

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Given or Taken? Mirpur, Dhaka;

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

Photos Given, Photos Taken

These days, I see cameras everywhere in Dhaka. Most people face one happily, hoping that the world sees them the way they want to be seen. Whether the photo-opportunity is a gathering of friends, a date, a family outing, or a child's birthday, everyone tries to look their best by fixing the hair, straightening the shirt, and showing the winning smile.

Less common is the photo taken without the subject's knowledge. These so-called "candid" pictures have been a holy grail of photographers for decades. The reasoning is this: a subject photographed without knowledge does not change his or her appearance for the sake of the photograph. Therefore, the photo is closer to the "natural state" of the subject and thus to the truth.

What about consent? When a subject is photographed with his or her consent, the subject "gives" something to the photo, resulting in a momentary collaboration. Otherwise, the photo is just taken.

The law allows wide berth for public-place photography, whether or not people are included (provided basic decency is maintained.) In private places, the law offers strong protection from the probing eye of the camera. Perhaps that's why most candid photos are taken in public places.

There is, however, a grey area between posed and candid photos.

This became clear when I looked via the New York Times - at photos from "Eye-to-Eye," an exhibition by renowned photographer Ed Kashi. These photos were taken over several decades while he was covering different assignments. Revisiting his

photographic archives, Kashi has come up with a series of pictures-mostly from war and disaster zones-that have one thing in common: at the instant the shutter is pressed, the candid subject happens to look into the camera.

In an interview, Kashi says he had initially rejected these photos, but when events forced him to ponder the relationship between photographer and subject, they became relevant to him.

All but one of Kashi's photos shown on the Web are at public places. Often, the eyes of his subjects reflect the stress of war: an escaping Baath party official; police officers in Sadr city, Iraq; a burkha-clad old woman in Baghdad with mouth open. Even a bride going to her wedding (in Syria) wears a hostile look.

Looking at the eyes we can guess that many of these photos are not "given." Nonetheless, the photos stretch the boundaries of collaboration between subject and photographer. The presence of the photographer is felt in every photo, intermingled with the drama of subjects' lives. In this age of superfluous pixels, these photos made me sit up and pay attention.

The debate about what is appropriate and what is not will rage forever among photographers. But Kashi's photos open some new, if uncomfortable, roads to understanding photography and its role in uncovering truth.

The photos and an insightful conversation between Kashi and James Estrin can be found on the Web at lens.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/08/31/seeing-eye-to-eye.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir

Rain paralyses life in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Nearly one-third area of the port city yesterday went under water due to heavy down-pour, creating havoc for people.

Houses, shops, schools, colleges and business infrastructures in the low-lying areas went under knee to waist-deep water. The city's Chawk Bazar, Bakalia, Kapashgola, Bahaddarhat, CDA Avenue, Halishahar, Badurtala, Patenga, Muradpur, Mohammadpur and Nasirabad areas saw waist-length stagnant water.

The majority of transport remained off the streets and the drainage system in most of the areas flooded, to the added suffering of commuters. People had to wade through thick and filthy water to get to their destinations.

Traffic movement slightly improved in the afternoon when the rain stopped.

The Met office in Chittagong recorded 107.8 millimetre rain in twenty-four hours until 12:00noon yesterday.

The Chittagong Port was advised to hoist signal no 3, said Assistant Met Officer Omar Faruk.

Loading and unloading of cargoes in the port was stopped as importers feared their goods would be damaged by the rain, said Syed Farhad Uddin, secretary of the Chittagong Port Authority.

Hundreds of lighter ships were anchored in the river Karnaphuli due to incessant

shower, said port sources.

Chawk Bazar kitchen market had a shortage of supply of meat, fish and vegetables, leading to a price hike of almost all commodities.

Many schools including West Bakalia Govt Primary School, Bangabandhu Govt Model Primary School, Kapashgola City Corporation Girls' High School and College, Bakalia Govt High School, Bachelor of Education College and Meron Sun School and College were submerged by rain water.

As the day was Friday, a holiday, students did not suffer.

Meanwhile, city dwellers held Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) responsible for the water-logging.

Susmita Pal, a second-year honours student of Hazi Mohammad Mohsin College, was going to a coaching centre on foot. She said the CCC did not take any step to address the water-logging problem.

Councillor Bijoy Kumar Chowdhury, also chairman of the standing committee on water-logging of the CCC, however, accused the contractors of drainage management of not working properly.

"I visited many areas in the city and saw the suffering of the people," he said, adding that the CCC has initiated a project to improve the drainage system, under which 500 workers will work every day for three months from November. "We hope the suffering of the city dwellers will lessen after the completion of the project," he noted.

Submerges 1/3 of city

KILLING OF 3 BANGLADESHIS Delhi HC upholds BSF man's dismissal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The Delhi High Court upheld a decision to dismiss a BSF soldier from service for entering a Bangladesh village and firing at residents with his official rifle killing three people, including a child, three years ago.

A bench of Justice Pradeep Nandrajog and Justice Sunil Gaur dismissed a plea of constable Rana Pratap Singh, challenging the department's decision to sack him for the murder.

Rana was posted along the India-Bangladesh border at BOPs Soldighi and Nayabari at the time of the incident.

"Finding no merit in the writ petition, we dismiss the same but without any order as to costs," the bench said while rejecting the constable's argument that the villagers had abused as well as beaten him up.

"We may only highlight that the manner in which the petitioner (Rana) claims to be hit on his head and thereby losing consciousness and he not knowing how his rifle was used, is not believable for the reason he never cross-examined the witnesses by putting his version as aforesaid," the bench said.

According to the charge sheet against Rana, on November 16 in 2008, DIG R Chandra had received a telephone call from the Sector Commander, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) that a BSF man had entered Moyanagari village in Bangladesh and fired indiscriminately at villagers, leaving three people dead including Mohammed Mustafa, a woman identified as Majeedia Begum and her eight-month-old son Mamoon. Begum's husband was seriously injured in the firing.

The BDR sector commander had also informed that villagers had overpowered and beaten Rana who was rescued by jawans of BDR and admitted in a local hospital in Bangladesh.

The General Security Court had found Rana guilty on October 28 in 2009 and sentenced him to life besides dismissing him from service.

Mystery shrouds death of housewife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mystery shrouds the death of a housewife of the city's Mirpur at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

Shabana Khatun, 25, of First Colony, Mazar Road of Mirpur, was brought to DMCH by her husband Mohammad Nesarul Haque, claiming that his wife committed suicide while the victim's elder brother said it was a planned murder. On-duty doctors declared her dead in the hospital.

Police detained Nesarul for interrogation.

Nesarul told journalists at DMCH that his wife had been suffering from psychiatric problems for the last eight years.

He said their house owner called him over phone around 9:00am saying that his wife Shabana was trying to commit suicide jumping from rooftop. He was then at his CNG garage at Lalkathi.

He rushed to his house and later went to Darussalam Police Station to lodge a general diary in this connection keeping his wife locked in a room. After returning home he found his wife lying on the floor, wrapping her neck with a scarf, Nesarul added.

The couple has four children staying with their grandmother in India.

Morgue sources said the victim's body bore injury marks in abdomen and face.

Officer-in-Charge of Darussalam Police Station Abdul Malek said Nesarul came to the police station in the morning, but left without lodging any general diary. He said they are interrogating him.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Enamul Haque Chowdhury, Bir Pratik, a former lawmaker and convener of the Sector Commanders Forum, Sylhet division chapter, passed away at a private hospital in Sylhet yesterday due to cancer at the age of 68.

He left behind his wife, two daughters, four sons and host of relatives to mourn his death.

His body will be kept at the Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar at 11:00am today for paying tributes.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held on the premises of the mosque attached to the Hazrat Shahjalal (RA)'s shrine after Zohr prayers today.

NEWS IN brief

Labourer dies in balcony collapse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A labourer died and another sustained injury after the balcony on the second floor of a warehouse they were standing on collapsed in the city's Chawkbazar early yesterday.

The deceased is Awlad Hossain, 30, son of Nurul Islam of Harirampur, Manikganj, and the injured is Mohammad Yunus, 32.

Witness Abdul Kader said some 10 to 12 labourers were standing on the balcony of the warehouse of one Bubul Haji at Joynal Road, waiting for goods-laden trucks to arrive, when the collapse occurred around 1:30am.

Coworkers rushed them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where Awlad succumbed to his injuries around 4:00am, police said.

Cop killed in road accident

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A police constable was killed and at least three people, including a foreign prisoner, were injured when an ambulance of the Cox's Bazar Jail collided head-on with a bus coming from opposite direction in Shahkara area of Chakoria upazila yesterday.

The deceased is Mohammad Selim, 25, of Netrokona district.

The injured are Over Colling, 30, a Senegal citizen and prisoner, and Police Constables Mohammad Mamun, 40, and Unu Mong Marma, 42. They were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

PPP initiatives a must to attract more investment

Says Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Underscoring the need for more investment in Bangladesh, Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) initiatives are needed to attract more investment in order to reach the country's target growth rate.

"Unless investment is raised in Bangladesh from the current 25 percent (of the Gross Domestic Product), how do we expect to reach a level of 8 to 10 percent growth (rate of GDP)," he said.

He was speaking at the concluding ceremony of a two-day workshop styled "Project identification and feasibility study" organised by Prime Minister's Office and Investment Promotion and Financing Facility (IPFF) Project of Bangladesh Bank at a city hotel.

The workshop is a part of a two-day capacity-building programme for senior government officials to enable them to effectively start the country's PPP programme. Around 100 senior government officials were trained during the workshop, conducted by Institute of Policy, Advocacy and Governance (I-PAG).

The minister said to achieve the targeted growth rate, there is a need to create assets where the PPP models can play an important role.

He said with all the progress being made particularly in the last 10 to 15 years, the country is still a "prettypoor country".

About spending PPP funds, Muhith said the budget allocated for PPP in the current fiscal (Tk 3,000 crore) would not be enough to meet the demands due to a number of awaiting projects. He said he was not sure on the amount to provide next year.

Mentioning that transport still remains a bottleneck in Bangladesh, Muhith said PPP could be a good option in developing land, river and seaports. "PPP is doing very well despite some pessimistic comments," he said.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman said the recently heightened concerns worldwide about sustainability of public debt levels in advanced economies indicate that PPPs are likely to be the dominant mode of infrastructure investments in the coming years everywhere.

Principal Secretary to the prime minister MA Karim, IPFF Project Director and Bangladesh Bank Executive Director SK Sur Chowdhury, World Bank financial sector expert AKM Abdullah and I-PAG Chairman Syed Munir Khasru also spoke.

515 more bullets seized

A CORRESPONDENT, Sherpur

Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday recovered 515 rounds of bullet and some leaflets and books printed by Indian separatist group ULFA from Gandhigaon, a frontier village in Jhenagati upazila of the district.

According to police, 3,636 rounds of bullets and three shells of rocket have been recovered from different areas of Jhenagati upazila in six separate drives over the last five months.

Paturia-Daulatdia Ferry service disrupted again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

The ferry service on Paturia-Daulatdia route was suspended for six hours on Thursday after a ferry ran aground on Padma river.

Paturia-bound Ro Ro ferry Shah Jalal carrying eight trucks and six small vehicles got stranded near Daulatdia ghat five minutes into its journey around 6:00pm on Thursday, said Daulatdia office sources of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC).

A rescue ferry rescued the stranded one at 12:00am yesterday, BIWTC officials said.



Nagarik Sangahati, a rights group, stages a demonstration in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding steps to ensure security of coastal fishermen and stop piracy.

PHOTO: STAR

Expired injection takes infant's life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An infant died minutes after he was allegedly injected with an expired medicine at Khulna Shishu Hospital on Thursday. Nine-month-old Shuvendu Dey, only son of Rabin Dey of Daulatpur, was admitted to the hospital on September 13 with intestinal disorder, cough, cold and high fever.

A female nurse of the hospital pushed the expired injection into the infant Thursday morning, alleged his parents.

A four-member committee headed by the hospital Secretary General Sheikh Abdul Kayyum was formed to probe into the reason behind the death, said Dr Kamruzzaman, the hospital superintendent.

They will also investigate into the circumstances that led to vandalism of some hospital properties later that day, he added.

Meanwhile Thursday night, victim's uncle Ramesh Dey filed a case with Khulna Police Station accusing three duty physicians including Dr Kamruzzaman, Dr Anwarul Azim and Dr Moniruzzaman for their negligence in this connection.

Talks to air Bangladeshi channels soon, says Indian minister

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India will talk to Bangladesh on taking steps so that Bangladeshi channels can be viewed in India.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ambika Soni here yesterday said she already spoke to her minister of state Chandra Mohan Jatua on the issue.

"We will speak to Bangladesh government. We will look into it," Soni told reporters in Kolkata after meeting Paschimbanga Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

The issue of viewing of Bangladesh TV channels in India came in Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's speech at Dhaka University on September 7 when he said commercial arrangements can be made so that Bangladeshis, when they visit India, and Indians can view those channels.

During Singh's visit, the state-owned TV channels of the two countries also signed an agreement for cooperation in audio-visual segment.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over the country.

Day temperature may rise by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital tomorrow at 6:01pm and rises on Sunday at 5:46am.

Country's highest temperature 31.4 degree Celsius was recorded today at Chuadanga and lowest 24.0 degrees at Chittagong.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.2	25.7	92	92
Chittagong	25.7	24.0	97	98
Rajshahi	29.0	25.5	96	97
Rangpur	28.0	25.0	91	92
Khulna	28.5	25.0	97	93
Barisal	28.0	25.0	97	96
Sylhet	31.1	25.6	89	93
Cox's Bazar	28.7	24.3	96	96