City

Anjan and the Bees

had decided to wait for the rains before returning to Baldha Garden. I was there last December when the sad-looking leaves were covered with a thick layer of Dhaka dust. They made me long for the wet season. So when it rained for a few days, I decided to visit the trees, hoping for some good pictures.

As it so often happens, I was sidetracked. Sure, the trees wore luxurious green leaves. The air smelled of wet soil, roasting peanuts and a mix of familiar and exotic flower scents. I was looking forward to taking a close look at many trees.

But when I entered the garden, I saw bright purple flowers growing all over the branches of a tree about eight feet tall. Dozens of bees were visiting the flowers. The yellow bees contrasted nicely with the purple. Of course I was distracted. You would be, too.

When flowers bloom in spring, bees become busy, collecting goodies for their hives. While taking pollen, they also collect nectar in a second "honey stomach", where digestion starts. Back in the hive, the bees regurgitate the nectar, and "fanning" bees help dehydrate the nectar into honey.

What fascinated me was that the bees repeatedly visited the same flowers. Does that mean they were unable to carry off all the pollen and nectar at once, even from a small flower? Did the flower produce more pollen and nectar rapidly for the bees? The tree had much to gain from the bees which spread pollen and help it reproduce.

I went from one distraction to another. While trying to photograph the bees against the sky, I saw the bats. There were hundreds of them, a foot or two long, hanging upside down from a tall nut tree. Their faces looked like tiny foxes, and it was an unsettling sight. I looked for activity but there was none. Bats are nocturnal so I assume they were asleep during the day. Every few minutes one would gently flap its wing, as if shooing away insects. Then I looked around and found several other trees with colonies of bats high overhead.

Returning my attention to the purple flowers, I saw the tree had no name plaque. I asked but nobody

Govt to set

zone in

BSS, Noakhali

district.

terday.

Noakhali

up economic

Minister for Communi-

cations and Railway Obaidul

Quader said the government

has decided to set up a spe-

cial economic zone at

Subarnachar upazila in the

He made the announce-

ment on behalf of Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina while

inaugurating the ground-

breaking ceremony of a 10-

storey academic building of

Noakhali Science and

Technology University yes-

The aim of setting up

special economic zone is to

enhance economic growth

of greater Noakhali district

through creating job oppor-

With vice-chancellor Prof

Saidul Huq in the chair, the

function was also addressed,

among others, by local law-

maker Ekramul Kabir

Chowdhury and general

secretary of the district unit

of Awami League Khairul

the importance of skilled and

patriotic manpower for build-

ing a prosperous Bangladesh

stressing the need for quality

and standard education to

face the challenges of present

our limited resources should

be ensured for economic

development of the coun-

Housewife

kills herself

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

"The highest utilisation of

Quader also underlined

Alam Selim.

globalisation.

try," he said.

Satkhira

tunity in rural areas.



Anjan and Bee

IHTISHAM KABIR

knew its name. "Ask Dulal," I was told.

I found Dulal, the most knowledgeable person there, in the Psyche part of the garden, emptying out one of those water tanks that hold water lilies and lotuses. After the water had drained, frogs were hopping around in the mud at the bottom of the tank. Dulal and a helper were extricating them with a net. I tried to catch their jump with my camera, but they were too fast.

"Why get rid of the frogs?" I asked. "Because they eat Amazon lilies, and we are going to grow those here," he said.

Between the bees, bats and frogs, I had almost forgotten about the purple flowers. On my way out, Dulal told me their name: anjan.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir

Underage girl 'forced' to marry stalker at Ramu

UNB, Dhaka

An alleged stalker of South Mitachhari village of Joarianala union of Ramu upazila in Cox's Bazar who was supposed to be punished for his reported offence has got rewarded instead.

Locals alleged that a class IX student of Ramu Girls' High School was "forcefully" married off with her alleged stalker in presence of some officials of the local administration as they found it as a better solution to the problem although the government pursues a tougher stand against stalking and early marriage.

They said the marriage was solemnised in a simple ceremony at the Ramu Upazila Parishad Auditorium. "This is like an injustice by a justice," said Amir Hossain Helali, founding president of Ramu Press Club.

He said Shahedul Mostafa, son of Bashir Ahmed of Tekpara, used to harass the girl on her way to and back from school. On March 10, the boy was caught by other students of the school while disturbing the girl on her way back home. Later, he was handed over to the Ramu Police Station.

According to him, Office-in-Charge (OC) of Ramu Police Station AKM Najibul Alam sent the boy to the office of the executive magistrate. "After a five-hour long high drama, the girl was married off with the stalker." Contacted over cell phone, OC AKM Najibul Alam con-

firmed about the marriage saying that the boy and the girl were in fact in love. Insisted why he did not take steps to resist the marriage of such an underage girl, the OC said, "No one came to me with any complaint." Asked whether he has any knowledge about such incident,

UNO Shaheed Mohammad Saidul Haque said, "They came (girl's family members) to us with a complaint of eave-teasing, but after preliminary interrogation it became clear that they were in love. When the question of resolving the issue through marriage came, then I said it can't be done as the girl is underage. And I don't know what happened after that."

When her attention was drawn, human rights activist Salma Ali, also executive director of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) said: "This is dangerous. We'll investigate it once we get the details."

She said, "Although there's a rising tide of protest and a law in place, early marriage still thrives in Bangladesh, pushing girls into a cycle of poverty, illiteracy and serious health problems.

Salma Ali said child marriage is not illegal from a religious point of view, but it is unlawful, according to the law of the land. "If the laws were properly implemented, a great number of child marriages would have been stopped. The Quazi (marriage registrar), in many cases, complete all marriage formalities, in exchange for money, without considering the age of the brides," she added.

Youth jailed for sexually harassing girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A mobile court on Thursday evening sentenced a youth to one year imprisonment for sexually harassing a schoolgirl at Haribhasha village in Panchagar sadar upazila.

The convict was Asadur Rahman, 19, son of Asmat Ali of the same upazila.

Police and locals said the class-VIII female student of Haribhasha Girls' High School, along with her fellows, was returning home from school. Asad forcibly brought her beside a roadside ditch and tried to harass her sexually.

Hearing screams of her fellows, people rushed to the spot and handed over the youth to police after giving a good beating.

Later, the mobile court, led by executive magistrate and Upazila Nirbahi Officer Anwar Imam, pronounced the verdict after examining the witnesses.

One 'commits suicide' in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENCE, Ctg

A youth 'committed suicide' at Hajipara in the port city yesterday.

The deceased was Md Robiul Islam, 19, son of Md Shah Alam hailing from Senbag of Noakhali.

Double Moring police said Robiul, a mechanic of a refrigerator shop, took poisonous drug inside his room at their house at Commissioner Lane in the area at around 3:30pm.

He was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Worker dies after falling from rooftop in Benapole

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A worker died after falling from rooftop of a community centre at Palbari in Jessore town yesterday morning.

The deceased was Mohammed Chunnu Hossain, 25, son of Shafiur Rahman of Puraton Kashba area of the town.

Rafiqul Islam, his co-worker, said Chunnu fell down from the rooftop while he was painting the front side of the building and died instantly.

Western Marine starts building six trawlers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Western Marine Shipyard Ltd yesterday started constructing six fishing trawlers at its premises in Patiya of Chittagong.

Captain Habibur Rahman, principal officer of Mercantile Marine Department of Bangladesh, inaugurated the construction work as chief guest along with Saiful Islam, chairman of Western Marine and its managing director Sakhawat Hossain.

Captain Habibur Rahman admired the initiative taken by the shipyard and hoped its innovation will further benefit the country's economy.

"Through making these fishing trawlers a new chapter has been opened in the ship building industry of Bangladesh," said Saiful Islam.

BGB rescues 15 trafficking victims

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) men rescued 15 people while they were being trafficked to India across Putkhali Balurmath border yesterday.

The victims hailing from Barisal and Faridpur districts include six women, six men and three children. They were handed over to Benapole police.

The border force could not arrest any of the traffickers.

A case was filed in this connection.

Port city fascinates foreign students

Casting aside their differences in political identity and rivalry, from left, Chittagong City Corporation Mayor M Manjur Alam, lawmaker Nurul

Islam BSc, immediate past mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and former commerce minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury set an exam-

ple by sitting together at the inauguration of TV Journalists' Association Chittagong at Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, Chittagong in the

port city on Thursday night. Mentionable, Awami League leaders Mohiuddin and Nurul are rivals in times of elections and establishing political

influence. Once close aides, BNP leader Manjur and Mohiuddin developed enmity over the CCC elections. Moreover, BNP Chittagong city unit

MD SAIDUN NABI, Ctg

Sitting along the coastline of the Bay of Bengal and dotted with a number of entertainment venues, the port city of Chittagong bears every reason to be a tourist attraction.

President Khasru has political rivalry with Manjur and Nurul.

This apart, it is also a cosy city for foreigners, mostly students, who have been residing here. A lot of leisure places and low living costs pull the attention of foreigners. More than 1,500 students drawn

from different countries, particularly of the South Asian region, are dwelling in Chittagong city. As the city houses several university

and educational institutions of international standard, the number of overseas students is increasing day by day. To these foreign students, the prob-

lems apart, Chittagong city is a nice place to living and a great source of amusement. Some of them plan their career here too.

versity in the city. "Apart from the prob-

"The city is a great source of natural beauty, and in the last 15 months of my stay here, I have enjoyed a lot", said Pen Den, a Bhutanese national.

Den is studying medicine at a uni-

suicide by hanging herself from a tree in Langaljhara village in Kalaroa upazila of Satkhira Thursday night. The victim was identified

Police recovered the body and sent it to Satkhira

morgue for a post-mortem. She may have committed suicide due to family prob-

lems, police said.

A housewife committed

as Rashida Begum, 45, wife of Amirul Islam of the village.

lems like crowd, dirt and archaic traffic system in the city, all other things are satisfactory".

Banazeer Yaqoob from Pakistan echoes Den's words. "Despite being a nice city, there is lot of dirt and crowd here", she said. "I have been in Chittagong for more

than three years, and I like the city very much", said Banazeer, who is a student at Asian University for Women. She said she liked lazing on Patenga

Beach, at Foy's Lake, and on the world's largest beach of Cox's Bazar.

The evening in Chittagong brings great joy for the overseas students as people from around the city swarm around the entertainment places, especially at weekends and on holi-Banazeer wishes she got a good job

in the port city after completing her graduation from AUW. Kashmir's Shoal Zeargar, a student

of medical faculty at University of Science and Technology Chittagong, said he wanted to stay in Chittagong after his graduation.

"I have already been in the city for more than four years, and I am very

working environment here".

A scenic beauty, Chittagong is also much-loved for its people, culture and traditional food.

"The typical Chittagong people are really cordial as well as the other city dwellers", said Khaushalya Artyathicaka, a Sri Lankan student at AUW.

"I do like enjoying the family programmes of the local people here". For Khaushalya, the living cost in the city is very reasonable.

Nepalese student Susmit Shrestha said, "I have a lot of Bangladeshi friends who are mostly of Chittagong. They are very cordial and open hearted". Susmit is studying at University of

Science and Technology Chittagong.

Tajuddin Ahmed, another student from Nepal, takes delights in Chittagong food, especially the spiced items and local snacks. He loves kebab, samucha, beef curries, and

roshogolla. Chittagong has a long tradition of the unique recipe of Mezban, a public feast where guests are served a special beef curry. The students of AUW have already delighted them in this much familiar with the people and the Chittagong-only food item.

Teesta bridge to be completed by June

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

BSS, Rangpur

Communications Secretary MNA Siddique yesterday said construction of Teesta Road Bridge would be completed by June this year.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the bridge in July next over the river Teesta at Kawnia upazila in Rangpur to fulfill the long-cherished hopes and aspirations of the people of the north," he said. The secretary told this

while talking to local journalists after visiting construction works of the bridge.

Chief Engineer of the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) Aminur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner of Rangpur BM Enamul Haque and Kawnia UNO Sultana Parveen accompanied with the secretary.

The then Prime Minster Sheikh Hasina during her 1996-2001 tenure laid down foundation stone of the bridge to meet expectation of the people of Lalmonirhat and Kurigram districts.



Rain or thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka

Rajshahi

Rangpur

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Tangail, Mymensingh in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met office said.

Mild heat wave is sweeping over the regions of Ishurdi, Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions and it may continue.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:22pm and rises tomorrow at

Country's highest temperature 37.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 21.3 degrees at Srimangal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Humidity in City/Town Temperature in Celsius percentage Evening Min: 35.0 26.5 31.4 26.0 Chittagong 37.8 27.1 55 30.5 23.5 75 35.8 27.0 33.8 26.2 77

21.8

32.5