

# Greenery on rent in the concrete jungle

|| MATHEWS CHIRAN ||



**DHAKA VIBE**

Outdoor and indoor plants both have their appeals, depending on the establishment and space available.

PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

In the concrete jungle that is Dhaka, any sight of greenery is a respite for the senses. While household gardening continues to be a popular hobby among residents of the city, office spaces and banks are nowadays often seen adorned with plants, both indoor and outdoor kinds.

Like any living being, plants need to be taken care of regularly, and that can be quite tricky for a business establishment, as it may not be feasible for many to have a full-time gardener.

However, where there is demand, there is supply – especially in a city of 20 million where more people are coming in every day in search of livelihood. Nursery owners of the capital have long been providing rental service of plants, opening up a business avenue for themselves while taking a load off corporate offices, banks and restaurants who want to spruce up their place without having to worry about upkeep.

“People can purchase plants from us, or they can choose the rental service. The benefit of the rental offer is that we take care of the plants ourselves,” said Md Jahangir, 45, owner of Swandeep Nursery in Gulshan,



one of the many nurseries that rent out trees to offices and households.

According to him, nursery owners provide both indoor and outdoor plant rental services. Indoor plants are sold in pots, while outdoor plants are usually bigger and mostly planted on clients' building premises or ground.

The charge for the rental service varies from nursery to nursery, with per pot usually costing Tk 50 to 150 per month.

“A client must rent at least 30 pots, or else I cannot afford the service,” said Golam Rabanni, Sonar Bangla nursery owner at

Kalabagan.

Once the plants are rented, a gardener from the nursery goes to the place twice a week to look after the plants -- watering, razing weeds, spraying insecticides, trimming leaves and branches, and keeping the soil fertile.

If the plants are damaged within the contract period -- which can be for months or years -- they change the plant and provide a new one.

“Outdoor and indoor trees both require special care. For example, you cannot keep indoor plants exposed to too much sunlight, or they will die,” said Sikder Ali, 60, owner of MS Ali & Arobi Pot Plant Nursery at Gulshan-2.

“I have plants priced at Tk 20 to 1 Lakh. Based on order, I supply them. However, nursery owners are wary of supplying expensive plants, as there are business risks associated,” said Sikder, who has been in the trade for over 20 years.

According to nursery owners, the rental business goes on round the year, with flower plants high in demand particularly

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# Police rescue youth from Mirpur flat, arrest five

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested five suspected members of a kidnapping group from Shah Alibagh of Mirpur in connection with the abduction of a youth.

The kidnappers were identified as Sohagi Begum, 48; her younger sister Rita, 40; her daughter Sharna, 22; son Shayon, 19; and Shayon's friend Jawad, 20.

According to New Market police, the victim Md Faizul Haque was abducted by the group near Dhaka College when he was returning home after work at a shop in Chandni Chawk around 7:30pm on Sunday.

The kidnappers confined him at a house at East Ahmednagar of Shah Alibagh and beat him for several hours before demanding ransom from his family members.

Hearing his screams on the phone, victim's family sent Tk 80,000 via bKash to the kidnappers, they said.

Officer-in-charge of New Market Police Station Atiqul Islam said they rescued Faizul from the house just 17 hours after his abduction.

He said Faizul, a staff of 'Fashion Asia' in Chandni Chawk, was surrounded by four persons near Dhaka College when he was returning home on Sunday evening.

One of the abductors asked him to walk towards Science Laboratory without making noise, and forced him into a microbus, the OC said quoting the victim, adding that a

motorcycle followed the microbus.

They first took him to Mirpur Section-1, getting off near a Chinese restaurant and then took a rickshaw to a six-storey building. Faizul was taken to a flat in the building.

There were three women in the flat and they beat him up in a separate room, police said.

Faizul could not recognise any of his abductors, and did not know why he was abducted, said the OC, quoting victim's brother Sheikh Mohammad Fazlul Haque.

Faizul's brother informed the Assistant Police Commissioner of New Market zone and OC of the New Market Police Station about the abduction yesterday morning, when the abductors again demanded ransom, said Atiqul.

He said Faizul's brother sent Tk 10,000 yesterday morning and employed the strategy of bidding time, when the kidnappers began demanding more money.

Police recovered Faizul from the house yesterday noon after identifying the location, he said.

The OC said Faizul received a call on Facebook messenger from an unknown woman on Sunday afternoon.

Most of the abductors were hailing from Patuakhali, and had rented the flat in Mirpur. They targeted gullible persons, abducted them, and realised ransom from their families, police said.

## DHAKA TODAY

**SEMINAR**  
CFA, FRM and Other Professional Designation  
Organiser: Professional Finance Studies  
Venue: Good Luck Center, Green Road  
Time: 4pm

Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani  
Time: 7:30pm

**CAMPAIGN**  
Cleaning Up Plastic Waste  
Organiser: One Action Bangladesh  
Venue: Dhanmondi Lake  
Time: 8am

**FESTIVAL**  
Jatiya Grihayan Mela  
Organiser: Ministry of Housing and Public Works  
Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Center  
Time: 10am

**DANCE CLASS**  
Salsa for Beginners  
Organiser: The Salsa Circle

**COMEDY SHOW**  
Weekly Stand-up Comedy  
Open Mic  
Organiser: Naveed's Comedy Club  
Venue: Chef's Table (Above Unimart), Gulshan-2  
Time: 8pm

## 'Rangpur-3 by-polls not competitive'

GM Quader says  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The recently held by-election in Rangpur-3 was not competitive, Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader remarked.

Talking to reporters at the late JP Chairman HM Ershad's village home in Rangpur, Quader said Awami League provided support to the JP candidate in the by-election. Besides, everyone already knew that the JP candidate will win in the election; that's why the election was not competitive, he added.

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# Urgent solutions needed for Rohingyas: UNHCR

UNB, Dhaka

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi yesterday said solutions are urgently needed for millions without citizenship or at the risk of statelessness around the world, including the Rohingya, and minority populations at risk of statelessness in India's Assam.

“Without these, we risk a deepening of the exclusion that already affects the lives of millions. This is why a redoubling of effort is crucial,” he said.

Bangladesh is hosting over 1.1 million Rohingyas, most of whom entered Cox's Bazar since August 25, 2017 amid military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

Grandi warned that recent advances in the battle to end statelessness -- a leading cause of human rights deprivation for millions of people worldwide -- were being imperiled by a rise in damaging forms of nationalism.

In Geneva ahead of the opening of UNHCR's annual executive committee meeting, Grandi said the growing number of countries taking action against statelessness meant the international community was nearing a point of critical mass in its efforts to stamp out statelessness for good.

“As recently as five years ago, public awareness of statelessness, and the harm it causes, was negligible. That's changing, and today the prospect of ending statelessness entirely has never been closer,” he said.

And yet, Grandi said, the progress is far from assured. Damaging forms of nationalism, and the manipulation of anti-refugee and migrant sentiment are powerful currents internationally that risk reversing this progress.

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# 'We are living in a death valley'

Fakhrul condemns Abrar murder  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Condemning the murder of Buet student Abrar Fahad, BNP yesterday alleged that the ruling party members have “stained their hands with blood,” so that no one can speak about the misdeeds and wrongdoings of the Awami League-led government.

“It seems to me that we are living in a death valley,” BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said in a statement issued after the death of Abrar Fahad.

“Armed terrorists killed Abrar in a barbaric way so that no one dares to speak, write or raise their voice against the misdeeds and wrongdoing of the government,” Fakhrul said.

Abrar Fahad, a second-year student of electrical and electronic engineering of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), was beaten to death on Sunday night.

“Abrar was killed as he protested the government's anti-state deal with India,”

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## MIRPUR'S CHALANTIKA SLUM

# Rupnagar police station besieged after three locals detained

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred dwellers of Chalantika slum in the capital's Mirpur area yesterday laid siege to the Rupnagar Police Station, protesting detention of three slum dwellers.

They claimed that a team of police from the police station picked up three people around 1:30pm, while they were rebuilding their shanties at the slum -- which burnt to ashes in a massive fire on August 16.

Hours after their detention, agitated slum dwellers gathered outside the police station and demonstrated in front of the facility, protesting the detention.

Police later released the three detainees, amid the agitation.

Abdul Jabbar, who was picked up along with two others, said, “We did not have enough money to build our houses... Some NGOs extended financial support for us to build houses... Since we started building the houses a week ago after taking loans, law enforcers have been barring




Some dwellers, who have been attempting to rebuild shanties at the site of the Chalantika slum in Mirpur that was razed by a fire in August, say police are obstructing them from doing so. The photo was taken yesterday.

us and detaining us,” he added. Locals became aggravated by the detention yesterday, and laid siege to the police station in protest, he added.

Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge of Rupnagar Police Station, said they were acting on directive “from the

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### ইসলামী ব্যাংক

বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড  
ইসলামী শরী'আহ মোতাবেক পরিচালিত

## ইসলামী ব্যাংক শিক্ষাবৃত্তি

# উচ্চশিক্ষার ভিত্তি

কল্যাণমুখী ব্যাংকিং ধারার প্রবর্তক ইসলামী ব্যাংক বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড প্রতিষ্ঠাকাল থেকেই সামাজিক দায়বদ্ধতার আওতায় বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্রে বিশেষ করে শিক্ষাখাতে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ অবদান রেখে আসছে। তারই ধারাবাহিকতায় ২০১৯ সালে দেশের বিভিন্ন শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে এসএসসি/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় জিপিএ-৫ (প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ-৪.৫) প্রাপ্ত ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের নিকট হতে অনলাইনে বৃত্তির দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে।

**আবেদনকারীর যোগ্যতা**

- উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/সমমানের শ্রেণিতে অধ্যয়নরত শিক্ষার্থী হতে হবে
- অতি দরিদ্র ও মেধাবী হতে হবে
- যারা সরকারি বৃত্তি ছাড়া অন্য কোনো উৎস থেকে বৃত্তি পাচ্ছেন, তারা বিবেচিত হবেন না
- মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান হলে উল্লিখিত শর্তাদি পূরণ সাপেক্ষে বৃত্তির জন্য বিশেষভাবে বিবেচনা করা হবে

**বৃত্তির পরিমাণ ও মেয়াদ**

- ২ বছর মেয়াদী, মাসিক ২০০০ টাকা
- পাঠ্য উপকরণ ও পোশাক পরিচ্ছদের জন্য বার্ষিক ৩০০০ টাকা

**আবেদনের নিয়মাবলী:**  
<https://scholarship.islambankbd.com>

এই ওয়েবলিংকে নিম্নোক্ত সংযুক্তিসহ আবেদন করতে হবে:

- পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রঙিন ছবির স্ক্যান কপি
- এসএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষার মার্কশিট
- পিতা/মাতা/অভিভাবকের আয়ের সনদপত্র
- বর্তমানে অধ্যয়নরত শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত স্টুডেন্ট আইডি কার্ড

**আবেদনের তারিখ: ১০-৩১ অক্টোবর ২০১৯**

ওয়েবসাইটে আবেদনের প্রিন্ট কপিসহ সকল কাগজপত্রের সত্যতা যাচাইয়ের জন্য ইসলামী ব্যাংকের সংশ্লিষ্ট শাখায় উল্লিখিত সময়ের মধ্যে জমা দিতে হবে। চূড়ান্ত ফলাফল ওয়েবসাইট-এর মাধ্যমে প্রকাশিত হবে।

