

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Feeding in the nest, Purbachol, Bangladesh.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

NEST

I saw the Black-shoulered Kite flying across the paddyfield holding a lizard with its talons and I knew there was a story here. When a bird catches a prey, it consumes it as soon as possible before other birds snatch it. However, this one was flying straight and fast with the kill, leading me to suspect it was taking it to a nest. I followed it with my eyes before losing it.

Heading towards the area where I had lost it, I found a small bamboo grove. I waited and scanned the skies and soon saw not one but two of these Kites, perched atop bamboos. Then my driver saw flapping of wings from within a dense patch of bamboo leaves, high up. I looked with binoculars to find a nest built on a branch node of the bamboo. I could see two chicks inside.

Since Black-shoulered Kites are not shy this was an opportunity to observe the children and adults of a bird of prey at the nest.

The adults were preoccupied with procuring food and keeping the chicks safe from harm. Every day the father flew over several times. It went hunting over the fields, using its wings to hover above fields, and then diving down once it spotted a prey. It usually returned with a skink, mouse, or lizard. The mother hung around in the neighbourhood of the nest, perching on one of several tall trees. If any other large bird – Black Kite, Brahminy Kite, Crow – came near the nest she ferociously drove it away.

The nest was built about twenty-five feet high, a cup-shaped jumble of twigs and branches straddling several

bamboo branches growing from a node. Dense leaves hindered my view and hid the nest well, not just from my eyes but also from predators in the sky. At first only two chicks were visible, but as I watched more, movements behind these chicks told me there was a third chick.

When the father returned with food, it flew fast and straight to the nest, making a loud whistling sound to alert the chicks as it closed in. It immediately dropped the kill on the nest. The largest chick usually started eating first by holding it down with its talons and tearing off pieces with its sharp beak. The other chicks squawked loudly for their share; the third chick, the smallest, was getting the least food. Sometimes a parent joined in the meal, although its role seemed to be to ensure equitable distribution. They ate the soft innards first and one of them ended up swallowing the remains of the carcass.

Ten days after I first saw them, the largest chick climbed out of the nest and perched on a branch. It flapped its wings for fifteen minutes and preened them. A few days later, the second chick joined it. Then the third chick also came out. Soon, they flew short distances between tips of bamboos close by.

I imagine the nest will be full until the chicks (now juvenile Kites) have learned to hunt. Then they will take off into the world leaving me with photographs and memories.

www.facebook.com/ikabirphotographs or follow "ihtishamkabir" on Instagram.

Teenager dies after falling from roof

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenager died after falling from the rooftop of her Dhanmondi residence early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Arnaaz Ahmed (19), daughter of Dr Tahmeed Ahmed, the first Bangladeshi executive director of International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr).b).

Arnaaz lived with her family in the 10-storey building. She fell from the roof around 2:30am and died on the spot, Sub-inspector of Dhanmondi Police Station Subrata Baidya wrote in the inquest report. On information, police rushed to the spot and sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police are investigating the incident, said Ikram Ali Mia, officer-in-charge of Dhanmondi Police Station.

Arnaaz completed her A-level examinations and was enrolled in a US university, but she could not leave the country due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, he said quoting family members.

DENGUE OUTBREAK OF 2019

HC yet to hold hearing on city corporations' 'partial negligence'

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Eight months have passed since a judicial probe committee submitted an inquiry report to the High Court over the "partial negligence" of Dhaka city corporations regarding last year's dengue outbreak in the capital.

But, the High Court is yet to hold any hearing or deliver any order on the issue because of the closure of its regular functions amid the Covid-19 pandemic and reconstitution of the bench concerned of the court.

According to Directorate General of Health Services, 101,354 dengue cases were reported last year, of which 49,544 were outside Dhaka. The number of deaths was 156.

During the hearing of a suo moto (voluntary) rule, the HC bench of Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir Lytton on November 12 last year formed the probe committee led by Dhaka District Judge Md Helal Chowdhury to identify the persons responsible for the outbreak of mosquito-borne diseases like dengue and chikungunya in Dhaka.

The judicial probe committee submitted the inquiry report to the HC bench on March 10 this year through DAG Amit Dasgupta.

The committee has found partial negligence of the authorities of Dhaka north and south city corporations

over the dengue outbreak last year, said sources at the attorney general's office.

The court was closed from March 25 to August 11 this year.

Meanwhile, the HC bench of Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir Lytton was reconstituted after the former was promoted as a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on September 1. Justice Tariq ul Hakim has already gone into retirement.

Contacted, Supreme Court Spokesman Mohammad Saifur Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday that Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain will now assign another HC bench for hearing and disposing of the issue after receiving the relevant file of the case.

He, however, could not say whether the case file has been sent to the chief justice's office from the HC bench of Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Md Iqbal Kabir Lytton.

"Based on experts' opinions and analysis of other information, it appears that Dhaka north and south city corporations were partially negligent over dengue epidemic in 2019, but they cannot be held fully responsible for the outbreak.

Besides, nobody is solely responsible for the epidemic," the probe committee had said in the

report. In the report, the committee said an integrated initiative is needed to prevent the spread of dengue, chikungunya, and other mosquito-borne diseases.

In its recommendations, the committee said though it is the duty of city corporations to fight mosquito, it is not possible for them to do that alone. It will have to be done in a coordinated way.

Coordinated efforts will have to be taken by all service-providing organisations -- Rajuk, Dhaka Wasa, Bangladesh Police, Dhaka Cantonment Authority, Civil Aviation Authority, BRTA, Bangladesh Railway, Bangladesh Water Development Board, Directorate General of Health Services, Metro Rail Authority, Department of Environment, Bangladesh Meteorological Department, Rehab, house owner associations or welfare associations and others.

The probe committee also recommended taking up short-, mid- and long-term plans to fight mosquito.

The committee's other recommendations include forming a high level or ministry level monitoring cell, examining effectiveness of insecticides and carrying out two surveys every year.



A woman paints the decorative pillars at Barishal city's Maha Shamshan Ghat with the same bright red colour of her traditional ensemble. Hindu devotees from across the district gathered in remembrance of their predecessors at Maha Shamshan Dipali Utsab in the city's Kawnia area yesterday. They offered their favourite dishes, laid down flowers, and prayed for the departed souls. It is a 170-year-old tradition unique to Barishal city. Such a special occasion demands a grand atmosphere, and this fresh paint job is part of the grand, ornate decorations for the festival.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

'Ensure death penalty for killers'

JU students, alumni demand justice for ASP Anisul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former and current students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) demanded speedy trial and capital punishment for those involved in the murder of Senior ASP Anisul Karim.

They formed a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday morning.

Hailing from Gazipur's Kapasia upazila, Anisul was a 33rd-batch student of Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at JU.

The police official was allegedly beaten to death by staffers of Mind Aid Psychiatry and De-addiction Hospital in the capital's Adabor on November 9, minutes after he was taken there.

At the human chain, JU Senate Member Mehedi Jamil said, "The video footage of Anisul's assault in the name of providing treatment clearly showed he was killed in a brutal way. We are here with the demand of ensuring capital punishment for the killers."

He demanded forming a speedy trial tribunal to ensure immediate and appropriate punishment, and stopping operation of all illegal hospitals and clinics. JU Senate member Ashish Kumar Majumder underscored the need to find reasons behind Anisul's mental complications.

Jahangirnagar University Lawyers' Association (JULA) General Secretary Barrister Shahab Uddin Khan, also a JU senate member, announced that JULA will give all-out legal support free of cost to Anisul's family.

Prof Shahdat Hossain of JU's biochemistry and molecular biology department, former JU Journalists' Association President Kazi Jakir Hossain, first Bangladeshi female referee of FIFA Joya Chakma, former national player and JU Deputy Director (sports) SM Sadat Hossain, former JU BCL leaders Sohel Parvez, Shaiful Islam and Rashed Reza Diken, and Dramatist Tuhin Reza, among others, were also present at the human chain.

Anisul, appointed as a police officer in the 31st special BCS, was working for Barishal Metropolitan Police (traffic). Earlier, he had served under Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Rapid Action Battalion, and Police Headquarters.

According to family members, Anisul had been suffering from mental stress. He kept quiet for three to four days before being admitted to the hospital.

Anisul's father Faijuddin Ahmed filed a case with Adabor Police Station on Tuesday, accusing 15 people, including the five directors of the hospital, for murdering his 35-year-old son. Police have already arrested 12 out of the 15 accused, including two hospital directors.

10 lakh youngsters pledge to eat healthy

GAIN campaign raises awareness on nutrition

MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN

For Proteeti Setu Bibha, an eighth-grader at Nazirul Islam Collegiate School in Kishoreganj's Bajitpur upazila, campaigning for healthy food among adolescents like her was not just any work, it served as a catalyst for ensuring a nutritious diet.

Just like her, 167 other adolescent students, from different upazilas, started their journey after participating in a three-day national training session organised by Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) Bangladesh in Dhaka in October last year.

GAIN, a Swiss-based development organisation, arranged the event as part of its year-long campaign to improve nutritional status among adolescent students, and spread the word of eating healthy among 10 lakh students in last year.

"I was a fan of street food, but when I talked to students like me during the campaign, I realised how unhealthy they are. Now, I'm used to having homemade food. I, as part of the campaign, visited 37 schools and engaged with nearly 15,000 students in my upazila," Bibha told The Daily Star recently.

According to State of Food Security and Nutrition in Bangladesh 2015, 36 percent of those aged between 10 and 18 in Bangladesh suffer from malnutrition while Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2014 said

31 percent of married adolescents (aged 15-19) are victims of malnutrition.

During the campaign, teachers raised awareness among students on the importance of nutritious foods and motivated them to eat healthy. The campaign encouraged food manufacturers to produce better quality foods and policymakers to generate supportive policies to improve adolescent diets.

Students from 3,000 primary and high schools across the country were involved in the campaign.

The 10 lakh adolescents vowed to lead a healthy lifestyle by choosing and eating healthier food. These youngsters took their pledge either through forms distributed in schools or in the campaign's website (bhalokhabobhalothakbo.com).

Dr Rudaba Khondker, Bangladesh country director of GAIN, said, "With this milestone reached, we will keep working with partners and the private sector towards enhancing the supply of nutritious and safe food for adolescents of Bangladesh."

During the journey, multiple digital platforms were used and several activities, including participation of celebrities, took place to make the campaign a big success.

Celebrities like cricketer Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, young entrepreneur Ayman Sadiq, food blogger Iftekhar Rafsan, and star footballer Jamal Bhuiyan participated via social media platforms.



Students from across the county worked to promote healthy diet among their peers as part of GAIN's campaign.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Azizul Hakim on life support with Covid-19

CITY DESK

Renowned actor Azizul Hakim has been put on life support after testing positive for Covid-19.

Actor Bonna Mirza confirmed the matter yesterday.

On Tuesday, Azizul tested positive for Covid-19. His wife, playwright Zeenat Hakim, and son Mohaimin Ridowan, also tested Covid-19 positive. They are currently in stable condition and getting treated at home, reports UNB.

The actor was admitted to Bangladesh Specialized Hospital in the capital on Thursday night with respiratory distress and was immediately shifted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Azizul started working on a new television drama series last month; previously he was on a break during the countrywide lockdown. Azizul took part in a documentary about his life, which was written by Zeenat Hakim and directed by his daughter Nazah Hakim, recently.

He also made a comeback as a theatre director recently with a new production, "Indemnity," after a break of 15 years.

Starting his career in the 80s, Azizul has made a mark in theatre and television. He has been an integral part of the Aronnyak Natyadal for the last 40 years.

4 killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Four people were killed in road accidents in two districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Mymensingh, two passengers of a human hauler were killed and four injured as the vehicle hit a covered-van from behind on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in the city's Shikarika area.

Polash Miah (30), son of late Elahi Miah of Sonakhali village; and Chameli Akter (25), wife of Moti Miah from Ponghagra in Mymensingh Sadar upazila, died on the spot, Kotwali Police Station Sub-inspector Mehdi Hasan quoted locals as saying.

Of the injured, Samrat, Kohinoor and Rafi were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital while the other person was given first aid at the hospital, said the SI.

Police seized the human hauler. A case was lodged. In Dinajpur, Jahera Begum (65) was killed on the spot after a motorbike hit her on Biral-Boachaganj road at Ghorapir village in Birol upazila, said police.

In another incident in the same district, Abdul Hadi (55) was killed when a truck hit his bicycle in College Bazar area in the upazila, said police. Law enforcers seized the truck, but its driver and helper fled.

Four arrested with 23,000 yaba in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday arrested four persons with 23,000 yaba pills and Tk 8.23 lakh at a flat in Chattogram city's New Chandgan Residential area.

The arrestees are Mobarak Hossain (34) from Cox's Bazar, Masud Forkan (25), his wife Shamim Ara Shomi (26) and Forkan's nephew Rasel (20).

Deputy Commissioner (DC) (South) of CMP SM Mehedi Hasan said they conducted the drive on the third floor of "Hazi Manson" on Road-4 in the residential area while investigating a case filed with Bakalia Police Station on November 5 over recovery of firearms from two Rohingya.

The law enforcers also seized 13 cheque books of different banks from their possession, said the DC. Forkan used to talk to yaba traders in Myanmar while his friend maintain communication with Rohingya camps, said the police official.

One of Forkan's friends Habib gave the yaba consignment, which was supposed to be handed over to a man by yesterday evening, the official said.

"Police found a transaction of huge amount of money through the cheque books," he added.