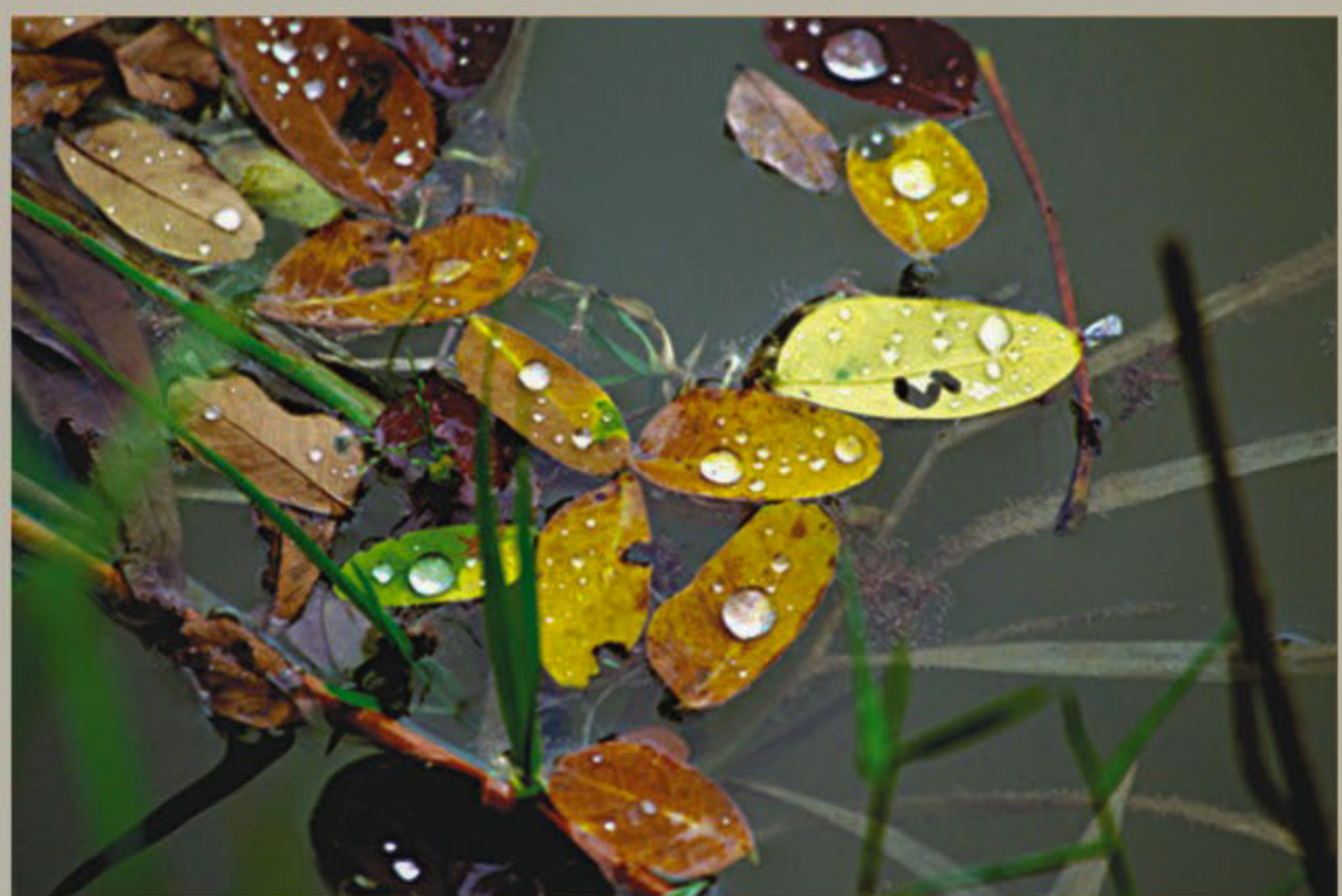


## TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Drops of rain collect on floating leaves in the water.

## Village Rain

FOR city-dwellers, the prospect of getting caught in a downpour in the countryside, far from the nearest shelter, can be daunting. For me it was a memorable experience.

It was a bright, sunny morning when I went for a walk in the forest. The air was crystal clear and the trees vibrant with Borsha's green. The azure sky had no hint of clouds. I grabbed my camera and pocketed its plastic protective bag. Checking the sky I decided against an umbrella.

After I had walked for half an hour, lost in taking pictures of the trees and the birds, I noticed the cloud. It had showed up suddenly on the southeastern corner of the sky. At first it was a white puff, but in minutes it darkened, grew, and started rolling in from the horizon. The warm morning breeze turned noticeably cooler and stronger.

I kept hoping that the wind would keep blowing. Then the clouds might pass by without rain. But the wind suddenly stopped. The sweet warbles of the Bulbulis and the strident squawks of the Fingees went silent. The Earth seemed to take a deep breath and hold it, waiting for the rain.

When you are out in the open, you feel the rain before you hear it. But I was inside a grove of trees, so I heard the rain first. The sound of water hitting the leaves grew louder until it became a roar. Then the torrent broke through the cover of the leaves and drenched me. Luckily my camera

remained dry inside the bag.

The rain brought celebration among the frogs. They hopped around needlessly. The leeches which had been lying dormant in among the grass now came alive. Some climbed on cows to suck their blood. I pulled away a few from my legs before they had a chance to puncture my skin.

But the birds did not enjoy the rain at all. They were all gone, probably busy sheltering their young in their nest. A owl perched on a jackfruit branch shivering miserably.

A few workers had been clearing weeds among the trees. They huddled together in the rain and brought out some food from their gamchawrapped tins. Two of them ran off with a da, returning shortly with three large banana leaves. Under these they took shelter as they ate their morning meal.

In the fields the farm workers had no break. Wearing their large hats to protect their heads, they shooed the cows this way and that to plough the land. On a nearby field, others transplanted newly sprouted rice seedlings, sowing them in a regular pattern on a freshly ploughed land. Losing time because of rain would cost them dearly.

The rain lasted only fifteen minutes. The skies cleared and returned to azure and sunlight cut through the trees. The leaves glistened and the earth gave off the smell of life. But in that short time while it lasted, that rain transported me to a very different world.

JATRABARI FIRE  
Death toll rises to 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another person died at the Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital after being burnt in the Wednesday's chemical factory fire in South Jatrabari.

The death toll now rises to 10. The deceased Aminur Begum, 25, had 90 percent of her body burnt.

Injured Bishu Miah, 20, is undergoing treatment at the intensive care unit with 38 percent burns in his body.

A body is still lying at the morgue of Sir Salimullah Medical College as it could not yet be identified.

OC of Jatrabari Police Station Moniruzzaman said the owner, manger and other staffs of the chemical factory are still at large.

MUNTASIR'S ARREST  
HC asks govt to tell about compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) issued a rule upon the government to explain within three weeks why it should not be directed to pay compensation to Prof Muntasir Mamun for arresting him during the BNP-led government.

An HC bench of Justice A H M Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain on Thursday issued the rule following a long pending petition filed by Muntasir.

Earlier on January 26, 2003, the HC issued a rule upon the government to explain why it should not be directed to pay compensation to journalist-writer Shahriar Kadir for similar reasons.

They prayed to the HC court to direct the government to pay them Tk 5 crore each in compensation for arresting them causing their financial loss and reputational damage.

They were arrested in December, 2002 on suspicion of anti-state activities. They were both freed later on High Court orders.

## Man commits suicide after killing wife

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

A man committed suicide after killing his wife in Noapara of Abhaynagar upazila of Jessore on Thursday night.

The deceased were identified as Mofizul Islam, 28, and his wife Monira Begum, 24, of Mohakal village of the upazila.

Police said the incident occurred when Mofizul came to visit his in law's house at Moshurhati village in the same upazila.

He suffocated his wife when she was asleep and committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling.

He left a note to his mother-in-law saying your daughter is responsible for turning Ovi, their only son, into an orphan.

Locals said Mofizul lost a leg in an accident two years ago and the couple started having frequent rows since then.

They were divorced a year after the accident but they again got married two months ago.

Sub-Inspector Bahauddin Ahmad of Abhaynagar Police Station said, "We found that the deaths occurred following family feud."

## 51 educationists nominated for pvt varsities' syndicates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government, for the first time, has included its representatives in the management of the private universities of the country to ensure monitoring over the universities.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) finalised a list of 51 educationists to function as syndicate members of 51 private universities, said UGC sources. It has been sent to the universities and the education ministry recently as per the Private University Act, 2010.

The act says the syndicate of the universities will be comprised of an educationalist nominated by the government and a member nominated by the UGC.

The educationalists, mostly from

public universities, would carry out their duties as the syndicate members for the next two years, said the sources.

During the tenure, they would not be allowed to take classes as fulltime or part-time teachers or act as adviser to the universities, according to the sources.

Earlier, university owners and their nominated people ran the syndicate of the private universities. Ultimately, the university authorities ran the universities at their will, said the sources.

The move was done as a part of the government's effort to implement the recently passed Private University Act 2010.

UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam told reporters that they have already sent the list to the universities and educationalists respectively.

From now on, the new syndicate members would give their opinions in the syndicate meetings and play a role in advancing the universities further, he said.

According to the list, Prof Sharifuddin of Dhaka University (DU) has been nominated as syndicate member for North South University; Prof Shahjahan Mia of DU for East West University; Prof Khondaker Ashraf Hossain of DU for Independent University; Dr Farzana Islam of Jahangirnagar University (JU) for Independent University; Dr Nurul Islam Najem of DU for Stamford University; Prof Dr Akhtaruzzaman of DU for Asian University of Bangladesh; Dr Khalilur Rahman Chowdhury of JU for South East University and Dr Galib Ahsan Khan of DU for Green University.



Nirapad Development Foundation and Green Mind Society jointly form a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday expressing condolence at the deaths in the Wednesday's Jatrabari fire and demanding removal of chemical factories and warehouses from residential areas.

PHOTO: STAR

GULSHAN COUPLE MURDER  
Criminals now attack son, daughter-in-law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six months into the killing of their parents, Shihab and his wife Momtaj Begum came under attack by the killers' cohorts in the city's Badda yesterday.

The couple, Sadequr Rahman and Romana Nargis, was killed on March 24 at their Gulshan residence after they refused to marry their daughter Nilufar Yasmin Ibi off to a local goon. From that incident, the killers and their associates continued to issue threats to the family.

Shihab said he along with his wife and girl child in their car was going to Uttara when three to four cohorts of the couple's alleged killer Rubel in a car intercepted them around 4:30pm near Jamuna Future Park at Kuril.

"Women whom I knew as Rubel's friend came out of the car with three to four others and dragged me out of my car," he said. They also assaulted Momtaj.

The attackers then snatched the car key from Shihab and threatened to abduct them. Some locals came to their help and recovered the key, Shihab added.

Momtaj said they were going to Uttara to get an air ticket for

Shihab as he was scheduled to fly to Malaysia next week.

Mujibur Rahman, OC of Badda Police Station, said police were looking into the matter and would take steps in this regard.

Meanwhile, a High Court bench on August 17 in response to a writ petition by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh asked the OCs of Gulshan and Badda police stations to give security to Sumaiya Yasmin Bithi and Nilufar Yasmin Ibi, daughters of the couple, informant of the murder case and the lawyer.

The rights organisation filed the petition as public interest litigation on the basis of a report published in The Daily Star on August 14 with the headline "Killers now target two daughters". In the petition, it sought directives from the court on the government to provide security to them.

The report stated the killers who were released on bail and their cohorts frequently threaten Bithi and Ibi over the cellphone.

The family members demanded that the murder case be shifted to a speedy trial tribunal for quick disposal of the case as they are suffering from a sense of insecurity.

## BBC journo Kallol's father dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Abdul Aziz Miah, father of BBC journalist Kadir Kallol, passed away here yesterday. He was 67.

He was undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital as he had been suffering from kidney and cardiac complications, says a press release.

Abdul Aziz served Gaibandha Government High School as the headmaster for a long. He was also a playwright and involved in cultural activities.

BSS adds: The body of Aziz Miah was brought to his hometown in Gaibandha after his first namaj-e-janaza at Mohammadpur Babar Road Mosque.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 44th death anniversary of Idris Ahmad Miah, a political and social reformer.

Born in 1894 in Chapainawabganj, Idris has founded several educational institutions including Adina Fazlul Haque Govt College. He was one of the pioneers to expand education in north Bengal and died in 1966 at the age of 72.

The other educational institutions founded by Idris are Dadanchak Bel-Afroz Idrishi Girls Primary and High School, Dadanchak HM Primary and High School, Dadanchak FH Primary Training Institute and Dadanchak Industrial School.

Idris served as an MLA, MPA and parliamentary secretary in different periods.

## Jubo League man shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A ward level Jubo League leader was wounded after extortionists shot him at Kotwali in the city yesterday.

Unit Joint Secretary of ward no-72 in Kotwali, Moazzem Hossain, 30, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet wounds on his right leg.

Witnesses said around five criminals opened fire on Moazeem while he was talking to his friends at Prashanna Puddhar Lane around 6:45pm.

Musa Shikdar, one of the victim's friends, said local extortionist Bhuttu and his men demanded Tk 50 thousand from Moazzem who runs mineral water business.

Moazzem refused to pay the extortion, which might have led to the attack, added Musa.

Officer-in-charge Mohammad Salahuddin of Kotwali Police Station said they are trying to arrest the attackers.



A rally was brought out from the city's Manik Mia Avenue celebrating Children's Week that ended yesterday. Compassion International-Bangladesh, an NGO, organised the rally.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Stop interfering in dev plans  
Speakers urge World Bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a programme called for stopping the World Bank's interfering in climate fund management and five-year development plan of Bangladesh.

They made the call at a human chain formed in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

They also urged the WB, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) to compensate for destroying water, land and natural resources of the country.

Shushashoner Jonno Procharavijan (Supro) organised the event on the eve of annual general meeting (AGM) of WB and IMF.

The speakers criticised WB's policy of commercialising resources and services including education and medical care, which can be used to establish people's rights. The added that aid should not be used as a political tool.

Supro General Secretary MA Kader, Director Uma Chowdhury, and member Daisy Ahmed, among others, addressed the programme.



## Moderately heavy rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:42pm and rises tomorrow at 5:52am.

Country's highest temperature 37.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 24.5 degrees at Rangamati and Srimongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	25.3	23.6	95	96
Chittagong	27.4	23.4	93	96
Rajshahi	25.4	22.0	100	96
Khulna	27.2	24.5	100	