

Stages of posting an Instagram picture

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You've been dormant on Instagram for a while now, and you need to come back with a BANG before your followers begin to doubt your Instagram abilities.

PLANNING

It begins two weeks before your mama's wedding when you're sitting there scrutinising the dress that looks prettier than your other dress in person, but you've learned it the hard way before that the other dress just wouldn't pop with the Skyline filter. Your mama wouldn't disown you for looking basic on his wedding day, but a good 97 random people of your 587 Instagram followers may. Get your priorities straight.

POSING

Arrives the big day, when it's time for you to bring all your photo fantasies to reality. Strike those poses you've been practicing in your head for weeks. Take pictures in front of your mirror, in your living room, on the other end of your living room, in the bathroom at an angle that doesn't make it look like a bathroom, on the stairs, in the car, outside the venue, inside the venue, with anyone who looks worse than you do. No number of pictures is too many pictures. You'll later end up deleting half of them on the basis of your constipated-looking face and your mother's inability to click focused pictures. The cue for you to stop taking pictures is when your phone runs out of space. Then of course, you drain out your mom's phone.

PICKING

Get some tissue and a supportive friend because narrowing down

pictures is the most emotionally demanding part of the entire process. There will be pictures that make you look too pudgy. Pictures where you look like you could be your mother's elder sister. Moments will arise when you wish you didn't have a unibrow or that you listened to your mom's ranting about taking it easy on the kacchi. While crying your eyes out, you'll end up coming down to 6 worthy pictures out of the 116 you've taken.

POLISHING

You've already cried about your shortcomings and you've cursed your cousin for looking prettier. Now you're a determined Instagrammer, ready to dominate the feed. With the right filter, people on Instagram may easily be deceived about your makeup skills. It's time to bring out the big guns – photo editing apps.

PERFECT WORDING

How do you sound funny without painting yourself as a joke? Is there a way to take the classic route without being totally clichéd? To what extent can you be self-deprecating without sounding like you have low self-esteem? How many emojis are too many?

POSTING (FINALLY)

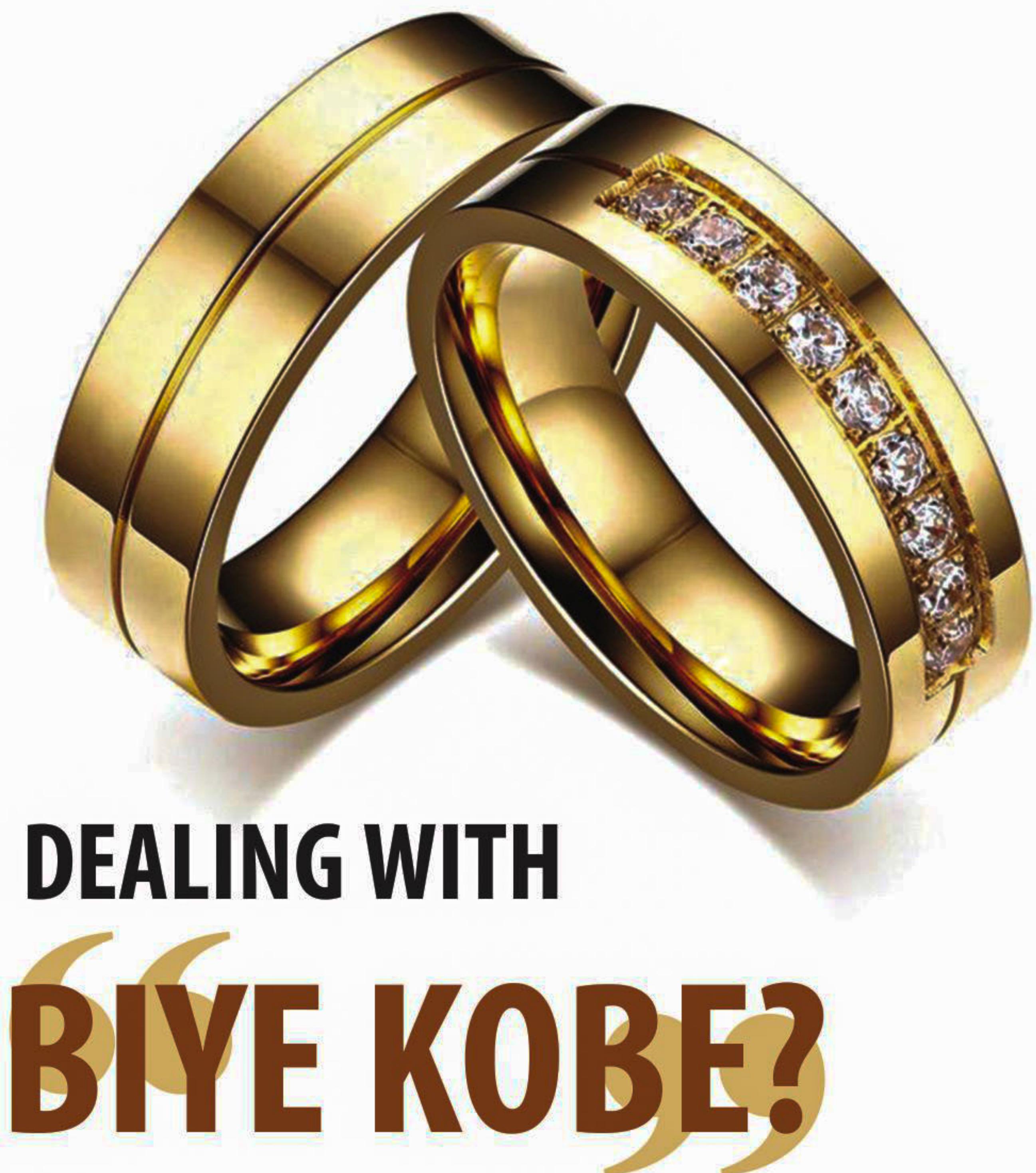
You've made it to the big moment. Take a deep breath and press that "share" icon.

PFFT NO

24 hours and (only) 97 likes later
Delete.

Samin Sabah Islam believes there are very few problems in life, if any, that a good nap can't fix. If she isn't asleep, your queries may be answered at sabahsamin11@gmail.com

Me and my friends posing for an Instagram picture



DEALING WITH BIYE KOBE?

NOOHA SABANTA MAULA

Are you a 20-something female with a bare ring finger on your left hand? If yes, then you're most likely hounded by the "biye kobe?" plague. There was a time when it was only a bit of leg-pulling at weddings but once you cross the big two-O it becomes one of the many external factors leading you to those fine lines on your face.

There's no way to stop the plague considering how long women have been hounded by this. When those are the odds stacked up against you, the only strategy is to pull stunts that can ward off this type of attention for some time. Here are some tips.

ENJOY THE ATTENTION

While it's really annoying to be constantly asked about marriage or being lectured to settle down, practice taking it calmly and basking in the attention. The key to this is tuning out all the noise and only focusing on the fact that so many people are willing to waste their breath badgering you. Once you start enjoying it, it'll err those hounding you and you'll be able to attend gatherings without regretting turning up for the food.

HAVE A DISCUSSION

Instead of just running from it, engage in a conversation. Ask questions politely and listen respectfully. In most cases, it'll be the usual checklist: all the good boys will be taken, duty to family, faith. Regardless of what their logic is, listen first so that you can also be heard. You might be surprised by how well-received a mature conversation on choices can be compared to just running from the issue if you give it a try.

SET SOME GROUND RULES

If you're not willing to marry until a certain age or milestone, declare it and make some ground rules along with it. Demand that your choices be respected. Once you've made clear you're paying attention to them to an extent, they'll hopefully let you be. If you don't have any such plans, you can still say that you want to be excused from such conversations until later in the future.

TEASE A POTENTIAL HUSBAND REVEAL

There's nothing that gets the minds of people whirring like this. Be coy and tease that you will reveal the name of someone you will be marrying soon. This might help in cases where you are presented with lists of eligible bachelors but it comes at a price. You'll be hounded with when you will make the big reveal. If you do have someone in mind, this is the way to go.

THROW A TANTRUM

I 100% do not recommend this unless it's a last resort kind of thing. Show that you're still a baby who's not ready to take on serious things like marriage and all that it entails. It should do the trick (and scare off some potential *ghotoks*).

Lastly, remember that no matter which route you take, there's nothing more important than taking ownership of your life and your choices.