# Spring Serenade

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The country witnessed a lovely display of yellow colour on *Pahela Phalgoon* the first day of the Bengali month of Phalgoon heralding the arrival of spring. Yellow is the colour of Basanta or spring. The days are getting warmer and the coolness of nights are shorter. There is dryness in the air and drowsiness that inclines people to long for an afternoon nap. The months of Phalgoon and Chaitra are spring in the Bengali calendar- from the middle of February to the middle of April.

Spring is a season of fallen leaves. The trees shed the dried leaves overlaid with dust of the winter. There is beauty in the spectacle when a mild breeze gently sweeps away the fallen leaves. In the early few days of the spring the trees bereft of the leaves look gaunt and ungainly. But soon the green shoots come out and the trees are covered with luxuriant leaves. Spring may witness the arrival of season's first rain and of a nor-wester.

As spring awakens nature, so did it awaken the liberation spirit of the people of this land on Ekushey and on 26 March '71.

There is great love for spring among the authors, poets and singers of the land. Tagore celebrated spring with his song, *"Aha! Aji aye basante koto phool phote....koto pakhi gaey." Oh!* in this spring many a flowers bloom.... many a birds sing. Talat Mahmood in his unforgettable love song *"Adho raate jodi ghum bhenge jai... batayan khule dio"* (in the dead of night if your sleep is broken...dear please open the window)

Unlike the West the change brought by spring in this land is short-lived. With the onset of spring life on the land gets busy. The IRRI Borro is harvested. The water surplus lowland goes for a three month short crop and then readies the land for Aman crop. But the water deficient high land prepares the land for the Aman crop. The winter vegetables, tomatoes, cauliflower, cabbages, radishes, turnips and carrots become cheaper. In the south western region the vegetables even rot in the field and are fed to the cattle.

The mango trees that put out Mukul (flowers) get covered with it in spring. *Sofeda* (Sapodia) and *bel* (wood apple) that have already arrived in late winter abounds in spring -so is *kulboroi* (jujube). *Kamranga* (star fruit) whose season is from April to October starts arriving in spring. *Jamrul* (rose apple) will also arrive in April. Farmers grow sweet potato and peanuts on sandy soil during spring. Surprisingly, even *tormuj* (watermelon) and *kanthal* (jackfruit) and lichis arrive by the middle of April!

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

