

Dhaka Day by Day

Blossoms en route to Work

by Fayza Haq

I wonder how the roadside flowers and leaves ever breathe and thrive in the city. There is not only the sweat and grime emanating from thousands of rickshaws and motor cycles that ply the streets of Dhaka. There are also the buses and 'tempos' plus the three wheeled baby-taxis giving out poisonous black fumes. Even trucks and vans let off overwhelming smoke.

T. S. Eliot said that April is the cruellest month. Yet the Easter lilies and cannas are out in the private gardens at Dhanmandi and Paribagh. The bougainvillas and other blossoms near the Shagshad Bhaban seem perennial. The Manik Mian Avenue — the road leading from Mirpur Road to Sonargaon — is laden with flowers and thick green leaves somehow all the years round.

I am more concerned and bewildered as how honeysuckles and multi-coloured bougainvillas survive the heat, the carbon monoxide, and the rush and sweat of thousands who pass by in places like Motijheel.

Road No 2 in Dhanmandi begins with dainty yellow florets as the BDR is there to water and tend to them. Next come the numerous embassy houses which encourage flowers to grow in a soothing and exotic manner. This is not to say there is not a heavy flow of traffic

imported from India and Pakistan or even Sri Lanka. They may not be of indigenous growth but they definitely gladden the eye.

Along the official buildings near the NGO Affairs Bureau there are 'chompas' and more blossoms. These are not seen often. But glimpses of them have a cooling impact while the rains have not yet come down in wild abandon.

The Ramna Park looks bedraggled and moth-eaten at times and could be better tended. The palm and banana trees along with the occasional hibiscus and eucalyptus thrive because of the intrinsic good quality of the soil. Whatever is there in the park in the form of plants and trees, though often destroyed by 'tokais', who gather barks of trees and twigs for a living, is not to be scorned. As the passenger progresses in his rickety rickshaw with its near self-ejecting seat, with harsh sunlight pouring into his eyes, he welcomes the greenery.

Some of the sophisticated Motijheel offices, such as the prestigious banks, do keep potted plants along with paintings for the benefit of the workers and the visitors. But what surprises me are the plants in front of the sweet shops or places where one can buy spectacles. At least four of the shops in



Bougainvillas seen at Baitul Mukarram. — Star photo

there to choke the trees and flowers as well as the saplings. The students in the vicinity with their periodic stampede and bewildering activities, like hijacking cars and burning tyres, are enough to give the botanical creatures a jolt. It is common knowledge that plants need carbon dioxide and not fresh oxygen. But the roads leading from Satmasjid Road to Motijheel form no sanitised Kew Garden.

As one progresses, to the New Elephant Road there are the cool 'neem' trees. Ten years back there were cherry blossom plants in the same place. Apparently the delicate plants did not survive the hectic onslaught of the surrounding traffic and crowd of thousands pushing, milling and buying their requisite commodities. Even in those days I used to be amazed that no one plucked the blossoms.

As one goes to Shahbagh there are nurseries and flower stalls. All you have to possess is money to help yourself to the wonderful arrangement of tuberoses, gladioli, temple flowers, jasmine and 'chambelis'. Even when you have neither the time nor the inclination to actually buy the flowers or plants, the very sight of them is soothing for the mental makeup. Sure, some of the flowers in the flower shops and nurseries have been

Motijheel and New Elephant Road have overhanging blossoms specially cultivated and cared for. These are undoubtedly a welcome sight.

In a city of mosques people will brighten their place of worship. The flowers that hang out of the iron filigree gates of Baitul Mukarram keep their colour, shape, and charm with some magic in all the scorching heat stifling dust and floating muck. I marvel at the tenacity of the plants although I realise that the keepers of the mosques must necessarily be watering them regularly.

The roads of the city 12 years ago, had more trees lining them. Today they are still interesting to study. While some bear bats others carry jackfruit and even temple flowers. With the wild rush to go to and fro everyday, the office to attend, the shopping to do, the markets to run to, there is a tremendous amount of foul air floating about the vicinity. Yet the flowers and leaves survive the dust, grime, bad odour and lift the spirits of the average man struggling to get his day's work done. There is no Botanical Garden en route to work. But one cannot help admiring the courage and determination of the flowers that bloom on the way to my office.

Discussion meet on Health Day today

In observance of World Health Day the United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) will hold a discussion meeting on Monday at 5-00 pm at the United Nations Information Centre, House No-25, Road No-11 (old road No 32), Dhanmandi, Dhaka, says a press release.

Professor M. A. Majid, President, Bangladesh Medical Association and for Advisor to the President will be the chief guest.

Dr. Rudra S. Giri, Acting Representative, World Health Organisation in Bangladesh will be guest speaker.

Dr. Sayedur Rahman, Former President, Bangladesh Medical Association will preside over the meeting.

Special IWTA launch services

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority has arranged special launch services during the ensuing Eid-ul-Fitr. The launch will operate in the following routes from April 11 to April 20.

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| Dhaka | Bhola |
| Dhaka | Barisal |
| Dhaka | Bandura |
| Dhaka | Barguna |
| Dhaka | Chandpur |
| Dhaka | Ichli |
| Dhaka | Madaripur |
| Dhaka | Sureswar |
| Dhaka | Torkey |
| Dhaka | Borhanuddin |
| Narayanganj | Chandpur |
| Narayanganj | Munshiganj |
| Narayanganj | Taltala |
| Narayanganj | Ramchandrapur |
| Narayanganj | Machukhali |
| Narayanganj | Sureswar |
| Narayanganj | Torkey |
| Narayanganj | Motlab-Bhangra |
| Narshindi | Nabnagar |

The travelling public have been requested not to board the passenger launch beyond its carrying capacity. The owners, the Masters, the Serangs and all concerned are also advised to refrain from overloading. They have also been requested to follow the weather signal while operating the launches in the best interest of safety of the lives and the property of the travelling public and to take special care of safety according to legal requirements.

BGMEA chief hails JS speech of Shahabuddin

The President of BGMEA Mr Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain congratulated the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on his addressing the inaugural session of the Jatiya Sangsad on April 5, says a Press release.

He said that the contribution of the Acting President in holding a fair & free election and calling into a session will ever be remembered by the posterity and will be recorded in our history with due respect for him.

He expressed his deepest sense of appreciation for the Acting President for mentioning the garment industry as the mainstay of our national economy and the key commodity of our export item.

He further recalled his contribution to bring the situation under control in January 1991, when garment industry was a victim of indiscriminate damage, arson and loot which played a havoc with the sector and tried to jeopardize its existence.

Weather

Rain with hails likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower with hails at places accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong division and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions, weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country. Day temperature is likely to rise by one to three degrees Celsius over many places of the country.

The Sun sets today (Monday) at 6.17 pm and rises Tuesday at 5.44 am. Rain and thundershower occurred at one or two places over Chittagong divisions and weather remained dry elsewhere over the country.

Chief amount of rainfall recorded were: Cox's Bazar 7 mm, Maizdee Court 4 mm and Teknaf 3 mm.

The highest temperature of 33.8 degrees Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest 20.0 degrees at Chittagong. Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five days: no marked change.

The temperature and humidity of some cities on Sunday:

| Cities/Towns | Temperature in Celsius | Humidity (%) |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Dhaka | 32.3 | 85 |
| Chittagong | 31.4 | 71 |
| Rajshahi | 31.6 | 71 |
| Khulna | 33.7 | 61 |
| Cox's Bazar | 32.0 | 53 |
| Sylhet | 25.0 | 72 |
| Rangpur | 29.5 | 83 |
| Barisal | 31.6 | 61 |
| Dinajpur | 31.2 | 70 |

| Maximum temperature of some regional cities were: | | |
|---|----|------------------|
| Karachi | 30 | degrees Celsius. |
| Beijing | 11 | " |
| Colombo | 32 | " |
| Bangkok | 36 | " |
| Delhi | 30 | " |
| and Calcutta | 32 | degrees Celsius. |



Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani, Special Emissary of Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Railway Minister called on Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her Parliament chamber in Dhaka Sunday. — PID photo

Directive to open 2 shifts in all good schools

Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs Prof AQM Badruddoza Choudhury Sunday called upon all concerned to help raise the standard of education at the secondary level and ensure a better atmosphere in the educational arena for the increasing number of young learners, reports BSS.

He also asked the teachers and others in this field to evolve effective plans for the next 10 years so that education could be oriented to production with political motivation.

The Minister, as the chief guest, was inaugurating a national workshop on development of strategies, research instruments and materials for raising the quality of learning of secondary school students, at the NIEAR auditorium in Dhaka.

The five day workshop for 25 participants from different educational institutions and departments is being jointly

organised by the UNESCO and Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO (BNCU).

The inaugural function was also addressed, among others, by State Minister for Education Principal Mohammad Younus Khan, Education Secretary ANM Eusuf and former Director General of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education.

Dr Choudhury, who is also the Chairman of BNCU, said the world is now progressing fast in education while Bangladesh is lagging far behind due to various retarding trends including economic reasons. But the main thing is that books are not worth reading because of flaws in information, spelling mistakes and poor bindings, he said.

The Education Minister said the present government had come to power with a people's mandate after a great struggle and asked all to dedicate themselves to the service

of the people of the country.

In this respect, he called for removing all discriminations between education in the cities and education in rural areas and asked the concerned authorities to launch two shifts in good and mediocre schools so that thousands of young boys and girls could be given secondary education in a short period.

Choudhury mentioned with happiness that educational materials and instruments here being manufactured in Bangladesh but expressed his surprise to know that those were not being used in schools as per the need. You all have to come forward to face this situation otherwise you will not be able to rear up the boys and girls with proper education he said.

The minister laid more stress on education in schools than that in own homes and called upon the teachers to be friendly with their students so that they could feel easy with their teachers in learning.

Bhutanese Foreign Minister arrives Wednesday

Bhutanese Foreign Minister Dawa Tsering is likely arrive on Wednesday as special envoy of the king of the tiny Himalayan Kingdom, reports UNB.

He is expected to carry a message from King Jigme Singye Wangchuk for Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The Bhutanese Foreign Minister is expected to have talks with his counterpart ASM Mustafizur Rahman and other officials on bilateral cooperation, besides delivering the message to the Prime Minister.

Pak special envoy calls on Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Sunday expressed the hope that the relations between Bangladesh and Pakistan would grow from strength to strength in future, reports BSS.

Begum Zia was talking to Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani, special envoy of Pakistan Prime Minister who called on her at Prime Ministers Jatiya Sangsad office. Mr Bijrani who is also the Railway Minister of his country arrived in Dhaka Saturday night at the head of the five member delegation carrying a message from Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for Begum Khaleda Zia.

Other members of the delegation who include senators Abdul Qayum Khan, Fida Hossain Khan and member of national assembly Mian Shabbaz Sharif were present.

Mr Bijrani felicitated Begum Zia on her party's deserving victory in the parliamentary elections. He conveyed the greetings from Pakistan Prime Minister to Begum Zia on her assumption of the office of the Prime Minister.

Pak envoy offers buses, trucks, carriages

The special envoy of Pakistan's Prime Minister Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani Sunday called on the Communications Minister Oli Ahmed at his office at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, reports BSS.

Bijrani, who is also the Railway Minister of his country, said his government would continue to cooperate with Bangladesh for the development of railway transportation network.

The envoy also offered to provide buses, trucks, railway carriages, carriage manufacturing equipment, equipment necessary for railway rehabilitation and maintenance under favourable terms and condition.

Oli Ahmed assured the visiting envoy that their proposal would be actively considered and favourable decision might be taken on further examination of the terms and condition.

They also discussed about the training facilities of the railway officials of Bangladesh at the Railway Training Academy, Lahore.

Nurul Momen Khan, Secretary, Railway Division and Anwar Kamal, Pakistan High Commissioner were also present.

BICPAJ meet on Ramzan Wednesday

By Staff Correspondent
Bangladesh Inter-Religious Council for Peace and Justice (BICPAJ) will hold a discussion on the holy month of Ramzan at its 4/10 Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur office at 5 pm on Wednesday.

The discussion will be followed by Iftar.

Demonstration of APSU today

By DU Correspondent

The All-Party Students Unity (APSU) will hold a demonstration today (Monday) on the Dhaka University campus to press the government and the Parliament members for realising their ten point demands.

Village doctors' call to revive Zia's plan

By Staff Correspondent

The Palli Chikitsak Samity in a statement Sunday said if Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman's programmes could be revived the village doctors

would be able to participate in health, family planning and mass education activities beside providing health care to the people.

The statement issued by Dr. Nazimuddin Ahmed and Enad Hossain Bhuiyan, President and Secretary of the central executive committee of the samity said Shaheed Zia had created 27,113 village doctors as part of his plan of making 68 thousand trained village doctors for 68 thousand villages, but later anti-people government had destroyed the programmes.

DUJ meet today

By Staff Correspondent

An emergency meeting of the executive body of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) will be held today (Monday) at 11 am at the union office, says a press release.

DUJ General Secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi in a statement Sunday requested all the executive body members

Monday

- 2-45 Opening and recitation from Al-Quran
- Direct relay of Shadinata Cup football final
- 4-45 Shantarnathan
- 5-20 News in Bengali
- 5-30 Cartoon: Flash Cargo
- 5-55 Mahe Ramzan
- 6-30 Sports Programme
- 7-05 TV Debate
- 8-00 News in Bengali
- 8-30 Jiboner Janna: Population Programme
- 9-00 Shurer Bhobon
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-20 Parliamentary Roundup
- 10-35 Film serial: Troma Centre
- 11-15 Khabar/ The News
- 11-30 Closing

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

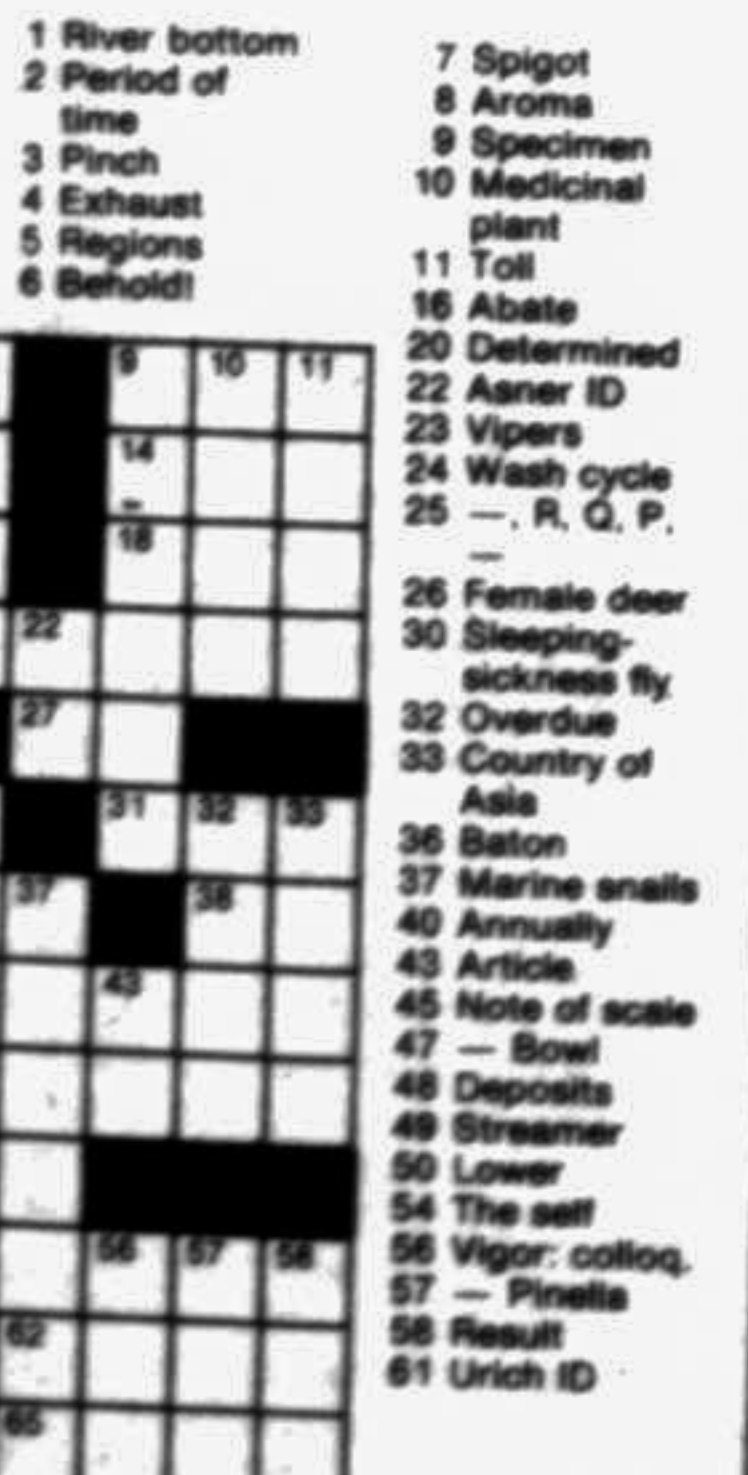
- Twist
- Palo —
- Exhaust
- Great Lake
- "to Be"
- Tavern stock
- Variante
- with spots
- Italian river
- Edict
- Flightless bird
- Conduct
- Repulse
- Set a value on
- Pacino
- Discolor
- Temporary
- Clash
- Measure
- Greek letter
- Most uncanny

DOWN

- Aida ID
- Vessel —
- curved plank
- Bend the head
- Muse of poetry
- Printer's measure
- Pre-determines
- Sedate
- Fine powder
- Auricle
- Concerning
- Human beings
- Sesame
- Monster
- Broadway
- Crafty
- Decant
- Potato: colloq.
- Period of time
- Pinch
- Exhaust
- Regions
- Behold!
- Spigot
- Aroma
- Specimen
- Medicinal plant
- Toll
- Abate
- Determined
- Asser ID
- Vipers
- Wash cycle
- R. Q. P.
- Female deer
- Sleeping sickness fly
- Overdue
- Country of Asia
- Baton
- Marine snails
- Annually
- Article
- Note of scale
- Bowl
- Deposits
- Streamers
- Lower
- The self
- Viper: colloq.
- Piccola
- Result
- Urlic ID

Answer to Previous Puzzle

PLANS OPENS
CRAYON DEPEND
AI EOAN ITER
PEG KIOSK SEE
ESAU LEANS RS
STUNG LIONESS
NICE STOP
RETOURS SWEDE
OS NINES SEER
ITS MAYS SPA
LAPS BATE AS
STATUS RETIRE
ERATO SMART



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