

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Flowers of Magic

by Raffat Binte Rashid

It is always a pleasure to look at gardens. The sweet scent, the bright colours not only attract the bees, any person, with or without knowledge about gardening finds joy in them. It is all the more intriguing if the flowers are as exotic as orchids.

Orchids are no doubt the most beautiful and wondrous of flowers in the world. They belong to orchidaceae family, which among the flowering plants, with their 22,000 to 35,000 species in some 700 to 800 genera, exhibit an astonishing number of hybrids.

Orchids in Bangladesh are no longer uncommon, there is an "Orchid Society of Bangladesh" and its members are constantly working to promote orchids in Bangladesh. The President of the society Mrs Nasreen Iqbal and her husband, a member Mr Iqbal Ali, initially collected orchids from Borchids Nursery in Gulshan and also from late Mr Atiqullah Khan, who was an avid orchid grower. Local orchids can be collected from the hilly places of Chittagong, Sylhet, Rangpur, Dinajpur.

It is not difficult to cultivate orchids if their requirements are well understood by the grower. Only a decade ago there were only a handful of orchid enthusiasts. However, of late there are many persons who are involved in this hobby of orchid culture, its cultivation and its promotion.

Orchid cultivation is a little different from other flowers, because of their epiphytic nature. This means that orchid plants grow on other plants but produce their own food and so are not parasitic. Generally all orchids need light, and food which may take the form of liquid fertilizers, which give the best results, informed Mr Ali.

These flowers are grown in orchid pots, wooden baskets or in ordinary flower pots. Orchid pots are especially made with holds in the bottom as well as on the sides. They are usually light and can be hung in sheds. Sheds are necessary for cultivation of these flowers and should be at least two metres high so as to enable the grower to move freely within the shed and to provide an airy environment necessary for plant growth.

Local growers have acquired much knowledge on orchid culture. This has been through advice given by more experienced growers or by trial and error. Unfortunately, this often results in a waste of time and loss of valuable plants, says a member of the society. The members hold meetings where they discuss their problems and try to find solutions.

The orchid society of Bangladesh is very enthusiastic to promote this hobby and to make it a profitable cut flower industry like in Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore. Orchids in Ha-

wai are a wonder, there the people have turned orchid cultivation into one of their main sources of income.

There are many orchid lovers and enthusiasts in Bangladesh now. However, to start orchid cultivation on a commercial scale, Mr Ali thinks that sponsors are yet to learn many aspects of orchid culture to make it commercially viable. Besides, the market for cut orchids have to be developed for commercial success. The availability of insecticide, fungicide proper and effective fertilizers and other employments have to be ensured.

Orchids are luxury flowers, with many remarkable qualities. They are perennial herbs and can grow in the ground, on rocks, trees or shrubs a few also grow in the water like aquatics. If they are left uncared for even for several months, they will not perish. They can endure draught, frost and many abnormalities of nature.

Orchid growing is an exciting hobby. It is a flower with unique shape and colour. A full bloom orchid plant can be kept in a room in fresh form for many days. It has the highest value as cut flowers. Cut orchids remain fresh for one to four weeks. Cattilya, Phalaenopsis, and Vanda remain perfect for one to two weeks. Cyrtopodium and Paphiopedilum can last a month and spikes of Cymbidium remain fresh for three to four weeks. Orchids are used for decoration, as presents; attractive orchids are also commonly used for adornment of ladies hair and evening gowns.

Orchid, horticultural and floricultural appeal have developed many industries around the world, and business has taken shape in many developing countries. It is not only popular for their many expensive varieties and the profit but also for the source of enjoyment they derive for the owner and visitors.

These beauties of nature are used for many religious and useful purposes. Native inhabitants in some parts of the world consider these plants to have supernatural and magical power. Some use it as a talisman to keep away the evil spirit. Orchids and Betulla are used as medicine in some parts of China, because they are rich in mucilage. Leaves, seeds and tubers are used as food in parts of Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia. In Queensland, Cymbidium, Madiduris seed is used as an oral contraceptive.

Orchids grow naturally in many different environments, and are not difficult to grow. Orchid shows are arranged by the orchid society of Bangladesh twice a year, and it is reported that public response is also good. It is predicted that soon, the spell of this magical flower will be cast all over the country.

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## Saifur seeks OECF help for more projects

The visiting delegation of the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan led by its Managing Director Toru Shinotsuka called on Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman at the latter's secretariat office in Dhaka on Wednesday, reports BSS.

Chief Representative of Dhaka office of OECF, Hiroshi Haruta, and high officials of Economic Relations Division Ministry of Finance were present.

Saifur Rahman said, Bangladesh was now poised to take off with better implementation of development projects. He said, under a democratic atmosphere, administration

had been oriented with conducive capability to address the development problems, reflecting the political will of the present government.

Japan as a potential development partner should come forward with increased cooperation and help in the development process of Bangladesh, the minister said.

The Finance Minister appreciated the visit of the OECF's team and hoped that the team would help take up more projects in future.

He said that Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Project, Chittagong Airport Project, Greater Khulna Power Distribution Project, Paper and Pulp Mills Project by utilizing jute and jute cuttings and commodity loan programme were priority projects of Bangladesh.

He called upon the OECF to provide loan assistance and help Bangladesh maintain its sustained development effort.

The Japanese private investment in joint venture projects will be welcomed, he reiterated.

Since the independence of Bangladesh, OECF has provided 3456 million US dollar as soft commodity and project loan. For the fiscal year (FY) 1992-93, the government of Bangladesh proposed a number of projects for financing under OECF loan programme. Most of the projects have been selected for appraisal by the fact finding mission.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Thursday felicitated President France Albert Rene of Seychelles on the occasion of its National Day, reports BSS.

In a message to President France, he wished him good health, happiness and long life and the people of Seychelles progress and prosperity.

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Special trains for Eid-ul-Azha

RAJSHAHI, June 3: Bangladesh Railway West zone has made special arrangements to cope with the increased rush of passengers during the Eid-ul-Azha, a PID handout said tonight additional coaches would be attached with inter-city, mail and express trains. The handout further said, there will be no "off day" of inter-city trains from June 5 to June 11 and from June 14 to June 19, reports BSS.

No inter-city, mail and express trains however run on the Eid-day except the Rajshahi Express, Uttar Banga Mail and Bogra Express. Mahananda Express will run up to Ishurdi from Chapainawabganj on the Eid-day, the handout mentioned.

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## BSD (Khaleq) collects 50,000 signatures

By Staff Correspondent

Around 50,000 signatures were collected till Thursday in support of the demand of implementation of People Court's verdict on Jamaat chief Golam Azam.

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He said that Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Project, Chittagong Airport Project, Greater Khulna Power Distribution Project, Paper and Pulp Mills Project by utilizing jute and jute cuttings and commodity loan programme were priority projects of Bangladesh.

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## পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের মাসিকাদাঈন-নিম্নবর্ণিত কার্পাস, পত্র জবাইখানা, খোয়াঘাট, বিভিন্ন মার্কেটের টয়লেট ও পাবলিক টয়লেট প্রকৃতি হইতে নির্ধারিত হারে ফিস আদায়ের জন্য আগামী ১-৭-৯২ ইং তারিখ হইতে ৩০-৬-৯০ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত ইজারার নিমিত্তে সীলমোহরকৃত বামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। আগামী ৯-৬-১৯৯২ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা, অঞ্চল ১, ২, ৩, ৪, ৫, ৬, ৭, ৮, ৯ ও ১০ এবং সিনিয়র এজেন্ট অফিসার সাহেবের দপ্তরে রক্ষিত বাজে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং এদিনই বেলা ১২-৩০ মিঃ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্রসমূহ খোলা হইবে। দরপত্রের সাথে টয়লেটসমূহের জন্য প্রস্তাবিত টাকার ১০% (শতকরা দশ) এবং অন্যান্য ক্ষেত্রে ২০% (শতকরা বিশ) ভাগ হারে জামানতের অর্থ বাদে ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের মেয়র-এর অনুকূলে ঢাকা শহরের যে কোন সিভিলিয়ান ব্যাংক হইতে ব্যাংক ড্রাকট/পে-অর্ডার-এর মাধ্যমে দরপত্রের সঙ্গে জমা দিতে হইবে অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। এ বিষয়ে বিস্তারিত বিবরণ শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলী সিনিয়র এজেন্ট অফিসার সাহেবের দপ্তর হইতে (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে) জানা যাইবে। প্রতিটি বিষয়ের বিপরীতে উল্লিখিত টাকা (অফিসেরতথ্যে) নগদ প্রদানকর্তা প্রাঙ্গ রসিদ দেখাইয়া এজেন্ট বিভাগ, হিসাব বিভাগের পোদদার এবং প্রতিটি আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার অফিস হইতে সিভিলিয়ান ফয় করা যাইবে এবং রসিদের কপি দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করিতে হইবে। ইজারাদারপত্রকে অবশ্যই মার্কেটসমূহের টয়লেট ও পাবলিক টয়লেট-এর ব্যবহৃত পানি, পরঃপ্রণালী ও বিদ্যুৎ বিল প্রতি মাসে পরিশোধ করিয়া পরিশোধিত বিলের কপি ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের এজেন্ট বিভাগে জমা দিতে হইবে। বিল প্রদানের নিশ্চয়তার বিধানকল্পে প্রতিটি টয়লেট-এর পাশে উল্লিখিত ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের তহবিলে জমা রাখিতে হইবে এবং এই টাকা ইজারার প্রথম কিস্তি প্রদানের তারিখেই জমা দিতে হইবে। দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত বিষয়গুলির ইজারার টাকা ১ম তিন মাসের মধ্যে ৩ (তিন) টি সমান মাসিক কিস্তিতে পরিশোধ করিতে হইবে। ১ম কিস্তির টাকা পূর্বাংগেই জমা দিয়া কার্যদেপ্তর গ্রহণ করিতে হইবে।

দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে কোন সিভিলিয়ান ব্যাংক করা হইবে না। কৃতকর্ম দরদাতার জামানতের টাকা ইজারার মেয়াদান্তে ফেরত দেওয়া হইবে। ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন কর্তৃক কৃতকর্ম কে কোন বা সমুল্য দরপত্র কোন কারণে দর্শনো ব্যতিরেকে গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করিবার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষিত থাকিবে।

ক্রমিক নং	সম্পত্তিসমূহের নাম	সিভিলিয়ান মূল্য	বিল পরিশোধের নিশ্চয়তার জামানত
১।	গুলশান পত্র জবাইখানা হইতে গরু, মহিষ, ছাগল ও ভেড়া জবাইয়ের ফিস আদায়করণ।	২৫০/- টাকা	
২।	মিরপুর ১১ নং সেকশনের পত্র জবাইখানা ও হাজিরীবাগ পত্র জবাইখানা হইতে পরিত্যক্ত রক্ত সংগ্রহ।	১০০/- টাকা	
৩।	মোহাম্মদপুর পাবলিক টয়লেট	১০০/- টাকা	৩০,০০০/- টাকা
৪।	সুত্রাপুর পাবলিক টয়লেট	১০০/- টাকা	৩০,০০০/- টাকা
৫।	ধূপখোলা পাবলিক টয়লেট	১০০/- টাকা	৩০,০০০/- টাকা
৬।	কাপ্তান বাজার মার্কেটের টয়লেট	২০০/- টাকা	৫০,০০০/- টাকা
৭।	ফুলবাড়িয়া সুপার মার্কেটের টয়লেট	২০০/- টাকা	৫০,০০০/- টাকা
৮।	লালকুঠি মার্কেটের টয়লেট	২০০/- টাকা	২০,০০০/- টাকা
৯।	দয়াজুগ কাঁচা বাজারের টয়লেট	২০০/- টাকা	২০,০০০/- টাকা
১০।	গুলশান দক্ষিণ পাকা মার্কেটের টয়লেট	২০০/- টাকা	৫০,০০০/- টাকা
১১।	বিলগাঁও তালতলা সুপার মার্কেটের কমপ্লেক্স-এর (কাঁচা/পাকা) টয়লেট।	২০০/- টাকা	৩০,০০০/- টাকা
১২।	বড় মগবাজার কাঁচা বাজারের টয়লেট	২০০/- টাকা	৩০,০০০/- টাকা
১৩।	আজিমপুর সুপার মার্কেটের টয়লেট	২০০/- টাকা	৩০,০০০/- টাকা
১৪।	বরী বাজার মার্কেটের টয়লেট	২০০/- টাকা	২০,০০০/- টাকা
১৫।	১ নং পলাশী মার্কেটের টয়লেট	২০০/- টাকা	২০,০০০/- টাকা
১৬।	আজিমপুর রোড সাইড মার্কেটের টয়লেট	২০০/- টাকা	২০,০০০/- টাকা
১৭।	চাকেশ্বরী রোড সাইড মার্কেটের টয়লেট	২০০/- টাকা	২০,০০০/- টাকা
১৮।	২ নং পলাশী মার্কেটের টয়লেট	২০০/- টাকা	২০,০০০/- টাকা
১৯।	নীলক্ষেত মার্কেটের টয়লেট	২০০/- টাকা	৩০,০০০/- টাকা
২০।	পরিবাগ সুপার মার্কেটের টয়লেট	২০০/- টাকা	৩০,০০০/- টাকা
২১।	মোহাম্মদপুর কৃষি পল্লী পাইকারী মার্কেটের টয়লেট	২০০/- টাকা	৩০,০০০/- টাকা
২২।	ঢাকা নিউসুপার মার্কেটের (উত্তর) ডি ব্লক-এর টয়লেট	২০০/- টাকা	৫০,০০০/- টাকা
২৩।	গুলশান উত্তর পাকা মার্কেটের টয়লেট	২০০/- টাকা	৩০,০০০/- টাকা

ডিসিপি/পিয়ারডি/৩৭১/৯১-৯২  
ডি-৩০৯

সিনিয়র এজেন্ট অফিসার  
ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা।

## Obituary

Khadiza Begum Hashi, wife of Shamsul Alam, a retired tea planter, died of cancer at a clinic here early Thursday morning. She was 55, reports BSS.

Besides her husband, she left behind three sons, one daughter and a host of relations and well-wishers to mourn her death.

Her son-in-law Yakub Ali is the first secretary at the Bangladesh Embassy in Morocco.

## Khaleda presents bus to BIT

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Thursday handed over a bus to the teachers and students of Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Dhaka, to resolve their transport problem, reports UNB.

She handed keys of the bus to Director of the Institute Dr Shikander Ali, Adnan Karim Majumder and Zahurul Islam, VP and GS respectively of the Student Union of BIT.

## World No Tobacco Day observed in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, June 4: World No Tobacco Day was observed at the port city with great enthusiasm on Sunday, reports UNB.

The highlights of the day's programme included seminar, discussion meeting, rally and other activities organised by various socio-cultural and anti-smoking organisations.

Let the expectations of World Environment Day be a success.

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## Weather

### Sultry weather to prevail

By Staff Correspondent

Met office Thursday forecast hot and sultry weather would likely continue for few more days almost all over the country. Met office in a weather bulletin valid till 6 pm today (Friday) also forecast rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur over the regions of Rangpur, Bogra, Mymensingh, and Sylhet and weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country.

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country, forecast Met office.

Maximum temperature in the country, 38.3 degree Celsius, was recorded in Rajshahi while the country's minimum 22.3 degree Celsius was reported from Sylhet Thursday.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 6.44 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 5.11 am.

Temperature and the percentage of humidity recorded in some major cities/towns recorded Thursday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature	Humidity
	Max	Min
Dhaka	35.8	28.5
Chittagong	34.0	27.2
Rajshahi	38.3	27.6
Khulna	36.4	25.8
Sylhet	35.5	22.3
Rangamati	36.9	27.0
Barisal	34.0	27.0