

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Bhutti Cow at Gabtoli

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

My Bhutti Adventure

I love reading about adventurers searching for mysterious animals. For example, distinguished American writer Peter Mathiessen went searching for the elusive snow leopard in the Himalayas.

I thought I had heard him wrong. "The what cow?" "Bhutti it is a beautiful, dwarf cow," he said.

Was this a Japanese Bonsai cow? Before I could ask, several customers entered and our conversation ended. I left with spoke in hand and a mysterious cow on my mind.

I waited until next year's Eid-ul-Azha when cattle markets appeared. Searching several of them, I could find no Bhutti. Worse, most sellers had never heard of it. I despaired. Perhaps the Bhutti was a Kutti myth?

There was one last place to search, however. So, just like my heroes Mathiessen and O'Hanlon, I set out on a trek - to the gigantic Gabtoli cattle market.

When I arrived, I smelled immediate danger. It did not threaten my life, just my nostrils. For Gabtoli's cattle market was full of cow dung.

Most people will say, "So what? Just watch your step." But things were far more sinister, because the sellers, in their zeal to fatten the cows, overfed them constantly. What happens when any animal eats too much? What goes in must come out. So I quickly learned to read the warning signs of imminent flying dung and dodged whenever a tail went up.

After a long search, I found the elusive Bhutti cow. It was just like the man had described: small and beautiful. Mission accomplished, I took photos and started my trek home while my clothes and shoes were still dung-free.

[Kutti: an affectionate term for old Dhaka's people and language.

ihshamkabar@yahoo.com

NEWSPRINT STEALING 3 held from Noakhali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested three people from Begumganj and Sudharam areas of Noakhali yesterday in connection with the theft of newsprint worth Tk 10 lakh for The Daily Star.

They are Mijanur Rahman, 35, a garage foreman residing in the city's Barik Building area, Baker, 30, hailing from Chhagalnaiya of Feni and Baker's relative Wahid, 32.

Mentionable, a truck loaded with the paper went missing from a garage near Water tank area at West Madarbari in the port city on Thursday.

Sujan Saha, a director of M/S New Rupali Carrier that hired the truck from the garage of one Deen Mohammad to carry the newsprints, filed a case with Double Mooring Police Station on Thursday.

The empty truck was located around 11:00am on Thursday near Lalmai in Comilla while the paper was found lying in a warehouse of Nayan Rice Mill near Jamidarhat Bazar of Begumganj, Noakhali on Thursday late night.

A 4-member team from Double Mooring Police Station led by Sub-Inspector Kawser Uddin Chowdhury, with the help of police from Comilla and Begumganj, arrested Baker and Wahid from Jamidarhat Bazar and later Mijanur from Sudharam in this connection. Noakhali in the area under.

Baker told police that Mijanur, with truck helper Didar, hired a driver Mintu to steal the truck. He received the papers from Mijanur and kept those inside the rice mill, he added.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Rafiqul Islam of Double Mooring Police Station suspects the arrestees are members of the syndicate involved in stealing goods delivered from Chittagong Port.

Police is trying to nab all involved in the theft, said the OC.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sakhira

Freedom fighter Dalil Uddin passed away at his residence at Maguradanga village in Tala upazila yesterday due to old age complications at the age of 80.

Dalil took part in several battles against the Pakistani occupation forces under eight sectors during the War of Liberation in 1971.

He left behind his wife, two sons and three daughters to mourn his death.

He was laid to rest with state honour at his family graveyard in the district, said family sources.

Local Awami League lawmaker Engineer Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Tala upazila Chairman Ghosh Sanat Kumar and Tala upazila Muktiyoddha Sangsad Commander Mafiz Uddin conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Khairunnechha Hossain STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khairunnechha Hossain, wife of freedom fighter and former chief forest conservator late Mozammel Hossain, passed away early hours yesterday at her Gulshan residence in the city at the age of 60.

She left behind one son, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death, said a press release yesterday.

Her late husband Mozammel Hossain fought in the Sylhet area during the liberation war.

Her family members requested all to pray for the salvation of her departed soul.

Bangladesh on right track: Helen Clark

UNB, Dhaka

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) administrator Helen Clark yesterday said Bangladesh is on the right track towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

She was referring to Bangladesh's winning the MDG-4 Award while paying a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban.

UNDP is willing to assist Bangladesh in its National Population Registration (NPR) aiming to include the country's total population into a database system.

Currently, people aged 18 years and above are included in the electoral roll and as a result, a huge portion of the population remained out of the digitalised data based system in the country.

Briefing the reporters after the meeting, prime minister's Deputy Press Secretary M Nazrul Islam said Clark thanked Sheikh Hasina for her government's relentless efforts to push the country forward to achieve socio-economic progress and the MDGs.

UNDP's eagerness to assist Bangladesh to constitute the Innovation Programme Fund and different aspects of South-South cooperation featured prominently during the discussion.

Both Hasina and Clark agreed that foreign countries can follow Bangladesh's splendid achievements in preparing voters list, micro credit, climate change adaptation program, launching of digitalised information and service at union levels and strengthening local government bodies as well as sanitation programmes.

Clark, former prime minister of New Zealand, lauded Hasina for her dynamic leadership in running the country and assured to continue UNDP assistance in different socio-economic sectors of Bangladesh.

Hasina thanked UNDP for its support to Bangladesh's socio-economic development and its valuable contribution in preparing voter identity cards.

She said as the coordinator of the donors of

Bangladesh, UNDP is doing an excellent job for the country's socio-economic progress.

The PM said Bangladesh is advancing satisfactorily in several thrust areas like poverty alleviation, increasing the country's connectivity, providing health services to the people by setting up community health clinics, attaining gender parity, and stopping drop outs from schools.

She said the aim of the present government is to ensure sound health for the people and has plans to impart training to the birth attendants from the community health clinics for their skill development.

Referring to Bangladesh's huge skilled labor force and scarcity of land, Hasina said the countries having vast land could allow Bangladeshi migrants to work on their arable lands.

"The food thus produced can be shared by the migrant workers and the host countries, which will eventually help reduce global food shortages," she said.

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni, Ambassador-at-Large M Ziauddin, Principal Secretary to the PM MA Karim and ERD Secretary Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan were present at the meeting.

Helen Clark also met with Foreign Minister Dipu Moni in the afternoon.

Dipu Moni said Bangladesh advocates for an effective UNDP, which would promote greater voices of both the developing countries and least developed ones.

Commending the longstanding partnership between Bangladesh and the UNDP, Clark recalled the UNDP's relief and rehabilitation assistance immediately after the country's War of Liberation.

Reaffirming Bangladesh's commitment to play a constructive role as a member of the UNDP Executive Board, Dipu Moni assured Clark that Bangladesh would promote the South-South cooperation for sharing of best practices for development and digitalisation, trade-related preferences for LDCs and also promote the global campaign for climate adaptation fund.

Helen Clark meets Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

Visiting UNDP Administrator Helen Clark has emphasised the continuation of Bangladesh's progress in education and health sectors.

The UNDP chief executive made the remarks when she made a courtesy call on BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia at the Gulshan office in the city yesterday afternoon.

Clark appreciated the tremendous and exemplary achievements made in education sector, particularly in girl education, and in health sector of Bangladesh during the last BNP government led by Khaleda Zia.

The achievements were recorded in UNDP, she said, adding that it is necessary to keep up the continuation of the achievements.

The UNDP administrator said that after Afghanistan, now the UNDP's big programmes are in Bangladesh among the Asian countries.

The UNDP extends support mainly in health and education sectors and also keeps its massive role in climate change issue.

Briefing newsmen, BNP vice-chairman Shamsur Mobin Chowdhury, who was present in the meeting, said it was the first visit of Clark, former three-times Prime Minister of New Zealand, to Bangladesh.

This time Clark is visiting only Bangladesh, which proves UNDP's focus on Bangladesh, he said.

The meeting, which lasted for about an hour from 5:20 pm, also discussed the UNDP's role in economy and social sectors of Bangladesh.

BNP leaders MK Anwar and Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan were also present at the meeting.

Expand nursing edn Urges DUVC

BSS, Dhaka

Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University (DU) AAMS Arefin Siddique has urged all concerned to come forward for expansion of nursing education in the country.

There exists a huge demand for efficient nurses abroad, he told a capping ceremony for graduate students of Nursing School and College of Mirzapur Kumudini Hospital on Wednesday, a press release said yesterday.



PHOTO: PID Visiting UNDP Administrator Helen Clark calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban in the city yesterday.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION IN FUTURE Rules of business main challenge

Says ADB country director

UNB, Dhaka

Rules of business for the Development Project Proposal (DPP) and Technical Project Proposal (TPP) is the main challenge for improved project implementation in future, said the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Country Director in Bangladesh.

"The main challenge is related to the rules of business for the DPP and TPP, which do not allow full implementation of project readiness at project start. Jointly with the government, we'll find ways on how to reduce the time needed for preparation and approval of DPPs and TPPs," said Thevakumar Kandiah in an exclusive interview with the news agency on Thursday.

About the reasons for delay in project implementation, he said that the main causes of project delay are delay in resettlement, land acquisition, recruitment of consultants, and procurement of goods and services, fund disbursements, and in the approval of projects (DPP/TPP).

Asked about the steps taken by the ADB to improve project implementation, Kandiah said that the ADB has taken a number of steps to reduce the time from project inception to delivery of results on the ground.

These include streamlining its preparation process for new projects, simplifying recruitment and procurement processes, delegating fund disbursement to the (ADB) Bangladesh Resident Mission, and interacting closely with executing agencies to identify issues before they become

problems, and deciding actions through regular review missions.

He said that the ADB and the government also conduct country portfolio reviews annually to identify both project bottlenecks and system bottlenecks to improve the project implementation.

"From this year, we are intensifying this process through quarterly tripartite meetings during which we discuss each project in detail and agree on detailed action to accelerate implementation progress.

To implement the new steps, he said that annual country portfolio reviews, quarterly tripartite meetings, and at least two review missions per project per year will be carried out. "The government is leading this process and mechanism jointly with the ADB."

Asked about the government's reforms to improve project implementation, the ADB Country Director said that the government is very serious in accelerating project implementation and has strong political commitment in delivering results to the people.

When sought his comments about the steps to improve governance in project implementation and procurement, he said this is a continuous process.

He said that the ADB has robust systems in place to continuously improve governance of the ADB-assisted programs. Besides regular reviews, its systems for financial management, procurement and monitoring, and annual audits play critical role in managing governance issues.

Pvt practice at BSMMU on the cards

BSS, Dhaka

The doctors of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) are likely to have opportunities to conduct private practices after office hours on the campus everyday afternoon, highly placed sources said yesterday.

Under a new arrangement, all the 434 doctors-ranging from assistant professors to full fledged professors- can see patients privately at hospital outdoors between 2:30pm and 8:30pm with fees from patients.

A draft policy has already been formulated to help BSMMU doctors do practice privately at the institute instead of seeing patients outside, especially at clinics and private chambers.

The policy is going to be placed at the upcoming staff meeting of the doctors by the university authorities after Eid-ul-Azha.

Once approved by the doctors, the draft will be placed at the Academic Council for approval before it would go to Syndicate for approval, the authorities said.

For each visit, the fee for a professor has been proposed at Tk 500, while it would be Tk 400 for associate professors and Tk 300 for assistant professors, according to the draft policy recommendations.

"We are going to encourage and motivate our physicians to do private practice at their own institutes instead of doing so outside their workplace," Vice Chancellor of BSMMU Pran Gopal Datta, said.

He said private practice outside the working hospitals causes injustice to professionalism.

"This must be stopped, while we must find an amicable solution which would bring benefit for both doctors and patients based on reality," said Pran Gopal.

Ensure humanitarian accountability

Speakers urge NGOs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar stressed the need for ensuring humanitarian accountability in different development organisations for their survival.

Humanitarian accountability should be the prime prerequisite to each development organisation. So, each organisation must ensure this despite numerous limitations including financial insecurity, they said.

They also urged the NGOs to work for the betterment of marginal people, who are deprived from citizen rights.

They made the remark while addressing at a seminar styled 'Accountability in humanitarian assistance: Bangladesh perspective' organised by Coast Trust in cooperation with the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership International (HAPI), a Geneva

based international NGO, at the BRAC Centre Inn in the city on Thursday.

Addressing the seminar, Acting Executive Director of HAPI Kathrina Samara said funds for humanitarian sector is increasing day by day and now it stands at 15 billion US dollars worldwide.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jono Foundation said lack of capacity and sense of financial insecurity of different development organisations are the major barrier for ensuring humanitarian accountability.

Local government expert Dr Tofail Ahmed presided over the function while Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) General Manager Fazlul Kader, Disaster Forum Convenor Gowhar Nayeem Wahara, COAST Trust board of trustees treasurer Zahirul Alam FCA and OxfamGB Country Director Gerath Price Jones were present at the programme.

WEATHER Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:14pm and rises tomorrow at 6:12am.

Country's highest temperature 32.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 17.7 degrees at Srirangal and Chuadanga.

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

Table with 5 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Advertisement for Golden Jubilee 50th Anniversary of Dhaka Residential Model College, featuring registration details and contact information for REMIAN and ORWA.

Advertisement for Golden Jubilee 50th Anniversary of Dhaka Residential Model College, featuring registration details and contact information for REMIAN and ORWA.