

Dhaka Day by Day

Stylish Blend of Traditional Dress

by Raffat Binte Rashid

Tamjid likes to dress well. Elegantly to be precise. But to him elegance is not the double-breasted suit, the blazers, the trousers, rather it is the very traditional and our very own dress of the sub-continent — *punjabi, pyjama, churidar, sherwani* — etc.

No, he is not someone from your grandfather's era. In fact he is a successful economist, in his late thirties. "I always like to dress the old way but definitely keeping tracks with the current trend," he says explaining his unique passion for customary wear.

"People like to believe that punjabis should only be white and worn on solemn occasions, though recently such rigid thoughts slightly changed allowing them the option of wearing the dress on weddings or on any festive occasion. But that should of course strictly maintain the colour code — off-white or white and nothing else. They can never imagine wearing a sea-green punjabi, to any official or formal gathering, on which some of Taj Mahal's intricate designs are replicated in mustard threads. But I do that," Tamjid explains his dress preference.

And his friends or colleagues are so used to his traditional attire that they nick-named him "The Emperor".

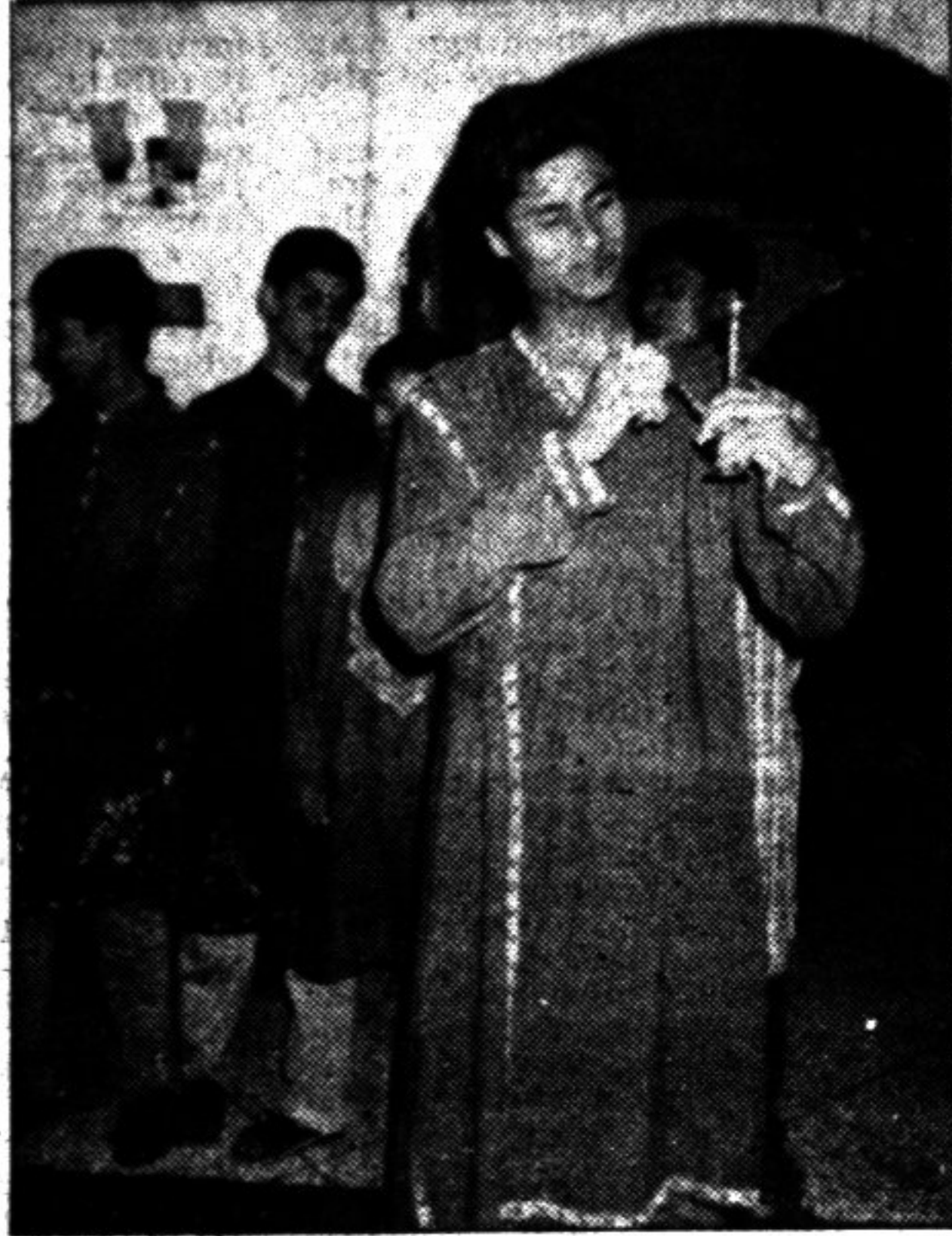
"In fact I never look odd in *sherwani* — *churidar*, while I present my papers on seminars or in other occasions," he emphasizes. There are incidents where his friends just literally tear off his exclusive *punjabis* in sheer excitement to own a similar one.

This actually inspired him to arrange a punjabi sale this weekend at his Dhanmondi residence. "I want to promote the oriental designs, the traditional way of dressing, my show is not for any other reasons," he says.

Hot pink, turquoise, maroon, black, mustard, navy blue even multi-coloured checks are on his racks. He particularly uses loud colours to break the traditional image and the touch of his designer actually gives the punjabis an universal, unisex look. "My wife, Papa always designs the intricate motifs to be embroidered on them," he says. Papa, being a well established artist in

her field of miniature paintings and mural designs, adds an exclusive touch to these classic wear.

As different as their passion, each one of their punjabis are distinct in style and an embroidery is replicated twice. "The designs are mostly from my collections, some I copied from my blue China potteries, some from wall hangings of Taj Mahal etc," she says



Men's wear with a difference.

"All good things are for a price, even though my wife says that my colours are too experimental I believe supply creates its own demand," says the economist determined to carry on the traditional customs but wrapped in modern style. He is not only giving you the choice of buying a turquoise punjabi but as well putting on sale the required accessories that match it. Like *nagras* that go so well with *punjabis*, those are bought from Multan. His *churidars* are exactly the ones worn in old days.

"The real *churidar* is ten inches longer than your usual size *pyjamas*, and you actually have to wear these tight by tip-toeing your leg," he explains adding, that to make it look more fashionable he has the borders stitched in crochet.

Tamjid and Papa, who were actually preparing for this grand sale of their's since April last, has put an extraordinary efforts to this project. They took care of every minute detail and tried their best to keep the price limited to a range between Tk 600 to Tk 1,200.

"Nobody would buy a *punjabi* for Tk 2,500, but in order to make an exclusive silk punjabi masterly embroidered, the cost price is nothing less than Tk 2,000, however this sale is just for casual punjabi — the ones you can always wear even over a jeans."

"The success of this curious venture might ultimately make us open a boutique catering to only men's designer and traditional wear," Papa adds.

Their display and two-day sale offers shirts, some assorted ladies' items besides their exclusively designed *punjabis*, *qurtas*, *churidars* and *nagras*.

What's on today

Founding anniversary: The MuktiJuddher Chetona Bastobayan O Ekattorer Ghatok Dalai Nirmul Jatiya Samannaya Committee will observe its fourth founding anniversary. Venue: Engineers' Institution auditorium. Time: 9 am.

Publication ceremony: The book, Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy: Kach Theke Dekha will be launched. Venue: Jatiya Press Club auditorium. Time: 9:45 am. Prof Anisuzzaman will preside.

Sandhani: The central council session of the body will be held. Venue: Director's room, DMCH.

Press conference: The Social Investment Bank Ltd will meet the press. Venue: Melonee Hall, Sheraton Hotel. Time: 4:30 pm.

Lions Club of Dhaka Pallabi: The club will organize a seminar on Educated Nation Prosperous Futura. Venue: Bangladesh Lions Foundation auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 3 pm.

Jhalak Model Club: A meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Jhalak office. Time: 10 am.

Eid special train services

Bangladesh Railway will run special trains on February 18, 19 and 20 to facilitate the journey of the home-bound passengers on the occasion of the holy Eid-ul-Fitre, reports BSS.

On February 18 and 19 one pair of Eid special trains will run between Chittagong-Chandpur-Chittagong leaving Chittagong and Chandpur at 3-30 pm and 9-15 pm respectively.

Besides, one pair of inter-city trains between Dhaka and Noakhali will run on February 19 and 20. These special inter-city trains will leave Dhaka at 9-00 am and Noakhali at 3-30 pm.

"Off days" of all inter-city trains will be withdrawn from February 14 to 20 and February 23 to 27. No inter-city train will run on the Eid day.

In addition to this, special trains, all mail, express and local, will be strengthened with additional coaches to avoid home-bound rush.

Passengers have been requested to contact the local station masters for details.

Garments workers' rally today

National Garments Workers' Federation (NGWF) will observe its Protest Day today, says a press release.

A rally will be held at Topkhana Road at 5 pm in this connection. Besides similar programmes will also be held at Tongi, Savar and Narayanganj.

The NGWF will observe the day protesting the shut down of different garments factories and non-payment of arrears wages, the press release added.

Attack on GSS school condemned

By Staff Correspondent

Sixty-three intellectuals including journalists, cultural and development activists in a joint statement on Wednesday slated attack on a primary school run by Gono Shahajjo Sangstha (GSS) in Panchagarh.

Some local *fatwabazes* (persons who deliver religious verdicts) set Ananda Niketan Primary School ablaze and obstructed cultural activists from staging a drama on February 3.

The signatories of the statement include Professors Anisuzzaman and Rangal Sen, Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) general secretary Dr A A M S Arefin Siddique, journalists Moazzem Hussain, Biplob Rahman, Zahid Newaz, Aminul Islam Sajal and cultural activists Ahkamullah and Selina Nahar Lekha.

Justice demanded

An ill-fated mother in the city yesterday demanded immediate arrest and trial of the killers of her only son Ikhtiar Wahed Bipu, reports UNB.

Everybody knows the assailants, but they have not yet been detained," Gulshan Ara Wahed, wife of a police officer, told newsmen at her residence.

She alleged that her son was killed by some identified armed miscreants near her residence at Malibagh Pabna Colony in the city on January 2.

Gulshan Ara said that the people would lose their confidence in the administration if the killers go unpunished. "We want justice not privilege," she added.

RSF concerned at attack on newsmen

By Staff Correspondent

Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF), a Paris-based global independent organization working in defence of press freedom, has asked for judicial inquiry into some recent incidents of attack on journalists in Bangladesh.

In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, sent by RSF's general secretary Robert Monard, the organization expressed the view that RSF considers recent attacks on journalists represent a serious infringement of press freedom.

It mentioned about the attack on Tapan Dey of the Khabar and Yasin Kabir of the Janakantha and abusing of three other photographers of Reuters, The Morning Sun and the Banglabazar on February 4 by the activists of a student organisation of the Dhaka University campus.

RSF also protested recent attack at the office of the Furbokone in Chittagong by 'angry youths' and police attack on journalists in Bogra, in which four were hospitalized.

BCI AGM Sunday

The annual general meeting (AGM) of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) will be held on Sunday at 4:30 pm at BCIC Bhaban, says a press release.

FEJB biennial meet today

The sixth biennial general meeting of Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) will be held today at 10 am at Jatiya Press Club, reports BSS.

The United Nations ESCAP-FEJB award for environmental reporting and photography will also be distributed today.

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In Memoriam



Chowdhury Quadrat Ghani

On this day (February 9) a year ago, you left us forever. Your memory has been with us every day since you left for your eternal abode, and will remain with us in all the years to come. We pray for your departed soul.

Jennat A Ghani, Milia Ali, Tariq Ali, Sonia Nishat Amin, Amin Hasan Kazi, Misha, Ashim, Tushi, Shudipto. S-61

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BTMC International Tender Notice

General Manager (Procurement), BTMC, BTMC Bhaban, 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka invites sealed Tenders for Import of Raw Cotton of 1995-96 Crop on C&F Chittagong basis under CASH/ANY OTHER SUITABLE SOURCE to be closed at 2.00 PM and opened at 2.05 PM in presence of Tenderers, if any, as follows:

Sl. No.	Tender No. all dated 31-1-96	Staple Length	Qty. in bale of 496 lbs	Sample sub-mission/USDA Grade confirmation by 11.00 AM	Closing Opening date	Shipment month	Cost of Tender documents (Non-refundable)
1	522/2/52(95-96)	1-1/16"	4000	18-2-96	2-3-96	Sept. 96	500/-
2	522/2/53(95-96)	1-1/16"	3000	20-2-96	5-3-96	Sept. 96	500/-
3	522/2/54(95-96)	1-1/32"	500	25-2-96	9-3-96	Sept. 96	150/-
4	522/2/55(95-96)	1-1/16"	2000	28-2-96	12-3-96	Sept. 96	250/-
			9500				

Tender documents with detailed specifications, information, terms and conditions will be available on all working days from 9.00 AM to 1-00 PM from Chief Accountant, BTMC, BTMC Bhaban, 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka and from General Manager, BTMC Shipping Office, 79, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong on cash payment. No Tender documents will be sold on the closing date of the respective Tender.

The authority reserves the right to accept/reject any Tender partially or fully without showing any reason.

TMC-4 DFP-2898-5/2

G-232

ALOCU WITHDRAWS ACCREDITATION OF AIUB

The AMERICAN LEAGUE OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (ALOCU) has withdrawn the accreditation of AMA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-BANGLADESH (AIUB) from its roster of accredited schools pending resolution of the petition filed before the Honorable Office of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh by AMA COMPUTER COLLEGE PHILIPPINES (AMACCP), representing 50% ownership of AIUB against its joint business partners and AIUB's Vice Chancellor MS. CARMEN Z. LAMAGNA and Treasurer MR. HASANUL HASAN.

Consequently, reciprocal credit privileges as well as endorsement in US Immigration I-20 (Student Visa) Application Form in case of further studies in the United States is likewise withdrawn.

The ALOCU was constrained to withdraw its accreditation of AIUB due to various grave legal and moral grounds provided in the petition of AMACCP.

Any conflict which may undermine AMACCP's management prerogatives is viewed with serious concern by ALOCU. Accreditation may be reinstated only upon resolution of the petition and favorable endorsement of AMACCP.

(SGD.) DR. DONALD RUTHENBERG
PRESIDENT
American League
of Colleges and Universities

Important Announcement for Students of AMA International University of Bangladesh (AIUB)

AMA Computer College of the Philippines (AMACCP)

Regrets to announce its withdrawal as a major partner from the operations of AIUB. This decision, painful as it may be, has been brought about by irreconcilable differences with the family of Dr. Anwarul Abedin with whom we are in joint venture.

As a result of this decision the students are forewarned of the following:

- The university will cease to be known as AMA as AMA Computer College of the Philippines owns the proprietary right over the name.
- AMACCP will withdraw the course syllabi and other course materials from the university.
- The withdrawal of AMACCP automatically terminates the accreditation of the university with the American League of Colleges and Universities. The termination also withdraws all privileges for reciprocal credits with the United States.
- AMACCP has moved for the dissolution of the partnership. Hence it will likewise dissolve AIUB as the ownership will now be in question.
- The university will be prevented from recruiting faculty members from AMA Computer College of the Philippines.

In view of the foregoing, students are advised to refrain from enrolling until the issues confronting the partners are resolved.

AMACCP will not be responsible for any loss, inconvenience, or damages incurred as a result of enrollment.