

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Side-shows of a Wedding

by Schrezad Joya Monami Latif



Looking for prospective spouses!

These are the days of political chaos, *aboradh*, uninterrupted sunshine, *pitha* and weddings. No matter what crisis the country is facing, or for how long the opposition calls a strike, people don't stop falling in love, match-making and getting married! Especially in the winter, when the weather is just perfect, crisp and dry. This particular winter seems to be the one when all the hottest weddings are taking place. On an evening, the same people are attending three to four weddings. I guess, small families are under pressure when the number of their members falls short of the weddings to be attended.

Weddings have got to be a special occasion. No question about that. But when people make elaborate preparations to turn it into the richest occasion too, one is surely taken aback. First of all, you get to see everybody and anybody you are related or a friend to, people you haven't seen in ages, people you thought had escaped your attention and even some people you would actually have preferred not to have seen. There are amazing number of people invited to most weddings these days, 700-800 people being the average at the last count. Then there is the multiplier effect. In Bangladesh we don't have debutante balls. So a lot of searching for prospective bridegrooms and brides is done at weddings. Often the process that will culminate in the exchange of vows gets started at someone else's wedding.

People certainly look their best, in all their

winter finery and jewellery. Those are supposed to lessen the works of the roving eyes. All the mothers are asking the unsuspecting young girls questions like what one studied, who one's father was (mother doesn't seem to matter). Most of the girls preen, checking out the suitable/unsuitable males and of course, each other! And the men, Ahem! They are all mostly suited and booted, some in daddy's ties from the seventies. They too preen, but in a way only boys know how. It's all-rather sweet to watch really.

And then there is the food. The standard *biriyani* or *morog pulao* with *rezala* or chicken roast and the inevitable *borhani*. One note, just when you are about to put a particularly tasty mouthful morsel into your mouth, watch out for the video camera guy who is sure to be shining his light and aiming his camera at the particular time. Really, is taping of people eating necessary? Then, the amount of food wasted at weddings could feed entire families for days.

The bride and groom, in fact figure less prominently. Bangladeshi weddings aren't really for the couple involved, it's for the society, for the people attending. To turn a wedding into such a social event is not bad either.

Where else can one get dressed up, sit around and find out the latest, watch the spectacle, eat (usually) very good food, find future spouses of sons-in-law? All in one evening, in the span of two to three hours.

### Seminar on Martin Luther King

To commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the United States Information Service and the Bangladesh Association for American Studies will jointly hold a seminar on Monday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the USIS auditorium in the city's Dilkusha area, says a press release.

Scholars will present papers at the seminar addressing such themes as human rights, the rule of law, and non-violence. The seminar will be complemented by video screenings, a poster show, a book exhibit of titles in the USIS Library collection, and by distribution of printed articles on Dr. King.



Rotary International Director Rtn Daniel W Mooers (3rd from right) and his wife R-Ann Shirley Mooers (2nd from right) called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban recently.

### Noble French flair in city

By Staff Correspondent

A wide range of French perfumes and accessories were put on the second charity auction yesterday evening at the residence of the French Ambassador to Bangladesh.

Aziz Mohammad Bhai, a businessman, stole the show outbidding the host French Ambassador fetching a Cartier gold and diamond necklace for Taka 2.5 Lakh. Last year, he also won the highest bidder trophy taking a Dupont gold-coated pen for Taka 40,000.

Aziz Mohammad Bhai made simply doubled the opening bid of Taka 1 lakh to be in the limelight. The much waited bidding of the necklace, item no-70, however, lasted for a couple of minutes with Ambassador Lacombe going for Taka 2.25 lakh for the 14,000 dollar necklace.

A total of 213 top-of-the-line French collections were placed on the auction for the second time in the personal initiative of the French

Ambassador Jean Michel Lacombe and his wife Madam Myrtil Lacombe.

The first such noble auction held last January gathered Taka 5.5 lakh for a local orphanage.

Two professional bidders, Tony Fields and Ali Munir, conducted the charity auction urging the assembled connoisseurs to be generous and sportive. Madam Lacombe herself added a flair to the auction by tossing and upholding the items in front of the audience.

The classy array of French items included Cartier, Christian Dior, Lacoste, Chanel, Paco Rabanne, Dupont, Hermes and many others. The collections gave the local buyers a rare chance to pick up original French perfumes while the jewelries and clothes attracted mainly the foreigners.

The raised sum will be donated to the Madam Teresa orphanage Women's Voluntary Organisation and Central Women's University. The auction was going on till writing of this report at midnight.

The auction was presided by a fashion collector, signed by Bibi Russel, Naseema Hasan Akhi.

### Weather

## Light rain likely

Light rain or showers is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Dhaka divisions and the regions of Sylhet, Comilla and Noakhali during the next 12 hours till 6:00 pm today, reports UNB.

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country during the period.

The Met Office forecast night temperature may fall by 1 to 2 degree Celsius over the country.

Country's lowest temperature 11.3 degree Celsius was recorded at Srimatigal and the highest 28.5 degree at Teknaf. The sun sets today at 5:31 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:44 am.

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### ECONOMIST REQUIRED

The World Bank Resident Mission plans to recruit a well-trained economist with demonstrated analytical skills and ability to work effectively as part of a team. The economist is expected to work as part of a three-member team in the Economics Unit of the World Bank Resident Mission. He/she is expected to contribute substantively to the macroeconomic monitoring, analysis and projections work of the Unit and to the building up of information about economic work done by other agencies.

#### JOB DESCRIPTION

##### Duties and Accountabilities:

The economist's main tasks will be as follows:

- Build up the socio-economic data base on Bangladesh and update it on a regular basis by setting up a system of data gathering and compilation;
- Use the data base to generate macro-economic projections from time to time with the aid of an existing macroeconomic model.
- Work with the chief of the Economics Unit to refine and develop the macroeconomic model.
- Carry out economic analysis and report periodically on topical issues; and
- Keep abreast of economic work done by the Government, donors, research and academic institutions by liaising with the relevant institutions.

##### Requirements for the Position:

- At least a Master's degree in Economics from a reputable University with good academic results.
- Good background in macroeconomics and familiarity with Bangladesh's development problems and issues.
- Strong analytical skills and familiarity with quantitative econometric techniques and data processing.
- Strong computer skills and good familiarity with data, econometric and word processing softwares (Lotus 1-2-3, excel, TSP, SPSS, wordperfect and word).
- Close familiarity with the sources of socio-economic data on Bangladesh.
- Relevant working experience at home or abroad.
- Demonstrated ability to write and communicate clearly and work effectively as part of a team.

##### Conditions:

The contract will be initially for a period of one year, subject to confirmation after three months. Because of the continuing nature of the assignment, the contract can be renewed. The selected candidate is expected to start working within one month of selection.

Applicants who meet the above requirements should apply to the World Bank Resident Mission in Bangladesh, 3A Paribagh, Dhaka, by January 31, 1995. Applications should be supported by a detailed and up-to-date C.V., academic transcripts, references and a sample of written work.

### Construction of DU commerce bldg to begin in July

By DU Correspondent

Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University Professor Emajuddin Ahmed yesterday said that the construction work of the commerce building of the university would begin in July.

The VC, addressing the freshmen reception of the Linguistics Department yesterday morning, also said that the university authorities were always trying to facilitate the teachers and students with necessary logistic support.

The reception function held at the TSC auditorium, was chaired by the chairman of the department Professor Rajib Hossain.

Dean of the Faculty of Arts Professor Aminul Islam and the students of the department also addressed the function.

### Cadet marine engineers' passing out parade

CHITTAGONG, Jan 12: The passing out parade of the 29th batch of cadet marine engineers was held at Marine Academy in the port city today, reports BSS.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder inspected the parade and took salute.

Shipping Minister M K Anwar, Deputy Minister for Shipping A B M Zahedul Haq and Shipping Secretary Walid Islam were present.

### Release of JU JCD leaders demanded

By JU Correspondent

Leaders of the central council of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Jahangirnagar University (JU) unit and presidents and secretaries of all the eight residential halls in a statement Wednesday demanded release of their four arrested leaders immediately. They also urged the administration to arrest the killers of Dipu, who was a JU JCD activist and was killed by his rivals on November 1994. The killers are moving freely. The police are also playing a mysterious role, a JU JCD press release said on Wednesday.

Four leaders of the JU JCD were arrested last November during a police raid on a hall for their alleged involvement in terrorist activities.



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