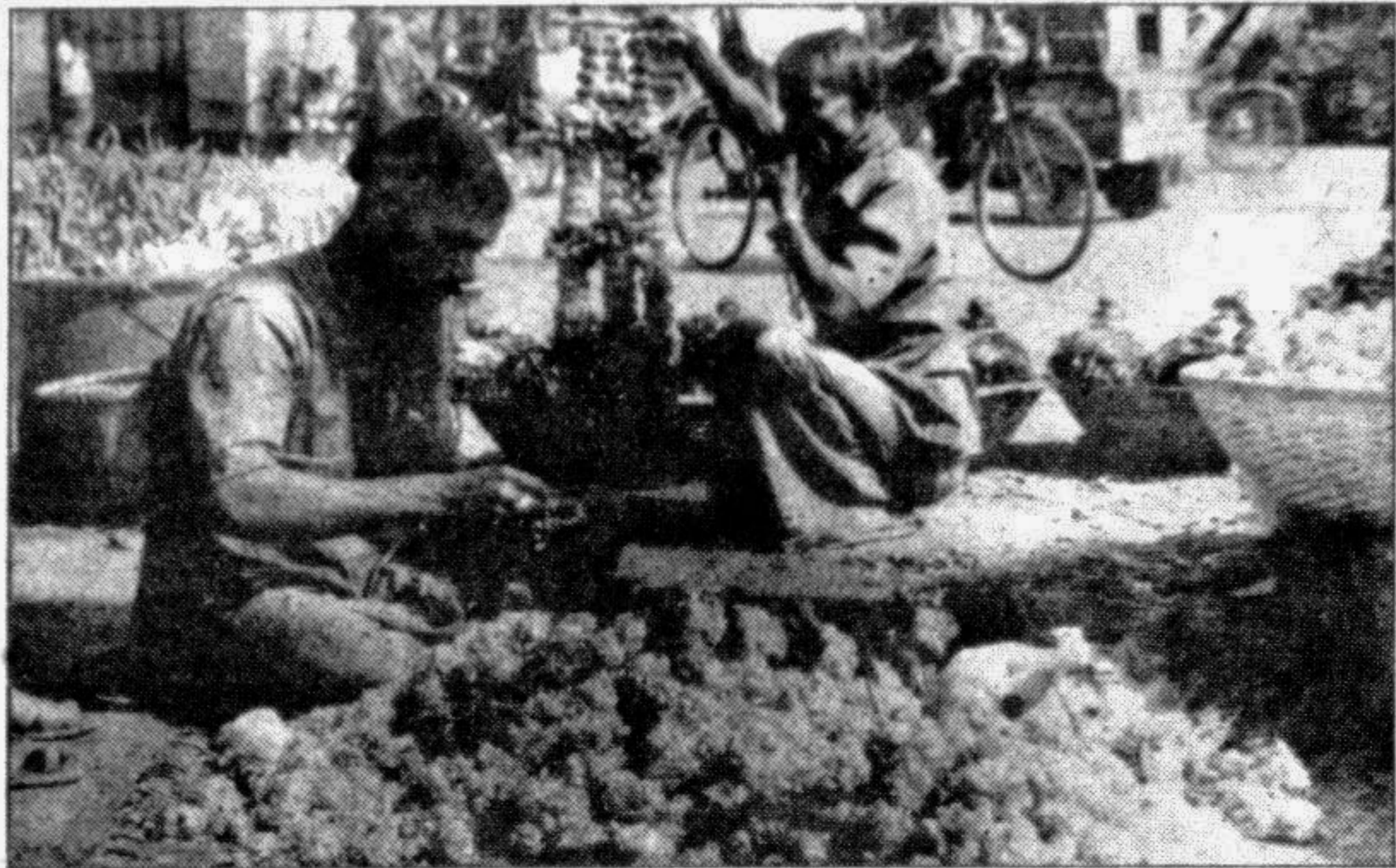


# Dhaka Day by Day

## Flowers — More Than a Thing of Beauty

by A S M. Nurnnabi



By and large, love for flowers is ingrained in us. But in the recent past, it seemed that a revolution had taken place in Dhaka citizens' attitude towards flowers. A new outlook is evidenced by the widespread interest shown by them so much so that such interest seems to have become institutionalised. On the occasions of marriage, birth anniversaries or any big functions, presentation of flowers has become an established practice.

There are several areas in the city which bear witness to our new interest in flowers. More conspicuous among them is the Shahbagh area. This area is regarded as the hub of the city's flower market where business worth thousands of taka is conducted.

It is understood that sales of flowers as per orders of customers are more profitable than the retail type. And such sales on orders are said to be very considerable. For the paraphernalia of wedding arrangements, such as decoration of the bridegroom's car, flower ornaments for the bride and decoration of the nuptial chamber, flowers are needed. For such purposes, transactions in the flower market are greater in volume.

Previously the space in front of the High Court mazar was the venue of the flower market. Now it has spread to other specific areas of the city. A little distance away from Shahbagh lies the Katabon area where the flower shops outnumber the number of flower shops in the Shahbagh area. The neighbourhood around the Mahila Samity theatre venue is embellished by the presence of some flower shops. Besides these flowers are sold from the botanical and BDR gardens. It is estimated that sixty to seventy flower shops have come up all over the city. Besides numerous roadside vendors, in short, wherever you may be in the city, you can conveniently buy a stick of tuberose (Rajani gondhal) at Taka two.

Lately this wide appreciation of flowers forms a new staple of business in the hands of some nondescript youngsters. They can be seen just at the moment shoppers go to board

their cabs at the end of their shopping or when the rickshaws we travel in get stalled at road junctions in a traffic jam or in busy shopping areas. Those youngsters offer small garlands at whatever price a customer chooses to pay. This is a sublimated form of begging being resorted to by an increasing number of poor boys and girls. They present a poignant spectacle of a grim battle for subsistence at all weathers, fair or foul.

In Western countries there is a system called interflora system under which one can send flowers not only from one neighbourhood to another, but also from one city to another. Suppose someone in London wants to send flowers to his beloved in Manchester on the occasion of her birthday. All he needs to do in this case is to place his order with a flower shop in Interflora network with his payment on account of the price of the flowers and fax charges. The London flower shop will intimate the shop in the same network in Manchester the details of address, date and the kind of flowers required to be delivered in Manchester. Such a system is yet to be introduced in our country.

For the Dhaka flower markets, supplies mainly come from the Jessore area. Some places in Savar also produce flowers. There is also some smuggling of flowers from across the borders. According to our Export Promotion Bureau, there are bright prospects for earning substantial foreign exchange through exports of flowers after meeting the internal needs. At present the turnover in the global flower market is reportedly valued at 160 billion dollar. Holland enjoys the foremost position in the global market for the commodity with a share of 67 per cent of the trade. Italy, Colombia, India, Kenya and Israel are also engaged in this foreign trade. For Bangladesh there are immense possibilities of playing an important part in this field if cultivation of flowers of different varieties is boosted through special measures and on scientific lines in suitable areas of the country.

### What's on today . . . .

**Nazrul Jayanti:** A three-day programme to celebrate the 96th birth anniversary of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be inaugurated. Venue: Shilpakala Academy auditorium. Time: 7:00 pm. Chief guest: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

**Zahir Raihan Film Society:** The following films will be screened: "Kiss of the Spider Woman" (Brazil). Time: 4:30 pm; "The House of the Spirits" (Denmark). Time: 6:45 pm. Venue: German Cultural Centre auditorium, House-10, Rd-9, Dhanmondi.

**Nat'l congress:** The three-day sixth national congress of the Bangladesh Sangjukt Sramik Federation will begin. Venue: Engineers' Instt. Time: 10:30 am.

**Pioneer VOA Fan Club:** The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Temporary office at Eskaton Road. Time: 7 pm.

**Drama show:** Loko Natyadal will present its two productions — Mahaprayan and Nirmul. Venue: Guide House auditorium. Time: 7 pm.

**Bangladesh Scouts:** The 112th executive committee meeting of Bangladesh Scouts will be held. Venue: 70/1, Purana Paltan Line. Time 5 pm.

**Rotary Club of Shahbagh, Dhaka:** The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Seminar on Environment:** Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' association has organised a seminar on the 'role of law in environment protection'. Venue: Planning Commission auditorium, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 4:30 pm. Chief guest: Akbar Hossain, Minister for Environment and Forest.

**Rotary Club of Dilkusha:** The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 5:30 pm.

### New Fire Service phone numbers

The telephone numbers of the Dhaka Fire Service and Civil Defence control room will change from Wednesday (May 24), reports UNB.

The new numbers are: 233333-6, 868100-2 (PABX) and 255800 (Direct).

Two-digit telephone numbers will be introduced from the next month for easy communication, fire officials said.

### Shadman



Wishing you a Happy Birthday  
— Baba, Ma

## Bata

### NOTICE TO THE SHAREHOLDERS

As required under Section 211 of the Companies Act, 1994, this is to notify for information of all concerned that the Company has received a notice from a shareholder proposing for appointment of M/s. Khan Wahab Shafique Rahman & Co., Chartered Accountants, 55 Dilkusha C/A., Dhaka-1000, as Auditors of Bata Shoe Co. (Bangladesh) Limited for the year 1996 in its 23rd Annual General Meeting scheduled to be held on 31st May, 1995.

The existing Auditors, M/s. Rahman Rahman Huq, Chartered Accountants, 52 Motijheel C/A., Dhaka-1000, have expressed their willingness to continue as Auditors of the Company for the year 1996.

M. SAIDUZAMAN

Company Secretary

Dhaka

Bata Shoe Co. (Bangladesh) Limited

22nd May, 1995

Tongi, Gazipur

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Contact : Adnan, 835152, 839999



Four Bangladeshis— Dr Akram Sayeed (community), Dr Md Hasnat (community), Dr Fazle Mahmood (music), and Nazrul Islam Bason (journalism) who won the '95 Asian Film Academy Film, Media and Community awards. The awards are given every year to members of the Asian community living in the UK for outstanding contributions to television, film, media and community service. The awards were distributed by Euro MP Mike Eliot at the Northhale County Club on May 13.

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