Baldah on the verge of extinction

By Morshed Ali Khan and Parveen Ahmed

Many rare plants and trees are under threat of dying due to an acute shortage of water and negligence of the officials responsible in the city's Baldah Gardens - the only botanical gardens in the country with rare species of plants and

For the huge number of rare species of trees, plants and shrubs in the age-old Baldah Gardens, a total of 10,000 gallons of water is required a day during the dry season but WASA can only supply 500 gal-lons, an official said.

"This water problem has been going on for few years now and many plants and trees are suffering from dehydration and rapidly becoming malnourished," said an official of the Forest Department which has been entrusted with looking after the historical gardens since 1962.

The Baldah Gardens was set up in 1909 by the Zaminder of Baldah. Babu Narayan Roy Chowdhury - an avid naturalist and philanthropist. It has a total of 700 species of 339 genres, belonging to 87 families

in the Baldah Gardens.

5:55 am.

City/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Death anniversary

of Principal

Ibrahim today

The 18th death anniversary

Programmes have been

of eminent scholar and social

reformer Principal Ebrahim

Khan will be observed today.

chalked out the Dhaka and Tangail by a number of socio-

cultural organisations to mark

will hold a discussion at Kakali High School at 4.30pm today.

arranged on the day after Asr

prayers at the Dhanmondi

Death anniversary

of Abu Taleb

of shaheed journalist Knandaker Abu Taleb will be observed at his residence at Mir-

ing the War of Liberation.

Govt Bill hailed

thousand BNP activists today

brought out a procession in the city to hail the passage of the

non-party caretaker government bill and in support of

the various programmes undertaken by the government of

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda

Khulna city BNP from the party

office situated at KD Ghose

road and paraded through city

The procession came out under the aegis of district and

Zia, reports BSS.

streets.

KHULNA, Mar 28: Several

The 26th death anniversary

residence of late Khan.

Bangladesh Lekhak Samity

Milad mahfil has also been

reports BSS.

the occasion.

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Dhaka

Weather

Rain with gusty wind likely

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty

or squally wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Barisal

and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places elsewhere

over the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports

changed across the country during the period.

Met Office says day temperature may remain nearly un-

Country's highest temperature 35 degree Celsius was

The sun sets today at 6:14 pm and rises on Saturday at

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity

min

21.9

20.7

19.5

24.6

24.0

20.5

23.5

recorded at Khulna and the lowest 17.8 degrees at Dinajpur.

recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

33.4

33.0

33.0

Temperature

in Celsius

from 50 different countries of

It was learnt that in view with the water crisis. Dhaka WASA was given two decimal of land from the gardens own premises to set up a pump house in 1983.

The 1983 accord with WASA was that it would supply 10,000 gallons of water a day to the Baldah Gardens in addition to supply water in the neighbourhood, said the botanist-cum-senior research officer of the gardens.

"But due to increasing demand for water in the area WASA had to cut down its supply to the gardens," said the official, adding that the natural pond inside the gardens also got dry during the dry season.

Despite having a workforce of 19 full-time gardeners lmost of whom have their accommodations inside the gardens premises), a foreign trained botanist-cum-senior research officer, a deputy ranger and two security personnel, the gardens bear th marks of carelessness and negligence.

Watering the plants (left) inside the greenhouse, and a partial view of the dehydrated cactai

Humidity in

percentage

morning

BCS (tax) Assoc

joins secys in

movement

The Bangladesh Civil Ser-

vice Taxation Association at an

executive committee meeting

yesterday expressed its soli-

darity will the move taken by

the secretaries who met the President on March 27 to pave the way for resolving the present political crisis, says a

The association also vented

For the last two months

its frustration at the country's

there has been harfily any activities in income tax fixation

and revenue collection, the as-

sector has fallen drastically because a sense of insecurity has

gripped the mind of the em-

ployees and officials of various

taxation departments across

DU exams

postponed

M.SC/M Farm (Final) of 1993 and M.Sc-in-Nutrition of 1995

of the Dhaka University sche-

duled to be held on April 2

have been postponed due to

Fresh dates will be an-

unavoidable reasons.

nounced soon.

By DU Correspondent

The examinations of

The collection in revenue

press release.

political disturbances.

sociation observed.

the country.

evening

Many rare plants were seen by these correspondents, covered with dry weeds and dead leaves while the whole premises of the gardens wore a dirty look. Small plants mainly range of orchids were seen left dying. Hundreds of recently drafted plants in plastic bags were kept amid rubbish. Spider webs on top of the drafts tell the story of carelessness.

The locals complained that some unsocial activities were random within the garden where Tk 6 is charged for entry from each person.

We have lodged complaints to the authority to clampdown on these activities but these days it seems to be increasing," complained Amir, a resident of Narinda.

The botanist of the gardens claimed that the collection of Cactai in the gardens was one of the best in the country although the greenhouse lacked modern facilities.

"The effect of water shortage can easily be detected as many plants no more give flowers as regularly as before.



Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mohammad Hanif addressing a huge rally in front af the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. - Star photo

Nari Samaj asks Pak govt to apologise for misdeeds in '71

By Staff Correspondent

The Sammilito Nari Samai organised a discussion meeting and cultural function at Bakul Tala of the Art Institute on the occasion of the silver jubilee of the Independence Day on Tuesday, says a press release.

Meghna Guhu Thakurta, Saed Kamal, Minu Huq, Sultana Raka and Shami Kaiser took part in the discussion while Anaada Dhani cultural group rendered patriotic songs.

The speakers demanded a formal apology for the Pakistan government for their misdeeds during 1971 as, 'according' to them' the women of that country had expressed solidarity with the women of Bangladesh

They said the losses which Bangladesh suffered during that period could not be compensated in any way. "We want that the Pakistan government seek an apology". they said.

They expressed their determination to continue their struggle till the trial of those responsible for the killing of

their relatives. The cultural function was conducted by Pragga Laboni.

Guardians' rally held in Ctg

Chanderhat, a children organisation, arranged a guardians rally at its Dewanhat office in the port city on Sunday, re-

Chanderhat advisor Aminul Islam Chowdhury presided over the rally which was addressed by Golam Kibria Murad, Kamruddin Ahmed, Shahnaj Parveen. Mili Sultana and

Addressing the rally, the speakers emphasised on safe road and playground and congenial educational atmosphere for the children across the country.

BCS, trade, employees assocs urge PM to step down

Different government and non-government prefessional organisations yesterday urged the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, to quit and form a caretaker government without further delay so that the nation can get rid of political turmoil, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Civil Service (Information) Association at a meeting of its executive committee expressed deep concern at the overall situation of the country.

The association expressed its solidarity with the 'Sachib Committee's programme' and urged President Abdur Rahman Biswas to immediately form caretaker government, a press release of the association

Bangladesh Civil Service (Forest) Association at an emergency meeting held expressed its deep concern at the lack in security, stagnation in economy and deterioration of the law and order due to the prevailing situation in the country.

The association leaders Md. Golam Habib, president of the association, and Md. Nuruzzaman, general secretary of the association, urged President Abdur Rahman Eiswas to help implement the decision to form caretaker government to rid the nation of the gradual economic downturn.

dang'a Sramik Federation at a meeting in the city yesterday urged Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to immediately resign and pave the way for holding the next elections under a caretaker govern-

A federation press release said the federation leaders had welcomed the passage of the non-party caretaker bill in the Jatiya Sangsad and said if Begum Zia had any concern for the nation, she should immediately step down to rid the

matten of the present crisis. With president of the federation Mirza Muhammad Nurunnabi in the chair, the meeting was addressed, among

others, by M A Awal, Kazi Manzur Hussain, Mirza Ibrahim, Shahidullah Bhuiyan and Jamshed Chowdhury.

Sramik-Karmachari Mukti-Sangsad of Dhaka City Corporation expressed its solidarity with the movement called by Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif for resolving the present political crisis, a press release of the sangsad said yesterday.

Bangladesh Fourth Class Government Employees Association at a meeting of the representatives of Dhaka City. held yesterday expressed its solidarity with the present movement of Bangladesh Sachibalaya Karmachari Sanjukta Parishad.

With Golam Mostafa Talukder in the chair, the meeting was addressed, among others, by association leaders Muhammad Rezaul Mostafa, Muhammad Abdul Kader. Muhammad Sirajuddin, Ali Hanif Chhanu and Muhammad Abul Kalam, a press release of the association said.

Television-non-gazzetted Karmachari Kalyan Samity at a meeting also expressed their deep concern at the overall political situation and urged President Abdur Rahman Biswas to take step for resolving the crisis by forming caretaker government.

Samity president Mir Ahmad Hossain and general secretary Md. Abdul Kavum in a press release said television is a national medium of the nation. Television should put up programmes impartially and objectively but experience shows that such programmes have not been put up due to absence of proper policies." the press release said.

Rotaract meet

The special general meeting, followed by an election meeting for 1996-97 of the Rotaract Club of Dhaka Buriganga will be held today at 10:30 am at RDS. Dhanmandi, say a press release.

Hasina condoles death of police sgt Abdul Karim

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her deep sorrow at the death of police sergeant Abdul Karim, reports BSS.

In a message she conveyed her sympathy to the bereaved members of the late police

The opposition leader said in her message that the police as officials of the republic, are the protectors and servants of the people. She alleged that the "illegal interference" of the BNP government was the main obstacle to restoring peace and security in society by the po-lice. Hasina has also alleged that the "mastans" of the government are creating chaos and disturbances in society. In this context she referred

to the deaths of police inspector Farhad, Bashir Ali, Mizanur Rahman, Salekuddin, Babul Akhtar and Akhtaruzzaman, alleging that they had to give up their lives for the 'Government hoodlums.

The Awami League president urged the police "not to obey the orders of the 'illegal government" as the officials of the republic serve as the servants of the people, not for any particular party.

Call to reopen DU, other edn instts

By DU Correspondent

A section of students of the Dhaka University under the banner of Concerned Student Community brought out a pro-cession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday to press their demand to open the university and other educational institutions immediately.

Later they held a rally at the Aparajeyo Bangla which was addressed by K M Feroz Ahmed, Golam Mahbub, Abu Taleb, Delwar, Mizan, Matiul

and Shabui. The speakers said that the whole system of education in the country was on the verge of collapse. "If the university is not opened within a day or two, we have to face a fresh session jam," the students said.

They urged the politicians to come to a amicable solution immediately. BSS adds: President of BCS General Education Association yesterday expressed concern

tion sector due to political stalemate. An emergency meeting of the association, presided over

over the losses in the educa-

by Professor M Anisur Rahman, urged the president to form a caretaker government immediately to solve the political impasse.

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Fly Smooth as Silk on Thai Daily to Bangkok

in road accident From Staff Correspondent

Young man killed

pur in the city today, reports SYLHET. Mar 28: A young man was killed in a road acci-On the occasion a milad dent on Sylhet-Tamabil road in mahfil and special prayer will the night following Saturday be held at the mosque adjacent last. The victim Raja Miah, son to his house after Jumma of Abdul Manik of village prayers, family sources said. Pirerbazar of sadar thana was Khandaker Abu Taleb, the returning home after market then chief reporter of Daily Iting from the nearby bazar tefaq, was killed by the collabwhen he was knocked down by orators of Pakistani forces at a speeding truck bound for his residence on this day dur-Tamabil from Sylhet near Pirerbazar at about 9 pm. He Passage of Caretaker was immediately rushed to the

Lawyers' Forum meet today

Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical

College Hospital where he suc-

cumbed to his injuries the

same night. A case has been

registered with the police.

By Staff Correspondent The Bangladesh Nationalist Lawyers' Forum will hold a meeting today at 6 pm at the

Sohag Community Centre says a press release All members have been requested to attend.

seven days.

The houses of Prof Anwar

The DUTA brought out a silent procession on the campus Wednesday protesting the attack. The procession led by DUTA president Dr ATM Zahurul Haq started from the Aparajeyo Bangla at about 10;30 am and ended at the Central Shaheed Minar.

probe body's report in 7 days By DU Correspondent

Attack on 3 houses

DUTA demands

- Star photo

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) has threatened to launch a greater movement if the report of the probe committee formed to investigate the attack on the residences of three DU teachers is not submitted within

Hossain and Dr Anwar Hossain of Bio-Chemistry and Dr Tofael Ahmed of Chemistry came under attack early Friday.

Shaheed Minar Dr. Zahurul Haq demanded arrest and pun ishment of the 'culprits' who attacked the houses of University teachers.

CHITTAGONG, Mar 28: ports UNB. Nurul Amin. Addressing a rally at the

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