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Down to Earth Growing Interest in Potted Garden

By A S M Nurunnabi

A close touch with greenery which was available four or five decades ago is now a lost dream for most of the dwellers of Dhaka City. The seasonal changes in nature which mark a display of nature's colour, beauty and appeal still continue in their usual patterns, but the hectic pace of life of the citizens leaves them little scope to tarry a little and appreciate those beauties in this bustling city.

In the ever swelling crowd of humans and a stiflingly congested milieu, it seems that there is no place for greenery in the city. Even the feel of a verdant patch of grass under the feet seems to be a rare experience. Thus the city wearing an external veneer of polish and brightness over the composting units of steel, mortar and bricks is generally regarded as having a prosaic and matter-of-fact entity.

From another perspective, it may be said that a flower garden, reared on earth, however small it may be, is a source of joy. But it is not easy to find such joy in a city. In this dreary image of city life, we may sometimes come across some pleasant exceptions. Such exceptions lie in the practice of potted garden culture. Potted gardens have immense possibilities, and a genuine enthusiast in this line will stop at nothing in building up such a garden within the confines of the available space. It is a sort of craze which no one outside the ambit of its influence will appreciate.

The usually available spaces for such purposes are provided by verandas, window sills and staircase landings. If you have

the good fortune to have the run of a roof, the scope is greatly widened for a properly planned potted garden, sometimes matching in beauty and variety with any garden on solid earth.

A roof garden on flower pots has many advantages: mainly it is safe from pilferage, thereby allowing its owners to enjoy the beauty of the flowers till the last moment of their life. Of course, a roof garden requires more attention and care and comparatively more expenses for proper maintenance.

With the advent of the winter season, the craze for potted garden acquires added fillip with its enthusiasts becoming engrossed in the raising of various flowers.

The culture of growing various vegetables on pots has also developed in the city for sometime. Side by side, some citizens have reportedly achieved success in growing fruit trees on pots. In the tree plantation exhibitions which are held from time to time in the city, many visitors might have seen the culture in pots of such fruits as mango, guava, grape, orange, sugarcane, etc. Potted garden enthusiasts may, no doubt, be interested in knowing the techniques of growing such fruit trees in pots.

Lately we find flower pots of various shapes and designs in the city markets which can be adapted for culture of vegetables and fruit trees. The new category of pots is an improvement on the old versions which are mostly drab in appearance. Nowadays, besides the city markets, the new versions of flower pots brilliantly painted in many colours are available

on many. If there is not enough space for a potted garden, an enthusiast in this line may make a humble beginning. But the irresistible impulse always will be to expand when circumstances and space permit. Although such a hobby tends to be expensive, one's passion for it makes one forget the cost.

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Both are on site day's demand for questioning. Parveen, 20, has given "many startling information", they said.

According to KMP sources, 55 cases have so far been recorded with different police stations against Shikdar. Of these, 22 are murder cases including the Khaled murder case.

The gold ornaments are reportedly missing from Shikdar's residence Swarnakamol since she was taken to the district jail as one of the suspects in Khaled's murder.

Shikdar has vowed to file a case for recovering gold ornaments weighing over 30 totals which she got as dowry from her husband Shikdar.

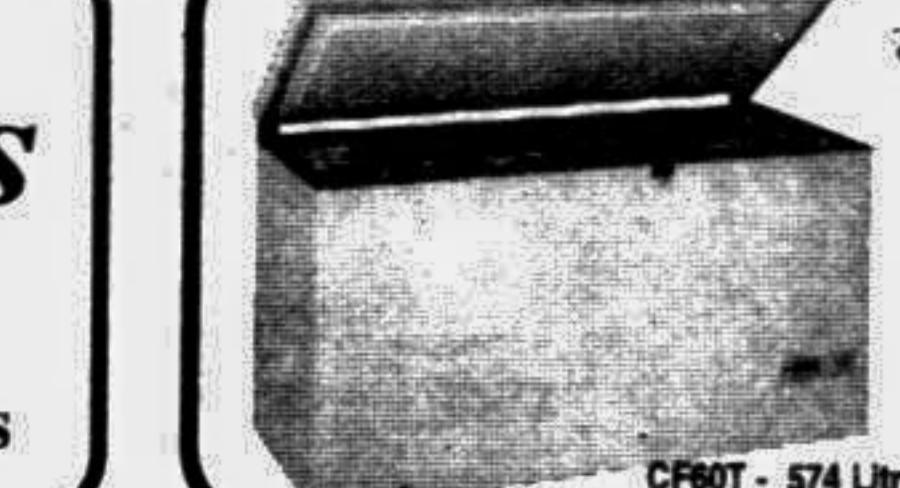
Charge sheets in all murder cases will be submitted to courts within this month, as desired by the government, the sources said. Local Jumbo League leader Khalid Hossain was murdered by Shikdar on May 16 this year.

Raham Ali, a Railway employee, was the first murder victim.

Police said, so far 12 persons including Shikdar have been interrogated and statements of eight witnesses recorded under Section 164.

"A lot of evidences are already in our hands which are enough for starting charge-framing", said a top official of KMP.

Meanwhile, hectic prepara-



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Pvt sector development

IDB to set up \$1b capital fund

From M Anwarul Haq

JEDDAH, Nov 5: The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has decided to set up a one billion US dollar capital fund to spur development in the private sector in the OIC countries.

The decision came at the end of the two-day silver jubilee celebrations of the bank set up at the initiative of the OIC Bangladesh is one of the founding members of the Bank.

The fund is meant to stimulate private commerce in the OIC countries and is called 'The Islamic Corporation for Development of the Private Sector'. The IDB would be contributing 50 per cent of the Corporation's capital, while member countries another 30 per cent. The remaining 20 per cent will come from public financial institutions in OIC countries.

Bangladesh has received IDB assistance of over one billion US dollars. Two more projects entailing assistance of 20 million US dollars have been approved for social and rural care schemes during the recent meeting of the IDB Board.

Dhaka would be represented in the Executive Board of Directors of the IDB for a three-year term.

The silver jubilee celebrations of the IDB that concluded here Wednesday in this Red Sea city brought in over 400 delegates from around the world.

Photo journalists' memo to PM

By Staff Correspondent
Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association (BPJA) has urged the Prime Minister to take steps for judicial investigations and punitive actions against those responsible for police harassment of the press photographers.

The call was made in a memorandum yesterday says a press release. President of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Abul Kalam Azad handed over the memorandum of the BPJA to the Prime Minister at a function at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

The BPJA congratulated the Prime Minister on her receiving UNESCO peace prize and recalled with gratitude that she had ordered stoppage of police harassment on photo journalists.

Giving a brief note on 15 recommendations in the memorandum, the BPJA also sought an audience with the Prime Minister.

UNB adds: A group of journalists yesterday staged protest after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina came to the National Press Club to attend a reception hosted by BFUJ and DUJ on her winning the UNESCO peace award.

About 20 journalists paraded the press club premises chanting slogans protesting recent police attack on press photographers.

Addressing a brief rally, BFUJ and DUJ faction leaders Ruhul Amin Gazi, Abu Saleh, Kamruzzaman and others were present at the rally.

Fabled Marshall passes away

Sports Reporter

Legendary West Indian fast bowler Malcolm Marshall is no more. The hero of many a West Indian battle died in Barbados on Thursday after a six-month battle with colon cancer.

Marshall (41), who came to

Dhaka in October last year as coach of the West Indies team to the Wills International Cup, left the Caribbean coaching job immediately before the 1999 World Cup in England last May.

Marshall, who died at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Barbados on Thursday at 5:30 PM local time, underwent a surgery last year related to the cancer.

Marshall played 81 Tests for

West Indies from 1976 to 1991 and held the record as leading West Indies bowler with 376 wickets until Courtney Walsh broke the record last year.

Marshall, one of the greatest fast bowlers the world has seen, left behind his wife Connie and a son.

Details in Sport section



Attack on Jinjira UP chairman: None arrested yet

By Staff Correspondent
Followers of UP chairman of Jinjira clashed with their rivals when the news of Thursday's shooting of their leader reached the area yesterday.

Ainul Huq, Chairman of Jinjira UP and Mubarak Hossain, member of the UP, were shot by some unidentified gunmen at Kataban in the city at about 7:00 pm on Thursday.

The gunmen, numbering four, intercepted their car and fired at them when they reached Kataban on their way home.

Ainul, hit by bullets in his head and chest, was shifted to the Chest Diseases Hospital while Mubarak was transferred to the Orthopaedic Hospital. They were earlier admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Dhannondi police believe that the incident may have resulted from a previous rivalry in their locality. They however failed to arrest anybody in connection with the attack. No case in this regard was filed till writing of this report last night, police said.

Nov 8 hartal

From page 1
When contacted, a committee leader however said the hartal on November 8 may be reduced by six hours, ending at 6 pm instead of midnight.

The meeting yesterday condemned and protested 'police raid' at the residences of Anwar Zahir and another BNP leader Maj. Gen. Manjur Qader.

Presided over by BNP leader M Shamsul Islam MP, the meeting was attended by Jatiya Party leader Maulid Islam, Jamaat-e-Islami leaders Mohammad Kamaruzzaman and ATM Azharul Islam, and Islamic Oikya Jote leaders Fazlul Haq Amin and ARM Abdul Matin.

Madhuri Dixit ties the knot

BOMBAY, Nov 5: Hindi movie queen Madhuri Dixit has married a US-based Indian surgeon in a strictly private ceremony held in Los Angeles last month, reports AFP.

The 33-year-old Indian film diva was married on October 17 according to ancient Hindu rites, according to press reports on Friday.

Following the secretive ceremony -- attended only by family and close friends -- Madhuri and her bridegroom, Shriram Nene, honeymooned in Hawaii.

The Times of India newspaper said the marriage had been arranged by her brother who is a computer engineer, and took place only after the families compared the couple's horoscopes.

"I had to get married some time, so why is everyone surprised? If I kept it quiet, it was because I wanted to announce it at the right time," Madhuri said, after flying back alone to Bombay.

"I will continue to act in movies, but only in worthwhile projects," she said, adding that she planned to migrate to the United States where her two sisters are.

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Lead bought for ERL to be re-exported

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Nov 5: A process is underway to re-export huge quantities of imported lead, left unused at the Eastern Refinery Ltd (ERL).

ERL sources said 60 tonnes of lead worth over Tk two crore were imported from Octel company in London to mix those with motor spirit. But it was stopped following government's decision to market lead-free fuel for motorised vehicles to reduce air pollution.

Earlier, lead was mixed with petrol and octane after refining imported crude for supplying leaded fuel.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) started marketing unleaded fuel in the country



Still the most beautiful

LONDON, Nov 5: Forget super models. Sixty-five-year-old Sophia Loren is going down in history as The Most Beautiful Woman in The World, says

Reuter.

The Italian actress beat rivals half her age in a poll of 3,000 Britons, released today. Her photograph will be placed in a Millennium time capsule for future generations to marvel at. The 'mature woman' was well-represented in the poll's top 10. British actress Joanna Lumley, 53, came fifth and 59-year-old US movie star Raquel Welch was seventh.

Loren pipped Liz Hurley, 34, to the top spot with 33-year-old model Cindy Crawford third. Julia Roberts, 32, came fourth.

Conducted by beauty product makers Beautikko, the poll asked more than 3,000 people: "Which living female in the public eye deserves the title The Most Beautiful Woman in the World?"

Loren has always said she owes her voluptuous figure to nothing but "spaghetti and my love of life".

The list and photographs of the top 20 women will go in Europe's largest time capsule, the Millennium Vault in Surrey, as part of a broad spectrum of 20th century trends represented to marvel at.

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Last month, there was a similar four-day 'windfall holiday'. On October 20 (Wednesday), there was the usual holiday on the occasion of Durga Puja. The opposition called hartal followed on Thursday.

There was a rush of home-bound people at the bus, launch terminals and railway stations. Many of them left the city on Thursday afternoon and in the evening.

The affluent people, however, went for a holiday in their favourite destinations -- Bangkok, Singapore, Dubai, Kathmandu and Calcutta.

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BPJ will organise a discussion meeting on November 10, but the venue for the meeting is yet to be chosen.

A BNP spokesman said the hartal on November 7 is to protest government's conspiracy to undermine the spirit of the 'Revolution and Solidarity Day'.

The programmes includes offering of fatwa at the mazar of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, hoisting of national and party flags at party office and discussion meeting.

As per the programmes, leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations led by party Chairperson Khaleda Zia will place wreath at the mazar of Zia and offer fatwa at 10 am.

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