

Metropolitan

Arranged, early marriages still the norm, study shows

Traditional practice of early marriage still prevails in the country while choice of spouse depends on the parents or guardians, reports UNB.

A recent study revealed 80 per cent of women were married to their parents or guardians' choice, while only 12 per cent to the person of their own choice and 8 per cent to their own choice with parents' or guardians' consent.

On the other hand, 34 per cent of men said they were married to the women of their choice whereas in 55 per cent of cases the partner selection was made by their parents or guardians.

The remaining were married to their own choice as well their guardians choice, according to the study of the Bangladesh chapter of Population Council, a New York-based research organisation and research Evaluation Associates for Development (READ).

The study found the mean age at marriage for female adolescents (aged 15-19) interviewed for the study was 14.8 years and the mean duration of marriage about one year.

Of them, eight per cent were aged between only 9 and 12 at the time of their first marriage, 55 per cent between 13 and 15 and 37 per cent between 16 and 19 years.

It showed the mean figure for the husbands of the female adolescents was 23, that showed a mean age difference of 8.2 years between the spouses.

These figures are in agree-

ment with the findings of the secondary analysis of the 1993-94 Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) data of adolescents.

The study said the rural poor are most likely to get married at an early age followed by urban slum dwellers, rural well-off and housing estate residents in towns.

Almost 50 per cent of male and female respondents said a woman should get married after completing her education while nearly four per cent believed that women should be financially stable, in other words, be in formal employment before getting married.

Twenty-seven per cent were of the view that women should go by the parents' wish as far as marriage is concerned, while 20 per cent felt a woman should get married when she finds the partner of her choice.

The mean ideal age at marriage recommended by both married and unmarried respondents of both sexes was 19 for girls and 25.5 for men. According to female unmarried and married adolescents, the mean ideal age at marriage was 19.8 and 19.3 respectively.

More than 53 per cent preferred an age difference of less than five years between husband and wife. It was followed by 24 per cent less than seven years, 14 per cent seven years or above and seven per cent less than two years. Only 0.5 per cent preferred no age difference.

Malaysia to protect rights of Bangladeshi workers

Tenku Dato Omar.

The Bangladeshi side included the High Commissioner to Malaysia, Wazid Ali Khan Panni, Director General (Manpower) Kazl Abdul Bayes and Counsellor General (Labour) M Ismail Zablihah.

Later, the state minister visited Bangladesh High Commission and met Bangladeshi workers. He enquired about their welfare and asked them to abide by the rules and regulations and to respect Malaysian customs and traditions.

The state minister also visited National Panasonic Company at Shah Alam and met a large number of Bangladeshi working in the industrial unit.

He expressed satisfaction over the working condition there and asked the Bangladeshi workers to work hard and acquire the technical skill.

APCSF assembly concludes

A four-day second assembly of the Asia Pacific Civil Society Forum (APCSF) concluded at the National Museum in the city on Sunday, reports UNB.

Prof. Kaibar Chowdhury

presided over the session.

Earlier, the working session was concluded with former head of the caretaker government Justice Muhammed Habibur Rahman in the chair.

According to a resolution of the working session, each of the member countries will hold the APCSF Secretary post for a three-year term.

South Korea will serve as secretary of the civil forum for next three years, said a press release.

APCSF also elected four co-chairmen from four regions of South Asia, South-East Asia, East Asia and Pacific Australia and the New Zealand.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed inaugurated the conference on July 24.

Thirty representatives from 17 countries of the Asia-Pacific region and 30 representatives from host Bangladesh took part in the conference.



Jatiyatabadi Chhatri Dal brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus on the second day of strike yesterday.

— Star photo

Automation process at DSE to be completed within 2 months

By Staff Correspondent

The officials of Tandem Computer International at a seminar in the city yesterday said that the automation process of share trading in the Dhaka Stock Exchange would be completed within two months.

Responding to queries made by some DSE members whether the company was delaying in setting up computer machinery, Mark de Kock, project manager of the company, said, "We are confident that the automation process would be completed by September next if everything goes smoothly."

He said the process had become slower due to indecision of the DSE authority and delay in repair work at the place.

3 arrested for stealing computer

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested three young men on charges of stealing a laptop computer from a shop at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday afternoon.

The three youths, identifying themselves as students, entered the Sun Computers Super Store on the third floor of Dhanmondi Plaza market at about 4 pm and started looking at computers and other accessories on display there, said a police official.

All of a sudden, one of the youths took a laptop, worth about Tk 1.75 lakh and put it in his bag. Then all three ran out of the shop and down the stairs.

Meanwhile, some employees of the shop, with the help of market security guards and bystanders gave chase and managed to catch them red-handed.

Emergency police immediately rushed to the spot and arrested the three. A case has been filed with Dhanmondi thana in this connection.

A staff of the computer shop reported the lifting of computer accessories has become a regular incident in various computer shops in the city.

where the computer machinery would be installed. Now DSE has engaged experts of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) to supervise the installation work.

The computer hardware is ready for shipment and if the DSE authority gives permission it would reach in two days, he added.

Addressing the seminar, held at Hotel Sonargaon, Bill Gorman, securities industry consultant of the company, highlighted various advantages of automated trading and Central Depository System (CDS) in stock exchanges.

The company organised the seminar to apprise the DSE members and persons related with the capital market about computerisation process of share trading and inform the current trends in international capital market.

Owaise Saadat of the World Bank in his keynote speech underscored the need for immediate automation of the country's stock exchanges for the benefit of the investors. Sooner the stock markets are automated the better services it will be able to provide to the investors.

The automated service will also help attract foreign direct investment and bring transparency in the stock markets, he said.

A large number of DSE members including its former chairmen Imtiyaz Hossain and Hemayet Uddin Ahmed, Securities and Exchange Commission chairman Abu Sayeed and officials of leading securities firms attended the seminar.

But DSE present chairman and vice chairman M A Haq Howlader and Abdul Hudaib respectively were not present at the seminar which created regret.

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The last date of tender submission is 10.09.1997. Biman Management reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tender, increase or decrease the quantity or items without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Mohd. Abdus Salam
Deputy General Manager
Purchase (Acting)

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International Tender Notice

Sealed tender is hereby invited for supply of following items to Biman Bangladesh Airlines from manufacturer/supplier/local agent/importers.

Sl. No. Tender Number Cost of Schedule
01. DACPF/Int'l Tender/003/97 Tk. 1000.00 or USD 25.00 per set
Dated: 24.07.1997

Tender schedule with detailed specification, terms and conditions will be available at a cost of USD 25.00 or BDT 1000.00 per set (Non-refundable) with Accounts Officer, Cash & Banking, Biman Admin Building, Zia Int'l Airport, Dhaka, Asst. Manager Accounts (Cash & Banking), Biman Head Office, Balaka, Zia Int'l Airport, Kurmitola, Dhaka and Office of the Divisional Commissioner (1st 12-Storey Govt. Office Building, 1st floor, Room No. 206), Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000 as well as Finance Manager, Biman, Bangkok, Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Frankfurt, Rome, Paris, London, Amsterdam, Dubai & New York on cash payment on all working days up to 09.09.1997. A formal application in company's letterhead pad mentioning tender number and date shall require for purchasing the tender documents.

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Deputy General Manager
Purchase (Acting)

THE DHAKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

65-66, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

"Business Guide" Seminar on**The implications of the Uruguay Round Agreements**

The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) is going to organise the above mentioned seminar during 9-10 August, 1997 at the Sonargaon Pan Pacific Hotel in cooperation with the International Trade Centre (ITC) Geneva, Switzerland.

Introducing the major rules of the Agreements under WTO in terms of its impact on specific business operations, the seminar will provide participants with the basic information necessary for:

- deciding of actions to be taken to operate effectively in a more competitive environment;
- identifying business opportunities offered by the new environment in the following sectors of particular interest;
- participation in international trade; access to target market; product up-grading of exports; product diversification of exports; market diversification; sourcing for import of goods and services; pricing of local & foreign market; foreign direct investment; technology, trade-marks, patents etc., including relevant Agreements and Rules.

The intending participants will have to obtain Registration Form from the DCCI office. Registration would be confirmed on payment of a fee of Tk. 2000/- on first-come-first served basis. For details please contact the undersigned.

Montazul Islam
Joint Secretary (A&F)

BSD slates 'audacious' behaviour of Sohel, Salman with BB governor

Bangladeshi Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) condemned the 'audacious' behaviour of Salman Rahaman and Sohel Rahaman with the Bangladesh Bank Governor on loan-default issue, reports UNB.

The indecent behaviour by the loan defaulters with the top person of the highest financial body is not only surprising but also a threat to country's banking system and economy."

For this he blamed the ruling quarters, saying their indifference and, in some cases, giving indulgence to the defaulters encouraged them to give such threat".

Khaliquzzaman, convenor of BSD demanded fair judgement in this regard and recovery of default loans and punitive action against the bank loan defaulters.

Delegation back home

State Minister for Women, Child Affairs and Social Welfare Dr Mohammad Hossain returned home yesterday after attending the 17th session of the charter on 'removal of discrimination against women,' held in New York on July 23, reports BSS.

Officials of the mills were present on the occasion.

QULKHWANI

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the Qulkhwani of Late Ashraf Ahmed will be held at his residence "Maa Hamida Villa," 75, Indira Road after Asr prayers on July 29, '97 instead of July 30, '97. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend. Inconvenience caused by this change is regretted.

— Family of the Deceased C-536

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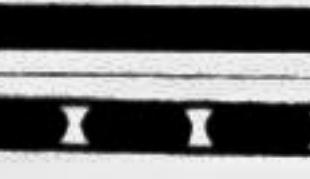
LATE JALAL AHMED

MR. JALAL AHMED Director of Alpha Tobacco Mfg. Co. Ltd. and Tamak Shilpa (Private) Ltd. and a successful industrialist and social worker breathed his last on Monday 28 July '97. (Innalillah..... Rajeun).

We pray to Almighty Allah for salvation of his departed soul and for giving strength to the bereaved family to sustain the shock.

Chairman, Directors, all Staff & officers

Alpha Tobacco Mfg. Co. Ltd.
Tamak Shilpa (Private) Co. Ltd.

**EVERGREEN**

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES / SHIPPERS

FEEDER VESSEL M. V. PADMA VOY 544 IMP. ROT NO. 732/97 IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE CHITTAGONG OUTER ANCHORAGE ON OR ABOUT 30.07.1997 WITH EVERGREEN CONTAINERS RELAYED AT SINGAPORE EX FOLLOWING VESSELS:-

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E. ROUND 0736RW-027	KAOHSIUNG LOS ANGELES NEW YORK OSAKA PUSAN	BUNGA SEROJA 7157 UNI-CONCERT 0461-035E	PORT KELANG BELAWAN
FEEDER 3 0061-062E PANCARAN SINAR 1062A	SHANGHAI HAIPHONG BELAWAN	E. GRACE 0170-065W	MOJI NAGOYA TOKYO
	JAKARTA	MATHU BHUM 340N	VANCOUVER XINGANG LEAM CHABANG

CONSIGNEES ARE REQUESTED TO CLEAR THEIR CARGOES IMMEDIATELY ON DISCHARGE. CARGOES UNCLEARED WITHIN 45 DAYS FROM THE ARRIVAL DATE OF THE VESSEL WILL BE DISPOSED WITHOUT ANY REFERENCE TO THE CONSIGNEES, AS PER CUSTOM RULES.

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