

Dhaka Day by Day

'Star of Bethlehem' in Dhaka

by Rahat Fahmida

The 'Star of Bethlehem' twinkles up brightly, not in the skies of Jerusalem — but in Dhaka. Yes, true indeed. It is seen blossoming in some of the luxurious gardens of the city.

As it has been noticed that over the past years plant lovers and growers are on the increase. We hear people collecting plants from various parts of the world.

One such rare blossom is this 'Star of Bethlehem' or 'Midnight Glory'. It is an old world plant of the lily family. It is naturalised in eastern North America. 'Star of Bethlehem' grows from a bulb and has a tall cluster of green and white, star-shaped flowers.

There is the widest possible choice among the trees and shrubs suitable for the garden and by careful and intelligent selection it is possible to use them, not only to give stability and per-

manence to the garden scene, but to pinpoint, emphasise or display the special, colourful virtues of plants from various families.

No more flattering situation for a tree can exist than in a smooth, green lawn — a specimen standing in the centre of a vacant stage, the target for the admiration of all eyes. The choice of planting obviously depends not only on personal taste but on area and surrounding.



In full bloom this was worth watching. It was indeed hard to differentiate whether we were watching a video or it did exist in reality.

This particular rare variety of flower blooms with the help of moonlight, almost after every two months. The time of blooming is limited from the first day of the lunar month till full-moon.

This 'Star of Bethlehem' which is also known as 'Midnight Glory' grows all round the year. It does not wait for any particular season before it arrives. In a way this matches with our mentality of this technological era. As nowadays many of us have a mundane view of nature and tend to regard the transition of seasons merely as a time to change from heavyweight to lightweight garments. It seems there is no time to look at the translucent colours of blossoms!

Life expectancy in Bangladesh 10 yrs lower than LDC average

The countries of South Asia including Bangladesh export, Sri Lanka, all fall into the category of low human development, according to a Press release issued by the United Nations Information Centre in Dhaka on Monday.

Bangladesh raised the average life expectancy from 40 to 52 years between 1960 and 1990, but this is still ten years lower than the average for developing countries as a whole.

South Asia has the lowest literacy rate (42%) of all the regions. Some countries have made only limited progress. Nepal has, since 1970, raised its adult literacy rate from 13% to 22%. In health, there have been increases in the immunization coverage of one-year old children. In Bangladesh, this coverage

rose from 1% to 60% over the last decade. In Sri Lanka, the coverage is now 89%.

The economic progress that is so vital to human development has been slow in this region — partly due to population growth. Annual economic growth rates between 1980 and 1988 have averaged just over 3%. GNP per capita remains low, particularly in Nepal (\$180) and Bangladesh (\$170).

Pakistan has had an impressive annual growth rate (around 6%) but has failed to translate this into human progress. A comparison with Sri Lanka highlights the failure: while Pakistan has much the same GNP per capita, its average life expectancy, at 58 years, is 13 years lower.

Inequality is one of the most striking features of South Asia — between rich and poor, males and females, different regions and different ethnic groups. In rural Punjab, landless families have infant mortality levels 36% higher than those for landowning families.

In Asia as a whole, one child in three suffers from malnutrition, and nearly 700 million people live in poverty, with the great majority of them in two countries — India and Bangladesh. Only two-thirds of the population has access to health services and clean water. Female life expectancy is low, with a substantial number of women who would have lived if they had been born elsewhere. Asia remains one of the poorest regions of the world.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Tennis
- 5 Seed
- 8 Inlets
- 12 One opposed
- 13 Mountain on Onco
- 14 Pleaser
- 15 Improve
- 17 Girl, maiden
- 19 Dilute
- 20 "— the "Trans"
- 21 Check
- 22 Lubricate
- 24 Existed
- 26 Chief artery
- 28 Haul
- 31 Nutsy ID
- 32 Wages
- 33 "Let it"
- 34 Comedian
- 36 More ancient
- 38 "Adam's —"
- 39 Erase: printing

DOWN

- 1 Flaps
- 2 Again
- 3 Declares
- 4 Name
- 5 "To — With Love"
- 6 Hypothetical
- 7 force
- 8 Small lump
- 9 Having branches
- 10 The sweetest
- 11 Transaction
- 12 Lamb's pen name
- 13 Solo
- 22 "— House"
- 23 Aquatic mammal
- 24 Pale
- 25 One, no matter which
- 27 Crimson
- 28 Japanese sash
- 30 Spider's trap
- 35 Lou Grant, e.g.
- 36 Butler substitute: collog.
- 37 Rends
- 38 Tell
- 40 Roman official
- 42 Bum
- 43 Slender
- 44 Mine vein
- 46 Short jacket
- 47 Clan
- 49 At present
- 50 Consume
- 53 Concerning

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ASPS ALTO THE
DIRT BOOR OAK
STOAT OPERATE
BROOMS USES
MALT PEANT
ARE PEDALS MA
TAM ON TE DAB
EL BOSYON RUE
SIL IN SELL
TALL SNEAKS
HEALING MISER
ERN TALE RETE
MOT SPET TRAP

Symposium on children

Children Advancement Programme (CAP), on the occasion of international day of innocent children victims for aggression on June 4, will hold a symposium today (Tuesday) at 5pm at United Nations Information Centre.

Weather

Rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower with a few moderately heavy falls accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Chittagong, Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions and a few places over Khulna division till Wednesday morning, Meteorological Department reports.

On Monday, the highest temperature recorded at Satkhira was 35.8 degrees Celsius while the lowest temperature recorded at Sylhet was 21.5 degrees Celsius. The day temperature till Tuesday may remain nearly unchanged.

The sun sets today (Tuesday) at 6.43 pm and rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 5.11 am.

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:	32.6	33.4	86	75
Chittagong:	33	26	76	73
Khulna:	34.5	23.2	83	64
Rajshahi:	33.2	26.2	85	47
Cox's Bazar:	33.2	25.5	75	78
Barisal:	32.8	23.4	86	75
Sylhet:	26.6	21.5	98	95
Srimongal:	33.2	22.2	82	97
Comilla:	31.5	23	86	74
Jessore:	34.5	26.4	Na	75
Dinajpur:	32.6	23.4	84	75
Faridpur:	32.2	22.2	82	88
Satkhira:	35.8	26.4	82	63

Dhaka to seek more aid in WFC session

The four-day 17th ministerial session of the World Food Council organised by the United Nations will begin on June 5 in Helsingor city of Denmark, reports BSS.

State Minister for Food Nazmul Huda is leaving for London Monday night en route to Denmark to attend the session.

Nazmul Huda will lead a two-member Bangladesh delegation to the conference.

Bangladesh will seek enhanced assistance and cooperation in the session from the developed countries and international organisation to achieve self-sufficiency in food by the year 1992 and make up the crop losses due to the current year's recurrent cyclonic storm, flood, tornado and other natural calamities.

The Bangladesh delegation will also highlight the action plan and steps taken by the newly elected democratic government which accorded highest priority to food production and arrangements for building up country-wide food security.

The World Food Council will discuss in details and take future programme on the global state of hunger and malnutrition. The session will review the food situation especially of the regions of Asia, Middle East and East Europe in the light of recent political and economical changes in those countries.

JU Senate meet June 21

JU Correspondent

The 10th session of Jahangirnagar University senate will be held on June 21 at the newly built Senate Hall of the University.

The Senate session will consider the revised budget for the fiscal 90-91 and main recurring budget for the fiscal 91-92.

The Senate would discuss the annual report of the university for the year 89-90 and some amendment bills.

Bus accident

A University bus of the University (Dhaka Cha 1420) met on accident near Banani rail crossing.

The driver lost control of the bus and collided with a train.

The vehicle was badly damaged. The bus driver was arrested by the Cantonment police.

BCU rally

Chhatra Union, Jahangirnagar University unit brought out a procession on the campus Monday protesting the arrest of DU students for their alleged involvement in the assault of Jammal Secretary General Matur Rahman Nizami.

The procession ended at the Arts Faculty premises. BSU leaders condemned the arrests.

Tampubolon's dress show tomorrow

World famous Indonesian dress designer Even Tampubolon will give a presentation of his creation tomorrow (Wednesday) at hotel Sonargaon at the hotel ballroom at 4-30 pm at a charity tea and dress show to be organised by the Indonesian Embassy in aid of Bangladesh's cyclone victims, says a Press release.

Funds to be raised on the occasion will be donated to the Relief Fund. Tampubolon arrived in city early this week.

The dress exhibition will be organised by the DIA Productions and tickets will be available at DIA, hotel Sonargaon, the Press release added.



Students of Department of Accounting of Dhaka University brought out a procession on Monday demanding release of Moazzem Hossain and Shafiqul Azam who were arrested for alleged involvement in assault of Jamaat leader Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami.



Students of Suhrawardy College brought out a procession in the city demanding arrest of hoodlums to free campus from violence.

Action against loan defaulters directed

State Minister for Finance

Mazibor Rahman on Monday paid a surprise visit to Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) and expressed his dissatisfaction after examining the investment documents and supporting papers there, reports BSS.

Dhaka-Beijing trade ties to grow

Chinese Ambassador in Bangladesh Chen Songlu Monday called on Commerce Minister Muhammad Keramat Ali at his office, reports BSS.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to trade and hoped that the existing bilateral trade relation between the two countries would further be strengthened in future.

The Commerce Minister thanked the Ambassador for extending their help and cooperation in the aftermath of cyclone and tidal surge in Bangladesh.

and the non-banker attitude of some bank officials had crippled the economy, he said.

The government had already taken some quick and stringent measures to restore financial discipline, the Minister also said.

Mustafiz accredited to Mongolia

The government has decided to concurrently accredit Ambassador Mustafizur Rahman, at present Ambassador of Bangladesh to the USSR, as Ambassador of Bangladesh to Mongolia, according to official sources in Dhaka on Monday, reports BSS.

He found that no legal action had yet been taken against the big defaulters while 34 cases were filed against the relatively smaller defaulters and some cases were under preparation.

He asked the officials to take legal action against the big defaulters immediately. Addressing the officials there, Rahman said the deterioration of the economy could not be checked until the financial discipline in the banking sector is restored. The indiscipline of the past regime

Organised by the academy as part of its on-going programmes, the scheme is designed to encourage the theatre, groups performance outside the capital.

Drama festival begins June 8

By Staff Correspondent

A week-long drama festival participated by theatre groups from outside Dhaka is scheduled to begin from June 8 at the Shilpakala Academy.

Renowned theatre actor Md Jakaria will inaugurate the opening session at 7 am. Khulna Theatre will stage 'Sukh Romoni Gunaibibir Kischhya' on the day. Tickets can be collected at free of cost from the academy.

He said the attacks on the political leaders would jeopardise democratic atmosphere restored after a long struggle against autocracy.

In a democratic society, everybody has the right to express his own opinion, the Hindu Community leader reminded and called the concerned quarter to refrain from such practice in future.

174 'President's medals' this year

One hundred seventy four 'President's medals' will be distributed this year as a recognition for significant contribution to agricultural development, an official handout said in Dhaka, reports BSS.

Of the medals, four are made of gold, 20 silver and the rest 150 bronze.

This was decided at a meeting of the 'president's prize for agriculture development committee' held in city Monday with Agriculture and Irrigation Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul-Haq in the chair.

Agriculture Secretary KM Rabbani, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Moniruzzaman Miah, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agriculture University Prof Asadur Rahman, ex-MP and ex-Development Co-ordinator of Jessore Afsar Ahmed Siddique were present in the meeting.

The meeting also decided to recognise at least one person from each district for his contribution towards agricultural development. It further decided to award medals to such organisations, institutions and individuals who have outstanding contributions in the overall development in the field.

Besides certificates, Taka 10,000 in cash will be paid to each gold medal winner, Taka 5,000 to silver medal and Taka 2,500 to bronze medal winner.

Hindu Parishad condemns attack on Nizami

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Jatitya Hindu Parishad (National Hindu Council) convener Sree Sudhin Roy Narayan in a statement Monday strongly condemned recent attacks on Jamaat leader Moulana Matur Rahman Nizami and at the house of Ganotantri Party leader Suranjit Sengupta.

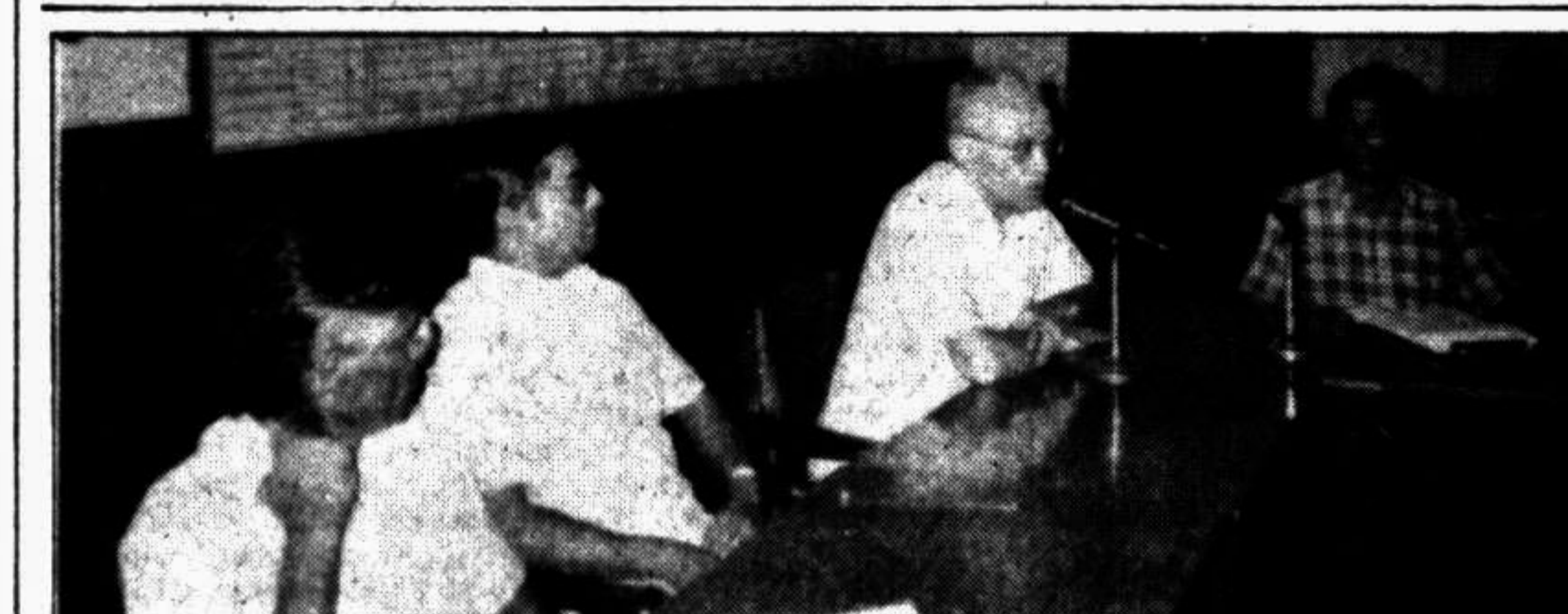
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Dhaka team to attend SAARC body meet

A three-member Bangladesh team left Dhaka on Monday to attend the SAARC Technical Committee meeting on Agriculture beginning in Kathmandu today (Tuesday), reports UNB.

Headed by the Executive Vice-Chairman of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) DrM Sujaytullah Chowdhury, the team included Director of SAARC Agricultural Information Centre Abdun Nur and Principal Technical Officer of BARC Dr M Gul Hossain.



Head of the Delegation of European Commission in Dhaka Ambassador Jacques Baitty holding discussions with senior Government officials in Chittagong. Seen with him is Mokammel Haq, Zonal Relief Coordinator.



The Ulama conference organised by the Rabita Alame Islami opened Monday at the Islamic Foundation auditorium. The Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Abdul Latif Abdullah Al Maimanee spoke at the inaugural session as chief guest.

Obituary

Delowar Hossain Khan (Farookh) son of late Md Khairuddin Khan of Modipur, Jhalakathi, Barisal died of a massive heart attack on Sunday in a local clinic. He was 50.

His Quikhwani will be held at his residence at House No 38/A, Road No 9/A, Dhanmondi, tomorrow (Wednesday) after Asr prayer.

TENDER NOTICE

DESCRIPTION OF WORK :
Erectment of 132/33 KV grid Sub-station Security Wall (remaining part). Eligibility of contractors: Enlisted A&B class contractors of PDB. Estimated cost Tk. 4,11,074 /87. Cost of Tender Schedule: TK 200/-.

Place and availability of tender and date : Chief Engineer, (Project) PDB, Dhaka/ Project Director, Transmission Project Circle, PDB, Goalchamot, Faridpur/Transmission Project Division, PDB, Madaripur/ Agrani Bank, Shariatullah Branch, Faridpur upto 12-06-91. Date of receiving and opening : 13-06-91 at 12 Noon and the same day at 12.30 p.m.

Project Director
Transmission Project Circle
PDB, Faridpur.

Biddat/Jan-1409(4)90-91
DFP(BA)-4438-29/5
G-174

HOUSE TO LET

Modern two-storied one-unit ceramic brickfaced house in Banani, built 7/84, approx. 4000 sq. ft., complete with aluminium windows/grills. 4 bed rooms, attached baths, spacious living/dining, separate family/ TV lounges, study, spacious modern kitchen, pantry and store; separate servants' quarters, garage, spacious lawn. Built-in TV aerial connection, also existing phone connection with multi-room extensions.

Contact : Tel : 602112 or 833485 (9 am to 2 pm)
Or at site : House 55, Road 4, Block C, Banani.
D-50



Hamim Zahir, a student of Viqarunnessa Noon College, participating in a debate competition between students and popular drama artists organised by Bangladesh Debate Federation at Dhaka University TSC on Sunday to raise fund for cyclone victims.