

HOROSCOPE

**ARIES**
(MAR. 21-APRIL 20)

Don't let anyone make you look bad. Your contributions will enhance your reputation. Time spent with loved ones will be positive. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**TAURUS**
(APR. 21-MAY 21)

Draw up contracts regarding your personal situation. You will do well in social settings. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**GEMINI**
(MAY 22-JUNE 21)

Make necessary changes that will help financially. Clear up any pending work. Organise your day to avoid any setbacks. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**CANCER**
(JUNE 22-JULY 22)

Changes in your residence will be favourable. You could capture the hearts of those who interest you. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**LEO**
(JULY 23-AUG 22)

Courses dealing with psychology will be of interest. You may need help with your financial situation. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**VIRGO**
(AUG. 23-SEPT. 23)

Consider all options before making any decisions. Don't agree to anything easily. Your love will not entertain your criticism. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**LIBRA**
(SEPT. 24-OCT. 23)

Do your own thing. Involve yourself in group endeavours. Don't be too eager to spend money that you really don't have. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**SCORPIO**
(OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Your boss may not be too happy with you. Opportunities for advancement are apparent. Make sure to keep your money safe. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**SAGITTARIUS**
(NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Avoid toxic individuals. Present your ideas at work. Changes involving your domestic scene may be unpleasant. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

**CAPRICORN**
(DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

Your mate will enjoy helping out. Be diplomatic when dealing with in-laws. Don't make too many promises. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**AQUARIUS**
(JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Things will be emotional with your mate. Take special care in any home improvement project. Travel for pleasure will be enticing. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

**PISCES**
(FEB. 20-MARCH. 20)

Learn from more experienced people. Hassles with your boss are likely if you speak your mind. Don't be too pushy. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



LS EDITOR'S NOTE

Orchids: A pleasant love story

Remember Silsila? The iconic film of the '80s, the song 'Dekha Ek Khwaab,' the location and the expansive fields of tulips? I had my 'Silsila moment' last Friday while visiting the Camelia Duncan Orchid project at Shahbazpur.

Stretches of Dendrobiums in varied colours of red bull, Sakura pink, white and purple swaying in the breeze. In the midst of this riot of colours, my heart did leap and sing out aloud. No matter how out of tune it might be, I had my Bollywood moment!

Lush green carpet of grass with gerbera fields at one side, and a small pond surrounded by mango trees, hibiscus and allamanda bushes at the other. The orchid shades began right where the gerbera ended, both sides housed orchids in different gradients of purple, pink, lavender, white - so bright and sparkly that it instantaneously lifts your spirits.

I found it absolutely therapeutic! You can walk inside the orchid's aisles and pick your own flowers, which sells for only Tk 20 a stick; you can also handpick your plants and pot them under the mango tree sitting on the grass - the common dendrobiums sell for Tk 400 and the exotic Mokaras are a little costlier, Tk 600.

A cool glass of coconut water and the famous local bananas grown in Narsingdi take care of any dehydration or electrolyte issue you might feel in the farm because of the heat trapped inside the shades.

Not far from Dhaka, an early morning Friday drive to Shahbazpur, stopping at Ujan Bhati for a 'deshi' breakfast of parathas and vegetables with spicy omelettes, a visit to this beautiful garden surrounded by coconuts palms and trees will indeed put your mind at rest for the week's load to come.

By RBR
Photo: Shahana Huda



THE PROJECT

It may come as a pleasant surprise but Duncan Brothers (Bangladesh) Limited runs this exceptional project. An associate of Camellia PLC UK, the company has an illustrious history, dating back to 1 January, 1865.

Back in 2006, as part of their CSR activities, Duncan Brothers (Bangladesh) Limited initiated the Camellia Duncan Foundation Orchid Project. Situated at Shahbazpur near Brahmanbaria, the project is housed on 4 acres of land with 147,000 plants in different varieties and colours.

The project supplies orchids to the flower hubs of Dhaka, Shahbagh and Gulshan; various event management organisations, and other A-list clients like the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel. Outside of Dhaka, their supplies reach up to Chittagong.

Although the project now primarily focuses on orchids of the dendrobium variety, it has recently incorporated gerberas, as well as different varieties of Mokaras. As orchids cannot withstand direct sunlight, the entire space is covered with a shade-net to allow just the right

amount of light to pass through.

While cultivated orchids do bloom throughout the year, the production dampens slightly during winter. As one of the fore runners of orchid cultivation in Bangladesh, the project is well equipped and the personnel well versed on the various aspects of growing orchids. Although the flowers were originally imported from Thailand, the

exceptional growth of the organisation in the last 10 years has been formidable to the extent that sale of the flowers are now used to finance their various other charitable initiatives.

Aside from the orchid project, the Camelia Duncan Foundation has a residential school, a hospital, as well a unique initiative known as 'Yeasser Life Guard Station' at Cox's Bazar.

While the business side of the company is well noted in Bangladesh for its presence and diverse portfolio, this particular horticulture project is a one-of-a-kind initiative for the company - one that hopes to incorporate more varieties of flowers while maintaining a sustainable growth in their production.

By Iris Farina

