

ARRANGED marriages, more often than not, have unhappy endings. This is because the "arranger," or go-between, does not care if the couple is compatible, or sufficiently informed about each other's characteristics, financial status, and so forth.

asian diary BY ARJUNA

Happy Ever After for US\$150

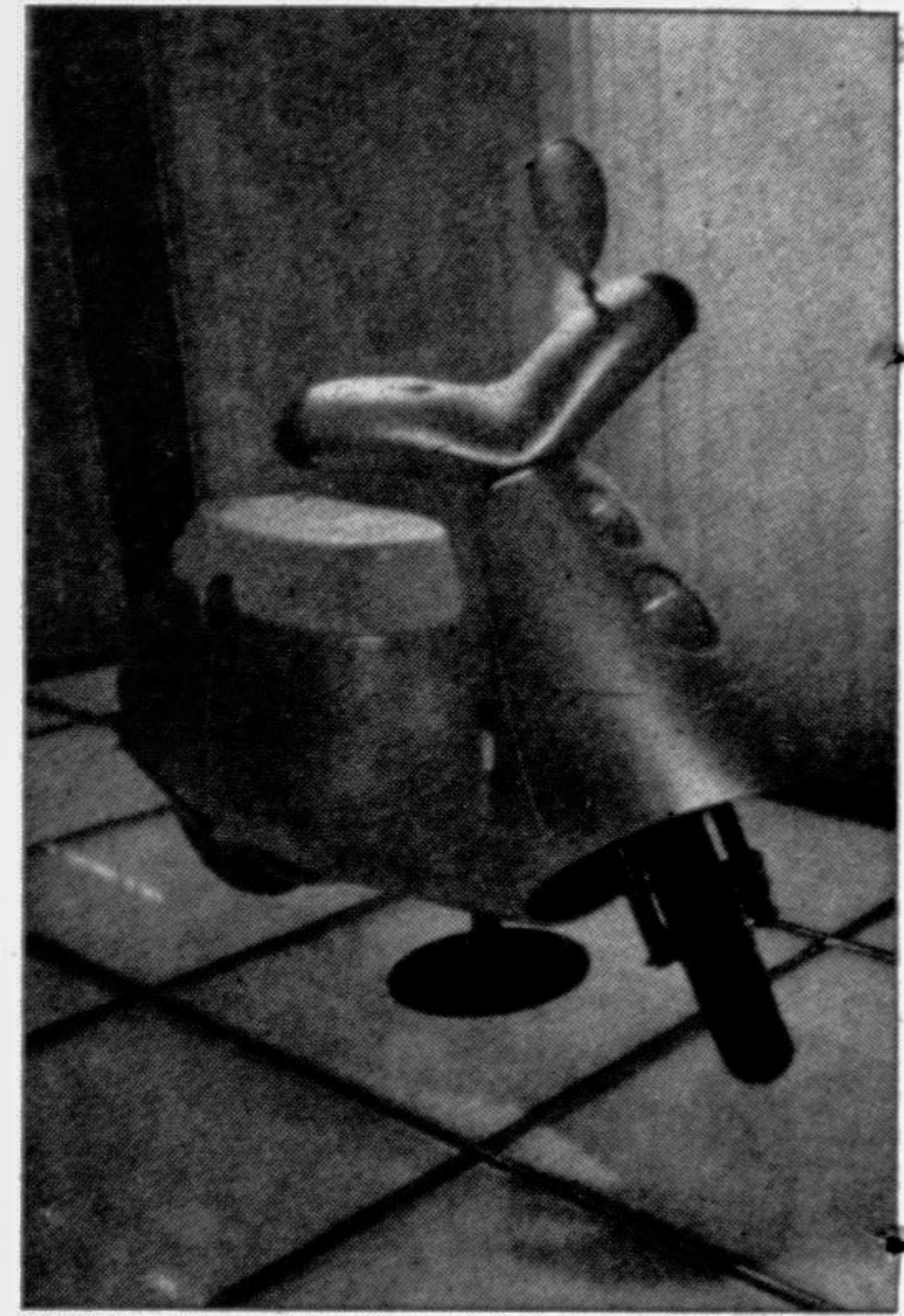
Well, Hanna Maroun cares. The 71-year-old lawyer, who practises in Beirut, has been through enough divorce cases to last him a lifetime and is contemptuous of the way marriages are arranged in his part of the world. He believes there must be a way to make couples, who are about to step into the "golden cage," enjoy wedded bliss forever and after.

He pointed out that there are many gullible girls ready to fall for any wolf that crosses their path, "but I'm here to offer my protection." He added that he was also protecting young men from getting entangled in the nets of wily seductresses.

Design with a Human Face

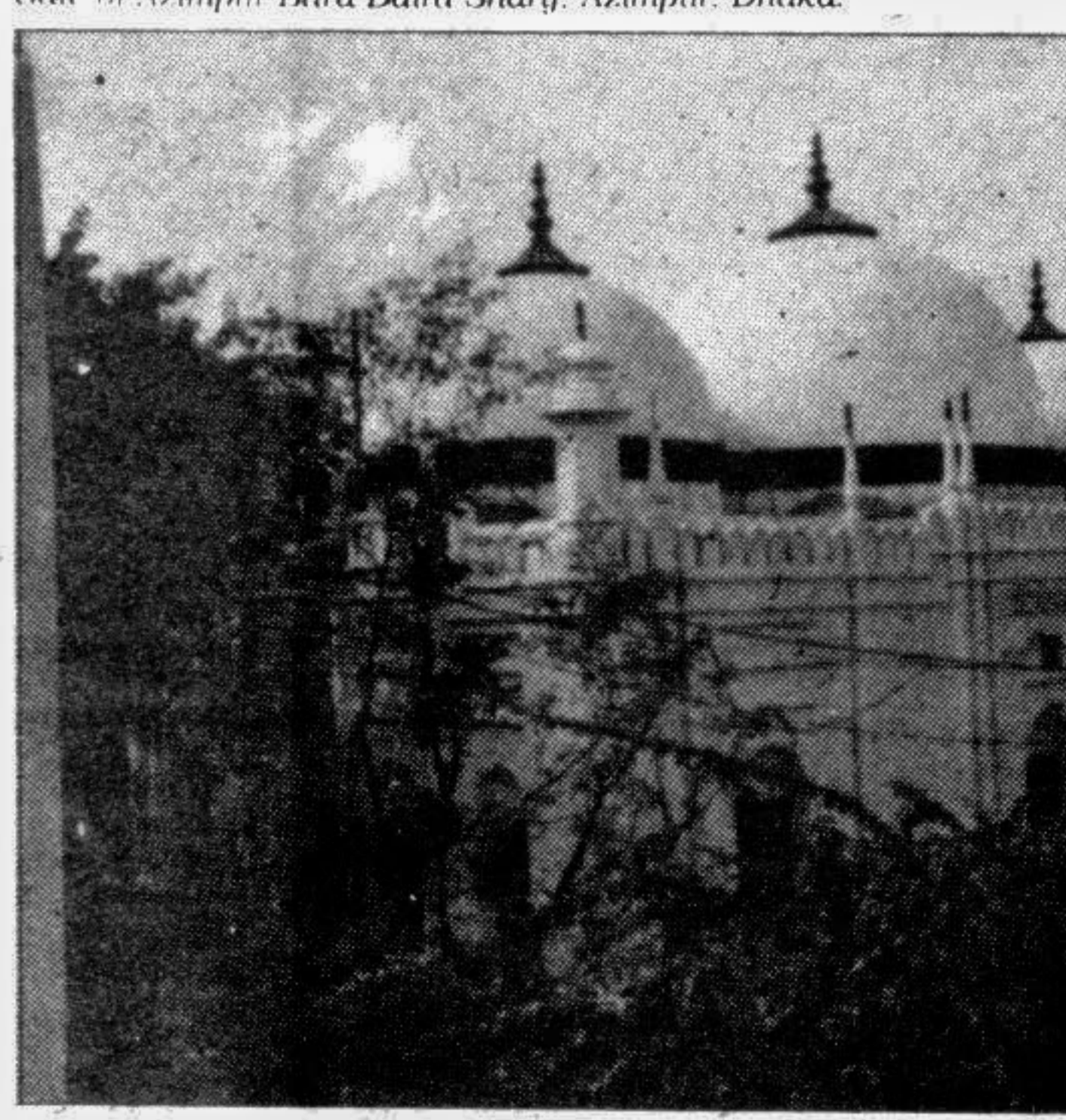
by Pierre Michel

Philippe Starck is without doubt one of the most gifted designers of his generation. At any rate, he is one of the most famous. Since the mid-70s, his career has been studded with major creations both in the area of design (furniture, industrial design and decoration) and, more recently, in that of architecture.



MOSQUES OF DHAKA

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These buildings are messengers of the civilization, culture and socio-economic conditions of the predecessors to the present generation. To discover the heritage we are to look back to the art, literature and architecture of the past. When all over the world architectural conservation is gaining momentum, ironically Bangladesh is lagging far behind.



Gate of Azampur Bara Daira Sharif, Azampur, Dhaka.

A view of the mosque and the mazaar sharif.

One of the local Bengali newspaper "Haq Katha", June 30, 1972, pg. 6, published a statement of the pro-communist political leader Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasanai "96 thousand mosques of Bangladesh are lying in a state of liveliness." This was commented may be because mosques have failed to serve the manifold purposes. Moreover, due to our apathy and unconsciousness they have been transformed into built forms which do not represent the periods they belong to. Things which are not original, pure and true cannot inspire others. Same is applicable to build forms and mosque architecture. Through analysis of traditional concepts, forms and styles of mosques new expressions befitting the contemporary need may emerge, which has link with the past as well as comply with the present.

The study is part of the research project entitled "The Conservation Study of Dhaka City - Its Historical Building and Areas." The research was carried out by a team who are teachers of the Department of Architecture, Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology, Dhaka. Ford Foundation's co operation is gratefully acknowledged.

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South Africa looks north

Mandela Breaks the Brotherhood

By going to Nigeria to discuss the fate of a detained politician, reports a Gemini News Service correspondent, South Africa's President Nelson Mandela has broken with the traditional African practice of non-interference in each others' affairs.

by Cameron Duodu

ALTHOUGH African heads of state are in the habit of addressing each other as "brother," they tend to be resentful when fellow leaders express concern about developments in their country.

Head to head

Comparison of Nigeria and South Africa:

Nigeria	South Africa
Area: 924,000 sq km	Area: 1.2m sq km
Pop: 102m	Pop: 40m
GNP per head: \$320	GNP per head: \$2,670
Life expectancy: 52	Life expectancy: 63
Literacy: 51%	Literacy: 76%

Portraits of President Sani Abacha and President Nelson Mandela.

The Ritual-Practice Gap

The Passing Show by Alif Zabr

RITUALS and practices, Ramadan and Eid, Now back to the "normal" behavior pattern. After the overdose of sermons comes the renewed overdose of rituals, thanks to the political style our so-called political leadership — or at least as section of it. So long it was the information gap. Now it is the credibility gap.