

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Fare in Marriage Feast

by A S M Nurunnabi



In our social ethos, feast on the occasion of marriage is a pleasant practice. It varies in extent and richness depending on the financial ability and social position of the parties. The practice is two-way: one on behalf of the bride's side and the other on behalf of bridegroom's side.

Arranging a marriage feast is a perennial practice in almost all religions. Little change, however, seems to have occurred over the years in the basic fare served on the occasion of Muslim marriages. There is of course a difference in the kind of items in the villages and in urban areas. A difference is also noted in the two areas in the number of persons invited on such occasions.

In the villages, the number of invitees is normally larger, although lately for economic reasons the number is much restricted. In olden days when times were easier, the entire residents of a village without any exception were invited to a marriage feast. Of course, foods for the feast on such occasions used to be plain and simple: rice and meat. Pollau was seldom served. That trend still continues in the villages, with, however, limited number of guests.

In the cities and urban areas, there is a change in the dishes served. Here the staple items are pollau and rejala and some sweets. Those who can afford, go in for extra items, such as borhani, chicken roast, tikka with slices of cheese, etc. In place of plain pollau, some serve biriyani or kuchi biriyani, sweet curd and zarda.

The main characteristic of the feast is that it is more or less standardised which may sometimes make it monotonous. The fare in Muslim marriage feasts, by and large, follows

these traditional lines with rare instances of departure. Hindu marriage feasts, are more variegated with predominance of fish, sweets and curds, etc. The fare also follows a more lengthy course.

On some rare occasions, tea parties are thrown to entertain guests. The main reason for their infrequency is perhaps that they do not create proper atmosphere for a marriage feast. Also perhaps they carry implications of stinginess which organisers wish to avoid.

In urban areas, particularly in cities, houses of caterers have sprung up. Those along with the new phenomenon of community centres look after the entire business of organising marriage feasts, including decoration, illumination, furniture, etc.

Lately the practice of arranging marriage feasts at Chinese restaurants has got currency. The so-called Chinese food items provide a pleasant departure from the Mughlai cuisine on which the fare in Muslim marriage feasts is mainly based. Selection of suitable items for a marriage feast from a wide variety available at a Chinese restaurant brings about a wholesome change for the palate.

Though the standard dish in our marriage feasts has a stereotyped character about it, we find no diminishing popularity, by and large. The mere smell of biriyani and shahi rejala tickles our palate and makes our mouth water. That is perhaps why when we are not attending any marriage feast, we seek to satisfy our craving for it at numerous biriyani shops spread over the city. Particularly in old Dhaka people are so fond of it that almost every eatery in that part serves this item day in and day out.



Visitors at a fashion display at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## 2 businessmen robbed in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, May 13: Two businessmen were robbed at gunpoint by hijackers at Agrabad area in the city on Thursday, police said here yesterday, reports UNB.

According to police, about four armed miscreants stopped two shrimp businessmen at gunpoint when they were returning in a jeep after drawing Tk 3.30 lakh from a local bank at 11.30am.

The hijackers fled with the booties in a auto-rickshaw.

Soon after the incident, Double Mooring Thana Police conducted a raid at Mistripara area of the metropolis and nabbed two of the hijackers, Md Yusuf and Md Tayab, with a loaded LG and a big knife.

police, however, could not recover the money.



- 4.30 Opening announcement Al-Quran
- Programme summary
- 4.45 Children's programme: Moner Katha
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Puppet show
- 5.40 Tarunya
- 6.20 Programme on population: Ongikar
- 7.05 Banshari
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Maati O Mamush
- 9.00 Abhimat (Live telecast)
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Drama series: Dynasty
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing

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## Weather

### Rain with gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong division and at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the next 24 hours beginning from 6 pm Friday.

According to Met office forecast, weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country.

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged during the period.

Country's highest temperature yesterday was 36.2 degrees Celsius recorded at Kutubdia and the lowest 23.5 degree recorded at Tangal.

The sun sets today (Saturday) at 6:33 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 5:16 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns yesterday were:

| City/Town  | Temperature in Celsius |      | Humidity in percentage |
|------------|------------------------|------|------------------------|
|            | Max                    | Min  |                        |
| Dhaka      | 35.8                   | 27.5 | 81                     |
| Chittagong | 36.8                   | 27   | 74                     |
| Rajshahi   | 37.5                   | 27   | 78                     |
| Khulna     | 37.2                   | 28   | 78                     |
| Barisal    | 35.5                   | 27.2 | 80                     |

## Arms, smuggled Indian goods recovered in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, May 13: Pahartali Thana Police recovered fire arms and ammunition and smuggled Indian goods from different areas of the town in separate raids during the last 48 hours, reports UNB.

The recovered arms include one pistol, two pipe-guns and two swords.

The goods include Indian sarrees worth about Tk 1.50 Lakh, 2,200 bottles of Phensydil Syrp valued at Tk 1.50 lakh, electric goods valued Tk. 50,000 and 25 Indian locks worth about Tk. 2,000.

A case was filed with Pahartali thana but none has been arrested yet.

## Sarwari Rahman off to New York

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Sarwari Rahman left the city last night for New York to attend the steering committee meeting on women of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), reports BSS. Organised by the United Nations Commission for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the meeting will be held in New York on Tuesday.

# VACANCY

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