

Dhaka Day by Day

Saying It With Flowers

by Rahat Fahmida

It was only the other day that cauliflower replicas in flower bouquets have been replaced by more varied and sophisticated ones.

Flower arranging today brings to mind a harmonious, decorative selection of flowers and foliage, with the plant material being of prime importance. But, in Victorian times it was the embellishment itself that was the art, and plants and flowers were used as ornaments. New breeds, new varieties, new colours have now become available to gardeners.

Posy vases of all shapes and sizes, massed with flowers, are common arrangements, and are placed among the clutter on ornamental tables. If it is especial occasion the rooms will be simply adorned with a profusion of pot-plants, to which fresh flower arrangements or baskets add extra ornamentation. Visitors carry posies, bouquets or baskets and greet their host.

In the West inventiveness was a true Victorian attribute and can be applied particularly to their party flower designs. By the mid-19th century flowers had become an important part of the extravagant and complicated plants for entertaining.

No idea was too elaborate. Even middle-class families could look forward to an evening of entertainment. In her book, *God Bless Our Home*, describing 19th century life in Canada, Una Abrahamson, quoting from *The Home Manual of 1889*, suggests "a novel and pretty entertainment for a summer evening can be given by setting aside an hour for a 'floral conversation'".

Bunches of flowers and foliage were arranged on a table from which the guests chose the required message. It adds that the plant material should be named, presumably to avoid embarrassing mistakes!

In these days those who are building houses give very little thought to lawns with exclusive beds for a wide range of flowers. They are taken over by multi-storied flats equipped with

modern gadgets and the only available option on their part are the pot-plants.

On the other hand, on the suburbs near Dhaka, large areas of land are utilised for growing varieties of flowers, especially 'Rajantgandha' and roses. These flowers are brought in the capital during the early hours everyday and supplied to the florists and road side vendors.

Florists have become increasingly popular over the last two years. We come across at least one in every area, whether it is Dhanmondi, Satmasjid road, Elephant road (where there is a chain of florists) or even in Gulshan, Bani and way down to Uttara. The exclusive market for flowers just beside the children's park rarely escapes anyone's notice.

The services of these florists are varied; starting with decorating wedding cars, rooms for the newly weds, to garlands, flower baskets, bouquets of all sizes and varieties suitable for any occasion.

Hence such bouquets or baskets are a thoughtful token at weddings, birthdays, house-warming parties, anniversaries, or even in official conferences or meetings. The cost of these baskets starts from Tk 30 and goes up to Tk 500 depending on the varieties and size. The same range goes for the bouquets, too. Each stick of 'Rajantgandha' costs Tk 3 in almost all the shops everywhere, while the roses are for Tk 8 each.

The work of these florists are at once like that of the craftsman. Both must possess a technical adroitness which can be acquired only by patient practice. Their artistic work once presented, one may well desire the unchanged duration of a state, but know that this stability is impossible; and that in any case if we could order the moment stationary the happiness it brought us would soon diminish. But definitely as we all know, "A thing of beauty is a joy forever!"



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SKOP demands Pay Commission report

Sramik Kormachari Oikya Parisad (SKOP) demanded of the Government for immediate implementation of Pay Commission report and changing of office timing. It also demanded the formation of Wage Commission.

The demands were renewed at a meeting of the parishad leaders held at Shaheed Colonel Taher Auditorium in the city on Monday.

The meeting decided to hold a rally in front of the National Press Club on August 12 to press home their demands.

President of Jatiyatadabi Sramik Dal and SKOP leader Iskander Ali presided over the meeting which was addressed, among others by Abdul Matin Master, Abdus Salam Khan, Abdullah Sarkar, Yakub Ali Bhuiyan and Protobuddin Ahmed.

JCD sweeps Savar College elections

SAVAR, July 29: Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has swept the Savar College Students Union elections held on Sunday.

JCD bagged all the posts including the post of VP went in favour of Md Jahangir, and GS Md Aman.

JCD's candidate for the post of female secretary Rubina Akhtar Ruby received the highest 961 votes.

The pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-A) was the nearest rival of JCD.

Course on pumps begins at BUET

A three day short-course on "application of pumps for irrigation and drainage" began at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) on Monday, reports BSS.

Australian HC meets Speaker

Australian High Commissioner of Bangladesh Richard Get, called on Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas at his Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban chamber Monday morning, reports BSS.

The envoy stayed with the Speaker for some time and discussed matters of mutual interests.

TV Tuesday

- 5-00 Opening announcement Recitation from Al-Quran
- 5-15 Programme summary Recitation from the Geeta
- 5-20 News in Bangla
- 5-30 Cartoon: Adventures of Galaxy Rangers
- 5-55 Shikhhagan: Education programme
- 7-05 Nazrul Songs
- 8-00 News in Bangla
- 8-30 Drama serial: Shodh
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-25 Parliament round-up
- 10-40 Film show: War and Remembrance
- 11-30 Khabar/The news
- 11-45 Closing

Pubali Bank confce held

A conference of the regional heads of Dhaka, Narayanganj, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna including some potential branch incumbents was held at Pubali Bank Limited at Board Room on July 28 with Abul Matin Khan, Managing Director in the chair, says a press release.

E A Chaudhury, Chairman Board of Directors of the bank was present as special guest.

Bus kills morning walker

A morning walker was run over by a speeding minibus at Dhanmondi Road No 27 on Monday at 6 am.

Safiqul Azam (55) Assistant General Manager of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Planning Department was returning home after morning walk when the minibus hit him. Safiqul died on the spot.

The driver of the minibus, however, managed to escape with the vehicle. A case was filed with Mohammadpur Thana. The body is in DMCH morgue for post-mortem.

Books donated to ICTVTR

Dr Edward Baradzief, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Poland in Bangladesh donated some books on Islamic culture and activities in Poland to Prof Dr A M Patwari, Director General, ICTVTR for the Library of the centre when he came to visit the centre at Board Bazar, Gazipur on Monday, says a press release.

Director General apprised him the objectives and various activities of ICTVTR which is being developed as a centre of excellence for the services of the Islamic Ummah.

DU Film Society executives

The 11-member executive committee of "Dhaka University Film Society" was formed with Shamsul Alam Liton and Kamrul Hossain as President and General Secretary respectively.

The other office bearers are Assistant General Secretary — Asaduzaman Liton, Office Secretary — Abdur Rashid, Publicity Secretary — Nazmun Nahar Rina, Treasurer — Dorina Liza Shikha, Publication Secretary — Kamrul Alam and Members — KM Shahiduzzaman, Razu Ahmed, Shamsunahar Bulbul.

Vegetarian Society formed

An organisation for the vegetarians under the name and style of Bangladesh Vegetarian Society was formed with Musharraf Hossain, Deputy General Manager, Jiban Bima Corporation as its Convenor. Interested persons may contact him at his residence 160, Distillery Road, Dhaka-1204, Phone-254287, says a press release.

Socio-economic census from November 11

Minister for Planning and Finance M Saifur Rahman said in Dhaka Monday the government is committed to the people to improve the quality of their life as it is a people oriented government, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a seminar cum expert consultation on sample census, 1991 at NEC auditorium at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, the minister said, "our resources are scarce and without adequate information and statistics it will not be possible to mobilise resources to improve the lot of the needy people."

The inaugural session of the two-day seminar cum expert consultation was also addressed by Secretary of the Statistics Division Abdus Salam and Chairman of the census standing technical committee and Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed.

1,471 traffickers arrested in Bangladesh Plea to set up SAARC drug offences monitoring desk

Minister for Law and Justice Mirza Gohar Hafiz Monday called for concerted efforts both at regional and international level to combat the drug menace, reports UNB.

"The problem transcends national boundaries and it demands a coordinated international response", Hafiz told a "SAARC Seminar on Enforcement, Prosecution and Trail of Drug Related Offences" in Dhaka on Monday morning.

The incidence of drug abuse and drug trafficking has assumed alarming proportions all over the world and its adverse effects have been badly felt in the SAARC countries, he said while inaugurating the seminar at a local hotel.

Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control AKM Mahub ul Haque presented the key note paper at the inaugural session of the seminar presided over by M Mustafizur Rahman, Secretary of President's Secretariat.

Organisers said 25 delegates from seven-member countries of the forum, including 13 from the host country Bangladesh, are participating in the seminar.

Hafiz said that the trafficking of spurious drugs not only had posed a threat to the individual and the society but also undermined the political and economic stability and security of the countries.

He considered the SAARC as the most appropriate and logical forum to deal with the problems related to drug abuse and drug trafficking.

The Law Minister stressed the need for prompt exchange of information among the enforcement agencies of the seven-nation forum to fight the problem.

Referring to Bangladesh's measures to control the drug menace, he said Dhaka had signed and ratified the SAARC convention on Narcotics Drugs as it "attached priority to the regional cooperative efforts."

He also mentioned of Narcotics Control Board, Department of Narcotics Control and existing law providing for capital punishment for drug abuse in Bangladesh.

BSS adds stressing the need for simplification of procedure of prosecution and trail of drug-related offence, Mirza Hafiz said, the procedure of prosecution in such cases should ensure promptness and trial of such offences should be expeditious, failing which offenders would continue to evade the law, however, stringent it might be.

In his key-note speech, AKM Mahub ul Haque said, among other things, the seminar might consider the possibility of establishment of a SAARC drug offences monitoring desk, extensive training and orientation of enforcement officers and extra facilities for concerned officials when visiting a member country.

Turning to the anti-drug measures of the government, Mr Haque said, in Bangladesh the Narcotics Department had filed 1753 cases and arrested 1471 persons in 1990 for drug trafficking. Of the offenders, 171 were arrested for heroin, 10 for cocaine, 10 for opium, 585 for cannabis and 530 for illegal distillation.

He said, during the period January-June of 1991, about 679 persons were arrested against 771 cases of illicit trafficking.

Giving an analysis of the age groups and professions of the offenders he said, of the arrested persons 65 per cent were in age group of 21-30, 50 per cent were married, 30 per cent were unemployed, 13 per cent were drivers of different vehicles, 25 per cent were il-

literate, and education of about 31 per cent were below school level.

The three-day seminar, to be spread in nine working sessions would make concerted thrust to come to consensus for identifying avenues of cooperation as well as evolving ways and means for simplification of procedures for prosecution and trial of narcotics related offences.

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Application addressed to Hony. Secretary, Rotary Club of Dhaka North West with recent passport size photograph and full resume must reach P O Box 5082, New Market, Dhaka-1205 by 4th August, 1991. Applicants must mention their Telephone No for emergency contact.

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Weather

Depression weakens

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh has been relieved of the adverse affect of Sunday's Monsoon depression over North-West Bay of Orissa-West Bengal coast as it moved West North-West ward and crossed Orissa-West Bengal coast between Chadbali and Balasore on Monday morning.

The depression is likely to move West North-westward further inland and weaken gradually, a special bulletin of Meteorological Department said.

Light to moderate rain or shower with a few moderately heavy fall. Accompanied by temporary gusty win is likely to occur at most places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions and at many places over Khulna and Chittagong division during the next 24 hours commencing 6 pm on Monday, according to a Met office reports.

The day temperature till Wednesday may remain nearly unchanged over the country. On Monday the highest temperature recorded at Tangail was 34.8 degree Celsius while the lowest temperature was 24 degrees recorded at Sylhet.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Rainfall activities may increase Extended outlook for another five days: Little change.

The sun sets today (Tuesday) at 6.43 pm and rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 5.27 am.

The temperature and humidity in some cities and towns of the country on Monday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Maximum	Minimum	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31	27	78	81
Chittagong	28.6	26.1	86	86
Rajshahi	33.4	26	81	92
Khulna	32.3	23.3	81	85
Bogra	32.9	25.5	78	71
Sylhet	34	24	78	93
Srimangal	32.5	NA	78	NA
Rangamati	24.8	25.4	85	83
Feni	24.3	24.3	76	84
Tangail	34.8	26	79	79