

## 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

space constraints. These files are vital for future references and they are to remain for thousands of years. But if they are not properly maintained then the country might be deprived of valuable information about the endangered species. So far in a tropical country herbaria face a lot of problems. They can easily be attacked by insects or fungus because of humidity, the dried plants specimens can be destroyed if they are not properly dehumidified, and they must be kept in air-conditioned rooms.



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

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

space constraints. These files are vital for future references and they are to remain for thousands of years. But if they are not properly maintained then the country might be deprived of valuable information about the endangered species. So far in a tropical country herbaria face a lot of problems. They can easily be attacked by insects or fungus because of humidity, the dried plants specimens can be destroyed if they are not properly dehumidified, and they must be kept in air-conditioned rooms.

Recently the government has selected a 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 a books have been published: Flora of Bangladesh, Bulletin on Herbarium is also a publication on medicinal and economic important plants.



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

### 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 Bangabhaban 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 65.53 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 1,31,098 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 Talukder 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.

To another question from AM Risayat Ali (Jamaat), the minister said the government earned a revenue of about Tk 44.27 crore as tolls from hats and bazars, during last fiscal year.

### 353 being trained for SAF games

Some 353 players and athletes of the country, including 48 female, are being trained for the ensuing SAF games, State Minister for Sports and Youth Sadeq Hossain told the House yesterday.

Replying to a question from vice-principal Abdus Shahid of Awami League, the State Minister said the number of players and athletes who will participate in the SAF will be determined on a final selection.

Bangladeshi athletes and players will take part in 11 events — athletics, boxing, judo, kabaddi, wrestling, shooting, swimming, table tennis, tennis, volleyball and football.

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

50 local trainers are there to coach them for the 6th SAF games to be held in later this year.

Replying to Abdul Khaleque (AL), the state minister said Tk three crore had been earmarked for training the country's players and the athletes.

### Tk 22 cr sanctioned for 'a' municipalities

The government has sanctioned Tk 22.29 crore in the current fiscal year for the development of 'a' grade municipalities in the country, LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder told the House yesterday.

Replying to a question from Dr Mozammel Hossain (AL), the minister said Tk 68 lakh has been allocated for each 'a' category municipality. Besides, he said, Tk 63 lakh has been allocated for medium towns under the structural development projects.

## 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 thana 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 co-operation, 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.

About modernising the police forces, he said the government wants to strengthen and organise them to suit the needs of the nation.



5.00	Opening announcement
5.10	Al-Ghuran
5.20	Programme summary
5.25	News in Bangla
5.30	Recitation from the Gerta
5.35	School debate
5.40	Esho Para Shikhi: Education Programme
7.00	Jiboner Alo
7.25	Nazrul songs
8.00	News in Bangla
8.40	Drama of the week: Protidin Protiraat. Story: Kazi Zahurul Alam. It's a romantic drama. The story is based on love and marriage of two young man and woman
10.00	News in English
10.30	Film show: Voyage of the Heart
11.30	Khabor/The News
11.45	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 Chuadanga-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.

"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 Convenor 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 Bangladesh nationalism".

### NSU third semester classes begin

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

### 64 arrested

Police rounded up 64 people from different parts of the city in the last 24 hours on various charges, a DMP press release said yesterday, reports UNB.

The arrested include six wanted criminals, three held on charge of burglary and six for stealing.

### Freshers reception at Arambagh Girls School held

Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mirza Abbas MP yesterday called upon the non-government organisations and richer section of the society to supplement government's effort to create a congenial atmosphere to educate the future generations, reports BSS.

The Mayor was speaking at the freshers reception and prize distribution ceremony of Arambagh Girls School and College here, a press release of the Corporation said.

## Weather

### Moderate showers likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 12 hours commencing 6 am today (Thursday) says, the sky will remain cloudy over the country.

Light to moderate temporary rain or showers accompanied by gusty wind are likely to occur at few places over Barisal, Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions and one or two places over Khulna and Dhaka divisions during this period.

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius over the country.

The country's highest temperature yesterday of 33.1 degree Celsius was recorded in Dhaka and the lowest 22.4 was recorded in Chittagong.

The Sun sets today (Thursday) at 6.01 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5.45 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Cities/towns	temperature in degree Celsius		humidity in percentage	
	max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	33.1	25.6	77	86
Chittagong	31.4	22.4	76	77
Rajshahi	31.8	25.2	88	92
Khulna	31.2	26.0	82	92
Barisal	31.8	25.4	83	88
Cox's Bazar	31.0	24.0	77	80
Sylhet	32.5	24.4	83	73
Dinajpur	31.5	24.5	85	82



A blood donation programme was organised by Sandhani Dhaka Medical College Unit at the Sonargaon Hotel. Andrew McBurnie, General Manager of the hotel is seen donating his blood while various executives and staff look on.



## Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla)

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

No. 31.07.106/1-93

Dated 13.09.1993

29.05.1400

"গাছ লাগান গাছের পরিচর্যা করুন 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.

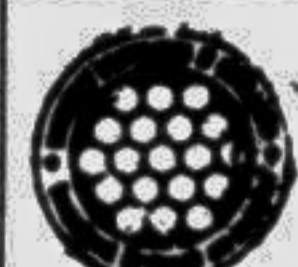
— At least 3 (three) years' experience in making advertising short film.

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 offerers, 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

Date: September 16, 1993

D-668

## BCIC International Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

Managing Director, Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Ltd., CUFL, Rangadia, 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) 309/05-434. 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.

BCIC: 644/49

DFP(BA) 7966-5/9

G-1201