

## Dhaka Day by Day

### Easy on the Grease Heavy on the Fun!

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

So with a huge sigh of relief and an equally huge hah in the pocket, we bid farewell to the season for long drawn out nuptial functions. There are of course a few isolated incidents of marriage here and there but over all, the worst is over. Nevertheless, one can not help but recall the trauma of trying not to wear something worn on fifty other occasions and squeezing just one more wedding present in the over-exhausted budget. This, together with the endless hours spent in total boredom watching the zombie-like bride dressed to kill or rather to be killed with all that armour, one begins to wonder at the logic of such ordeals! The whole process, starting with the 'engagement' which we used to call the 'panchini' back in the same old days, to the reception, has become a rather tacky way to keep up with the Jones's or just to tell the world 'look how much money I have to waste'. But more surprising is the fact that while an obscene amount of money is spent providing people with a cholesterol feast and the lucky bride's trousseau, no effort is made to make the occasion a memorable experience. The word 'fun' seems to be as alien as the word 'taste full' in these functions, making them quite meaningless.

One of the things that people often complain about is the lack of warmth and personal attention at these functions. In earlier times used to be not only taken for granted, but the main point of attending in the first place. Many times upon arrival, the guest goes straight to the dining table to eat his/her share of the calorie galore, cursorily washes the hands and then goes on his/her sweet way home without even seeing the host/hostess, bride or bridegroom! The reason for this is neither the guest's inordinate craving for biryani nor an inherent rudeness on the part of the host. It is because of the simple fact that there are far too many people crammed together in too little space. The host and hostess are so preoccupied trying to make sure that there is enough grub for everyone that they just don't have the opportunity to look anyone in the eye,

let alone talk to him or her! My question is — is it really necessary to invite the entire town? Would it be so offensive if just once the boss's mother-in-law's brother's wife is not included in these uplifting festivities?

Coming back to the victims, it is curious to note that while the rate of heart disease is one the rise, the amount of pure ghee in the food items served is also on the rise. This kind of perverse causal relationship is surely an indication of — what shall I say — pure madness? It is now biryani at the engagement, biryani at the 'haldi', biryani at the wedding and yes, biryani at the reception! I know of many people for whom such food is nothing short of poison. The option for them is either to refrain from eating

at all or face consequences that may even be fatal. Surely a tradition that causes such severe health problems is best left in our history books to be remembered with fondness and nostalgia.

Taking about tradition I am curious to know what is so traditional about sitting from 3 to 4 hours just staring at the blank expressions of the guests and realising that you probably look as lack-luster as they do? For that is all one can do at these duets. Why not cut down on the glitter and ghee and provide some live entertainment like having a band to sing? As for making the lady who is about to tie the knot

wait for hours and hours with all that gold and brocade weighing her down — this can be only termed as sadism. In many cases she is frowned upon if she even dares to talk or smile. Is getting married so awful that one is supposed to look as miserable and surfaced as possible? Strange traditions we have I must say!

One therefore welcomes with great relief, the close of this hectic period. For most working people coming back from the office and then getting dressed everyday, stretches our tolerance or fatigue level to very taut limits and does little to improve our looks! But if you still insist on having 14 separate functions for your darling boy or girl getting hooked, make them just a little bit of fun and go a little easy on the grease!

## Joint Declaration yet to be materialised: Ishtiaq

By Staff Correspondent

The basic characteristics of country's 1972 Constitution must be restored to ensure independence of the judiciary, freedom of the press and the people's fundamental rights, according to eminent lawyers.

Addressing a seminar in the city Friday, the lawyers observed that the '72 Constitution had lost its basic structure following incorporation of certain elements of Martial Law as well as black laws.

Organised by the Democratic Lawyers' Association of Bangladesh at the National Museum auditorium, the seminar was addressed by lawyers Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Debesh Chandra Bhattacharya, Shamsul Haq Chowdhury, Mainul Hossain, A K Badrul Huq and journalist Rezaul Karim.

Association President Shafiq Ahmed was in the chair. Mohammad Mohsen Rashid presented the key-note paper of the seminar titled 'Independence of Judiciary and Role of Press in Democracy' on behalf of the organisers.

Speaking on the occasion Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed said that the autocratic rulers destroyed all the three elements of

democracy: independence of judiciary, freedom of press and sovereignty of the parliament. The hard-earned democracy cannot be meaningful without these elements, he observed.

In this regard, Ishtiaq Ahmed criticised the government for not yet materialising fully the joint declaration of three major political alliances. The present government should fulfil its commitments made in the joint declaration to consolidate democracy, he said.

Calling upon the journalists to be objective in reporting, Ishtiaq said the press can play the role of interpreter between the government and the people in a democratic society.

Despite the existing freedom of the press, he said some undue actions like central distribution of advertisements were still hindering the development of an absolute free press.

Speaking on Independence of Judiciary, Ishtiaq called upon the government to pass the Private Members' Bill in the parliament seeking separation of the judiciary from the executive organs. Otherwise, the judiciary would

not be freed from the influence of the administration, he pointed out.

Shamsul Haq Chowdhury in his address said that the Constitution of 1972 was pushed backward through repeated amendments to it. 'The present character of the Constitution does not reflect the supremacy of the people', he added.

The 12th Amendment to the Constitution ought to be aimed at freeing the Constitution from all undemocratic characteristics, he opined.

Referring to the Independence of Judiciary, Chowdhury said it was needed not to subvert the interest of the jurists but for the sake of justice to people.

Debesh Bhattacharya said that the '72 Constitution had lost three out of four basic state principles. According to him, the people's representatives in the parliament should take steps for restoration of the basic characteristics of the Constitution and rid it of 'distortion' to consolidate democracy.

Mainul Hossain said that democracy was incomplete without free press and independent judiciary.

### Seven-member team off to Kuwait

A seven-member delegation left Dhaka for Kuwait Friday to attend a four-day International Islamic Seminar scheduled to begin there today, reports UNB.

The delegation members are: Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, Dr. Mohammad Abdul Bari, Maulana AKM Yusuf, Advocate Humayun Kabir Chowdhury, Advocate Sk Abdul Hye, Maulana Mohiuddin Khan and Maulana Asadullah Ghalib.

### Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of 'Amar Jiban Amar Abhigta' by renowned author and poet Moniruddin Yusuf will be held today Saturday on the occasion of his 73rd birth anniversary at Bangladesh National Museum Children's Auditorium at 5.00 pm, reports BSS.

Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Dr A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury will be the chief guest and Dr. Mahmood Shah Qureshi will be the special guest. Dr. Mofiz Chowdhury will preside. Dr. Waqil Ahmed, Prof. Jatin Sarker, Al-Mujahidi and Abdul Hye Sikder, among other, will participate in the discussion.

### Two killed in mishaps

Two people were killed and two policemen injured in separate incidents in the city Friday, hospital sources said, reports UNB.

Beal (16), a tempo helper succumbed to his injuries on way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital after being injured by a thief near his residence at Dila Mohammad Colony.

He was hit by an unidentified thief who was taking away some parts of his tempo.

People on the spot immediately caught hold of the thief and beat him to death. Besides, Strajullah (30) a police constable received cocktail injuries at Syadabad Bus Terminal at about 4 pm when he attempted to stop some pickpockets.

Miscrants numbering about five blasted a cocktail after being stopped from pickpocketing. The policeman was seriously injured in the blast.

Another constable Rashed (28) of Tejgaon Thana also stabbed when he tried to stop some miscrants from snatching ornaments from a female rickshaw passenger in Mirpur at about noon.

Both the constables were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

### TV Saturday

- 5.00 Opening Announcement Al-Quran Programme summary.
- 5.10 News in Bangla.
- 5.20 Recitation from the Tripitak.
- 5.30 Sports world.
- 6.00 Drama series: Alice in Wonderland.
- 6.30 Jibon-o-Projukti.
- 7.05 Banshant: folk songs.
- 8.00 News in Bangla.
- 8.30 Probaha.
- 9.00 Ujibon.
- 10.00 News in English.
- 10.30 Drama series: Dallas.
- 11.30 Khabar/The News.
- 11.40 Sunday's programme summary.
- 11.45 Closing.

### Handicraft exhibition

A two-day handicraft exhibition under the auspices of Bangladesh Navy Family Welfare Association began Friday in the city, reports BSS.

State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Sarwari Rahman formally inaugurated the exhibition at the premises of Retired Army Officers' Club at Mahakhali.

Speaking on the occasion Rahman stressed the need for increasing women's active participation in the national economic activities.

She said this kind of exhibition will create marketing opportunity of women's handicraft and self determine the demand of the products.

The function was also addressed by the President of the Bangladesh Navy Family Welfare Association Shirin Islam.



State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Begum Sarwari Rahman visited a Stall after inauguration of the handicraft exhibition of the Bangladesh Navy Family Welfare Association at Mahakhali on Friday. Begum Shirin Islam, wife of the Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Mohaiminul Islam also seen in the picture.



A sequence of drama 'madarir Khela' staged by Dhaka Mancha at the Guide House auditorium in the city Friday.

## Call to compile comprehensive history of Liberation War

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Friday called upon historians and intellectuals to play their due role to meet the changing demands of the time, reports BSS.

"History and tradition are two basic ingredients of a nation for its identity. The longevity of a society largely depends on its stable base of its own history and culture," he said, while addressing as the chief guest the 4th biennial general meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh in the city.

Presided over by the society's President Dr Abdulla-Al-Muti Sharifuddin, the meeting was also addressed by its General Secretary Prof Sayed Anwar Hossain and Joint Secretary Dr Sharifuddin.

The President appreciated the society's relentless endeavour in research and study on man and nature of Asia including Bangladesh and hoped it would increase its activities in future.

He lauded the role of the society which had published 60 valuable books on history, art and culture, sculpture and science of Asia including Bangladesh.

President Biswas called upon the intellectuals and historians to project the real history and historical truth and

evaluate people, involved in our national history.

"In this way, we will be able to evaluate the contemporary history of our Liberation War and democratic movement," he said.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas said a comprehensive history was yet to be compiled even after 20 years of the independence. "If we fail to present the real history of independence to the future generations, it will be impossible to bear that pain," he said.

The President also called for not misleading the people by avoiding the truth out of personal jealousy or by unnecessary gossip. "Independence of motherland is always sacred

and we can make our hard earned independence meaningful only by correct evaluation of history," he said.

The President said, "I, as an elected representative assure you that all cooperations will be extended towards compilation of the history of independence of Bangladesh."

He called upon all to work sincerely under the present democratic atmosphere to make the independence meaningful.

President Biswas emphasised the need for determined role of all to make society dynamic and prospective by rising above all controversies because it was the responsibility of all to ensure a prospective future for the coming generations.

He said democracy was now sweeping the whole world and he expressed the hope that all would unitedly work to achieve prosperity by consolidating democracy imbued with the spirit of the independence.

The President said the expected development of the country and the people could not be achieved during the autocratic regime, which gave birth to frustration and erosion of values.

"Our main responsibility is now to check this erosion" he said. He called upon educationists, scientists, physicians and researchers to play their due role to check political and social unrest and restore natural balance in the country.

In this respect the President said, the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh could play its vital role.

### City BNP meeting today

An emergency meeting of the Presidents, General Secretaries and Organising Secretaries of the Thana and Ward units of city BNP will be held today (Saturday) at 4 pm at the Nawab Yusuf Market office of the city BNP, reports BSS.

According to a party press release, city BNP President Mir Shawkat Ali MP will preside over the meeting.

### What's on today . . .

#### Musical soiree

'Nibedan' will present a musical soiree titled 'Harano Soor Harano Gan' at the Guide House auditorium today (Saturday) at 6:30 pm.

Veteran and new artists will render the old songs, mainly the folk songs.

The singers selected for the function include Subir Nandi, Iflat Ara Khan, Anup Bhattacharya, Rafiqul Alam, Dalia Nawshin, Sadia Afrin Malik, Mahmud Selim, Bishwajit Roy, Nasima Shahin Fancy, Sangeeta, Farhana Akhtar, Masud Chowdhury and Parvez.

#### Rotary Club of Uttara

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Uttara will be held today (Saturday) at 6 pm at the residence of the late A M Kamal at Uttara.

The meeting will be followed by a milad mahfil.

#### Press conference of ICMAB

The national council of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh has convened a press conference today (Saturday) at 12 noon at the ICMA Bhawan at Nilkhet.

#### Lions Club of Dhaka Progoti

The regular meeting of the Lions Club of Dhaka Progoti will be held today (Saturday) at 6 pm at the Hotel Sonargaon.

#### Brahmanbaria Zila Samity

The first meeting of the newly elected executive body of the Brahmanbaria Samity, Dhaka will be held today (Saturday) at 5 pm at the Officers Club at Baily Road in the city.

### Jamaat voices support to Algerian Islamic forces

Different political parties Friday staged rallies and held public meetings to voice their support to the victory of Islamic forces in recent elections in Algeria, reports BSS.

The parties at the same time warned military interference to foil the verdict of democratic process.

Maulana Motiur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh, addressing a public meeting at Baitul Mukarram, called upon all democratic and humanist nations and forces to honour the verdict of the Algerian people. He also appealed to the government of Bangladesh to extend its support to the Algerian people's verdict.

Nizami called upon the government to take resolute stand for safeguarding the interests of Rohingya Muslims and take diplomatic initiative to draw the attention of the international community to Burmese military posture and atrocities on Rohingya Muslim. Organised by city Jamaat, the meeting was also addressed by ATM Azharul Islam, President city Jamaat, Mohammad Kamruzzaman, Joint Secretary, General of Jamaat and Abdul Kader Moliah, Publicity Secretary of the party.

### Currency recovered

CHITTAGONG, Jan 17: Bangladesh security forces recovered Bangladesh currency worth Taka 23,000 and Indian currency worth 5,000 rupees after exchange of fire between BSF and members of tribal insurgents which took place at Sajek of Marisha Upazila, Rangamati hill district, Thursday, reports BSS.

According to an official source here, the insurgents fled way leaving the currency.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sabir Ahmed Babu



Many happy returns of the day

From Aliya Hossain Mou

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### Weather

#### Night temperature may fall

Sky likely to remain partly cloudy over the some northern districts while weather mainly to prevail dry across the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today (Saturday), reports UNB.

Met office said, night temperature may fall by 1 to 2 degree Celsius over the country.

Friday's maximum temperature was recorded in Dhaka 23.4 degree Celsius and minimum 15 degree.

The lowest temperature in the country was 10 degree Celsius in Dinajpur.

Percentage of humidity was 80 per cent in the morning and 81 per cent in the evening.

The sun sets today (Saturday) at 5.35 and rises Sunday at 6.44.

সিংগার বাল্ব



উজ্জ্বল আলোর প্রতিশ্রুতি

২৫ওয়াট থেকে ২০০ ওয়াট পর্যন্ত  
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