

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Learning to Fly.

PHOTO:  
IHTISHAM KABIR

## Street Photography

With the invention of photography in 1839, it became possible to make precise copies of fleeting instants of time. Two steps made it possible: creating a two-dimensional projection of the three-dimensional world, and “fixing” that projection on some medium such as film.

Photography changed the way people look at the world. A famous example: Eadward Muybridge's high-speed photographs of a horse proved that historical paintings of galloping horses were incorrect, and if horses really galloped the way they had been painted, they would fall.

It was as if a “pause” button for observing life had been invented. This led to new ways of looking at life and new genres of art.

Street photography is one such genre. It aims to capture the pure, raw expression of life on the street as people go about their business. The photographer's desire is to record the poetry of life as it unfolds, preferably without being observed.

A momentary expression or gesture, an instant of joy or sorrow, an unfolding drama, a dream passing before the eyes, the split-second when figures come together in perfect geometry - these are all subjects of street photography, which, at its best, transcends the mundane by capturing the essence of life.

While many photographers made their mark in street photography, it was the Frenchman Henri Cartier-Bresson who made the most remarkable photographs in this genre. His tool of choice was the Leica camera. Invented in 1922, Leica was the first small handheld camera using 35mm film.

Before then, cameras had been bulky wooden boxes which lived on heavy tripods.

Cartier-Bresson, who had studied surrealist painting and Zen Buddhism, once said that photography could “fix eternity in an instant.” Armed with the Leica he went, nimble on his feet, finding and capturing those instants. By dressing unobtrusively, hiding his camera, and moving about quickly, he was able to observe without being observed.

A result was a book of photographs called *The Decisive Moment*. In it, moments captured from everyday life, mostly life in the streets, are imbued with such grace, energy, even miracle, that sixty years after its publication - and thirty years after I first saw it - its photographs still take my breath away.

Today, photographers all over the world practice street photography. Recently, a Street Photography Festival in London attracted over 30000 attendees.

While it is legal, in general, to photograph anyone in a public place such as a street, it is important for a street photographer to be sensitive to the subject. A possible guideline: do no harm to the subject with your photography.

In many ways, Bangladesh is a street photographer's paradise. Not only are the streets throbbing with life, but people are, by and large, friendly and enjoy being photographed. This is in sharp contrast to Western countries, where, unless one is in a big city, one cannot find many people in the streets; and people in those big cities, more often than not, are suspicious of photographers.

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# Ctg train tickets in hand of touts

TAREK MAHMUD, Ctg

Angry ticket seekers demonstrated at Chittagong Railway Station when the fourth person in the queue failed to get tickets 20 minutes after opening of sale yesterday morning.

Alleging illegal sale of tickets, they besieged the station manager's room for more than one hour till Rapid Action Battalion arrived there around 11:00am and calmed down the situation.

Victims said ticket sale began at 9:00am yesterday, and around 9:20am the booking clerk (ticket seller) announced that all the advanced AC tickets of Dhaka bound Turna Nishita and Mahangar Godhuli for March 26 were sold out.

Ferdous Alam, a retired government staff, who had been standing in the queue since 6:30am, failed to collect any ticket though he was the fourth person.

"I asked for four AC tickets for Dhaka bound Turna Nishita Express for March 26. But the booking clerk told me that there was no more ticket for that day", he said.

Nazmul Huda, a software engineer and another ticket seeker, said computerised records showed that 111 AC tickets of Mahanagar Godhuli were sold within 20 minutes, when only three persons in the queue could buy tickets from the counter fixed for selling AC tickets.

A ticket seeker can legally buy at best four tickets at a time, but five tickets were sold from counter-8 at one time, he added.

Abdullah Al Mamun, another ticket

buyer, blamed a section of the station staff for creating artificial crisis of tickets so that they could sell them in black market at higher prices.

Referring to the record, he said, "It shows sale of 67 AC tickets from counter-6, but the railway authorities never sell AC tickets at any other counter except a particular counter".

The station authorities sat with the protesting ticket seekers in presence of the Rab men and submitted a written complaint, addressed to Divisional Commercial Officer of Railway (East), for proper legal actions in this connection.

Contacted, Chittagong Railway Station Manager AA Samsul Alam said, "We will inform it to the higher authorities so that they take necessary actions against the responsible persons".

Asked about link of the railway staffs to such crimes, he said the authorities would look into the matter.

Meanwhile, the Government Railway Police (GRP) caught a person when he was selling tickets illegally at Chittagong Railway Station on Thursday night.

The arrestee, Sanjib Sen, 37, hailed from Ratanpur village under Patiya upazila, Chittagong.

GRP members have seized 12 tickets of different routes from his possession, including six tickets of Dhaka bound Turna Nishita and two tickets of Sylhet bound Paharika Express, said Sub-inspector Osman Goni. A case was filed in this connection with GRP Thursday night.

## Man killed in clash over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

A man was killed and at least ten people were injured in a bloody clash between two groups of people over a disputed land in Shadua Damarhat village (shoal area) in Ulipur upazila yesterday morning.

The dead was identified as Majidul Mia, 50, son of late Mozahar Rahman of West Bachaihati village (near Shadua Damarhat village) in Shundarganj upazila of Gaibandha.

Police said Majidul Mia and Abdul Kader of Shadua Damarhat village had a long standing dispute over the 2.19 acres of land. Recently Kader has set up two houses on the land.

At 6:00am, about 50 people led by Majidul ransacked the houses to take control of the land. At one stage, people of Abdul Kader chased them that led the fierce clash, leaving ten people, including Majidul, seriously injured.

Of them, Mokter Ali, Golenur Begum, and Kamrul Islam of Kader group were admitted to Kurigram Sadar Hospital while Majidul Mia, Harun Ar Rashid and Golam Kibria to Ulipur Upazila Health Complex where Majidul Mia died at about 7:30am.

Police arrested Harun ar Rashid and Golam Kibria from the hospital.

A murder case was filed.

## Six containers seized at port

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Customs officials on Thursday night seized six containers imported under three consignments at Chittagong Port on charge of importing goods under false declaration.

The customs officials got undeclared goods after opening two containers while they will open two others on Sunday and two more on Tuesday.

A four-member probe body led by Joint Commissioner of Chittagong Customs House Jewel Ahmad was formed to investigate the matter, said sources in the customs house yesterday.

Other members of the committee are Deputy Commissioner Mahmudul Hoque, Revenue Officer Omar Faruq and a representative from audit section, they said.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khokan Dey, general secretary of Mohanagar Sarbojanin Puja Committee Gendaria Thana unit, passed away after a cardiac arrest at Gendaria Durga temple in the city yesterday. He was 50.

He left behind his wife, two children and a host of well-wishers to mourn his death.

The committee president Bires Chandra Saha and general secretary Babul Debnath, Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad President Advocate Subrata Chowdhury and General Secretary Mongol Chandra Ghosh expressed their deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

**Mujibul Haq Mazumder**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Mujibul Haq Mazumder, a retired official of Livestock Department, passed away yesterday at his elder son's residence at Chittagong Cantonment. He was 83.

He was suffering from kidney disease.

Mujibul left behind his wife, five daughters, two sons and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried in Khawja Garib Ullah Shah Mazar graveyard following namaz-e-janaza at the Mazar premises in the port city after Asr prayers.

# Now students do politics for money

## Say former student leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criticising the recent activities of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), former student leaders yesterday said the morality of politically active students have degraded as they only affiliate themselves in politics for financial gains.

They were addressing a discussion organised by Praktan Chhatra League Foundation, a platform of former BCL leaders and activists, at Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh.

They programme was organised to commemorate March 2, 1971 the day Dhaka University Central Students' Union leaders hoisted the Bangladesh flag for the first time in Dhaka University.

"Nowadays there is no importance of merit and educational competence, rather obedience is the main source of student politics," said the foundation Convener Nur-e-Alam Siddiqi.

Former minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam said when students get elected as leaders, they directly go to the engineering office of the universities to get tender.

Ruling Awami League lawmaker Tofael Ahmed blamed the spilt among student leaders after the Liberation War for the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975.

The discussants urged the government to declare the student leaders who played vital roles during the pre-liberation period as national heroes.

Lt Col Nurunnabi Khan Bir Bikrom and former student leaders MA Rashid, Nurul Fazal and Mostafa Mohsin Montu also addressed the discussion.



PHOTO: STAR

Artists perform at the Prothom Alo's tribute to the Concert for Bangladesh in 1971 and marking the country's 40 years of independence at Rabintra Sarobar in the city's Dhanmondi yesterday. The Concert for Bangladesh was organised by legendary sitar player Ravi Shankar and Beatles star George Harrison in Madison Square Garden of New York during the Liberation War of Bangladesh to raise fund and draw international support for Bangladesh.

# India allows cotton exports after scrutiny

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India yesterday allowed cotton exports to neighbouring countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh via land route after scrutinising the export orders that were issued before the ban.

On March 5, the government imposed a ban on cotton exports to increase its stocks for domestic users.

But the decision was rolled back following political pressure from India's ruling Congress Party and its key coalition partner Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar who heads the Nationalist Congress Party.

However, the Commerce Ministry decided that no fresh registration certificates (RCs) would be issued for exports and it would scrutinise all the RCs issued before the ban.

"The process of revalidation/scrutiny of all the registered contracts for export of cotton through the land custom stations with India's neighbour has been completed in the first lot of scrutiny," read an official statement.

India, the world's second largest cotton producer, issued RCs for 130 lakh bales (170 kg each) of cotton before the prohibition, out of which 95 lakh bales were shipped.

## NEWS IN brief

### Two 'commit suicide' in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people allegedly committed suicide in the capital on Thursday night.

In an incident, a teenage boy in the capital's Khilgoan area allegedly hanged himself on Thursday night, moments after the final match of Asia Cup ended.

The deceased was Muhammad Rocky, 17, son of Abdul Momen of Madani Jheelpara area.

His cousin Imran Hossain said Rocky was watching television while his family members were outside the home.

After returning back to the house, they found Rocky hanging from the ceiling fan in his room, Imran added.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

In another incident, a minor domestic help allegedly hanged himself from the window of a bathroom with a towel at a house in the city's Pallabi on Thursday night.

The deceased, Shariful Islam, 12, hailed from Lalmonirhat, was working at the house in Block-C in Section 12 of Mirpur for over a year and half, said Pallabi police.

Police recovered the body breaking open the bathroom door around 9:00pm on Thursday.

His employers said Shariful said the house residents informed the police of the matter n the afternoon. They could not ascertain the reason behind the death.

Police sent the body to DMC morgue for autopsy.

### Bulu gives Destiny 15 days to return Boishakhi Tv

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

MNH Bulu, chairman of BNS Group of Companies, yesterday said he will take legal action if Destiny Group did not return ownership of Boishakhi Television, a private television channel, to him in 15 days.

Addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club, Bulu said the High Court gave the verdict of the case he filed against Destiny Group in 2009 in his favour and he got the certified copy of the verdict last Wednesday.

Bulu alleged that Destiny Group forcibly took the channel's ownership from him in 2007 in exchange of Tk 3 crore and is still trying to keep it.

### 3 new BSS governing board members

BSS, Dhaka

The government has appointed three new members of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Governing Board to further improve overall management and administrative activities of the national news agency.

They are BSS City Editor Ajit Kumar Sarkar, Dainik Bhorer Kagoj Editor Shyamol Dutta and Chittagong-based Dainik Azadi Editor MA Malek.

With the appointment of three new members, the 11-member BSS board has become a full-fledged body.

The information ministry made the appointments on March 20 through a notification.

### Baby boy stolen in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An eight-month-old baby boy was allegedly stolen by a female domestic help from a house in Navy Hospital Gate area of Chittagong city Thursday evening.

Parents and relatives said Khadija, 20, a domestic help at the house of Md Saifur Rahman, father of the boy, fled with the child around 7:30pm.

Khadija worked at Saifur's house for the first time Thursday from 10:00am to 4:00pm, and went out for working in other houses.

As Khadija came back at 7:00pm, the mother handed the child over to her. Around 7:30pm neither the boy nor Khadija was found at home.

Badruzzaman, second officer of Bandar Police Station, said police were trying their best to find out the child.

Filing of a case was underway.



### Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Sylhet division and the regions of Comilla and Noakhali 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 and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

**The sun sets in the capital today at 6:11pm and rises tomorrow at 05:58am.**

Country's highest temperature 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Faridpur and lowest 13.7 degree at Rajshahi.

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	32.5	23.2	30	34
Chittagong	30.0	23.8	86	78
Rajshahi	32.8	13.7	37	33
Rangpur	30.0	16.2	55	40
Khulna	32.6	23.7	48	54
Barisal	33.0	25.4	85	49
Sylhet	33.5	24.2	62	47
Cox's Bazar	31.4	22.7	79	75