

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Man in a shop behind Lalbagh Kella.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

The Pleasure of Reading

How many types of books are there? The philosopher Francis Bacon answered four centuries ago: "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested."

Seldom asked is the complementary question: how many types of readers are there? Many options come to mind. Some read only if they have to; others read anything they can get hold of; yet others search for challenges. Some like poetry, while others enjoy non-fiction. Some readers start a book hesitantly until the writer casts a spell on them; others open books with great gusto but abandon them after a few pages.

This list could go on forever, but perhaps there is a simpler classification: those who get pleasure out of reading and those who don't.

The man in the photograph, lost in his book, reminds me of the pleasure of

reading.

I discovered this pleasure early because, as a child, I was surrounded by people who encouraged me to read. My parents of course, but also uncles, aunts, cousins, grandparents all indulged my reading habit. My mother treated me to a new book every time I excelled in an exam.

What a blessing this turned out to be! Without books, life would lose much of its charm. Through books we live not one life, but spanning galaxies and centuries. We enter many worlds real or imaginary populated by the characters of the books. A good book can have us breathing, feeling, living and loving through its characters.

I know nothing about this man. But he and I have this in common: the pleasure of reading can put a spell on both of us.

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Trade on sacrificial meat

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Monwara Begum and Rahima Begum, aged over 40, arrived in the city along with their two boys the day before the Eid day by a train from Mymensingh. On Eid day, they collected meat from different houses in the city and left by another train on that night.

Monwara and Rahima, two siblings, along with their boys managed to collect around 16kgs of meat from Green Road, Kalabagan, Kathal Bagan and Central Road areas in the city. They sold half of their collected meat at Tk 1300 at a temporary market at Green Road and took half to their homes at Isharganj in Mymensingh.

Monwara said she has been arriving in the city for collecting meat during the Eid-ul-Azha for the last six years. She said her sister Rahima and other relatives have arrived here this year by Balaka Express train the day before Eid and passed the night at the Kamalapur Station corridor.

"I started collecting meat at noon on Eid day and managed to collect around eight kgs till the evening," she said, adding that she has

sold half of them at a temporary market at Green Road and will return home with rest of the meat. Monwara said this while she was waiting for a train at Kamalapur Railway Station on the night of Eid day.

Like her, several thousand poor people arrive in the city days before Eid-ul-Azha to collect meat every year and leave the city afterwards.

"Many poor people, mostly women and children, started arriving in the city by trains two days before Eid day. Usually, they don't pay fare as the trains remain empty on their return from outside the capital," said Assistant Sub-Inspector Jamal Mazumder of Kamalapur Government Railway Police Station.

Most of them come from Mymensingh, Netrakona, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Kishoreganj and Narsingdi areas and usually get off from the train at Tongi, Airport, Tejgaon and Kamalapur railway stations, railway sources said.

Besides, some people from north Bengal districts also arrive by bus and trucks giving low fare for this business.

They sell their collected meat at several hundred small temporary markets

which basically sit for few hours on Eid day in the afternoon and continue until around 9:00pm.

The city dwellers who have no ability to sacrifice cattle on their own usually buy the meat from these temporary markets. Besides, owners of a section of restaurants also buy meat from these shops.

"I bought 14kgs of meat at Tk 150 to 200 per kg from five temporary markets today as I could not sacrifice cattle this year," said grocery shop owner Habibur Rahman Patwari at Green Road market.

Kawser Ahmed, 14, who earns his livelihood from streets in the National Stadium area, said he goes to his village home at Chandina of Comilla before Eid-ul-Fitr every year, but he has not been going to his village home for the last three years on Eid-ul-Azha as he collects meat in the city.

"I have collected around 10kgs of meat today (Eid day) and sold them at Tk 2,000," Kawser told this correspondent.

Like him, many security guards, rickshawpullers, domestic helps, slum dwellers do the business on Eid day and go to their village homes afterwards.



Sufia Kamal's anniversary of death today

BSS, Dhaka

Today is the 11th death anniversary of pioneer of women emancipation Poet Begum Sufia Kamal will be observed today in a befitting manner.

Born on June 20, 1911 in an aristocratic family, known as the Nabab Family of Shayestabad, of Barisal, Sufia Kamal dedicated her whole life to the promotion of women liberty, progressive thinking and non-communal politics.

An ardent disciple of Begum Rokeya, Sufia Kamal carried out her literary pursuit under the warm affection of literary personalities like Poet Rabindranath Tagore and Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

She was an activist of the historic Language Movement of 1952 and also played a significant role in the Great War of Liberation.

In observance of her death anniversary, a memorial meeting will be held at Mukti Bhaban at 4:00pm today under the auspices of Jatiya Ganatantrik League. Noted lawyer Barrister Amir-ul-Islam will attend the meeting as the chief guest.

Besides, Samajik Protirodh Committee will hold a memorial meeting at Central Shaheed Minar in the city on November 27.



Meat of sacrificial animals, collected from different city areas by the poor, is being sold at Malibagh railgate in the city on Wednesday.

PHOTO: STAR

40 houses set on fire

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Criminals set fire to almost 40 houses of Char Umed village under North Motlob upazila of the district yesterday evening.

The criminals also looted gold ornaments and money during the incident.

Police and local sources said before an arbitration was held over a beat up incident, a gang led by Osman Gazi of Rajrajeshwar Char attacked the houses, set

fire to almost 40 of them and looted valuables.

Rustom Ali, officer-in-charge of North Motlob Police Station, said five criminals were arrested but most of them fled the scene, as the area is almost 40km away from the police station.

The loss of goods is worth Tk 3 to 4 crore approximately, he added.

A case was filed with Sadar Police Station in this connection, the OC said.

Muggers beat up journo

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Muggers beat up a photojournalist and looted cash, a camera, a motorcycle and a mobile set worth about Tk 5 lakh on Dhaka-Aricha highway in the Bsaundhara Steel Complex area in Manikganj on Monday night, a day before of the Eid-ul-Azha.

In the guise of mobile court officials, the muggers stopped Nurunnabi Robi, a staff photographer of the Dainik Kaler Kantha, at about 10:30pm and beat him up with iron rod and looted a Nikon camera, a discovery motorcycle, cash Tk 5,000 and a mobile set when he was going to his residence at Manikganj.

The photojournalist received serious injuries on his head.

Int'l film festival starts in Ctg today

A CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A weeklong film festival kicks off in the port city today.

Alliance Française de Chittagong in collaboration with Chittagong Film Center (CFC) will organise the screening of 13 documentary films.

As a part of international film festival, the festival will be arranged in 46 countries all over the world, promoting ambitious contemporary documentary films, said a press release.

The festival will be inaugurated at 5:00pm in Alliance Française de Chittagong and the films will be screened at 6:00pm everyday. The festival will remain open to all.

Candle factory gutted in Ctg

A CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Properties worth around Tk 2 lakh were gutted in a fire at a candle factory in Razoan upazila on Friday.

Agrabad Fire Service Station Duty Officer Bishantor Barua said the fire broke out following an electric short circuit in the factory, owned by a local businessman Md Ismail, at around 4:00am and spread fast, engulfing one part of the factory.

"One unit from Hathazari Fire Station rushed to the spot and doused the flames within half an hour. We also managed to save properties worth around Tk 3 lakh from the factory," he said.

'Tin Bigha likely to be kept open 24 hrs within a short time'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Ensuring unfettered communication to the inhabitants of Dahagram-Angorpota enclave, Tin Bigha corridor is likely to be kept open 24 hours within a short time.

Tarique A Karim, Bangladeshi high commissioner in India, said this while visiting the corridor in Lalmonirhat and exchanging views with the enclave inhabitants.

The high commissioner said the inhabitants of Dahagram-Angorpota enclave will be able to use the Tin Bigha corridor round the clock after signing an agreement with India pretty soon.

Earlier, on November 11, the Joint Boundary Working Group of Bangladesh and India, after a two-day meeting in the Indian capital, came to

a decision to allow 24-hour access to Bangladeshi nationals through Tin Bigha corridor alongside other boundary issues between the two countries.

Meanwhile, the enclave inhabitants were exuberant to learn about the possibility. Mozibar Rahman, 65, an inhabitant of the enclave, said, "We are very happy as this long demand of ours is being fulfilled."

Tin Bigha Corridor is now kept open for 12 hrs from 6:30am to 6:30pm, blocking any communication with the mainland rest of the time.

Mokhlesar Rahman Sarker, deputy commissioner of Lalmonirhat, Lieutenant Colonel Aslam Hossain, commanding officer of 31 Rifles Battalion and Habibur Rahman, police super, accompanied the high commissioner.

'Women's empowerment created positive image'

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the UN Dr AK Abdul Momen said commitment to empowerment of women and its execution at various levels had contributed to creating a positive image of Bangladesh abroad.

"It has been reflected in the victory of Bangladesh with highest vote in the election of different committees of the UN," Dr Momen said while talking to a delegation of Framingham State College of Boston at the Bangladesh Mission in New York, according to a

message received here yesterday.

The 16-member delegation comprised of chairs of the departments of Information and Technology, Economics and Business Administration and Psychology and students. They were keen to know the activities of Bangladesh in the UN.

Dr Momem underlined the Bangladesh success in the UN peacekeeping missions as the highest troops contributing country and its active role on climate change issues.

Economic minister Nazibur Rahman was present on the occasion.

Ras Utsav begins in Kuakata

A CORRESPONDENTS, Barisal and Patuakhali

About 200 years old traditional Ras Utsav and Ras Mela, one of the biggest festival for the communities living in the country's southern region, began in Kuakata coast yesterday.

The festival, lasting for three nights and two days, also opens the fishing season in the region.

Several thousand people join and enjoy the biggest celebration.

The Ras festival and fair began in Kuakata coast at the moment of Ras Purnima and it would formally end on Sunday dawn.

Devotees believe that bathing in the bay during this festival would wipe out all their sins.

A two-day long Ras mela has been arranged on this occasion including cultural programmes and religious rituals.

temporary Madhop at the beach.

Various programmes including Kirton (songs in praise of Radha-Krishna), religious discussion side by side of the rituals of Ghat Puja, Bisarjan and Ganga Snan is also observed during the festival.

The mela will conclude tomorrow, Uttam Kumar, secretary of Ras Utsav and mela observance committee, said. Members of the Hindu community amid great enthusiasm and religious flavour had celebrated the festival since 1927 at the Khepupara Sree Sree Madan Mohan Sebasram.

Bhupendranath and Kamalendu Howladar of Madan Mohan Sebasram said 16 pairs of images of Radha-Govinda at the temples of Radha-Govinda and Madanmohan Seba Ashram have been established and colourfully decorated on the occasion.

Liakat Ali, upazila nirbahi officer of Kalapara, said members of the navy, coast guard, Rapid Action Battalion, police, Bangladesh Rifles and forest division have been deployed.



PHOTO: STAR

Security was tightened at the official residence of Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque in the city's Kakrail area yesterday after two Molotov cocktails hurled into the compound exploded on Thursday night. (Story on Page 1)

Workshop on climate investment today

BSS, Dhaka

An inter-ministerial and stakeholder national workshop on climate investment and finance will be held at National Press Club in the city at 12:30pm today.

Organised by the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MOEF) and UNDP, the day-long workshop will be inaugurated by Environment Secretary Dr Mihir Kanti Majumder and will be addressed by team leaders Dr Q K Ahmad, Dr M Asaduzzaman, Dr Rezaul Karim, Dr Ainun Nishat, Quamrul Islam Chowdhury and Dr Atiq A Rahman with Environment Ministry Joint Secretary Dr M Nasiruddin in the chair.

Participants will chart out the investment and financial flows for 2010-2030 to face adverse impacts of climate change in the country.



Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain is likely to occur at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Barisal and Khulna divisions and weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country in next 12 hours as of 6:00am today.

Night temperature may fall slightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11pm today and rises at 6:18am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 32.9 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and Chuadanga and lowest 18.1 degrees Celsius at 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	28.5	22.2	68	74
Chittagong	29.4	20.9	76	76
Rajshahi	31.5	21.5	91	77
Rangpur	26.8	20.4	90	84
Khulna	31.7	23.8	88	88
Barisal	30.7	22.2	80	94
Sylhet	27.5	21.2	81	



Begum Roqia Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Begum Roqia Islam (Rosy), wife of late Serajul Islam, passed away due to old age complications on Wednesday at the age of 82, says a press release.

She left behind her daughter Tukun Ahmed, son Sharequl Islam and a host of grandchildren to mourn her death.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at her son's residence 'Florida', House No # 110/A, Road No # 2, Block # A, Niketan, Gulshan-1 after Asr prayers today.

Relatives and well wishers are requested to attend the mahfil and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.