

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Traffic regulations? What traffic Regulations?

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

Columns from Istanbul

RECENTLY I came across some old newspaper columns from Istanbul. These columns, commenting on Istanbul and her people, struck a chord and I couldn't help comparing to Dhaka.

For example, a forty-year old description of Istanbul's harbour (the Golden Horn) sounds just like the Buri Ganga today:

"The Golden Horn is no longer the Golden Horn; it's become a dirty pool surrounded by factories, workshops and slaughterhouses: chemicals from those factories, tar from the workshops, the outflows of ships and also sewage pollute its waters." (1968)

Yet today, the Golden Horn is a beautiful blue, because the Turks cleaned it up in the 1980s. So why can't we clean up our beautiful river?

Sudden flooding that we often see in Dhaka after rain hampers Istanbul, too.

"We are tired of seeing every square in the city flooded every time it rains. Whoever is supposed to fix this, should fix it soon." (1946)

Messy traffic is no easier to fix. But stuck in a bad morning's traffic, I could wish for no better medicine than this:

"It is only by giving up our old way of comporting ourselves in the streets and in the city's public places, and only by complying with the traffic regulations as they do in the West, that we can hope to deliver ourselves from the traffic chaos. But if you asked how many people in this city even know what the traffic regulations are, well, that's a different matter altogether..." (1949)

Next let's turn to city beautification. While our rickshaws are decorated

beautifully, our unfortunate rickshawallahs often wear ragged clothes. Can you imagine them all in uniform, like this columnist suggested for coach drivers of Istanbul?

"It has been suggested that to beautify the city all horse-drawn carriage drivers should wear the same outfit; how chic it would be if this idea were to become reality." (1897)

Who knows, it might even induce them to pay more attention to those traffic rules.

Speaking of beauty, there is the eternal problem faced by a pretty woman walking down the street.

"When you see a beautiful woman in the street, don't look at her hatefully as if you are about to kill her, and do not exhibit excessive longing either, just give her a little smile, avert your eyes, and walk on." (1974)

Since I am neither pretty nor a woman, I cannot vouch for this, but my sense is that in recent years, Dhaka streets have become friendlier towards women pedestrians.

In the end, though, we are Bengalis, and you will have a long wait if you want to see Dhakaiyas exhibit this behaviour:

"We too make our feelings clear to people who have yet to learn how to conduct themselves in the streets of Istanbul and tell them: Don't walk down the street with your mouth open." (1924)"

Where to find these columns? They are in Nobel-laureate Orhan Pamuk's memoir, *Istanbul, Memories of a City*. Columnists were not named.



Govt destroys economy: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said the government has destroyed the economy of the country.

He said thirty-three lakh stock investors have lost everything. The share market debacle only happens during the Awami League government, he added.

He said some people loyal to the ruling party have taken away a lot of money from the pocket of the investors of the stock market.

Fakhru told a rally in front of BNP's central office at Naya Paltan in the city.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal organised it to mark the 75th birth anniversary of BNP's founder Ziaur Rahman.

Leaders and activists of JCD from different units and Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Faroque also attended the rally chaired by JCD President Sultan Salahuddin Tuku.



Road crashes kill 10, injure eight

METRO DESK

Ten people were killed and eight others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Narsingdi, Chuadanga, Natore and Kurigram yesterday.

Our staff correspondent reports: Ananda Chandra Mondal, 50, a habildar of Bangladesh police, was killed when a vehicle ran over him at Nutun Bazar of Badda in the city around 2:00am yesterday.

Our correspondent from Narsingdi adds: Three people were killed and five others injured in a road accident when a speedy truck hit a Leguna from behind on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Chaitabo in Sadar upazila.

One of the deceased was identified as Nurul Islam, 50.

Meanwhile, Priyananda, 45, a police constable, who was injured in a road accident in Narsingdi, died at CMH in Dhaka yesterday.

In Chuadanga, three people were killed in a road accident when a speedy truck hit a rickshaw van from behind at Andulbaria in Jibonnagar upazila yesterday.

They are Rizia Khatun, 36, her one-year-old daughter Lipi Khatun and Azizul Haq, 60.

In Natore, a man was killed and two others were injured in a road accident when a Natore-bound tractor collided head-on with a Singra-bound human hulled on Natore-Bogra highway at Bandor yesterday.

The deceased is Afzal Hosen, 35, son of Amzad Hossain of Dhalan village of Sadar Upazila.

In Kurigram, Abir Uddin, 52, of Natua village, was killed in a road accident when his clothes got tangled with an auto rickshaw at Rajarhat upazila.



Municipal polls show no-confidence in govt

UNB, Dhaka

BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed yesterday said the municipal poll results "clearly indicate inevitable defeat of the ruling party" in the next national election.

"Through the municipal elections, people expressed no-confidence in the government," he said.

"The coming national polls will be held under non-partisan caretaker government. The consequences will be more frustrating for them."

He also talked about price hike of essentials while addressing as the chief guest a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club in the city.

Bangladeshi Sacheton Jonogosthi arranged the discussion on "politics, democracy, and human rights" with its convener AKM Lutful Bari in the chair.

Dr Kamrul Ahsan, journalist Oli Ullah Noman, Lt Col (ret'd) MA Latif, Ahsan Ullah Hasan, Ahmed Hossain, and ABM Abdur Razzak also spoke at the event.



Star Campus-COL-Drishty debate workshop starts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers stressed arranging debate competitions and workshops to make a democratic and accommodative society at the present time.

They told the inaugural function of the workshop "Star Campus-COL-Drishty School of Debate" at Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC) in the port city yesterday.

Drishty Chittagong organised the workshop in association with Star Campus, a weekly magazine of The Daily Star, and Chittagong On Line Ltd (COL).

AKM Raisul Haque Bahar, bureau in-charge of the

daily, Chittagong office, Principal of Sunshine Grammar School Safia Gazi, COL's chief technical officer Aniruddho Barua, Principal of Child Heaven School Selina Islam, and Drishty Joint Secretary Adnan Mannan were also present.

Chittagong Grammar School, Radiant School, Sunshine Grammar School, Presidency School, Mastermind International School, Child Heaven School, Cider International School, Cantonment English School Global Scholar School, and William Carrey Academy are participating in the workshop.



Participants and guests at the inaugural session of a debate workshop titled "Star Campus-COL-Drishty School of Debate" at Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC) in the port city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Conflict rife in Ctg city Awami League

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Two factions of Chittagong City unit of Awami League (AL) are now at loggerheads blaming each other for violating the party constitution.

The leaders of both groups are now deliberately defying each other increasing the rift between them. The situation worsened on Jan 17 when the city AL committee led by ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and Kazi Enamul Huq Danu issued show-cause notices to four of its top leaders including Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Ameen, first joint secretary of the unit, asking

them why they should not be expelled from the committee. The committee blamed them for violating the party constitution and damaging the party images.

Other leaders on notices are lawmaker Nurul Islam Bsc, vice-president of the city unit, Advocate Ibrahim Hossain Babul, second joint secretary and CDA Chairman MA. Salam, treasurer.

The rift started when Nurul Islam obtained nomination for contesting the national election in 2008 despite opposition from Mohiuddin. City AL went through further polarisation after the last City Corporation elec-

tion held in June 2010.

Mohiuddin, Nasir, Enamul and lawmaker Latif are now united against Nurul, Afsar, Ibrahim, Salam and Rezaul. The two factions started to observing different programmes such as the victory day and Bangabandhu's home coming day separately.

Nurul Islam Bsc on Jan 16 at a press conference blamed Mohiuddin for dividing the party. He also urged him to admit his faults and beg pardon.

Mohiuddin later called an emergency meeting of the working committee, which unanimously decided to expel the four leaders.

On the other, the four leaders have

challenged the validity of the committee and rejected their authority to issue any show-cause notice.

Mohiuddin Chowdhury and Afsarul Ameen could not be contacted for their reaction despite several attempts.

Ibrahim Hossain Babul, one of the leaders who was served with the notice, said Mohiuddin Chowdhury has a tendency of neglecting the constitution of Awami League. The committee led by him is completely unauthorised as it could not manage to get the approval by the central committee in Dhaka.

WEATHER TODAY

Night temperature likely to fall

UNB, Dhaka

Severe cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Srimangal and Kushtia and mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Dhaka divisions and elsewhere of Sylhet division and the regions of Jessore and Barisal and it may continue in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may fall slightly over the country, Met office said. Weather is likely to remain dry over the country.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins of the country and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:38pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42am.

Country's highest temperature 27.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 05.5 degrees at Srimangal.

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	22.7	10.7	68	54
Chittagong	25.1	12.4	69	61
Rajshahi	22.0	07.1	94	78
Rangpur	21.2	08.5	87	71
Khulna	23.7	11.4	76	59
Barisal	24.5	09.8	80	73

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Jebun Nahar Hannan, wife of Abdul Hannan, former press coun-

cillor of Bangladesh UN Mission in New York, passed away at her Dhanmondi residence on Thursday, says a press release.

She was laid to eternal rest at family graveyard at Saydabad of Kasba in Brahmanbaria.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the fifth death anniversary of former Industry Minister Shamsul Islam Khan, says a press release. He died in 2006. He was elected as lawmaker for four times from Manikganj.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

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