

## Dhaka Day by Day

### Ravishing Rajanigandhas

by Bilquis Afzal

Dhaka, a few centuries ago, was the Moghul capital of the Subah of Bengal building the first Moghul Navy known as Navarra here on the eastern flank of the Moghul Empire to guard the Empire from the assaults of Portuguese and Magh pirates. A visiting poet from Delhi is reported to have remarked in admiration of this ever-green city where flowers grew in abundance.

In keeping with its great Moghul heritage Dhaka is again becoming a city of flowers. When a visitor comes to this land of continual cyclones, floods, hunger, poverty and political strife the only good memory he or she must be taking back of Dhaka is the Bengalis' love of flowers and the hours he spends in horticulture.

This is one of the paradoxes of the Bengali character — his love for flowers and the building up of a whole culture and industry around his pedantic worship of flowers against a backdrop of dirt, disease, pestilence, hunger and political strife.

Flower, the unique possession of nature, has a universal appeal throughout the ages. But a country like ours where hunger and poverty have been the common phenomena making life hard and callous, gardening or fascination for flower is confined mainly to the affluent class.

But, of late, flower farming has found favour in rural areas of this land. Harora, a

small village about 3 miles off Saikupa upazila headquarters in Jessore district is where Mamunur Azad has started growing flowers on commercial basis. He had fascination for flowers since his boyhood and at first he turned a small plot of land into a garden adjacent to his house. Later seeing good business prospects he extended his garden on a plot of 50 decimals and started growing Rajanigandha (Rose Lily) in the early 1990. During the past one and half year he had to invest in all Taka 10,000. Till date the farming fetched him Taka 40,000 by selling the suckers of Rajanigandha to flower traders from distant towns like Jhenidah, Kustitia, Jessore,

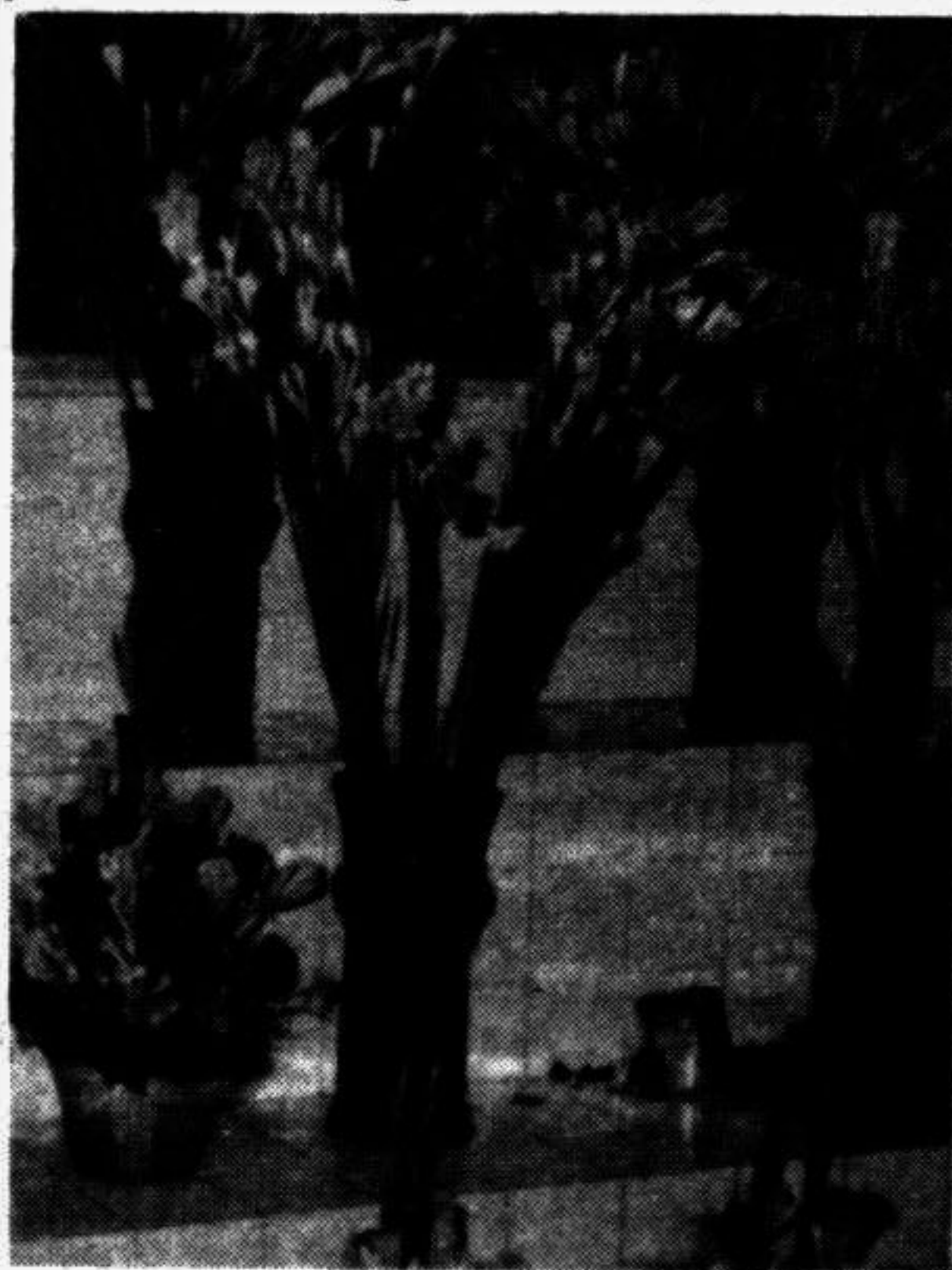
Magura and faraway Dhaka. He also sells it at different village markets at a rate of 50 paisa to Taka one per stick of Rajanigandha.

A nation carved out on the world map through a legacy of blood today slowly and steadily is becoming a nation of flower worshippers. As I walked down to Madhab Pushpa Kunza, one of the florist shop's opposite the Dhaka Museum, I could hear the distant sound of firing and some bomb blasts. May be somewhere near Curzon Hall. Like the citizens of Beirut we here on the DU Campus have got used to the sound of constant shelling, bombing and firing. It disturbs me considerably less nowadays.

I walked down TSC, the College of Fine Arts, Public Library, Dhaka Museum and then crossed the road and finally reached my

destination — a flourishing florist shop in the heart of Dhaka. Sheikh Alamgir Rahman, the manager told me that 2,000 acres of land are under Rajanigandha cultivation. They are mainly concentrated in the district of Jessore. The florist shop people told me that the Rajanigandha culture started since 1982. Each morning fresh flowers are brought to Dhaka in truck-loads from Jessore, the night coaches and trucks that travel at night to bring fresh flowers to the city each day.

The beautiful display of gladiolus — yellow, red, pink and magenta at this shop make a delightful sight. I couldn't resist buying two shears of magenta coloured gladiolus though I was hard-pressed for money. Gladiolus are grown here in nurseries in Dhanmondi since 1985-1986. As I had no money for my rickshaw fare after paying for gladiolus, I decided to walk home. When I came around TSC corner and walked towards my residence I could see a student activists' procession winding its way from TSC. Apprehending trouble I quickly reached the safety of my flat. As I was arranging the gorgeous gladiolus with the Rajanigandhas in the vase the air was suddenly vent with slogans and then — bang bang!



### World leaders greet Biswas

More world leaders have warmly felicitated President Abdur Rahman Biswas for assuming the office of the President of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

They are: Egyptian President Mohammed Hosny Mubarak, King Hasan of Morocco, UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, Prime Minister of UAE Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Saba, President of South Korea Roh Tae Woo, Sultan of Oman Qaboos Bin Said, President of Brazil Fernando Collors, King of Bhutan Jigme Singye Wangchuck, President of the Swiss Confederation Flavio Cott, Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, King of Spain Juan Carlos and President of Maldives Maumoon Abdul Gayoom.

The world leaders hoped that the traditional ties of friendship, goodwill and close cooperation between their respective countries

### Setting up of Parliamentary Institute under consideration

## Bill being examined for separation of judiciary : more HC judges soon

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz Friday said that the separation of the judiciary and the executive was necessary for democracy and the government had already drafted a bill towards that direction, reports BSS.

The present government would accomplish this task although others in the past spoke of this but did nothing in practice, he told a function in Dhaka, marking the launching of a magazine 'Legal Aid'.

Among others Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda addressed the occasion as special guest while Deputy Minister for Shipping ABM Zahidul Huq, former Chief Justice and Advisor to the magazine Justice Kemaluddin

Hossain and eminent lawyer and writer on legal affairs Gazt Shamsur Rahman also spoke on the function.

Editor of the monthly 'Legal Aid' Advocate Khawja Golam Murshid presided.

The Law Minister, who was the chief guest at the ceremony, said the bill was now being examined by an expert committee and would be placed in Parliament after consideration by the cabinet.

Mirza Golam Hafiz said rule of law is a conception for a free society and the government is sincerely working for creation of such an atmosphere.

He said the present government has embarked upon measures to enhance the prestige of the judiciary and lawyers, who suffered badly during nine years of autocratic rule.

The Law Minister said BNP government is taking steps for quick disposal of cases as far as possible because 'justice denied when justice is delayed'.

In this context, he said the number of judges in the High Court Division was being increased and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had already decided to shift the Defence Ministry from the present old High Court building so that the judiciary could be expanded.

Mirza Golam Hafiz said all are equal before law but equal application of the law is important because this maxim is not always adhered to in practice.

He referred to certain laws which appear to be self-contradictory and said it was necessary to make them more pragmatic.

The Law Minister mentioned the 12th Constitutional Amendment Bill and said he was proud of being associated with this as the Law Minister

because only seldom one could be involved with such a great venture.

It is now necessary to give institutional framework to this development so that democracy and a free society take deep roots, he said.

Mirza Hafiz said it is also

necessary to improve parliament functioning and as such government is considering the setting up of a parliamentary institute like those exist in India and some other countries.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda said the present government came to power through a widely acclaimed free and fair election and as such was conscious of the problems of the people and needs of the society.

Only a peoples government like the present one could make sincere efforts in fulfilling the aspirations of the people because it cared for people for the mandate given to it.

Huda said as one of those who had been associated with such organisations engaged in protection and promotion of human rights, he would work for this noble purpose.

In this context, he suggested that the government aid for defence to someone who had been awarded capital punishment or life imprisonment should be extended further covering those who are helpless but given less conviction.

The Information Minister said that there is also a need for recasting the existing laws that people could be more benefitted by the laws.

He said a 'permanent law commission' should be set up so that laws and related matters could come for constant review for the greater good of people.

About the human rights, he said, the election manifesto of the BNP had clearly mentioned its adherence to the United Nations charter in this regard and the BNP government would abide by such pledges made in the manifesto.

### 112 arrested in city

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka metropolitan police arrested 112 persons in connection with various crimes and recovered a revolver and a huge quantity of stolen goods from the city on Friday.

Acting on a secret tip, Dhanmondi police arrested three persons accused of being involved in a looting incident in Madhubazar on Wednesday last. They are Md Zakir Hossain (26), Babul alias Kamal (20) and Md Lal Mian (25).

According to their confessions, police recovered a huge quantity of the looted goods from their possession, which includes, a VCR, a VCP, a cassette player, four ladies wrist watches, four table clocks, 11 bangles, two ear-rings, Taka 6000 in cash and also seized a number of knives.

Gulshan police on Thursday on receiving secret information, arrested two persons from room No 312 of Hotel Zakaria International in Mohakhali and recovered a .22 bore revolver along with four rounds of bullets from their possession. The arrested persons were identified as Md Faizul Islam alias Chanchal (22) and Didarul Abedin (23).

### What's on today . . .

#### Photo exhibition

A photographic exhibition titled 'About Face' by Felicity Volk, the Third Secretary of the Australian Embassy in Dhaka, will begin today (Saturday) at 6 pm at La Gallery (54, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani) in the city.

The 11-day exhibition will remain open for the members of public everyday for 9 am to 8 pm.

#### Seminar on diabetes management

A seminar on 'new trends in diabetes management' will be held today (Saturday) at 4.30 at the Sonargaon Hotel. Pharmaco International Limited and the International Agencies (Bangladesh) have jointly organised the seminar. Major (Retd) AR Khan will preside over the seminar.

#### Sramik Front gathering

Samajtantrik Sramik Front will hold a gathering to be followed by a torch procession in front of the National Press Club today (Saturday) at 5 pm in support of five-point demand including cancellation of the government's denationalisation policy, fixation of basic salary at Taka 1,400 and the 48-hour strike beginning from October 21 called by the Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP).

#### Islamic Foundation seminar

Islamic Foundation will hold a seminar in memory of poet Farrukh Ahmed at the foundation auditorium today (Saturday) at 4.30 pm.

Director General of the foundation Md Mansurul Haq Khan will chair the seminar while Prof Hassan Abdul Quayyum will present the key-note paper on which Dr Kazi Deen Muhammad will discuss.

#### Death anniversary of Poet Farrukh

Tamaddun-e-Majlis will hold a discussion meeting in observance of the 17th anniversary of death of Poet Farrukh Ahmed at the National Book Centre auditorium in the city today (Saturday) at 4.30 pm.

Principal Dewan Mohammad Zaraf will preside over the meeting.

#### Majlis-e-Sura

The 8th Majlis-e-Sura of Ahmadiya Muslim Juba Sangstha will begin today (Saturday) at 4 pm at 4, Bakshibazar in the city.

In the first session of the Majlis-e-Sura a sub-committee will be formed, last year's proposals on the Sura will be approved and the new proposals will be presented. Shamsuddin Ahmed will conduct the first session which will be concluded with sports by the alfals and khuddams (boys and youngmen).

The second session of the sura (6 pm to 8 pm) will be inaugurated by the former Nayeab Sardar Mohammad Khalilur Rahman. The session's programmes include presentation of 'najam' in Urdu language and experience of the recently held jalsa the Ahmadiya Muslim Jamaat in London by Mohammad Abdul Haadi.

#### DSU leaders meet

The central leaders of the Democratic Students Unity (DSU) will meet the Dhaka University unit leaders of the DSU today (Saturday) at 11 am to discuss the October 28 rally.

Juba Ainjibi Samity Bangladesh Juba Ainjibi Samity (Young Lawyers' Association) will hold a press conference today (Saturday) at 4 pm at the Hotel Metropolitan in the city.

### . . . and tomorrow

#### SAARC award in meteorology

The fifth SAARC award in meteorology will be distributed at the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) in the conference room of the BMD headquarters at Agargaon in the city tomorrow (Sunday) at 10.30 pm.

Defence Ministry Secretary Anisur Rahman will attend the function as the chief guest while the Ambassador of the Royal Bhutanese Embassy in Dhaka Karma Dorjee will be the special guest on the occasion.

BMD Director MH Khan will be in the chair.

#### Press freedom report on S Asia

The publication ceremony of the 'Report on press freedom in South Asia for the year 1990' will take place at the Karitas auditorium (2, Outer Circular Road, Malibagh) in the city tomorrow (Sunday) at 4 pm.

Communication Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed will attend the function as the chief guest. Inspector General of Police M Enamul Haque, President of Bangladesh Human Rights Coordination Council Father RW Timm CSC, President of the Bangladesh Council of Editors Sanaulah Noori, Chairman of Journalism Department of the Dhaka University Dr Golam Rahman, General Secretary of Bangladesh Human Rights Coordination Council Shafuliq Haq Choudhury will attend the function as special guests.

The Institute of Bangladesh Rural Journalists has arranged the function.

### Weather

## Day temperature likely to remain unchanged

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast valid till 6 pm of Saturday says weather will mainly remain dry all over the country. Day temperature is likely to remain unchanged.

Outlook for the subsequent two days : Little change. Extended outlook for another five days : No marked change. Sun sets on Saturday at 5.30 pm and rises on Sunday at 5.58 am.

The temperature and humidity of some cities on Saturday :

City	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.8	24	72	77
Chittagong	31	24.5	86	78
Rajshahi	33	23	80	80
Khulna	32.4	24.1	83	73
Rangpur	32.2	31.7	84	82
Sylhet	31	21.5	79	80
Comilla	31.2	23.5	93	82
Jessore	34.5	23	x	x

### Autocracy may revive due to govt failure, says Jamaat

By Staff Correspondent

The Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami on Friday urged the government and the opposition parties to play responsible and constructive role for sustaining the democratic system, a press release said.

Addressing a workers rally at Tongi he said the government should take immediate steps to eradicate unemployment and check terrorism. He said the autocracy may again revive due to the failure of the party in power.

### 'Bangladesh a happy home for minorities'

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury said in Dhaka Thursday that Bangladesh had set up a unique example of communal harmony, reports BSS.

"It is a happy home for all irrespective of caste and creed" he added.

The Home Minister was addressing as the chief guest at a gathering of devotees at the puja mandap at Farashganj Gokul Chandra Estate in Old Dhaka in celebration of Durga Puja festival.

Among others the Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation, Mirza Abbas, State Minister for Religious Affairs, Prof Mannan and Inspector General of Police M Enar-ul-Haque spoke on the occasion. The function was presided over by Nokul Chandra Shaha.

The Home Minister said in Bangladesh people of all religions and caste have been enjoying equal rights to perform their respective culture and rituals.

Describing the present government as the people's government, he emphatically said the BNP government was firmly determined to maintain and preserve communal harmony throughout the country at all costs.

He called upon the Hindu community to nourish their own culture and rituals and contribute to the national development.

The Home Minister also visited different puja mandaps in Old Dhaka and witnessed the puja performance by the devotees.

## BNP sponsoring terrorism: Amu

Acting General Secretary of Awami League Amir Hossain Amu Friday warned of serious consequences for what he called the ruling party sponsored terrorism against its political opponents, reports UNB.

In a statement, he condemned the recent killings of Chhatra League leaders Chayan Kumar Mallick in Narail and Shaheen in Munshiganj, and the armed attack on Narail District Awami League President, allegedly by Chhatra Dal activists.

He said terrorism, killing and repression on Awami League and its front organisations in last seven months proved that BNP was clinging to power by force. It also shows that there is no rule of law in the country, he alleged. The Awami League leader

reminded that autocratic Ershad could not stay in power by resorting to killing and terrorism. BNP will face the same consequences if it does not give up its 'terrorist politics', he said.

Describing the BNP government as 'neo-autocrat' Amu urged the ruling party to take lessons from history.

He also called for building 'united resistance against all political killings, conspiracy and torture.

### Sher-e-Bangla Smriti Sangsad programme

Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Smriti Sangsad chalked out an elaborate programme to observe the 118th birth anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haque on October 26, reports UNB.

The day's programme will start with placing of wreaths at the Mazar of the late leader at 8 in the morning.

Other programmes include Quran Khwani, discussion meeting and a seminar on 'Sher-e-Bangla — the idol of parliamentary democracy' at the mazar premises, said a press release.

Noted intellectuals, educationists, journalists and political thinkers will take part at the seminar.

A preparatory meeting of the Sangsad was held at its office Thursday. It was chaired by Secretary General of the Smriti Sangsad and Sher-e-Bangla researcher poet Md Abdul Khaleque.

Among others present at the meeting were Abul Kalam Azad, Araur Rahman, Prof Maksud Ali, Prof M Kasimuddin, Prof Hirendranath Biswas and poet Syed Azizul Huq.

### TV Saturday

- 5.00 Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme summary
- 5.15 Reading from the Tripitak
- 5.20 News in Bangla
- 5.30 Sports world
- 6.00 Documentary Film: A Day in the Life of a Woman
- 6.30 Mati-o-Manush
- 7.05 Basher
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 9.00 Uzriban
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Drama Series: Dallas
- 11.30 Khabar/The news
- 11.45 Closing

### CPB concerned over situation in northern region

By Staff Correspondent

The President of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Saifuddin Ahmed Manik and General Secretary, Nural Islam Nahid in a statement on Friday urged the government to send adequate food, fertilizer and provide work to the people of famine and diarrhoea stricken areas of northern region of the country.

Expressing their deep concern at the grave situation of famine and diarrhoea, they asked the government to send relief and medical supplies to the area.

They said the people in the area are passing their lives in critical condition due to scarcity of food and work. The situation has deteriorated as effective measures have not been taken to check diarrhoea, they added. This, they said, is making the situation worse.

### One killed in road mishap

One person was killed in a road accident in front of the National Eidgah in the city Friday morning, hospital sources said, reports UNB.

Shamsul Haq (60) was knocked down by a mini bus while he was crossing the busy road. He succumbed to injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police seized the bus (Dhaka Metro-Cha-9049) but the driver managed to escape.