited from journalists for appointment in a News Agency in different grades of Fourth Newspaper Employees Wage Board Award. Candidates should apply to the "Chief of the Agency" with bio-data stating date of birth, educational qualification, professional background, number of years and experience in journalism if any, extra-academic qualifications and other relevant facts. Applications should reach The Daily Star Box No: D-77, by August 16, 1991.

# 'Make Constitution more democratic'

By Staff Correspondent

More political parties and organisations on Thursday hailed the passage of the 11th and 12th Constitution Amendment Bills in parliament.

**United Communist League**  
The General Secretary of the United Communist League of Bangladesh Bimal Biswas in a statement on Thursday said the aim of anti-autocratic movement was partly fulfilled through the passage of the 11th and 12th Amendment bills. He, however, said movement should be continued for making the Constitution more democratic.

**Gana-azadi League**  
The President of Bangladesh Gana-azadi League, Alhaj Abdus Samad congratulated the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and other members of the parliament for switching over to the parliamentary form of government. He also appealed for repealing all black laws.

**Ganatantrik Biplabi Jote**  
The central Co-ordination Committee of Ganatantrik Biplabi Jote in a statement on Thursday demanded immediate repeal of the undemocratic amendments, clauses and sub-clauses of the Constitution. It said the democratic rights of the people could not be established by only changing the form of the government.

**JUTA**  
In a separate statement Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association also welcomed the passage of the bills and hoped it would exist as an historic precedence in parliamentary democracy.

**Sammilito Peshajibi Sangram Parishad** leaders, Abdul Mannan and Advocate Ibrahim Hussain, also hailed switching over to parliamentary form of government.

General Secretary of Pragatishil Ganatantrik Shakti (Pragosh) Wahiduzzaman termed the passage of the bills as a victory of the people, not of an individual or any party.

The chairman of NAP (Bhasani), Prof Nur Mohammad Kazi in a statement hailed the switch over to parliamentary form of government.

The President of Bangladesh Krishak Samik Mukti Andolan, Mohammad Sadek

## Release of Kader Siddiqui demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Justice K.M. Sobhan has demanded release of freedom fighter Kader Siddiqui.

He was delivering his presidential speech at a discussion organised by Kader Siddiqui release action committee Dhaka University Unit at Dhaka University Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) on Thursday.

He demanded retrial of Siddiqui in a civil court. Justice Debesh Bhattacharya in his speech urged the government to remove technical obstacles to release Siddiqui considering his contribution in the War of Liberation.

Dr. Ashraf Siddiqui said it would be ungrateful if a freedom fighter like Kader Siddiqui was not released commencing the sentence awarded him by a martial law court.

Eminent journalist Shantosh Gupta said the practice of democracy could not be proper keeping Kader Siddiqui behind the bars. He said it was Kader Siddiqui who protested the killing of Bangabandhu when the politicians failed to do so.

Dr. Ranglal Sen, Dr. S.A. Malek and Habibur Rahman Siddiqui also spoke on the occasion.



State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman giving away medals to officials and employees of Agrani Bank who already served 25 years in the bank at a function in the city on Thursday. — Star photo

## Call to expel 6 RU student activists

RAJSHAHI, Aug 8: Rajshahi University unit of Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor Monday demanded, among others, expulsion of six activists of Chhatra Otkya Parishad, reports UNB.

JCD in a rejoinder issued today said they had demanded expulsion of Babul Khan, Ayub Ali, Md Mohsin, Karim Siddik, Subrata and Shaiful Islam for "involvement in campus violence".

Contradicting a UNB report they said these activists were not expelled by the university authorities.

The JCD also reiterated its demand for immediate reopening of the university.

## Chehlum

The chehlum of late Monira Begum, wife of late AFM Mahmud, Magistrate and mother of Mr. ABM Omar, Businessman, Mr. AHM Mohiuddin, Retd. Additional Superintendent of Police and Mr. AMM Morshed, ex-Solicitor, at present Advocate, Supreme Court will be held after Maghrib prayer at her residence at 38, Nandalal Dutta Lane (Luxmi Bazar) Dhaka, says a press release.

Relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend the Chehlum and kindly pray for the departed soul.

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Sealed quotations are hereby invited by the undersigned for sale of pledged goods of M/s. Shamceem Tannery (Pvt) Ltd., 135/C Hazaribagh, Dhaka which are kept at pledged godown on "as it is where it is basis". The information about the goods can be given to the intending tenderers by contacting the undersigned during office hours by 27th August. Sealed tender should be quoted for entire goods and to be dropped in the sealed tender box kept in the branch premises of Agrani Bank, B. B. Avenue Branch, Dhaka on 28th August from 10 A.M. to 2.00 P.M. The tender box will be opened on the same day by 2.30 P.M. in presence of the tenderers who may likely to be present. Every tender must accompany earnest money equivalent to 05% of the quoted value in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order favouring Agrani Bank, B.B. Avenue Branch, Dhaka from any scheduled Bank. Successful tenderer will be required to take delivery of the entire consignment on full payment of the balance 95% at a time within seven days from the date of acceptance of the tender, failing which the earnest money will be forfeited. The earnest money of the unsuccessful tenderer (s) will be refunded in due course.

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