

Dhaka Day by Day

When Wedding Bells Can be a Drag

by Fayza Haq

When one is invited to a wedding in the city there is the aching worry as to what to wear, what gifts to buy, and how to reach the place of destination.

It is not the prospect of getting to the wedding alone that is annoying. All that one witnesses at the wedding reception is little more than an exhibition of acquired and inherited riches. The bride will be choked with gold jewellery, and sometimes she might even end up in a garish tiara complete with countless bangles, and ear-rings from her pierced lobes like objects from the hanging tower of Babylon. The poor bride is invariably choked with masses of jewellery. Sometimes the "sari" may be so heavy that she looks practically like some slow-moving gold-plated alligator.

While the bride is decked out her relatives are out top on a fashion parade of their own, flaunting every piece of jewellery, and imported or smuggled "sari" that they think fit. The range of cosmetic that is used also costs a small fortune.

Needless to say that the men too are suited and booted to kill even in the warmest of weathers. If the women have spent hundreds of takas at the beauty parlour, they too go out on a binge to impress the world as to how successful they are, and how imported ties and suits are something that they can snap up at a whistle.

As for the parade of little girls and boys one wonders how people can afford the yards of taffetas and silk. They might be feeling hot and uncomfortable but the pride piece of the wardrobe is there for all to see and marvel. The child may be uncomfortable but the gladrags must be flaunted at all cost.

This overwhelming extravaganza of glitter and gold is there for a purpose. Everyone is trying to outdo the other in trying to prove that he is getting along in the world. The women have their vain pusses aspects to their characters which no amount of floods or cyclones in the city can every wash away. The powder and patch will be there perhaps even if, God forbid, famine strikes the country. Some day, poverty among the masses will not remove the hundreds of Indian "saris" and jewellery brought from Pakistan or the Middle East, apart from the normal collection from the Baitul Mukarram, Chandni Chowk or even the New Market.

As you pass the lovely ladies with inches of pancake make up and eye-liner-thick enough to make the eye-lashes go like broom sticks, you smell all the imported perfumes in town and could very well be at some scene in a glorified fantasia of a Hindi film marriage rather than a wedding in third world country.

As I frequently pass the Dhanmandi lanes there are the wedding reception halls being regularly lit up like the Fourth of July in Wash-

ington or the Bastille Day. This is not necessarily picturesque or delightful. Often the choice of the colours of the light and the precious entrance gate looks bizarre with the mixture of colours. But as long as this speaks of money and power, who cares? It is meant to impress, and obviously some people must be getting some pleasure out of it for such pursuits to continue.

And who has not smelt the endless "deghs" of "biryani", "korma" and other spicy food being prepared every other day, around six pm, anticipating the gorging session by seven pm. There will be "borhani" too and "shahi tukra", plus many other fancies about which the guest will rave or criticise when they go home.

While this parade of exorbitance is on there is never an end to criticism during the wedding or after. Our people love to pass sarcastic comments about the *faux pas* of others when they themselves do not fear to tread into the same trap at some time, when their daughter or son has come of age, and needs a splendid wedding to tell the world what a marvellous

family they are, and what a splendid catch their son or daughter has made.

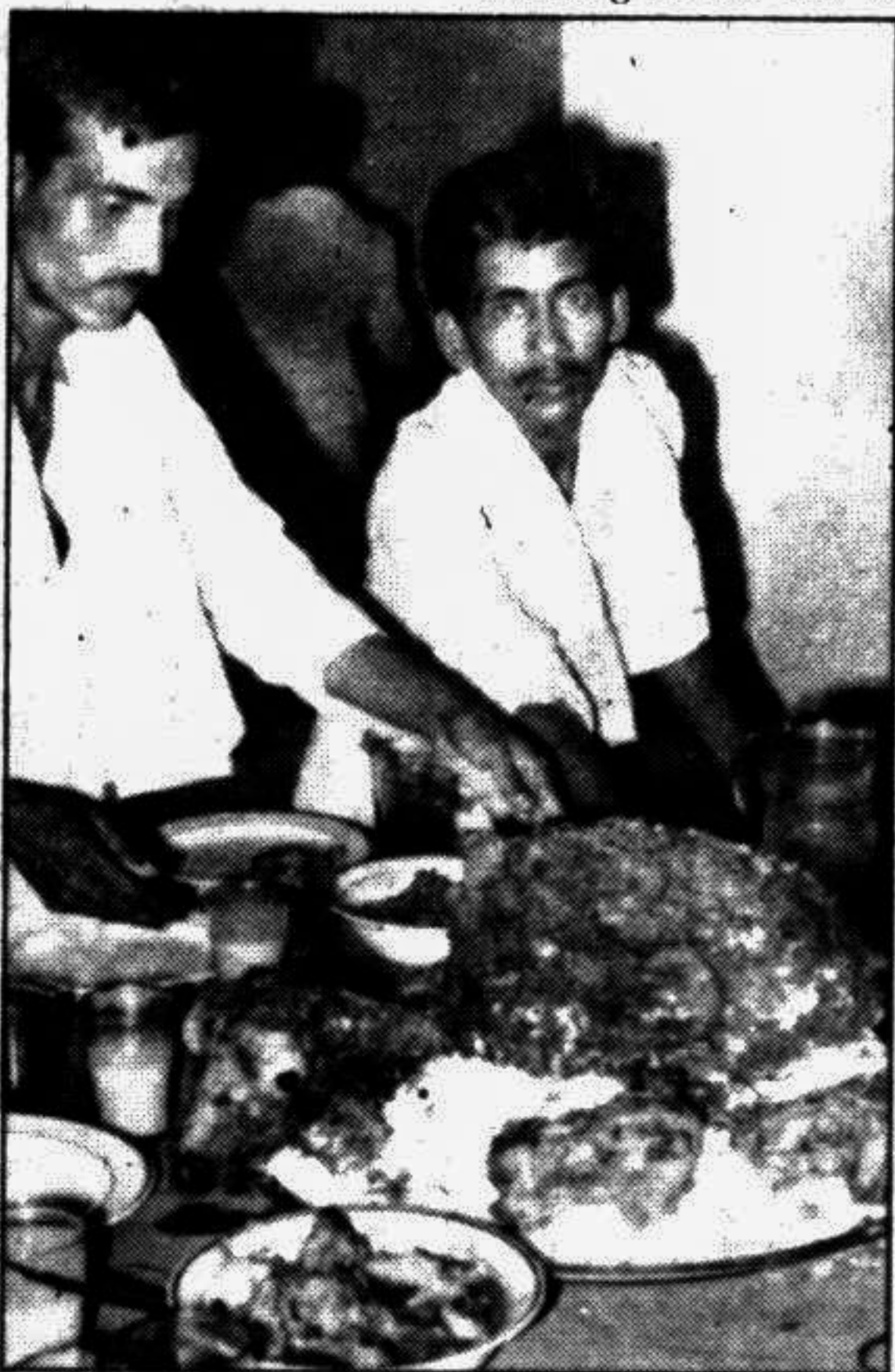
Where do people find the funds to foot the bill? Some have hoarded money over the years in banks for the occasion, while others beg and borrow to put up the facade of well-being and prosperity. This is the highlight of the existence of the parents. Look and marvel at how much we can spend, the relatives of the couple getting married appear to declare to the world.

If this is not done what will the family say, is the unusual worry of the family heads. There has to be the "shohnad" and "dholak" so to say. Yes, marriages are to be celebrated but are they done in such opulent fashion even in the west — royal families apart — even

when there is money in the family? Do not simpler, less complicated marriages ensure happiness of the couple in other countries? Will the cost of the "sari" or the eye-popping decoration of the car in which the couple drive home ensure that "they will live happily ever after"?

Of what use is the opulence when a few years after the wedding, the marriage has perhaps split up, or the husband is racing around with pretty secretaries in the office, or even if the wife has an admirer on the sly? Is all this expenditure in the marriage not a waste, facade and farce in a place, where little girls must sell jasmine flowers at traffic lights to fill the belly of hungry young brothers?

One also wonders how the restrictions on having more than 100 guests are flouted so easily on so many occasions. But with wedding displays being the vital factors in the lives of many in the city wedding gates and oversweet "firnis" will continue to glut our lives.



Directive to gear up airport security

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman Thursday directed the airport and customs authorities to further intensify security and checking measures to halt illegal activities and provide more facilities to the travelling passengers, reports BSS.

The Minister was talking to the officials at the Zia International Airport where he made a surprise visit to see the operations and activities there.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Tourism, A Mannan, Civil Aviation Secretary Lt Col (Retd) Heshamuddin and other high officials accompanied the Minister.

Saifur Rahman went round different sections of the airport including customs hall,

arrival lounge, immigration area, duty free shop, transit godowns, transit lounge, departure lounge and immigration desk.

While expressing satisfaction over the functioning of various sections, the Minister gave some on the spot directives for ensuring more facilities to the passengers.

He directed to concerned officials to construct a boarding bridge to facilitate the boarding and disembarking of passengers specially during the rainy season.

The Minister said arrangements were being made for depositing travel tax in other commercial banks in the city besides depositing at the airport for the convenience of the passengers.

Mustafiz leaves for Istanbul Aug 2 to attend ICFM

Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman leaves for Istanbul on August 2 to attend a 6-day Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) beginning August 3 in the Turkish city, reports UNB.

On way back from the 20th ICFM, the Foreign Minister is likely to pay a four-day official visit to Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), officials said, Thursday.

It will be his third bilateral visit as the Foreign Minister of the country.

He visited Moscow in the second week of the current month. Earlier, he had a trip to Japan.

Besides, Mustafiz accompanied Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia during her visit to China and to three Gulf countries — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE.

TV Friday

Morning Session

- 8.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran
- 8.10 News in Bengali
- 8.15 Drama series: The Chronicles of Naranya
- 8.40 Natun Kurt
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.05 Film: Macgyver
- 11.00 Drama series: Ayomoy
- 12.05 Closing

Evening Session

- 3.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran
- 3.12 Recitation from the Triptak
- 3.15 Movie of the week
- 5.00 First Semifinal of 10 Asia Club Cup
- 5.25 News in Bengali
- 7.05 Sangeeta: Songs, programme
- 8.00 News in Bengali
- 8.30 Comedy Series: The Cosby Show
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Film: L A Law
- 11.30 Khabar /The News
- 11.45 Closing

What's on today . . .

IBA Alumni Day

The Alumni Day 1990-91 and 6th central meeting of the IBA (Institute of Business Administration) Alumni Association will be held today (Friday) at Sonargaon Hotel in the city.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the function as chief guest while Education and Cultural Affairs Minister Prof Badruddoza Choudhury and Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof M Moniruzzaman Miah will be special guests.

The inaugural session will be followed by a business session where a seminar on "development assistance projects: importance and implementation experience in Bangladesh" will be held.

IBA Director Dr Rahim B Taluker will chair both the sessions.

The function will be followed by light refreshment and charity show (drama entitled "Bichhu" to be staged by Natya Kendra).

Members of the association have been requested to attend the function in time.

Juvenile literacy conference

A juvenile literacy conference organised by Kendrio Kachi-Kanchar Mela will be held today (Friday) at 4 pm at the children's auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum in the city.

Poet Shamsur Rahman will inaugurate the conference as chief guest while journalist Fayez Ahmed will be the special guest.

Political training class

Bangladesh Jani Parishad will hold a political training class today (Friday) at its central office at 115, New Circular Road in the city.

The class will begin from 9 am and continue up to 7 pm. Parishad President Alhaj Muhammad Moinal Islam will inaugurate the class.

Confce on pol. organisations' role

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) will hold a conference on the role of civic and political organisations in strengthening democratic institutions today (Friday).

Justice Muhammad Abdur Rouf, Chief Election Commissioner, will convene the conference at 5 pm.

Film show at CDL

Bangladesh Art Film Culture will hold a show of a US film "West Side Story" at the Community Development Library House No 39 (new), Road No 144 (New), Dhanmondi (near Shankar Bus Stand) today (Friday) at 6.30 pm.

Jointly directed by Robbert Wise and Jerome Robbins, the film show will be followed by the first general meeting of the organisation at 5 pm.

Zakul Haq, convenor of the association has requested all the members to attend the function.

Bikrampur Moitri Sangha

Bikrampur Moitri Sangha will hold its 10th founding anniversary and annual Eid reunion today (Friday) at 331, West Rampura in the city.

Education Minister Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, the State Minister for Posts and Telecommunications, M Shamsul Islam and the State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka, are expected to attend the function.

Film show at Alliance Francaise

Show of "Garde a Vue", a French-language film with English subtitle will be held today (Friday) at 6 pm at the Alliance Francaise (26, Mirpur Road, corner of Road No 3 Dhanmondi) in the city.

Film summary: In a small town where everyone is preparing to celebrate the new year, two girls are found raped and murdered. A notary who found the bodies is summoned to the police station by the inspector, who keeps him under watch. The tension and drama are excellently interpreted by the most talented actors. (starring Lino Ventura, Romy Schneider). Ticket is Taka 15.

Islamic Law conference

An Islamic Law conferences will be held today (Friday) after Jumma prayers at Lalbagh Shayesta Khan Welfare Centre in the city.

The ulema conference committee and Jamaatul Ansar Bangladesh have jointly arranged the conference.

The senior and noted ulemas and others are expected to attend the conference.

Jamaat ameers' conference

The two-day conference of district ameers of Jamaat-e-Islami begins today (Friday) in the city.

Districts ameers have been requested to attend the conference in time.

Friendship Assoc meet

The general meeting of Bangladesh-America Friendship Social Welfare Association will be held today (Friday) at 4.30 pm at Maitbagh Bipani Bitan (first floor) in the city. Members have been requested to attend the meeting.

Rotaract Club meeting

The regular general meeting of the Rotaract Club of Dhaka, Burtiganga will be held today (Friday) at 10.30 am at the Teachers' Training College, Mirpur road, in the city.

Later at 11.30 am, the regular board meeting of the club will also be held.

. . . and tomorrow

Workshop on higher edn policy

A six-day workshop on improving the skills of policy makers, officials and senior teachers engaged in the higher education will begin in the city tomorrow (Saturday). Education Minister Prof Badruddoza Choudhury will open the workshop at the Planning Commission's NEC auditorium at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city.

Member of the University Grants Commission Prof Mohammad Ali and ANM Yusuf of UNESCO National Commission in Bangladesh will deliver the address of welcome. UGC Chairman Prof Shamsul Huq will preside over the workshop.

Policy-makers, Vice-Chancellors and senior teachers of all the universities of the country will participate in the workshop. The workshop will recommend for improvement of the standard of higher education, increase professional skills and policy-making in this regard.

JCD anti-terrorism rally

The pro-BNP Jattiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) will hold a students' gathering at the Dhaka University tomorrow (Saturday) against the on-going terrorist activities on the campus.

Central JCD leaders will address the rally to be held at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla at 10 am.

Seminar on export promotion fund

A one-day seminar on "export promotion fund" will be held tomorrow (Saturday) at Hotel Sundarban in the city. Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman will inaugurate the seminar as chief guest at 9 am.

The function will also be attended, among others, by Bangladesh Bank Governor, Director of the World Bank, Local Head of the US Aid, representatives of different local commercial banks and export agencies.

Compiled by RA



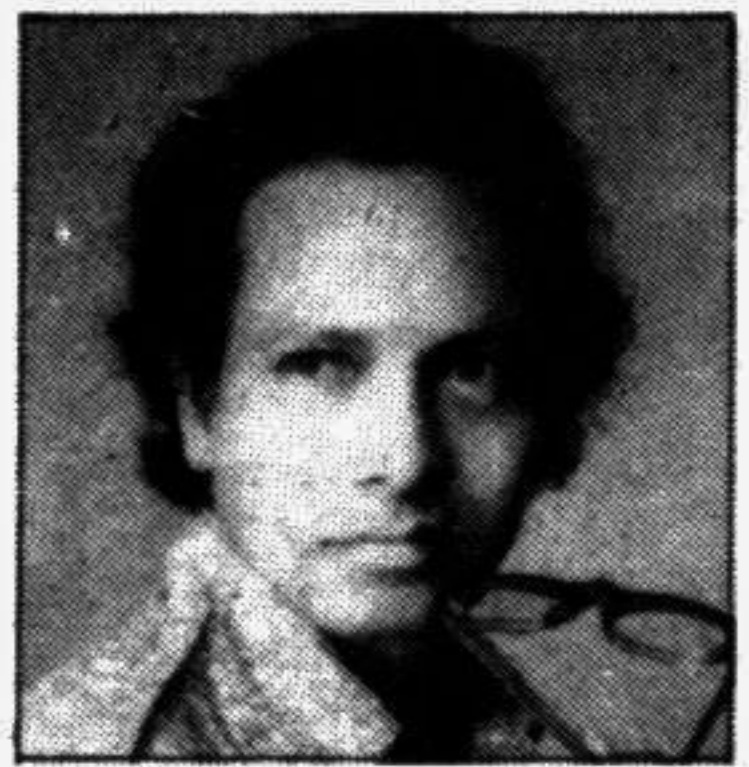
Bangladesh Rubber Industries Owners' Association brought out a truck procession in the city Thursday demanding withdrawal of VAT imposed on rubber industries. — Star photo

Red Crescent lottery

The lottery draw of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society will be held at 9 am today at the Nursing School Auditorium of the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital in the city, reports BSS.

A three-member panel of judges comprising Vice-Chancellor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Prof M Shajahan, President of Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association, Dr Rafiqur Rahman and Director of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Dr Joardar Abul-Kasem, will conduct the draw.

The Chairman of the BDRCS Major General (ret'd) AFM Abdul Haq and members of the Managing Board will attend the function.



Nizami's solo painting show extended

The painting and ceramics exhibition titled "Sun and wheel: Fifth Solo Exhibition" of Shamsul Islam Nizami being held since July 14 at La Galerie, 54 Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka has been extended upto August 5. The exhibition will remain open daily from 9 am to 8, says a Press release.

From August 17-31, La Galerie presents "Love Versus Politics" a photographic exhibition by renowned photographer Anwar Hossain at La Galerie.

Ultimatum to lift VAT from rubber industries

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Rubber Shilpa Malik Samity on Thursday warned the government saying if the government fails to withdraw the Value Added Tax (VAT) from the rubber industries within a month from July 25 to August 25, the Samity will chalk out elaborate programmes aiming at greater movement.

The Rubber Malik Samity held a protest rally Thursday in front of Jatiya Press Club. The rally was a part of continuous programmes of Rubber Industries Owners Association protesting the VAT imposed on rubber industries.

The samity said the VAT was imposed while most of the rubber industries were on the brink of closure on account of difficulties faced by the industries.

It also pointed out that the newly imposed VAT system would cause price-like of rubber goods including sandal, spare parts, rubber tube and tyre etc.

Convenor of the Samity Kamal Uddin Ahmed who presided over the rally said poor people of the country like rickshawpullers being solely dependent on the products of such small industries will immensely be affected by the new system of VAT.

JUCSU office bearers sworn in

JU Correspondent

The newly elected office-bearers of JUCSU (Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union) took oath, at a simple ceremony at the Administration Building of the University Thursday.

JUCSU President and the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kazi Saleh Ahmed conducted the oath taking ceremony.

TO LET

3 BED ROOMED INDEPENDENT HOUSE AT BANANI, ROAD-22, HOUSE-17 PHONES: 313071, 315982, 401669 S-37

TO LET IN DHANMONDI R/A.

House No. 6 (New), 388 (Old), Road No. 14 (New), 29 (Old), 3 storied building. Each floor independent with 3 beds, attached baths, dressing, spacious living, dining rooms, pantry, kitchen. Servant quarters and garage. Allthrough occupancy by foreigners. Please Contact Telephone 316765. S-36

Weather

Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Light or moderate rain or shower with temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong and Khulna divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions during the next 24 hours commencing 6 pm on Thursday, reports Meteorological Department.

The day temperature till Friday may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Sylhet experienced the highest temperature of 35.1 degree Celsius while Chittagong the lowest 24.6 degrees on Thursday.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five days: Rainfall activities may increase.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 6.45 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 5.25 am.

Meanwhile, Majdicourt recorded 7 mm, Khulna 2 mm and Comilla 1 mm shower during the last 24 hours till 6 pm Thursday.

The temperature and humidity in some cities and towns of the country on Thursday were:

Cities/towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in per centage	
	Maximum	Minimum	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	33.6	26.9	76	66
Chittagong	32	24.6	75	75
Khulna	34.4	27	79	75
Rajshahi	34.2	25.4	72	69
Berisal	32.8	26.6	75	79
Jessore	34.4	26.6	NA	NA
Bogra	34.3	27	78	78
Sylhet	35.5	24.9	71	73
Srimangal	34.5	25.9	79	70
Feni	33.1	25.4	69	74