

Dhaka Day by Day

Weddings on the Wire

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

The telephone in Bangladesh has been used by many Romeos and Julietts as the primary medium to exchange sweet or bitter nothings to each other. Sometimes these exchanges amount to marathon sessions going from two to six hours at a stretch! Since half of one's life may be spent on the phone, some people have taken it a step further and have decided to use this indispensable creation of Bell as a means to tie the knot!

Marriages conducted over the telephone is another example of what a slave man is of his own technology.

Telephonic matrimonials may sound a little strange to some, but it is possibly the most practical and easy way to get married. Usually the marriage is between two people who live thousands of miles apart. The bride may be sitting in Kalabagan while the groom, due to technical problems is in Norway. Problems of

or makeshift 'Kazi' (as in the case of the US side), pronounced the holy words of marriage, repeated by the groom, in the phone and the ultimate question was asked of the demure bride who indicated her acquiescence by whispering 'Kabul' on the other line. The entire congregation on the Maghbazar side, was included in this special moment by a loud-speaker that had been ingeniously connected to the telephone line. This, however, proved a little embarrassing when, at the request of both parents-in-law, the groom was asked to speak to the bride, on the phone of course. The poor couple had little option but to exchange pleasantries like 'How are you?' and 'how's the weather.' Later both sides had a miniature feast, the Dhaka party completing the event with *kachchi biryani*, *borhani* and *firni*.

Another marriage took place between a



young woman in Dhaka whose husband to be was stuck in Beijing, China. The two of them had gone to university together, fallen in love and managed to get scholarships to China. The only hitch to this happy love story was that the young man in question had gone to China first and the only way that the woman's parents would let her join him was if they got married. Thus the two joined their lives over the telephone and it was almost a year before they met for the first time as man and wife.

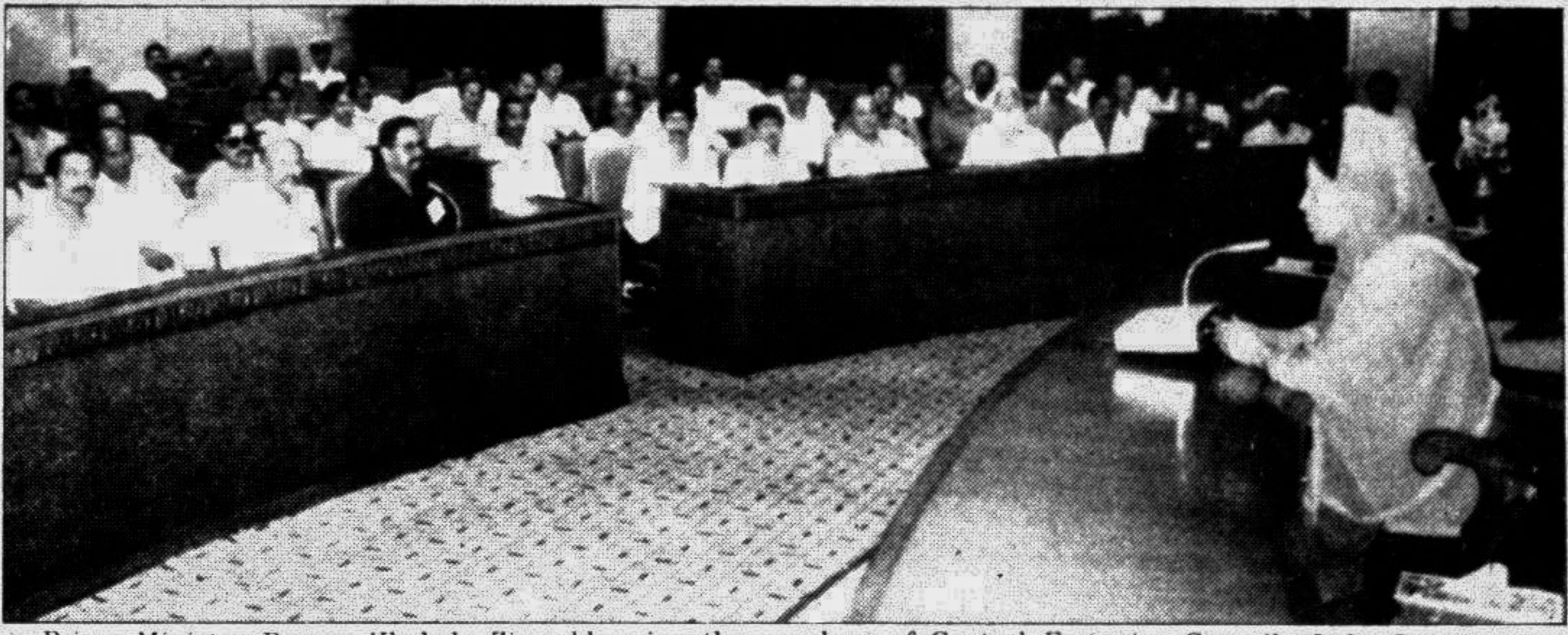
All this may sound very romantic but there are disadvantages of telephonic matrimonials. Not being able to be together after the marriage is perhaps the most difficult part for the newly weds. Often, as in the case of arranged marriages, the two people have not even seen each other except in photographs which makes this process quite scary. Apart from the cruel separation, are other minor irritations such as the confusion created by cross connections with mischievous eavesdroppers who can make havoc on the line and bad connections that can make 'Kabul' sound like 'Ujbul' (idiot).

In spite of all this, however, many people appreciate the convenience of tying the knot with so little fuss and time. Then there is always the possibility of getting cold feet at the last moment, in which case all one has to do is cut the line with a chick, something virtually impossible, face to face.

immigration, financial constraints and so on may be the reason why the two cannot promise 'until death do us part' to face.

The advantages of this unusual method of plunging into uncertainty and life-long imprisonment are many. The couple in question does not have to go through the endless tension associated with weddings — waiting for the groom's arrival, the bride's coming out on time from the beauty parlour with the necessary paint, beeline hairdo and other paraphernalia. The availability of the Kazi (since most of these marriages are amongst Muslims). The decorators going on strike, the list is endless. Although there is usually a small congregation of relatives and friends on both sides of the ocean, the festivities are nowhere near as elaborate and more importantly, as expensive, as regular weddings. Moreover, since we still do not have telephones with visual aides, there is really no reason to get all dressed up for the wedding. Imagine getting married in one of your dowdy reject night gowns!

Well of course this may be a little unrealistic. As far as Bangladeshi marriages go, the event is more for the relatives and friends of the two people rather than for themselves. Take the young lady in Dhaka who got married to her husband in the US over the telephone. While the bride sat in full wedding regalia in her Maghbazar home flanked by all her relatives who were also in costume, the groom had to wear his *sherwani*, *pagri* and *nagra*. The 'Kazi'



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the members of Central Executive Council of the Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad at the International conference centre in the city yesterday. — PID photo

Rehabilitation work of Mugdapara link road begins

Rehabilitation work of the Tk 25 lakh Kamalapur-Mugdapara link road was formally started yesterday, a DCC press release said, reports BSS.

The work is expected to be completed within a month. With the completion of the link road, the long felt needs of the people of the area will be met.

Inaugurating the rehabilitation work City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif said there is no scope of politics in the development activities of the city. He sought cooperation of the city dwellers in improving the civic amenities.

Later, he visited the Mugdapara garbage outfall.

25,000 tons jute pulp to be produced this fiscal

Bangladesh will produce about 25,000 metric tons of jute pulp worth Tk 50 crores during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Industries Minister Zahiruddin Khan said this when he presented some samples of first produced pulp and paper out of green jute plant to President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Explaining the process of manufacturing of pulp and paper out of green jute plants, the minister informed that production has been started in Karnaphuli Paper Mills, Khulna Newsprint Mills, North Bengal Paper Mills and Syihet Paper and Pulp Mills.

Green jute plants are being purchased for these four mills from 19 purchasing centres and at mill gates, Zahiruddin Khan added.

The Minister also handed over copies of the final report on manufacture of pulp and paper by using green jute plant as raw materials to the President.

Receiving some samples of pulp and an album of paper, Biswas said, 'This is a milestone and a real breakthrough in the history of the use of jute.'

Bangladesh has been trying its best to regain world markets of jute amidst tough competition of artificial fibre, the President observed.

He thanked the minister for the success and hoped that there should be similar success stories in other fields of industrial sector to cope with the competitive world market.

Secretary to President Ataul Haq, Industries Secretary Hasnat Abdul Hye, Military Secretary to the President Major General Golam Mowla were present on the occasion.

1 more transformer blast victims dies

By DMCH Correspondent

Another person who was injured in an electric transformer explosion on Monday, died in the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) Wednesday night.

The victim was identified as Raza Miah, 45. With him the death toll in the explosion rose to five.

Ashari Purnima today

The Buddhist community will celebrate the Ashari Purnima today with due religious solemnity and fervour throughout the country commemorating three memorable incidents in the life of Gautam Buddha including his renunciation of worldly life and preaching of first gospel, reports BSS.

Buddhist monks will begin their three-month long seclusion inside the monasteries today.

In Dhaka Buddhist community have taken up an elaborate programme in celebration of the day with religious solemnity and traditional festivity.

A religious congregation will be held at International Buddhist Monastery at Merul, Baddha. Kamrul Islam MP will attend the meeting as chief guest while chairman of RAJUK will be the special guest. The meeting will be presided over by principal of the Monastery Gaynasree Mahathero.

The day-long programmes include hoisting of national and religious flags at 6 am, pindadan at 7 am, Buddha puja and shilagrahan at 10 am, pindadan to the Bhikkusangha at 11 am, religious meeting at 4 pm, pradwip puja at 7 pm and special prayer for world peace.

Bangladesh Buddha Krishi Prachar Sangha has also taken up programmes in observance of the day.

The sangha will hold a religious meeting at Dharmadajik Buddhist Monastery at Kamalapur at 4 pm; President of the Sangha Shuddhananda Mahathero will preside over the meeting.

JCD reiterates demand for DUCSU polls

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal reiterated its demand yesterday for announcing overdue DUCSU election date immediately, reports UNB.

A congenial situation is prevailing on the campus... the authorities should announce date of DUCSU election without further delay," said newly elected DU unit president of JCD ABM Mosharrar Hossain at a rally on the Dhaka University campus.

It was also addressed, among others, by JCD central leader Abul Khayer Bhuiyan, DU unit General Secretary Monir Hossain Monir.

The pro-government student leaders accused the pro-Awami League Chhatra League of fanning the polls as 'Chhatra League don't want DUCSU election as it deems sure defeat.'

The last election to the Dhaka University Central Student Union and hall unions was held on June 6 in 1990. JCD swept that election. Though elections are due every year, no election has been held since then.

Date for elections were announced by the varsity authorities in 1991, but the AL-backed BCL boycotted the elections on the plea that there had not been congenial atmosphere.

And this year, DUCSU election was to be held on April 12. But the Chhatra League (ML) again boycotted the polls on the same plea.

'Accountability of doctors needed to ensure proper healthcare'

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Uddin Yusuf yesterday stressed the need for developing the accountability of the doctors and nurses to ensure proper healthcare facilities to the people, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a three-day workshop on 'National Plan of Action for Nursing Development in Bangladesh', he said construction of hospitals, buying equipment and providing medicines alone cannot ensure health facilities to all unless accountability of the health personalities is there.

Organised by the Directorate of Nursing Services in collaboration with World Health Organisation (WHO), representatives from different organisations and institutions from home and abroad are taking part in the workshop to recommend measures for the promotion of nursing service in the country.

Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mohammad Serajul Haque, Director General of Health Services Prof Mohammad Nurun Nabi, Chief of Health and Population of World Bank Dr Philip Gower, Advisor for Nursing of WHO regional office in New Delhi Dr Sally Bisick, Acting WHO Representative in Bangladesh Dr Rusdi Aluddin, WHO Nursing Adviser in Bangladesh Dr Farinaz Parsay, Director of Nursing Services Dilruba Begum and Assistant Director Begum Jahanara spoke on the occasion. Additional Secretary of Health and Family Welfare Mohammad Fazlur Rahman chaired the function.

Yusuf hoped that the present government was to 'economise' and develop the health services through ensuring the proper use of limited resources.

He said at present there are only 11,000 registered nurses in the country as against 22,000 doctors while the required number of nurses is about 60,000. "No health care system can't run without skilled nurses and therefore the government will do all possible for the promotion of the nursing profession in the country," he said.

Yusuf hoped that the workshop would recommend necessary measures for the development of nursing service including its function, accountability, structural organisation and education and service quality.

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Deserving candidates may apply within 31 July, 1994 with recent passport size photographs (2 copies) to GPO Box-210.



Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina addressing a group of people at her Minto Road residence in the city yesterday who joined the Awami League. — Star photo

Weather

Rain likely

Moderately heavy falls are likely over the regions of Barisal, Patuakhali, Noakhali, Khulna and Chittagong during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says light to moderate rain or thundershower may occur at many places over Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divisions.

Meantime, Kutubdia experienced the highest 79 mm rain during the last 12 hours till 6 pm yesterday.

Cox's Bazar had 35 mm shower, Chittagong 26, Sitakund 18, Rangamati, 14, and Majidicowar and Sathkhira 10 mm each during the period.

Day temperature is likely to fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the southern half of the country and remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country.

Country's highest temperature 33.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Bogra and the lowest 23.5 degrees at Feni yesterday.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 6:47 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 5:23 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity of some major cities/towns recorded yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
Dhaka	30.6	86
Chittagong	26.8	98
Rajshahi	32.5	85
Barisal	29.5	92
Syhet	33.0	82
Dinajpur	32.5	83

ডায়াবেটিক ভিটামিন ১২

৫ টাকার টিকিট, ১০ লক্ষ টাকা পুরস্কার

দুঃস্থ ও আর্ন্তমানবতার সেবায় এগিয়ে আসুন

ডায়াবেটিক রোগীর চিকিৎসা ও সেবার সাহায্যার্থে বাংলাদেশ ডায়াবেটিক সমিতির ৫ (পাঁচ) টাকা মূল্যের লটারী টিকিট কিনুন এক বা একাধিক মূল্যবান পুরস্কার লাভ করুন।

একম পুরস্কার ১টি ৩ লক্ষ টাকা
দ্বিতীয় পুরস্কার ১টি ২ লক্ষ টাকা
তৃতীয় পুরস্কার ১টি ১ লক্ষ টাকা
এছাড়া রয়েছে আরও ২০০টি পুরস্কার

বাংলাদেশ ডায়াবেটিক সমিতি
বিদ্যামুখা সেবায় ঘনো আশ্রণ ও নন্দা

লটারীতে অর্থ ডায়াবেটিক রোগীর সেবার জন্য নিরীহারে জন্মে

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

প্রকল্প পরিচালকের দপ্তর
বন্যা নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও সেচ প্রকল্প এলাকার এবং
অন্যান্য জলাশয়ে সমন্বিত মৎস্য উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প
মৎস্য ভবন, হরনা, ঢাকা।

তারিখ: ১৮/৭/৯৪ইং

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বন্যা নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও সেচ প্রকল্প এলাকার এবং অন্যান্য জলাশয়ে সমন্বিত মৎস্য উন্নয়ন প্রকল্পের অধীনে ১৭ (সতর) টি মটর সাইকেল (১০০ সি.সি) ক্রয়ের জন্য প্রকল্প পরিচালকের পত্ৰিকায়/এজেন্ট/প্রকল্প পরিচালকের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হইতেছে। দরপত্র আকারী ০১/৭/৯৪ইং তারিখে বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকার অবধি সর্বত্র প্রস্তুত রাখিতে হইবে এবং ঐ দিন বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকার পরপর প্রদানকারীদের লক্ষ্যে বেলা শেষ উপস্থিত থাকেন। বেলা হইবে। পূর্ণ বিকল্পের দরপত্র তফসিল নিম্নলিখিতক্রমে প্রস্তুত হইতে নদন টাকা (অনেকবেলা) প্রদান পূর্বক আকারী ০০/৭/৯৪ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সন্ধ্যা করা হইবে। দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন কোন সিডিউল বিকি করা হইবে না। ডাকঘোলে কোন সিডিউল বিকি বা দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে না। দরপত্র তফসিল ক্রয়ের জন্য নিম্নলিখিতক্রমে বরাবরে নিম্ন প্যানে আবেদন করতঃ সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করিতে হইবে।

কোন কারণে দরপত্রের ব্যতিক্রম হইলে/আংশিক দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাকি দরপত্রের ক্ষমতা কর্তৃক সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ক্রমিক নং	মালামালের বিবরণ	আবেদন হার	দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য	মালামাল সরবরাহ করার সময়
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মোঃ শফিকুল ইসলাম
প্রকল্প পরিচালক
বন্যা নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও সেচ প্রকল্প এলাকার এবং
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ডিএফপি-১৬০-১১/৭
টি-১১২