

TANGENTS
BY IHTISHAM KABIR

Roosevelt in Brazil

During my 2018 trip to the Pantanal in Brazil I learned that Teddy Roosevelt had travelled there a century earlier. This piqued my curiosity and I decided to learn more about that trip.

In 1913, after having lost his bid for a third term as American president to Woodrow Wilson, the 55-year-old Roosevelt embarked on an arduous trip - presumably to recover and recharge from the election debacle. He travelled to Brazil to navigate the mysterious and uncharted river called River of Doubt. With him came naturalists from the American Museum of Natural History who would collect live animal specimens for the museum. The Brazilian engineer Colonel Candido Rondon joined him as co-leader of the group. He was to help survey and map the river. The expedition was called the Roosevelt-Rondon Expedition.

This trip, lasting from late 2013 to May 2014, was the last adventure of Roosevelt, the dauntless outdoorsman. It started badly: before they finally reached the river they wanted to navigate, their expedition had to cross the rugged Brazilian highlands where several members fell sick. They also lost most of their pack animals to exhaustion.

Finally, in February 2014, a team of twenty-two started boating down the river. This part of their journey was even more treacherous. They were short of food and often ate monkeys and parrots in addition to fish (though one wonders why they did not consume the Brazil nuts which had sustained the expedition of Alexander von Humboldt a century earlier.) When they landed on the riverbank to camp for the night, they were tormented by mosquitoes and stinging flies. The team had to contend with malaria and dysentery. They were followed by a tribe of suspicious Indians during part of their cruise. The river itself was wild at places and the boats endured miles and miles of rapids.

But there were rewarding moments too. Roosevelt saw magnificent azure blue butterflies



Capuchin Monkey, lunch for Teddy Roosevelt's team?

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

flying up and down over the rivers and heard some extraordinary insect calls including one that sounded like a steamboat whistle. And in the end they had mapped 1500 kilometers of this wild river, which the Brazilians renamed Roosevelt River in his honour.

On the river Roosevelt saw, for the first time, a voracious, aggressive fish with sharp teeth. He was amazed that this fish, alone, often attacked a prey larger than itself. When Colonel Rondon miscalculated the presence of this fish and went into the water, it bit off his little toe. Needless to say, an entire shoal of this fish was deadly. Blood made it crazy. Known as "cannibal fish" or the "man-eating fish" then, today this fish is called

the Piranha. One day, someone from the team shot a crocodile on the riverbank. Wounded, the animal dived back into the water, but its blood attracted Piranhas. The crocodile immediately returned to land, preferring death in the company of men to being devoured alive by the deadly fish. Roosevelt never fully recovered from the illnesses contracted and wounds suffered from his Brazilian trip and died in his sleep five years later. But this trip was another accomplishment of a great outdoorsman.

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'Release Baul singer Shariat Sarkar'

Fellows demand in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Bauls in Tangail formed a human chain in front of the town's press club yesterday, demanding unconditional release of Baul singer Shariat Sarkar and withdrawal of the "false" case against him.

Around 100 bauls also staged a rally there under the banner of "Fakir Maula Darbar Sharifer Bhoktobrindo".

The speakers said Shariat did not say anything against or insulting the Quran and prophets. But, police arrested him in a "false" case filed by a group and took him on remand.

The country's baul community will wage a tougher movement, if he is not released and the case not withdrawn immediately, they threatened.

Among others, bauls Syed Abul Bashar Chishtee, Mokbul Hossain, Fakir Fazlu Sarkar and Shahabuddin spoke at the programme.

On Thursday afternoon, district unit of Qaomi Olama Parishad during a press conference at the press club demanded capital punishment for Shariat over his "misinterpretation" of the Quran, "derogatory remarks" against prophets and "hurling expletive" at ulema.

On December 24 last year, Baul Shariat Sarkar talked about Islam at a "pala gan-er asar" (musical programme) in Dhamrai of Dhaka.

On January 9, Maulana Faridul Islam, an imam of a Tangail mosque, filed the case against Shariat with Mirzapur Police Station, alleging that his speech hurt his "religious sentiment". At that time, locals rallied in the area, demanding immediate arrest of Shariat.

Mirzapur police arrested him from Bhaluka area in Mymensingh the next day, produced him before a Tangail court, seeking a 10-day remand for interrogating him. The court granted remand for three days.

On expiry of the remand, police produced Shariat before the same court on January 13 and the court sent him to jail.

CUMILLA UNIVERSITY

Teacher accused of sexual harassment, destroying evidence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A female student of Cumilla University has filed a written complaint against a teacher, saying he sexually harassed her and destroyed evidence saved in her cellphone.

In her complaint filed on January 15, the student of evening master's programme accused that Dr Ali Rezwan Talukder, head of English department, used to phone her asking to go to his room. He told her that if she built "immoral relationship" with him, he would give her good marks in exams.

Rezwan had added her to Facebook and WhatsApp, she said in the complaint.

On January 13, before she sat for an exam held from 5pm to 8:30pm, she handed over her mobile to invigilators. After the exam, she found her memory card destroyed and texts they exchanged deleted, she alleged.

Those bore the evidence of harassment, said the student, adding that Ali Rezwan, who was present as an invigilator, remained absent for 30-35 minutes during the test.

Following the incident, she went to Dr Habibur Rahman, director of evening master's programme, and filed the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

70 sued over vandalism at Savar factory

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Around 70 people, including RMG workers, were sued yesterday over vandalism and beating up staffers of a garment factory.

Sakil Mahmud, a deputy general manager of Raquef Apparels Washing and Packaging Ind Ltd, filed the case with Savar Model Police Station.

Police arrested four outsiders -- Milan Mia, Russell, Siam and Yasin.

Sana Saminur Rahman, superintendent of Dhaka Industrial Police-1, said several factory workers and outsiders beat up the factory's management staffers and vandalised the factory following a dispute over salary.

Savar Police Station OC AFM Sayeed said, "We are investigating the matter."



Coast guards in Barishal seized a trawler with at least 50 maunds of jatka (hilsa fry) from the Kalabadar river early yesterday. Later, coast guard distributed the fish among orphanages and education institutions. According to law, fishing of jatka (less than nine inches long) is banned.



PHOTO: STAR

Six injured as two launches collide in Meghna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

At least six people were injured early yesterday when two launches collided in Meghna river, reportedly due to fog.

Passenger launches Prince Awlad-4 and MV Tipu-12 collided head-on, said Anowar Hossain, a passenger of Awlad-4.

All injured were on board Awlad-4 and were taken to Chandpur Sadar Hospital. They are now out of danger, said Abdur Razzak, port officer of Chandpur river port.

The incident occurred between Alubazar and Eshanbala points of Meghna in Chandpur around 12:20am, said Ajmol Huda Mithu, deputy director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority.

Litu Das, supervisor of Tipu-12, said they anchored the vessel for repair work, when suddenly Awlad-4 hit it head-on.

Mithu said authorities are trying to collect information about the incident. Tipu-12 was carrying more than 500 passengers, while Awlad-4 over 400.

Barishal and Chandpur BIWTA officials said the accident happened as the area was covered in fog.

Two police constables held over fake freedom fighter certificates

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Two police constables were arrested on Thursday night for submitting fake freedom fighter certificates when they applied for the job.

Judge Manzurul Islam ordered them to be sent to jail, after they were produced before the Judicial Magistrate Court in Jashore on the same night.

The arrestees are Minhaj Hossain, who was working in Satkhira, and Nasir Uddin, who is under Khulna Metropolitan Police. In 2015, they got appointed as constables after applying under the freedom fighter quota.

Sub-inspector Mokhlesuzzaman of Jashore Kotwali Police Station said the two were arrested from their duty locations.

Another accused in the same case, Salauddin, will also be arrested soon, he said.

Jashore Reserve Police Office Inspector Mashiur Rahman said the appointment of constables was held at Jashore Police Line Field on February 23, 2015.

The three accused were finally selected for the post under freedom fighter quota.

After six months of training, they joined the workforce.

Police sent their submitted freedom fighter certificates to the Ministry of Liberation Affairs in the same year, and they were proven fake after verification.

After receiving the ministry's recommendation report on December 30 last year, Masiur filed a case with the police station on charges of fraud.

PHOTO OF THE DAY | TITU DAS



As the sun sets over Meghna, fishermen bring out their small boats and set sail against the currents of the river.


Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Embassy of Bangladesh
Ankara, Turkey

Request for Proposal (RfP)

1.	Name of procuring entity	Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Ankara, Turkey.
2.	Source of fund	Government of Bangladesh.
3.	Invitation Ref. No. & date	BEA/TR/REL/03, date: 08/01/2020
4.	Request for proposal for	Request for Proposal of Design of Mural & Terracotta and Delivery & Placement of Materials as per accepted Design in connection with the 'Construction of Bangladesh Chancery Complex in Ankara' Project.
5.	Eligibility of the bidder for RfP and description of supporting documents	a) The bidder will have to be Bangladeshi manufacturer/provider, who is qualified to bid as per the Public Procurement Act (PPA)-2006 and the Public Procurement Rules (PPR)-2008; b) The bidder must have work experience of at least 03 years in the relevant field; c) The bidder must have experience of at least 02 manufacturing/deliveries in this field;
6.	Procurement method	As per PPA-2006 & PPR-2008, the Embassy requests for proposal of design & price quotation. The selection will be done on the basis of Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS).
7.	Name of the office distributing bidding documents	Bangladesh Embassy, Ankara (by e-mail/DHL if requested).
8.	Bid accepting office	Bangladesh Embassy, Ankara (by DHL).
9.	Last date of distribution of bidding documents	Within 1400 hrs on 28/01/2020 (Tuesday), the bidder can obtain free of cost the BIDDING SCHEDULE by applying to the Embassy in the individual's/institution's letterhead pad to be sent by e-mail (bdootankara@gmail.com);
10.	Last date of submission of bidding documents	Within 1400 hrs on 28/01/2020 (Tuesday), the bidding documents must reach the Embassy by DHL.
11.	Date & place of opening of documents	To be conveyed by e-mail in due course.
12.	Total duration of assignment	40 days since the signing of the contract.
13.	Special notes	a) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all RfP tenders; b) Details of the design and materials requested can be found at the BIDDING SCHEDULE; c) The bidder selected on the basis of QCBS will be notified through e-mail; d) Address for sending the bidding documents: His Excellency Mr. M. Allama Siddiki, Ambassador, Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Birlik Mah. 391. Cad. No. 16 Çankaya, Ankara/Phone: +90 312 495 2719 / +90 312 495 2720, e-mail: bdootankara@gmail.com

D-16