

Dhaka Day by Day

The Wonder World of Plant Museum

by Raffat Binte Rashed

Not many people are expected to know what a herbarium is. The percentage might indeed be awfully low and this is despite the fact that the Bangladesh National Herbarium is as important as the country's botanical garden. The only difference between the two might be that a botanical garden deals with the living plant species and a herbarium with dried and pressed specimens.

Actually a herbarium is a collection of reference specimens of plants which have been flattened and dried, so that they take as little space as possible but retain most of their original appearances.

What taxidermy is for animals is herbarium for plants. The basic task for a national herbarium is to name plant specimens delivered to it by the government officials, forest officers, farmers, or the general public, and to provide information about the plants in question — be it an accessory food plant, a weed, a medicinal plant or a poisonous plant used in a murder case. Besides, another important task is to identify the threatened and endangered species due to exploitation, and to keep inventories of national parks and a reserve — sort of a survey of all known information about the distribution of every plant species of the country.

Herbaria have long existed in both developing and developed countries and have served as invaluable centres of documentation for rational utilisation of plant products throughout the world. Herbaria are there to meet the national demands on information of plant, biodiversity and other plant resources including medicinal, timber, oil, dye and other economic plants.

Till now the Bangladesh National Herbarium has identified and suspected 25 plant species of the country that are on the verge of extinction. It has so far collected about one lakh plant specimens including duplicates. Botanists conduct field trips throughout the country for survey, collection and botanical data. The specimens are gathered, processed and preserved; it's a sort of wild documentation. The plants are dehydrated and mounted on sheet of stiff paper of international standard format. The sheet is then provided with detailed information of the plant, name, genera, colour, height, site description preferably with maps. In this country the sheets are filed and kept in steel almirah in a very congested and unsophisticated way, because of



Biren Shome's beautiful painting based on herbarium specimen: Memory of 1971.

an 18-hectare site for the herbarium — an 18-hectare land near the main entrance of the Botanical Garden at section 3 Mirpur. The site is suitable because it's easily accessible to general visitors including scientist, students, and researchers and amateur botanists who are interested and also because the ODA (Overseas Development Administration of British govt.) experts have approved the site. Since the beginning of herbarium in 1970, no foreign funds were allotted for us. We had financial problem but this year in a bilateral aid talk, the decision to provide ODA aid was taken. The fund is a little less than a million sterling pound. The report of Prof. Haywood (London) has made the fund possible, he informed.

The herbarium helps PHD and MS students for their thesis and research, people from Ayurved institutions regularly ask for help from the herbarium. It is an important institute but not properly recognised. So far depending on their documentation, a series of books have been published: Flora of Bangladesh. Bulletin on herbarium is also a publication on medicinal and economic important plants.

New police station at Pallabi opens

A new police station at Pallabi in the capital's Mirpur area was formally opened yesterday by Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, reports UNB.

The new police station, opened in response to the growing demand for security for an estimated 12 square-mile area inhabited by nearly a million people, is the 15th branch of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

At a function for unveiling the plaque of the new thana building, the minister asked the police forces to establish rule of law without any fear or favour to keep up with the people's expectation for a crime-free society.

He reminded that the present government had come to power with the commitment of establishing rule of law in the country and it is determined to fulfil that pre-election pledge.

In this context, Matin called for people's support and cooperation, besides strengthening the activities of the police forces.

He said peace and stability were the key to success of democracy and development and claimed that law and order situation of the country has been improving gradually.



BTV Thursday
Opening announcement.
Al-Quran
Programme summary
News in Bangla
Recitation from the
Geeta
School debate
Esho Pama Shikhi:
Education Programme
Jibonter Alo
Nazrul songs
News in Bangla
Drama of the week:
Protidin Protiraat.
Story: Kazi Zahirul
Alam.
It's a romantic drama.
The story is based on
love and marriage of
two young man and
woman.
News in English
Film show: Voyage of
the Heart
Khabar/The News
Closing

BNP MP discomfits Treasury Bench

By Staff Correspondent

Ministers and MPs of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) faced some embarrassment in Parliament Tuesday when their party colleague Miah Mohammad Mansur Ali severely criticised the jute policy of the government during a general discussion in the House.

Mansur Ali, elected from the Chaudanga-1 constituency, was one of the 20 members who took part in three-hour long discussion on the country's jute sector.

Mansur Ali said the government has been shaken by the pressure of unemployment yet it was retrenching factory employees from the Opposition members.

"We will not accept this. Convene a meeting of all concerned groups to resolve the crisis," he urged amid cheers from the Opposition members.

His party chairperson and Leader of the House Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was, however, not present in the Sangsad during his speech.

"I told my minister to take me with him during a visit to any jute factory so that I could show him how the unscrupulous factory employees purchase low-quality jute at high prices," Mansur Ali said.

He said a group of businessmen who own houses in Gulshan and Banani are responsible for the recurrent losses in the jute sector. Those businessmen and industrialists should be brought to book.

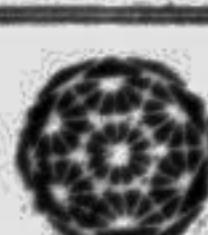
He also demanded that the Bangladesh Jute Corporation (BJC) should exist, at least on a smaller scale.

Jute Minister Hannan Shah and a number of ministers listened to him with rapt attention.

Chhatra Samaj denies link with JP (N)

Jatiya Chhatra Samaj Convener Rakibul Islam Rakib Tuesday said his organisation had no link with the Jatiya Party (Nationalist) led by Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, reports UNB.

"We are surprised to see our names in the organising committee of the JP(N)," he said, adding "the Jatiya Chhatra Samaj is an independent student organisation based on Bangladeshi nationalism".



BCIC International Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র প্রয়োগানন্দে জাতীয় অর্থগতির প্রতীক

Managing Director, Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Ltd., CUFL, Rangdial, Chittagong, Bangladesh invites sealed bids under TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM for supply of Spares of Gauge Glass on C & F (C) Chittagong basis under reference No. CUFL/PUR (F) 309/OS-434. Bids with a bid bond for 1% of the total quoted value (not less than Tk. 1000/-) will be received in the office of the Addl. Chief Purchase Manager, Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Ltd., up to 11:00 AM on 13.10.93 and the technical bids will be opened immediately thereafter. Bid documents may be collected from BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha, Dhaka, BCIC, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong and CUFL on payment Tk. 50/- per set. No Tender documents will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

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G-1201

Metropolitan



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presiding over a meeting of the National Implementation Committee of Administrative Reorganisation (NICAR) at the International Conference Centre yesterday.

— PID photo

Barisal Advocate Clerks' Assoc team meets Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday said the present government was firm to uphold the rule of law in the country, reports UNB.

The President said this while exchanging views with a 30-member delegation of Barisal District Advocate Clerks' Association at Baaghabhaban yesterday morning.

The delegation, led by president of the Central Advocate Clerks' Association Mahbubul Alam, appraised the President of their problems and their preparation for the ensuing Barisal Divisional conference to be held next month.

LGRD Minister tells Sangsad

Daily demand for water in city 127 cr litres

The daily demand for water in the Dhaka City is about 127 crore litres, LGRD Minister told in parliament, reports UNB.

Replying to a question from Kazi Keramat Ali (AL), the minister said Dhaka WASA supplied 68.53 crore litre water in the metropolis on September 30, 1992.

Replying to another question from Rowshan Ara Hena (BNP), he said 15 crore gallons (68 crore litre) of water are supplied to the city dwellers everyday.

Replying to another question from AKM Taher (BNP), the minister said Dhaka WASA has now 131,096 subscribers and on an average it collects Tk 40.34 crore as water bills every year.

20,000 deep tubewells to be re-installed

LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar yesterday informed the House that 20,000 deep tubewells will be re-installed in the country during the current fiscal year.

Replying to a question from Khan Tipu Sultan (AL), the minister said a total of 35,845 deep tubewells are now out of order.

Eight trainers — six from China and one each from South Korea and Switzerland — are imparting training to the Bangladeshi athletes. Besides,

North South University (NSU) started third semester classes from September 13 in a simple orientation ceremony, on the September 12, press release.

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RENATA LIMITED

Pfizer (Formerly Pfizer Laboratories (Bangladesh) Limited)

desires to appoint Secretaries for its Managing Director and other Directors. The prospective candidates

should not be over 40 years of age

should have considerable experience as Secretary of senior level officials of Companies, NGOs and Embassies.

Computer literacy atleast in Wordstar/ Word Perfect is a requirement.

Attractive compensation package will be offered to deserving candidates.

Application in candidate's own hand writing alongwith bio-data and two recent passport size photographs should reach the Personnel Division, Renata Limited, 6/3, Segun Bagicha, G.P.O. Box No. 303, Dhaka by September 29, 1993.

Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla)

Petrocentre, 3 Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215

No. 31.07.106/1-93

Dated 29.05.1993

"গাছ লাগান গাছের পরিচর্যা করন এবং পরিবেশ বাচান" — প্রধানমন্ত্রী

Retender for Inviting Offers

Name of Work: Making a one minute film and transmission on Bangladesh Television on the subject of stopping wastage of gas.

Sealed offers are hereby invited for the above mentioned work from bonafide & established Film Makers/ Advertising Firms having experience as follows:

— At least 5 (five) years' experience as a recognized Film Making/ Advertising Firm.

— At least 3 (three) years' experience in making advertising short film.

Offer document may be obtained from the Accounts Division, Petrobangla, Petrocentre, 3, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215 on cash payment of Tk. 50/- (fifty) (non-refundable) during any working day up to 06-10-1993. Offers will be accepted up to 12.00 noon, 07.10.1993, Thursday at the Office of the General Manager, Planning Division, Petrobangla and will be opened on the same day at 12.30 PM in presence of the offerors, if any.

Offers must be accompanied by 5% of the quoted amount as Earnest Money to be submitted as Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of Petrobangla, without which the submitted offer will be considered as rejected. The rates quoted should be effective for at least 90 (ninety) days.

Petrobangla reserves the right to accept or reject any offer in part or in full without assigning any reason whatsoever.

D-666

Investment Corporation of Bangladesh

8, DIT Avenue (12-14th Floor), Dhaka

Consultancy Services for Preparation of Feasibility Reports

Council for SAARC Fund for Regional Projects (CSFRP) invites offers from reputed and experienced consultants for undertaking feasibility or other studies, as specified, in respect of regional project ideas mentioned below:

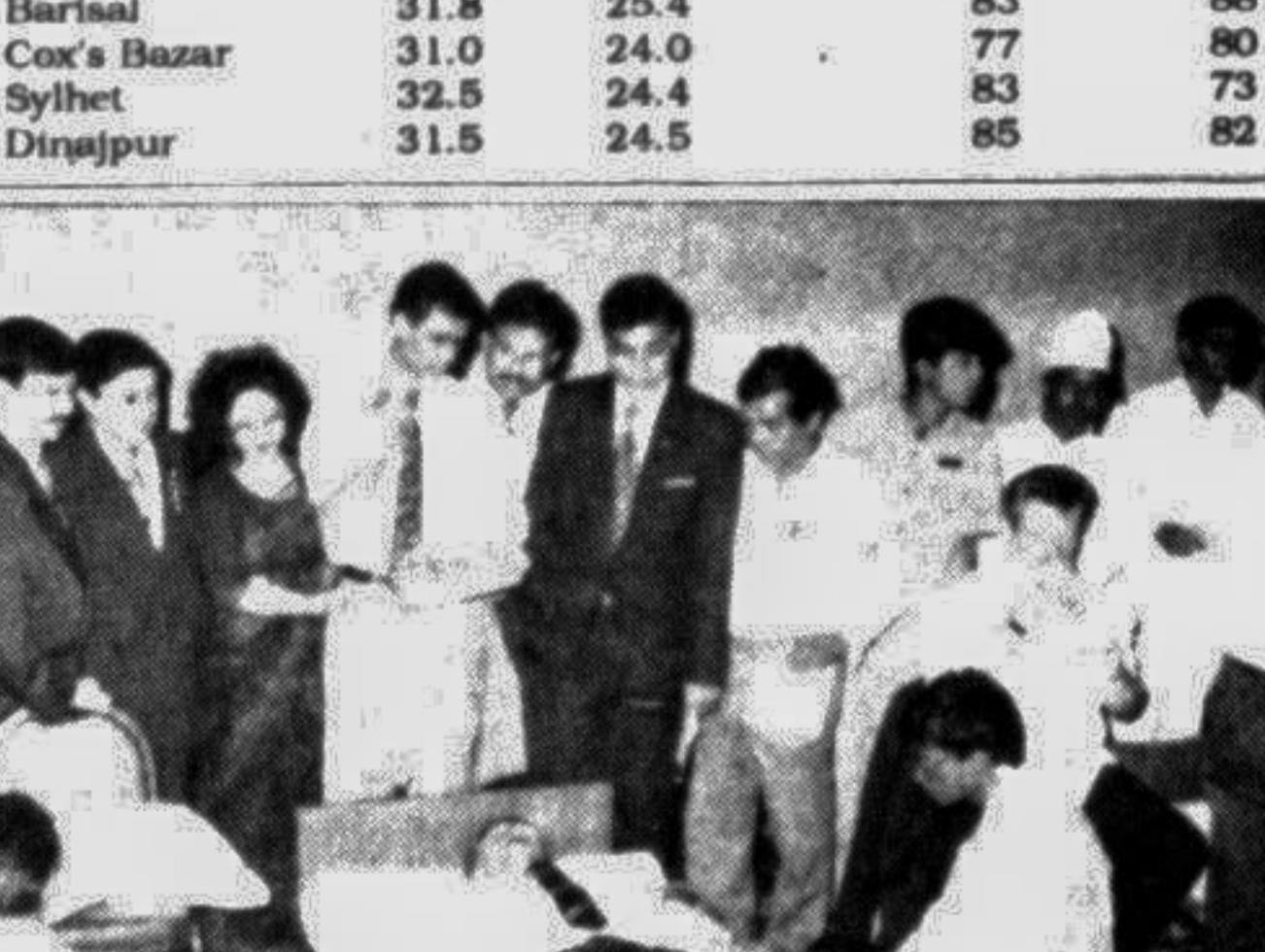
(i) Integrated Medicinal and Herbal Cultivation and Processing Plant—Techno-economic feasibility study for a project in Bangladesh/Bhutan/India/Nepal/Shri Lanka;

(ii) A project for manufacture of drilling equipment for ground water and oil and gas development and surface mining in Bangladesh—Techno-economic feasibility study;

The Terms of Reference (TOR) and other related details in respect of the above project ideas may be collected from ICB, 8, DIT Avenue (14th floor), Dhaka.

The proposals indicating, inter alia, cost of the study together with broad details of the work and experience of consultants along with curriculum vitae of personnel who would be in charge of the assignment and other relevant information may be sent to ICB within 15 days of publication of this advertisement. In case a consultant desires to submit offers in respect of more than one project idea, this may be done by submitting separate offers for different projects.

Md. Ziaul Haque Khondker
Deputy General Manager
For and on behalf of
Council for SAARC
Fund for Regional Projects



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