

Dhaka Day by Day

In Love with Orchid

By Ruffat Binte Rashid

A luxuriant green forest, multicoloured parrots and cockatoos, wild flowers and exotic orchids, animals roaming freely as if telling us 'move out, this is our domain'. This place can be heaven for anyone with a little love for nature, specially for the green and the flowers like orchids.

Orchid, the very word has a wild exotic air about it. Whenever we try to think of orchids or include orchids in our garden, an unknown fear, a few pre-set ideas work in our minds. It has an expensive or rather an elegant look about it, which keeps, rather unnecessarily, people away.

But something beautiful and wild and striking like orchids could never stay framed up in the wilderness. Man has brought it close to him. Hawaii and Thailand are home to a wide variety of them. In Bangladesh too these gorgeous floral beauties are being accorded a welcome reception.

The Orchid Society of Bangladesh is actually a group of avid orchid lovers and enthusiasts, who brought together their common hobby and are eager to share their appreciation of beauty with the general public.

Recently they arranged a show in Gulshan. The show is exactly similar to the one I have attended in Colombo, except for the garden. It is a smaller garden but the flowers are plenty here. The blossoms are very enchanting," said



Splawiec Christopher of the Embassy of Poland. In fact the flowers on display were really wonderful. "This show was arranged in a hurry, only four of our members could bring in their flowers, Nasreen Iqbal, Taslima Kabir, Zillur Rahman and myself," said Suraiya Huq, Director of Phulki an NGO and also a member of the society. There is a common fear that the orchid culture as a hobby is something out of reach of ordinary people and also a time-consuming pastime. Actually it is not.

It always takes time, a bit of patience and maybe, a bit of luck too to grow orchids or any flowers for that matter, Suraiya explained. "Orchids are gradually coming up. It is now more popular than it was last year and we can see the differences in these shows which we arrange twice a year," Suraiya informed that they

could sell something like 25 pots with flowering orchids within two hours' time of the show.

Only the Deudrobium pots on sale were for Tk 250 to Tk 400 this year but the highest price was an Afro Vanda pot Tk 2,500. Deudrobiums white and mauve and in candy stripes were available. But the hybrid Vanda Teret which looks something like a chandelier of pretty pink flowers were in demand, specially among the foreigners. But this hybrid comes in bloom around January to March.

The show had display boards. One of the boards showed all the flowers that this society people can grow but are now out of season. Vanda Teret created sensation even in snap-

shots, one wonders the effect it might have in full bloom. The other board displayed basic information about the flowers. There were also booklets on how to grow orchid and use insecticides on sale.

This show is rare and something definitely encouraging. It shows that the fruits of hard work and sincere labour never goes unrewarded. "Is there really something called green finger or not, I wonder, coming here?" commented a visitor.

Ziauddin Ahmed, a local businessman said "I have a few collection of orchid plants and this society has given me tips on how to nurture them. My plants are growing fine, in fact their growth or bloom just thrills me beyond imagination."

He has alone bought four pots from this show. Anna and Paul from Denmark — they are working in a project — looked very impressed.

"We would definitely try to grow them here. Nasreen Iqbal just told us to talk to our plants. I wonder whether they would understand Danish, then again if they can understand Bangla, they definitely will understand our language," they added laughing.

Plants understand every language and weather, but it is difficult for us to know the meaning of their language. But once understood, the two can grow together and make this world a lively place.

This year the orchid society of Bangladesh has brought out a souvenir, too. Many diplomats, foreigners and local elites showed keen interest and visited the show.

Sircar visits RU halls

RAJSHAHI, Sept 25: Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar today said the government was determined to root out terrorism from the campus at any cost, reports BSS.

He said this while talking with Vice-Chancellor, pro-Vice Chancellor, provosts of residential halls and proctors at the Rajshahi University.

Later, the Education Minister visited some halls of Rajshahi University to see for himself the damage caused by the recent incident and the whole situation.

Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu was present on the occasion.

The Education Minister sought cooperation and recommendations from the teachers and employees of the university for maintaining congenial academic atmosphere on the campus.

He hoped that such type of incident which occurred recently on Rajshahi University campus would not occur in future and asked all concerned including the university administration to extend their full cooperation to the government for greater national interest.

He said the government would bear the expenses to repair the damage.

Meanwhile, the government has formed a one-member committee with Justice Abdul Matin Chowdhury to probe the Rajshahi University incident. The enquiry committee will submit its report to the government as early as possible.

'Press reflects nation's identity'

CHITTAGONG, Sept 25: Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah al Noman has said that the press can best reflect the identity of the nation and the democratic system is its strong safeguard, reports BSS.

He was addressing as the chief guest a seminar on "Freedom of the press and right to information" organised by the Eastern Regional Newspapers Parishad at municipal auditorium here yesterday.

A message from Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was read out in the seminar.



- 5.00 Opening announcement
Al-Quran
Programme summary
5.10 News in Bangla
5.25 Let's Watch
5.40 Sports programme:
Cricket
6.40 Shishu Adhikar
7.05 Open University
7.30 Tagore songs
8.00 News in Bangla
8.30 Antara Amce
9.05 Film show: Raven
10.00 News in English
10.30 Surbari
11.30 Khabar/The News
11.40 Tomorrow's programme
summary
11.45 Closing



Speaker Sheikh Razzaque Ali yesterday distributing certificates among the meritorious students of the Dhaka University Law Department at a fresher's reception. Acting Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University Prof Wakil Ahmed is also seen. — Star photo

Consensus must to solve problems: Speaker

Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, Shaikh Razzaque Ali, said in the city yesterday that national consensus and total commitment of all the political parties were necessary to solve them, he added.

Dwelling on rule of law and establishment of a society free from violence, the Speaker said that only existence of laws was not enough. Proper application of laws was more important, he said.

The Speaker said people's expectation from the present parliament was great and all-out efforts should be made to fulfil that expectation. Referring to the country's efforts for institutionalisation of democracy, he said that to achieve that goal we should learn mutual tolerance and democratic language. Citations were awarded to 15 brilliant students of the Law Faculty for their performance. Shaikh Razzaque Ali's daughter Jona Razzaque who secured first class first position at the LLB examination this year, was one of the recipients of the citation.

He was addressing a chief guest a function organised by the 'Law Review' to accord reception to the first year students and also to the brilliant students of the Department of Law, University of Dhaka. The acting Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University, Prof Wakil Ahmed, Dean of the Faculty of Law Dr Azizur Rahman Chowdhury, Chairman of the Faculty of Law Dr M I Patwari and Prof Hamiduddin Khan also spoke on the occasion.

Shaikh Razzaque Ali said the problems facing the country were inter-related and those could not be solved in an isolated manner. United efforts of people from all walks of life and

Weather

No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

The sky is likely to remain cloudy over the coastal regions and partly cloudy elsewhere over the country.

Temporary light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions.

Met Office forecasts, day temperature is likely to remain unchanged over the country.

The country's highest temperature of 35.8 degrees Celsius was recorded in Kutubdia while lowest of 23 degrees Celsius was recorded in Rangamati yesterday.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 5.51 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 5.49 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	29.7	25.8	88	83
Chittagong	31.0	24.8	77	77
Rajshahi	31.5	25.4	79	90
Khulna	32.4	25.8	85	89
Barisal	28.4	25.5	80	90
Dinajpur	30.8	24.5	87	96
Sylhet	32.0	24.0	87	80
Cox's Bazar	32.4	25.0	74	78

Khetmajur Union announces programmes

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Khetmajur Union at a press conference Saturday announced a series of agitational programmes to press home its eight-point demand including distribution of 'khas' lands among the landless.

The programmes include an organisational fortnight from October 8 to 22, a publicity fortnight from October 23 to November 6, a demand week from November 7 to 13 and a rally in Dhaka on November 19. The Khetmajur Union also decided to hold demonstrations on November 13 at the thana level.

The press conference, addressed by its General Secretary.

100 pc penal interest on farm loan waived: Salam

Waiving cooperative farm loan up to Tk 5,000 is not possible for various reasons, but the government will give some relief to the defaulters, reports UNB.

This was stated yesterday by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, responding to the demand of the loanees for the outstanding credit waiver.

The government is waiving 100 per cent penal interest and 50 per cent of the regular interest to patronise this sector, and giving the facility to repay the loans in 10 instalments," he told members of cooperative societies at a function.

The minister was addressing as chief guest the National Cooperative Award '91 distribution ceremony of Dhaka Division in the Engineers Institute auditorium.

State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Abdus Hye, President of the National Cooperatives Union Salahuddin Ahmed, MP, and Director General of the Bangladesh Rural Development Board Syed Margub Morshed attended the function, presided over by Registrar of Cooperatives Moha-

mmad Azizul Haq Bhuiyan.

Barrister Salam said a top-level committee had been formed to frame a new and more democratic policy for cooperatives to extend its facilities to the people by streamlining the sector.

"A large number of people, nearly one crore, is involved in this sector who can make a good progress in economy and society if they are honest, sincere and active," he said.

The minister said cooperatives, second largest economic sector, could make a good contribution to the national economy and development if all its small units did their best in production and innovative employment.

There are 126,000 cooperatives in this sector, a great force altogether for mobilising human resources for progress of the country," he added.

But, the minister regretted, this potential sector was lagging behind mainly because of "corruption".

He urged the members of cooperative societies to follow the suit of the Grameen Bank and try to make the Cooperative Bank a profitable concern.



Newly appointed Bangladesh envoy to Poland Najem Ahmed Chowdhury presenting his credentials to Polish President Lech Walesa at the presidential palace recently. — PID photo

BCS (Edn) team calls on Edn Secy

A delegation of the BCS General Education Association met Education Secretary Irshadul Huq yesterday at his secretariat office, says a press release.

They discussed the ways and means how to implement the decisions taken on the basis of 16-point demands.

Farewell accorded to Milam in Khulna

KHULNA, Sept 25: US Ambassador William B Milam today said that the forces of modernisation and development were moving faster now in Bangladesh and hoped it would accelerate further, reports BSS.

The Ambassador was addressing a farewell reception

5 extortionists held in city

Police yesterday arrested five extortionists who tried to collect tolls in front of the ICD godown at Kamalapur railway station, reports UNB.

The arrested are: Shakil, Ismail, Ariful Islam, Ramjuddin and Nazrul Islam Bacchu. A case has been lodged under the Anti-Terrorism Law.

MITSUBISHI LANCER

Vacations Don't Come Often Enough To Be Travelling Any Other Way



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