

# Dhaka Day by Day

## No to Ostentatious Weddings

by Lamis Hossain

The long-awaited season is here at last — the time for back-to-back weddings in the comfort of the cool winter months. Protracted negotiations with the parents and agonising moments of uncertainty culminate in joyous celebration much to the relief of those concerned. But to others, the wedding season heralds something more important: endless rounds of delicious free dinners.

For better or worse, many people attend these occasions purely for gastronomic reasons. After all, how often do you actually know the couple or the family very well? Sending invitations is a tricky business for the hosts. Will a cousin's best friend's mother whom you have met only three times be offended if she's not included? Just to be on the safe side, an invitation is dutifully dispatched.

There are other motives for inviting barely known acquaintances. The proud parents wish to proclaim the event to as many people as possible and display their wealth and popularity at the same time.

Of course, the family would appreciate a token of appreciation as well. Guests compete with each other to bring in large, ostentatiously wrapped presents for the newly weds, which often consist of nothing more than cheap ceramic bowls in disguise. There is not much hope of sneaking away quietly without depositing a gift — the omnipresent video team is at hand to immortalise the event.

But inviting the whole world has its side effects. At a politician's wedding a few months ago, there were so many guests that they actually had to queue up to get to a dinner table. The sweaty, crammed bazaar atmosphere did not amuse anyone — especially not the foreign diplomats present.

Even if you don't have to line up for food, you will have to do so to wash your hands. Watch helplessly as the soap passes through a dozen dirty hands before you can avail of it.

When will liquid hand soaps make their much-awaited debut at wedding receptions?

Such irritating thoughts quickly dissipate, once the delicious biryani or polao is served. After a few minutes of voracious feasting, strangers begin to dabble in polite, post-prandial chit chat. "Are you from the bride's side or the groom's?" or "Isn't the bride beautiful?" — are standard opening lines. Such harmless inquiries soon give way to full blown gossip. "Did you know the couple met a work?" If you are really lucky, you may even catch snippets of conversation on how much the groom earns or how much the wedding cost, for example.

If you choose not to converse, you can always watch others as long as the gold and glitter doesn't blind you. While there are plenty of

gorgeous women who could put you to shame, there are equally as many fashion disasters, clad in pink and green.

Not surprisingly, many of the young people are also dressed up. Girls are informed by their mothers, "You can't wear that plain outfit! Don't you know people often get marriage proposals from being seen at weddings?" Unfortunately, the segregated seating arrangements prevent any meaningful socialising.

Throughout the hustle and bustle of the wedding, the poor bride sits patiently on stage sweltering under the lights and the weight of her jewelry. Is she having any fun at all? It seems unlikely, unless she enjoys being forced sweets and posing for photos with innumerable relatives.

Wouldn't it be better to spend less money on entertaining strangers, and present the newly weds with a pair of plane tickets to a dream honeymoon destination away from the teeming masses? Or set them up in an independent apartment? It would be more fun than watching others gorge themselves at "eat and run" wedding receptions.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurating a youth rally by hoisting the national flag on the occasion of the National Youth Day at the Outer Stadium in the city yesterday. — PID photo



The Jubo Forum brought out a colourful procession in the city yesterday to mark the National Youth Day. — Star photo

### Thai envoy calls on Jahanara

Thai Ambassador to Bangladesh Sunthorn Vidhyapeth called on State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum at her office in the city yesterday, reports UNB. They discussed the matters of mutual interests, particularly to enhance cultural cooperation between the two countries.

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Reckitt & Colman Bangladesh Limited wants to recruit a few Quality Control Supervisors for its expanding production activities.

The ideal candidates should have a Bachelors/Masters degree in Science from a recognised institution. Experience is not essential. Preference will be given to the persons who are good in communication and managing people. The age of the ideal candidates should be around late twenties.

The ideal candidates should apply with a detailed Bio-Data and a recent photograph to the Managing Director, Reckitt & Colman Bangladesh Limited, G.P.O. Box 515, Chittagong 4000 within 17th November 1994.



### Weather

#### Dry weather likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Jessore, Sylhet and Kusthia during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met office says weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere across the country.

Country's highest temperature 33.0 degrees Celsius was recorded at Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Satkhira while the lowest 19.2 degrees at Srimangal.

The sun sets today at 5:19 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:06 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	6 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.8	23.0	75	72
Chittagong	33.0	21.6	77	71
Rajshahi	30.0	20.2	76	81
Khulna	32.8	23.2	94	83
Barisal	32.0	21.5	84	82

### Discussion on Youth Day

The Gano Forum chief Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday called upon the youth community to be united and work hard to build a prosperous nation, reports UNB.

Bangladesh can be turned into a prosperous nation if all work together to achieve a common national goal, Dr Kamal said while addressing a discussion at Ramna on the occasion of National Youth Day.

Citing examples of some "economic giants" like Japan, Korea and Malaysia, Dr Kamal said the youth of the country have their glorious tradition of struggle which could inspire all to achieve such a goal.

Kamal Hossain recalled the contributions of patriotic leaders, including Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in the country's Liberation War in 1971.

Some prominent artists and writers, including Andrew Kishore, Bipasha Hayat, Baby Naznin and swimmer Monira Rahman Dalia also participated in the discussion that was followed by a band show by the Feed Back.

### Chhatra Moitree council begins

By DU Correspondent

The two-day national council '94 of the Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree began at the TSC auditorium of the Dhaka University yesterday morning.

The ceremony was formally inaugurated by the president of Bangladesh Workers' Party, Anam Sen.

Rashed Khan Menon, MP, another stalwart of the Workers' Party, attended the function as chief guest.

### JS body on Ministry of Women's Affairs meets

Members of the Parliamentary standing committee on Women and Children's Affairs Ministry yesterday approved the committee's first report for submission to parliament, reports UNB.

The report contains the decisions taken by the committee members from its first meeting in December 1991 to the 28th meeting in September this year.

### Birth anniversary

By Staff Correspondent

The 108th birth anniversary of Dhirendranath Dutta, an architect of the country's language movement in 1952, will be observed today.

On the occasion, the Dhirendranath Dutta Smriti Rakhya Parishad has arranged a simple function at 3/A, 126 Moghbazar Apartment at 6 in the evening today.

Dutta, who played a pivotal role in the country's national politics, was killed by the Pakistani army during the War of Liberation in 1971.

### 6 thanas of Rajshahi to get electricity by 1999

RAJSHAHI, Nov 1: Six thanas of Rajshahi district will be brought under rural electrification network by 1999 at a cost of over Taka 76 crore 61 lakh including over Taka 44 crore 82 lakh in foreign exchange, official sources told BSS today.

The thanas to be covered are Paba, Tanore, Durgapur, Godagari, Mohanpur and some parts of Boalla of the district.

A total of 1274 village under 37 unions covering an area of 1506 sq km area will come under the electrification network and over nine lakh population will be benefited.

Under the programme, sixteen km long electric line would be set up in six thanas of the district.

The sources said that the programme known as area-based rural electrification fourth phase-ga of Rajshahi Pali Bidyut Samity, when completed will provide 19,456 domestic and industrial connection for the benefit of the people of the area.

A meeting of the Rural Electrification Board was held today at Paba thana to discuss the ways and means for completion of the project.

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### SALES ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Reckitt & Colman Bangladesh Limited wants to recruit a Sales Administration Officer for its sales department reporting directly to the departmental head.

The age of the ideal candidate should be between 28 to 32 years. He should have a Masters degree in Arts/Commerce from a recognised university. Education in Business Administration will be considered as an added qualification. Computer literacy in Word Perfect, Lotus 123 and a good command over English is essential. Preference will be given to those candidates who have 2/3 years experience in a similar job.

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