

Lifestyle fair in city



Different plants and flower pots in the fair yesterday.

SHAHNAZ PARVEEN

Houseplants, furniture, bathroom fittings, building accessories, curtains, doors and everything else you need to adorn a house, it is all there in the Lifestyle Art and Décor Fair 2007 held at the Bangladesh China Friendship Convention Centre.

The entrance of the fair is embellished with the special attraction, a corner exclusively for nursery owners and land-

scape artists with their work of art.

National Nursery Consortium took the special effort to display the products of nursery owners in the fair.

"We have a rich plant diversity in Bangladesh and there is a huge demand for plants in the international market. Without representation, our nursery owners cannot introduce these plants in the foreign market", said President of the consortium Md Tarek Rahman also the owner of the Garden Centre

Group.

"We are trying to create a platform for nursery owners so that they can display their products to foreign buyers", he added.

Members of the consortium are displaying seeds of various flowers, bonsai, various species of roses, fruit saplings, and ornamental artefacts for gardens.

"We proposed DCC about a all year round seasonal tree fair in Dhaka. If DCC takes the effort then root level nurseries can

find their way to foreign market easily", Rahman added.

He stressed that the current condition of Dhaka city is appalling. "To survive in the future we need to plant more trees. Not just seasonal flowers in the street islands, we need trees that will help the environment", he added.

Another interesting feature of the fair is an architectural design competition. 60 students from various public and private universities of Bangladesh are taking part in the competition.

The competition includes three topics, designs for bus ticket counter, public toilets and street hawkers market.

Sraboni Islam competing in the public toilet segment said, "It's really fun to take part in a competition like this. It is also a rehearsal for young apprentices like us."

Award winning designs from the three segments will be implemented later.

The fair will continue till March 12.

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Illegal housing projects flourish under Rehab fair

CITY CORRESPONDENT

A good number of developers displayed unauthorised housing projects at the just concluded Rehab Fair in the city despite the fact that the housing adviser and Rehab president asked the members not to exhibit such projects.

Ironically, four to five of them were the co-sponsors of the Rehab Fair-2006 held at Sheraton Hotel during February 20-24. Rehab held another housing fair in Chittagong (March 8-10) with the same developers as co-sponsors.

Advertisement, sale or display of plots and flats of an unapproved private housing project is a punishable offence as per the Private Housing Land Development Rules of 2004.

At the inaugural ceremony of the five-day Rehab Fair-2006, Abdul Awal, president of the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (Rehab), called upon all the

housing developers not to put on display any plots or flats with no government approval.

Before the fair, the Rehab president also told this correspondent: "In case plot developers insist on displaying unauthorised projects in the housing fair, I will ask the Rehab office bearers to take measures so that they cannot take part in it."

Interestingly, the Rehab president on March 4 said that it was impossible for them, "for one reason or other," to bar those housing developers from participating in the fair, as the

decisions regarding the fair were taken much earlier.

Awal said, "It is the government that has to take legal action against the developers of unauthorised housing projects." As per the article of association, Rehab has no mandate to take action against the errant developers in the association.

Housing and Public Works Adviser Mainul Hosein at the inauguration of fair asked the developers to comply strictly with the Private Housing Land Development Rules of 2004, Building Rules of 2006 and

Building Code of 1993.

Rajuk Chairman KAM Haroon has said recently that none of the ongoing private housing projects has so far obtained approval under the rules of 2004.

The housing projects undertaken before the rules of 2004 but are now under implementation have to obtain approval under the rules that also require that any extension or continuation of a completed project has to be approved by Rajuk.

According to some insiders of Rehab, the association is pres-

ently thinking how to disassociate with the quarters engaged in illegal activities in the housing sector.

Rehab is going to hold similar housing fair, targeting the Bangladesh expatriates, in London and Rome in May next, in Los Angeles and New York in August and in Sydney in October, according to Rehab sources.

A top office bearer of Rehab seeking anonymity said that no housing land developers with unapproved projects will be allowed to take part in the international fairs.

"In case there is no land developer with an approved project, no developer will take part in the fair," he said. Even those apartment builders having credibility crisis and the unknown ones will be excluded from the fair.

He further said there are many unknown apartment builders taking Rehab membership just to avail the opportunity of taking part in the housing fair.

Mosquitoes surge

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"Overhead cost had increased in the last few months but the budget did not."

DCC also lacks effective mechanism to identify areas with high mosquito infestation.

Routine and periodic surveillance needs to be carried out to know the mosquito growth and population density. Based on a count of mosquito eggs or larvae, experts usually locate the most infested area.

DCC did not carry out such surveillance since the year 2000.

Mayor Khoka mentioned that the Dhaka Wasa recently shut down the sluice gate of the Hatirjheel, the only water body left in Dhaka that is linked to the river systems to drain out excess water and to retain them during monsoon.

Hatirjheel, which covers DCC zones 4, 5 and 9, is currently inundated with sewerage

water. "Huge reservoir of dirty stagnant water in the jheel has become a large breeding ground for mosquito. It is one of the main reasons why this season the mosquito population is so high," Mayor Khoka added.

Special measures have been taken to clean up the jheel. Mayor Khoka inaugurated the drive on March 4.

The residents of Mirpur, Pallabi, Kazipara, Shewrapara,

Kalyanpur, Mohammadpur, Mogbazar, Tejgaon, Mugda, Basabo, Rampura, Kamalapur, Jatrabari, Shyampur, Gandaria, Shahjahanpur, Khilgaon, and the old part of Dhaka are suffering immensely because of severe mosquito infestation.

Hamidur Rahman, one of the resident of Kazipara said, "We haven't seen any activity from the city corporation in our locality in recent months. After sundown it becomes really impossible to endure the mosquito bites."

Anindita Adhikari, a resident of Jigatola, said: "Even during the daytime, I have to use a mosquito net when my two-year-old daughter takes a nap."

Md Asgar Ali from Jatrabari said, "Mosquitoes are biting even during daytime at the office. I am afraid of diseases they spread."