

Dhaka Day by Day

The Lustre of Tying Bridal Knot

By AS M Nurunnabi

As marriage is considered a landmark in one's life, it takes on multi-coloured dimensions in various attendant rituals in our society. It is, therefore, the cherished desire of most people on the threshold of that blissful stage that the ceremony is performed with all possible glitter and lustre. In pursuance of that eternal longing, as much care and preparations are taken as are possible within one's resources.

The process starts after the marriage negotiation is completed and dates fixed for the wedding and the attendant rituals. A few days before the wedding date, both the bridegroom and the bride take a special bath known as 'gaye halud' (turmeric bath).

The bride takes this bath a couple of days earlier than the bridegroom. For this ritual, various items of toiletary including betel nut and leaves are presented to the bride on a big decorated wicker tray topped with a big 'roh' fish. A yellow saree forms an essential part of this presentation. Similar ritualistic gift is also sent for the bridegroom later. In villages, the ritual takes on elaborate forms. In urban areas, however, all the ingredients required for the occasion are available in a package. In Dhaka, a large number of shops have sprung up along many thoroughfares in this line of business.

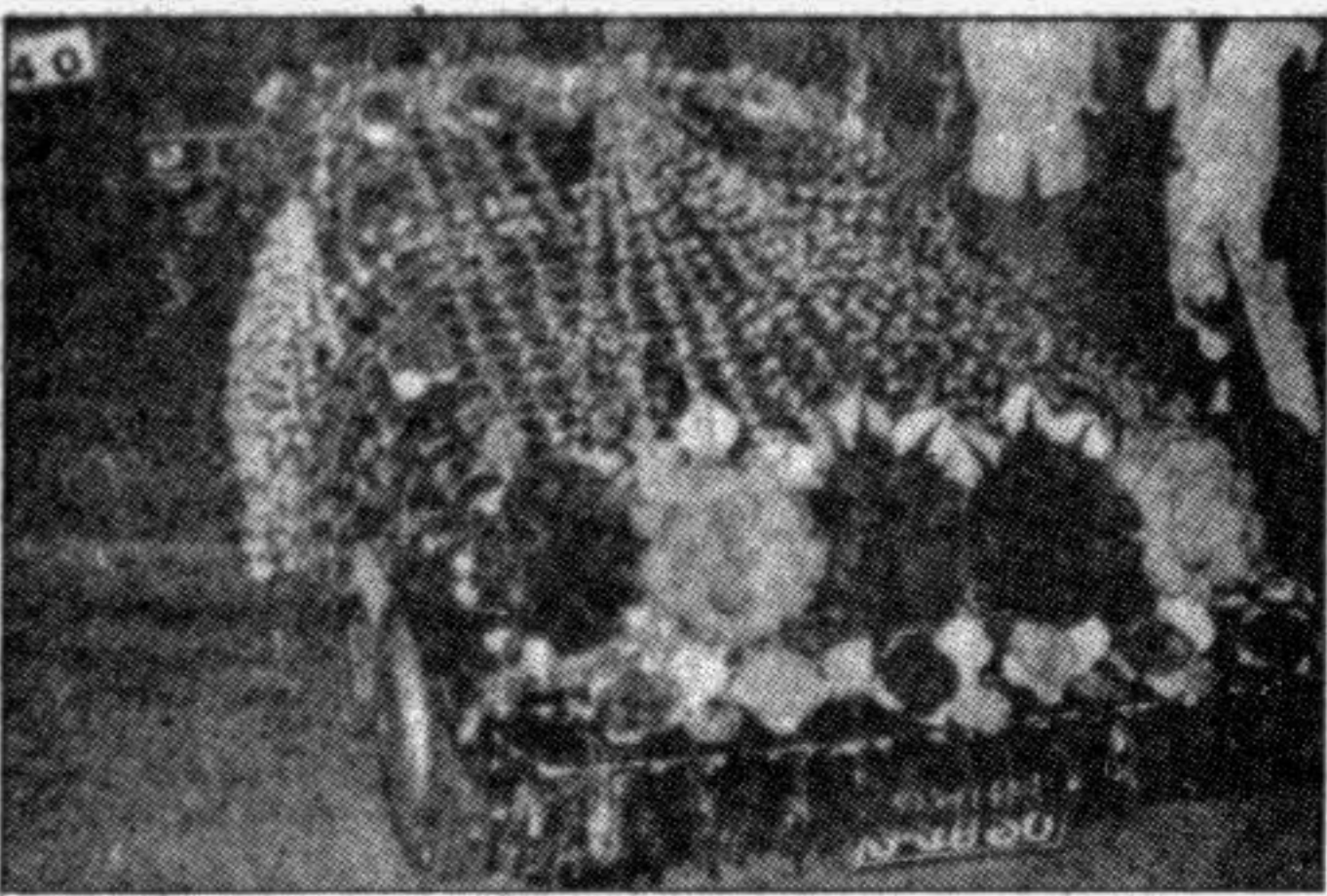
Customarily the groom puts on 'chost' pajama, shivani and his head is covered with a fine pagri (turban). The bridegroom leads the bridal party in a decorated carriage, preferably a car. In urban areas, the preference, in general, is for a convoy of motor vehicles for the bridal party. Making this arrangement may not pose any problem in many cases. For, though the groom may not have a car of his own, his friends and relatives pitch in with their own or borrowed vehicles. A lot of preparations made

for decoration of the leading vehicle that will carry the groom to the venue of the wedding. This decoration job is well handled by some shops in the city and other urban areas dealing in wedding-related materials. This decoration mainly consists of a variety of natural flowers, which are more costly or multi-coloured bunnings and paper flowers draped all over the body of the leading car.

We also find in shops, specialising in sales of wedding materials, some items of bridegroom's dress which are available on hire. Since the pagri and the shivani are rarely used nowadays after the wedding, these shops get ready customers for hiring those items. For a brief period on small payment.

If they are not squeamish enough, the alternative of hiring those items may seem attractive. This approach may not be liked in general but the financially less fortunate bridegrooms may often be compelled to take resort to this device.

When the bridal party with the front car thus decorated proceeds on its way to the venue of the wedding, often halting normal road traffic, the whole spectacle seems to acquire a dream-like dimension. At the gate of the venue of the wedding, the bridal party encounters a mock resistance to its entry. The resistance is put up by young relatives of the bride who demand 'gate money' for entry. A hard bargaining ensues between the two sides about the amount of 'gate money'. Ultimately a settlement is reached and the bridegroom amidst great hustle and bustle, proceeds to take his seat on the dais. He now becomes the centre of all attentions. This inevitably inflates the ego of the groom with the feeling that this is really a red letter day in his life. All the subsequent proceedings on this solemn occasion tend to bolster this feeling.



Flower-bedecked car



The Sammito Sangskritik Jote brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding trial of Golam Azam.

— Star photo

Zia's death anniversary observed in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, May 30: The 13th death anniversary of President Ziaur Rahman was observed with due respect in Chittagong today, reports BSS.

Different political and social organisations observed the day with various programmes, including discussions, *milad mahfil*, musical soiree and photographic exhibition.

Khaleda greets Moroccan PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has felicitated Dr Abdel Latif Filali, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Morocco, on his appointment as the Prime Minister of the kingdom, reports BSS.

In a message, Begum Zia expressed the confidence that the bilateral relations and co-operation existing between the two countries will grow further.

'Put concerted efforts to protect environment'

Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain said environment is a global matter and urged all concerned to put concerted efforts for protecting it, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing the closing session of the workshop on 'Communicating environmental risks: Environmental education as a tool for environmental disaster management' organised by the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) at the senate hall of Jahangirnagar University yesterday.

The minister underscored the need for dissemination of technical knowledge to combat the environmental risks and urged the developed states to help materialise the expectations of the developing world in matters of technical and financial assistance in this regard.

Fight against tobacco menace: Zahiruddin

Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan yesterday called on all conscious people to fight against the tobacco menace and make the environment clean and healthy for all, reports UNB.

Addressing as chief guest the national convention of Adhunik, an anti-smoking organisation, at the Engineers' Institute in the city, the minister termed tobacco business the worst form of exploitation as it exploits human health.

"Smoking is not only poison but a menace also. It reduces oxygen in blood and smokers gradually depend on it. It also affects the environment," he said, adding that the people should be aware of the advertisement gimmicks of tobacco.

President and Secretary General of Adhunik Prof Nurul Islam and Enayetullah Khan also spoke at the inaugural session.

Prof Nurul Islam urged the government to take more anti-tobacco steps, including tax increase on tobacco products, for helping the anti-tobacco campaign. In the developed countries, smoking is reducing 1.1 per cent every year, but it is increasing doubly in the developing countries.

Enayetullah Khan said tobacco business is the second Seminar on women today

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate a national seminar on 'Equality, Development and Peace for the Advancement of Women' at the International Conference Centre at 11 am today, reports UNB.

Economic reforms seminar June 2

A day-long national seminar on "Experience of Economic Reforms in South Asia" will be held on June 2 at Hotel Purani, reports UNB.

Organised by the Workers' Party, the seminar will be addressed by internationally reputed economist and former Finance Minister of the Left-front government of West Bengal Dr Ashoke Mitra, MP, Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University and eminent agriculturist Dr Rathindra Narayan Basu and noted economist of Nepal Dr Dilli Rajkhanal.

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CONTRACT POSITION

Applications are invited from men and women for the contract position of Assistant Monitor with an international development agency.

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The incumbent is expected to travel extensively in Bangladesh, including remote areas. About 15% of the working time will be in the field.

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A minimum of Master's degree in Social Sciences, Public Health, Population Studies or equivalent or a Bachelor's degree in medicine with training in primary health care.

Must be fluent (oral and written) in Bangla and English.

Ability to use micro-computer (Wordperfect, Lotus, etc.) an asset.

EXPERIENCE:

Minimum 10 years work experience in the health and population sector, preferably with experience in dealing with public sector.

Only those meeting the required experience and qualifications (including written proficiency) will be invited for interview.

SALARY RANGE:

Commensurate with work experience.

Apply with C.V., a recent personally written English essay (not to exceed five pages) and a photograph to P.O. Box No. 6031, Gulshan by June 9, 1994.

S-288

T & T officials asked to improve service

The parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication yesterday asked the T&T officials to improve the service of this service-oriented organisation and attend to subscribers' complaint promptly, reports UNB.

The 17th meeting of the committee gave the directive after discussing a report on the situation of telephone disorder and complaints in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna cities.

It also discussed the report on the dismissal of some employees of T&T and Postal Department from services for unauthorised overstay abroad after the expiry of their deputiation tenure.

Chaired by State Minister for Establishment M Aminul Hoque, the meeting advised the T&T officials to take immediate step to repair the telephone lines on receiving complaints.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain, Barkat Ullah Bhuiyan and M Azim Rahman MPs of BNP and M Nasir Uddin of Jamaat-e-Islami attended the meeting.

Post and Telecommunication Secretary Dr Shawkat Ali and other officials also were present.

Harun returns

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Harun-Al-Rashid yesterday returned home after attending the world conference on natural disaster reduction held at Yokohama in Japan from 23 to 27 May, reports BSS.

He led a 4-member Bangladesh delegation, to the conference, convened by the General Assembly of the United Nations for International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR).

What's on today . . .

Seminar: On 'Free Market Policy and its Impact on Our Economy' organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Chief guest: Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam. Special guest: President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Mahbubur Rahman. Venue: Dhaka Chamber Auditorium, 65-66, Motiheel C/A. Time: 9:30 am.

NGO Forum: Has organised a national workshop on 'Role of Partner NGOs in Social Mobilisation for Sanitation.' Venue: NGO Forum for DWSS Training Centre, Lalmatia. Time: 9:00 am.

Zahir Raihan Film Society: Will screen the film 'Nawab Sirajuddowlah' directed by Khan Ataur Rahman. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, House-510, Road-7 Dhanmondi. Time: 6:00 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka: Will hold regular weekly meeting. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Ramna: Will hold regular weekly meeting. Venue: Eskaton Ladies Club. Time: 7:30.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Temporary light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Chittagong and Barisal divisions and at one or two places over Khulna division during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports BSS.

Met office said day temperature may fall by one to two degree Celsius across the country during the period.

Country's highest temperature 37 degrees Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest 22.8 degrees at Rangpur yesterday.

The sun sets today (Tuesday) at 6:42 pm and rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 5:11 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures of some major towns recorded yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	34.0	27.0	87	69
Chittagong	33.1	27.4	90	75
Khulna	35.5	27.5	72	62
Rajshahi	37.0	28.2	70	58
Sylhet	30.6	23.0	92	71
Barisal	34.3	27.8	78	78
Dinajpur	32.6	23.8	82	82
Cox's Bazar	33.6	27.5	72	73

61 arrested

Police rounded up 61 people, including 13 wanted criminals, from different parts of the city yesterday, a DMP press release said, reports UNB.

The others arrested included three for possessing arms, one was accused under explosives law, one for robbery and eight for stealing.



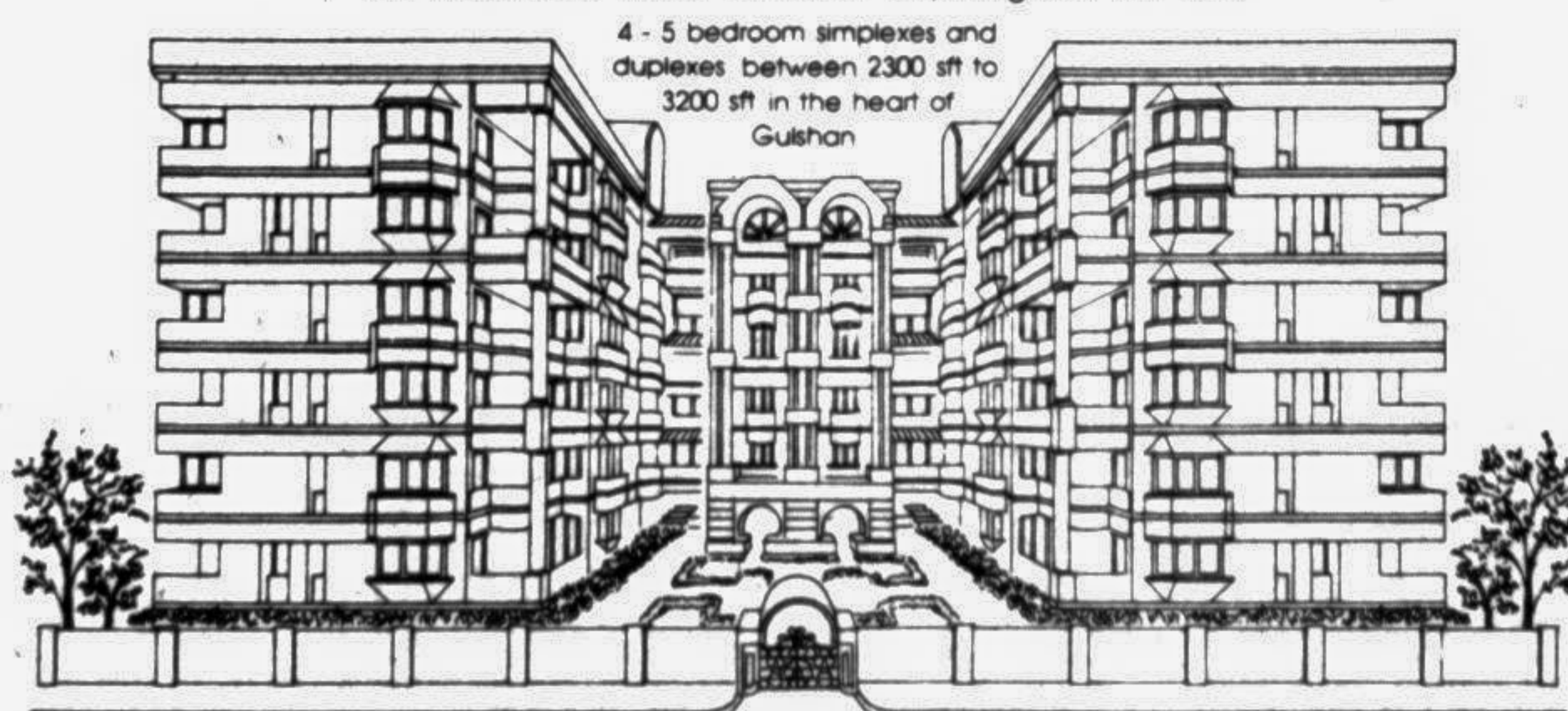
Tuesday

- 4:30 Opening announcement
- Al-Quran
- Programme summary
- Mass education programme: Esho Para Shikhi
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:30 Live telecast of DMFA Cup final
- 7:30 Programme on World No-Tobacco Day
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Fortnight drama serial: Etikatha
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Film show: Northern Exposure
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11:45 Closing

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NOTICE TO THE DEBENTURE HOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that the Debenture Register and Debenture Transfer Book of the Company will remain closed from Tuesday, the 21st June, 1994 to Thursday, the 30th June, 1994 (both days inclusive) and during this period no transfer of Debenture will be effected in order to facilitate the payment of interest on Debenture for the period from 1st January, 1994 to 30th June, 1994 as well as 9th instalment of Debentures due on 1st July, 1994.

By order of the Board

Dated 31st May, 1994



MANUFACTURER OF QUALITY MEDICINES

B. K. NATH
Company Secretary