

Dhaka Day by Day

The Video Mania

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

Going to the endless number of pre-wedding and post wedding functions in Dhaka, not to mention the wedding itself may be more than enough to endure without the added irritation of that menace called the video camera. What has originally been made to capture precious moments to be reminisced in the future, has become a bothersome device that haunts you relentlessly for hours on end. That not blaring light and zooming camera can prove to be quite a pain making one stiff and self-conscious.

A special feature of this 'video mania' is that instead of the video camera being for the function it is the function for the video. I recently went to a 'logon', one of the more entertaining pre-wedding functions. The first thing that struck me was that the area where the ceremony stage had been so tastefully decorated was quite dark, the function having started at dusk. The reason for this, I later found out, was that the video camera's light would be enough to light the place. In any case it did not matter whether the guests could not see each other as long as the video camera saw them!

So with about a hundred guests craning their necks to see what was going on at the bridal stage, the video camera man and his lighting assistant went on 'videoing', blocking everyone's view and making the poor bride a make-up melt because of the scorching heat from the light!

Another curious idiosyncrasy the video camera men has acquired over the years is to film people when they are eating. Just as one's overfilled plate of biryani, the glare of the light is upon one and one's moment of gluttony is captured in the video camera before one can wipe off the remnants of 'pulao' from one's face! Of course such 'candid camera' tactics have become quite limited nowadays since people are more cautious when the video camera approaches the fable. The result is a line

of people staring expressionlessly with untouched food in front of them!

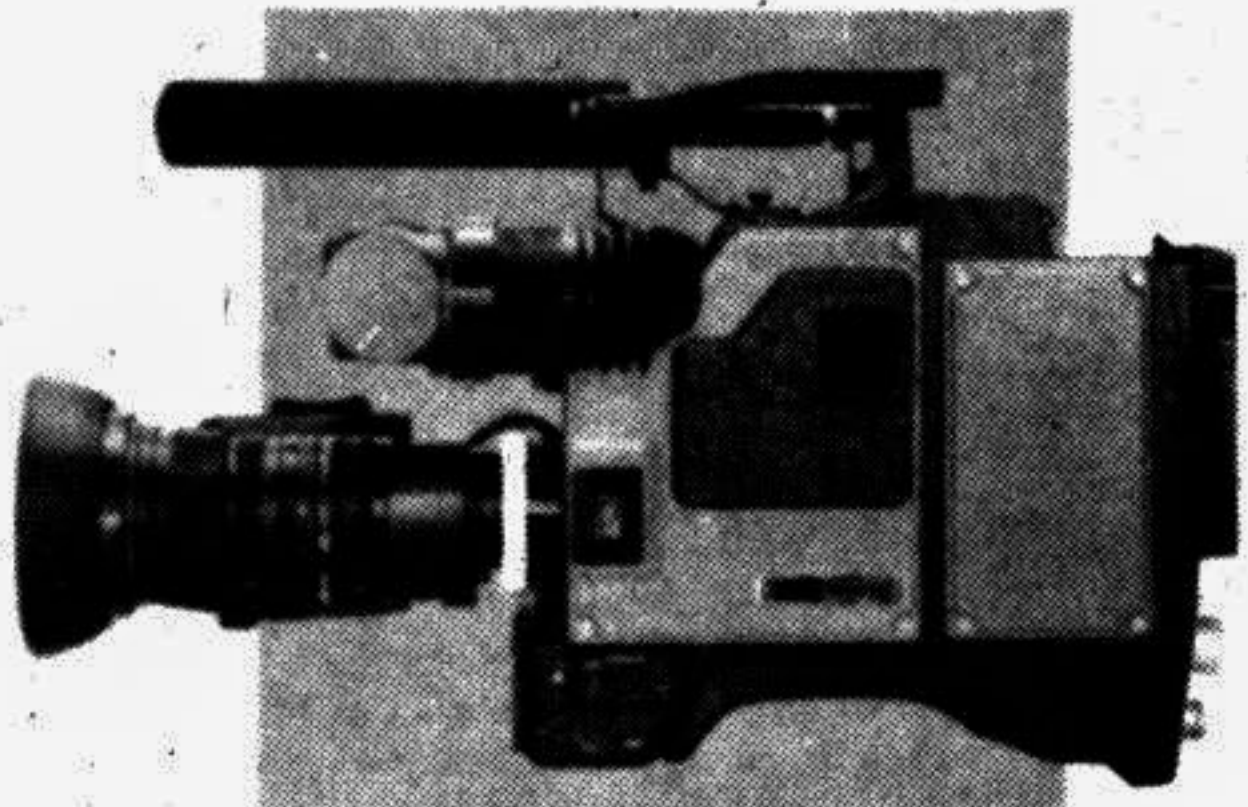
The additional delays to the already 'over-prolonged' festivity the video camera causes is another phenomenon one might think of. Instead of waiting for the groom and his entourage or 'borjatr' to arrive use have to wait patiently for the video camera to be fixed or the fused camera light bulb to be replaced! During this 'gestation' period while we wait for the rebirth of the camera, everything has to be frozen and the process of waiting for something to happen becomes a far off dream. Consequently the occasion loses its edge and anticipation turns into ennui.

But perhaps the most trying part is when the video has been done, the functions ended and it's a time to remember. The father or

mother of the bride or groom will, though unintentionally be quite oppressive or should we say obsessive, insisting that you watch the video of the engagement, 'lagoons' wedding, reception etc with him or her. The scope for using the fast-forward button therefore, becomes very limited. You just have

to watch everything. This means apart from reliving those embarrassing moments when you were gorging yourself at the dinner table, or tried to look your best but did not notice that the fan at the back of your head had made all your hair stand up on end, it also means having to endure the detailed activities of people you don't know or want to know!

Admittedly, of course, the video camera has its advantages of being able to hold the movements and sounds of incidents that are so important and dear to us. But without proper editing and selective filming the end result is a video and function that lacks spontaneity and becomes plain boring. As for the 'videoing' of sombre occasions such as a 'kulkhan' which a shocked friend informed me of I think it is just taking this mania a bit too far!



AL termed as ally of democracy

Speakers at a rally in Dhaka Sunday expressed their indignation over the hartal call given by some quarters on December 9 at a time when a democratic process was on in the country after an end to misrule and economic disorder of the past regime, reports BSS.

They were addressing a rally at Gulshan as part of the city BNP's programmes of holding ward-wise rallies.

The speakers also expressed this displeasure over the countrywide violence and deteriorating law and order situation.

Referring to the Awami League's discussions with the Jatiya Party on upazila issue, the speakers termed 'the Awami League as an ally of autocracy.'

Presided over by Tofazzal Hossain, President of the BNP Unit of Ward Number 72, the rally was addressed, among others, by Jute Minister Hannan Shah, Salauddin Ahmed MP, Kazi Abul Basher, Matruddin, Nabi Ullah and M. Tarik Ullah.

Political parties resort to negative tactics: Minister

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 1: Minister of Environment, Forest, Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al Noman Sunday called upon the opposition political parties particularly Awami League and Jamaat-Islami to make positive contributions towards strengthening democracy and democratic institutions, reports BSS.

Any negative approach in shaping the newly-acquired democracy will frustrate the achievement of nine years of anti-autocracy movement, he said.

Speaking as the chief guest at the biennial conference of Cox's Bazar Sadar Unit of Jatiyatubadi Juba Dal at the public hall here, the minister said some political parties had resorted to negative tactics to frustrate the efforts of the BNP government to consolidate the victory of the people against autocracy.

Presided over by Convener of the Juba Dal Unit Abu Bakar Siddique, the conference was also addressed by Mr Shah

Jahan MP, Mahmudul Karim Chowdhury, Vice-Chairman of BNP Central Committee and local BNP, Juba Dal and Chhatra Dal leaders.

Noman urged the opposition political parties not to create chaos and confusion in the country taking the advantage of the democratic political atmosphere.

Noman said political terrorism could not bring any welfare to the opposition parties or the party in power. Such activities will seriously retard the economic development and increase the sufferings of the commonman, he said.

The Minister urged the opposition parties to make concerted efforts to contain terrorism in the educational institutions so that the students could devote themselves in their studies.

He said the BNP government had to face very adverse situation at the beginning. He reminded the people that BNP had always stood by them and all its programmes were aimed at total welfare of the people.

Paying tributes to Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, Noman said the government was pledge-bound to promote welfare-oriented politics in keeping with democratic traditions and norms.

Referring to the youth, the minister said the government would introduce some programmes for their employment and productive activities.

The derelict fishing grounds will be leased one to the youth organisations and cooperatives, he mentioned.

Earlier, on his way to Cox's Bazar, the Minister visited forest plantations at Baraitali, Dulahazara and Daltrchhara.

Japanese physician meets B Chowdhury

Prof Kenichi Nakamura of the Japanese Anti-Tuberculosis Association now on a visit to the country Sunday called on Prof AGM Badruddoza Chowdhury, President of the National Anti-Tuberculosis Association of Bangladesh (NATAB).

Kenichi Nakamura, who is a Professor of the Department of Hygiene and Preventive Medicine of the Showa University School of Medicine discussed with Prof Chowdhury matters of mutual interest of the two association.

Prospect of mutual cooperation and exchange of technical know-how between the two associations on the deadly disease of tuberculosis was very bright, Prof Chowdhury who is the Deputy Leader of the House in the Parliament told Prof Kenichi Nakamura.

During his stay, Prof. Kenichi Nakamura will visit some of the projects of the NATAB and hold discussions with the NATAB leaders.

Parliamentary standing body meeting Dec 7

The first meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Rules of Procedures will be held at 10 am on December 7 at the Sangsad Bhaban, reports BSS.

President of the Committee Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali will preside over the meeting. All members of the committee have been requested to attend the meet in time.

Happy birthday

2nd December '91
Happy birthday to our beloved sweet sister "PREETI"
Wish you will be a good doctor when you grow up.
With all love—
Prima, Anika Mahathir, Precya, Ahnaf and Progyya

What's on today...

Discussion on mass upsurge

A discussion meeting on the role of the journalists during the mass upsurge of 1990 will be held today (Monday) at 3 pm at the National Press Club.

The meeting jointly organised by the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) and the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) will be attended by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia as the Chief guest.

Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar, GRD Minister, Abdus Samad Azad, Deputy Leader of Opposition in Parliament, Matruddin, Nabi Ullah and M. Tarik Ullah will address the meeting.

Seminar on contraceptive

University Research Corporation, Bangladesh will hold a day-long seminar to share the results of a study on feasibility and impact of pricing scheme for condoms and oral pills' today (Monday) at 11 am.

Health and Family Welfare Secretary M Mokammel Haq will attend the function as the chief guest while Director Population and Health office of US Aid William R. Goldman as the special guest.

Dr Barkat-e-Khuda, Professor, Economics Department, Dhaka University will present the key-note paper at the seminar chaired by former Adviser to the interim government Alamgir M Kabir.

Rotary Club of Dhaka north meeting

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka north will be held today (Monday) at 5:30 pm at Hotel Sonargaon. Today's programme is film show and imparting information on RI Convention-1992 at Orlando, USA.

BSEHR

The classes of the fourth phase of the inquiry training project organised by the Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) will begin today (Monday) at the FPAB building at Nayapalton.

The project was financed by the US Aid.

Milad mahfil

Byatikram Sahitya Parishad will hold a milad mahfil and discussion today (Monday) at 3 pm at 6-D/5/30, Mirpur on the occasion of the first death anniversary of its former Adviser Alhaj A H M Lutfar Rahman.

Poet Al-Mahmud will attend the function as the chief guest.

Press confce of Short Film Forum

Bangladesh Short Film Forum has convened a press conference today (Monday) at 5 pm at its office at 46, New Elephant Road to inform about the second national short film festival scheduled to begin from December 5.

Prof Abul Mansur, President of the Festival Committee, Mostafa Manwar, president of the National Council, Syed Salahuddin, Baby Islam, Mahbub Jamil, Suzzuddin Ahmed, Tanvir Mokammel and Morshedul Islam will attend the press conference.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Central

The regular weekly general meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held today (Monday) at 1:30 pm at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Jatiya Sramik Party

An emergency meeting of Jatiya Sramik Party (JSP) will be held today (Monday) at 4 pm at its central office at Kakrail. The meeting will be participated by the central leaders, presidents and secretaries of the regional committees and the leaders of national and basic unions.

Compiled by S. M.

Monday

- 5.00 Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Reading from the Gorta
- 5.30 Cartoon Film: The Yearling
- 6.00 Sports Programme
- 7.05 TV debate contest
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Dipa Chetona
- 9.00 Shurer Bhubaney
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Film show: Hot Pursuit
- 11.30 Khabar/The News

Phone subscribers asked to pay Oct bill

The telephone subscribers (analogue and digital) of Dhaka have been requested to pay their telephone bills for the month of October by December 7 next, an official release said Sunday, reports BSS.

The bills for the month which were sent to the subscribers on November 17 last will be accepted at the concerned branches of the Agrani, Rupali, UCBL, Janata and Krishi Bank.

Weather

Weather likely to remain dry

Weather is likely to remain dry across the country during the next 24 hours till 6 pm Monday, reports UNB.

Met office says night temperature may fall by 1-3 degree Celsius at places over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and 1-2 degrees over Khulna division. Night temperature may however remain nearly unchanged over Rajshahi division.

Sunday's maximum temperature in Dhaka was 26.8 degree Celsius and the minimum 13.7 degrees. Rajshahi Sunday experienced the lowest temperature 9.4 degrees, the lowest during the current winter.

Percentage of humidity was 61 in the morning and 58 in the evening.

Sun sets today (Monday) at 5:11 pm and rises on tomorrow (Tuesday) at 6:26 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns on Sunday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 am
Dhaka	26.8	14.7	61	58
Chittagong	26.7	14.7	90	55
Khulna	27.7	12.5	80	76
Rajshahi	25	9.4	72	72
Rangpur	25	10.3	78	75
Dinajpur	26.2	10.2	74	65

SAARC urged to formulate policy to curb AIDS

Deputy Leader in Parliament Prof AGM Badruddoza Chowdhury Sunday urged for creating awareness among the people to prevent the inroad of AIDS, a deadly disease, in the country, reports UNB.

There is no reason to think that we are safe... If we fail to check the entry of the disease it will spread like a wildfire', Chowdhury cautioned while speaking at a function at Osmani auditorium held in observance of the world AIDS Day.

Jointly organised by the Health Education Bureau and the National AIDS Committee (NAC), the function was also addressed by Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf, NAC Chairman Major General (Retd) MR Chowdhury, National Professor Dr. Nurul Islam, Director General Health Services Prof. MAT Siddique and WHO acting representative Dr. RS Gant.

Prof Chowdhury said prevention is the only cure to the killer disease AIDS, and called for creating social awareness against the disease.

Referring to his recent visit to France, he said the AIDS has struck with vengeance in African countries where 20 per cent of the population are found carrying its virus.

Prof Chowdhury said Bangladesh's social scenario is almost similar to that of Africa with existence of poverty, illiteracy backwardness and superstition.

Five HIV carriers in Bangladesh is only 'a tip of the iceberg,' he cautioned.

Government officials, doctors, social workers, teachers, politicians and law makers should be informed and educated about the deadliness of AIDS, he said.

There should be a mechanism to inform Bangladeshis going abroad about the disease and arrangements be made to facilitate blood test of Bangladesh nationals returning home. Prof Chowdhury suggested.

He also called upon the SAARC member countries for formulating co-ordinated policies in tackling AIDS in the region. Describing AIDS as a global scourge, the Health

Minister stressed the need for vigorous campaign to create public awareness about the possible effects of the disease.

Gen MR Chowdhury, signalling a disastrous effect of a possible large-scale incidence of the disease in the country, said 'if it (AIDS) can make effective inroads then we will die like flies.'

He called for restraint in sexual activities and said that promiscuous sex help spread the AIDS virus.

A national blood transfusion policy will be formulated soon to prevent 'professional' donors from spreading the HIV virus, the NAC chairman said.

Prof Nurul Islam observed that preventing possible entry of the disease should be a national challenge because it will affect our economy.

Application of the principles of Islam can be an effective check against the spread of the killer disease, he said.

Opening up communication channels for disseminating AIDS related information can effectively prevent the possible invasion of the disease, Prof Siddique said. 'Failure to do so will be a national catastrophe.'

PM greets Nahyan

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Sunday felicitated President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan on the occasion of the 20th anniversary and the national day of United Arab Emirates, reports BSS.

In a message to the President Sheikh Zayed, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said that she was confident that the fraternal ties between the two countries would be further strengthened and consolidated in the years ahead to the mutual benefit of the two peoples.

Begum Zia prayed for the long life, good health and happiness of the UAE President and for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of the UAE.

DESA seeks cooperation

Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) has requested the consumers to extend cooperation to the workers and officers of the authority while performing their duties, reports BSS.

The workers and officers of DESA often visit to power consumers for regular checking of electric metres, reading of metres and survey of consumers, a press release said.

The consumers have also been requested to contact the concerned division's Executive Engineers or Superintending Engineers or Deputy General Managers to convey their grievances, if any.

Steps to make T & T service oriented

The first meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Post and Telecommunication Ministry was held Sunday at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with the President of the Committee Post and Telecommunication Minister Muhammad Keramat Ali in the chair, reports BSS.

The Post and Telecommunication Minister apprised the members of the committee of the activities and functions of the T and T Ministry, T and T Board and the Postal Department in details.

The meeting decided to take necessary steps to make the post and telecommunication system a dynamic and service oriented organisation by increased supervision and proper monitoring.

The minister informed the meeting that all the district towns of the country had been brought under UWD system and the process of transmission from analog to digital system was going on. Members of the Committee-Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, State Minister for Law and Justice Barrister Aminul Hoque, Professor M M Nazmul Islam, Md Mizanur Rahman Mansu, Shah Md Rafiqul Bari Chowdhury, Salahuddin Ahmed, Md Nasir Uddin and Barkatullah (Bhulu) attended the meeting.

Post and Telecommunication Secretary M Azizul Hoque, Chairman of Bangladesh T and T Board, Director General Postal Directorate and senior government officials were also present.

PDF's call to distribute blankets

Pankaj Bhattacharya, Convener of the Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF) appealed to the government to distribute 10,000 blankets on an emergency basis for the poverty-stricken people of the greater Rangpur in view of acute cold, reports BSS.

In a statement he said the government had sent only 200 blankets for their distribution but it had been stopped due to insufficient supply.

Bhattacharya also appealed to the Red Crescent Society and NGOs to distribute winter clothes among the people of the northern districts.

Italian envoy meets Panni

The Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh, Dr Claudio Pacifico, called on Deputy Speaker, Humayun Khan Panni, at his office chamber in Sangsad Bhaban Sunday, reports BSS.