

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Atget's Paris.

PHOTO: EUGENE ATGET.

Atget's Paris

In the early 1900s, many American artists came to Paris to live and work. Among them was the young photographer Berenice Abbott, who in 1923 became assistant for the master photographer Man Ray. Abbott was a relative newcomer to photography. One day Man Ray showed her some photographs of Paris taken by a Frenchman. Abbott immediately liked the photographs and sought out their creator.

The photographs were made by a virtually unknown photographer called Atget.

Abbott met Atget four or five times around 1925, admired his substantial body of work, and became an advocate for it. However, Atget was in ill health and passed away in 1927. Abbott, continuing her promotion of Atget's work, edited a book of his photographs in 1930. As Abbott's own career blossomed and she became famous, so did the work left behind by Atget.

Who was Atget? What did he photograph?

Eugene Atget was born near Bordeaux in 1857. Details of his early life are sketchy. His parents died early, and he first took up acting, then painting, eventually turning to photography when he was forty. He made his living selling photographs to painters as "documents" to paint from.

Almost every day for thirty years, Atget rose at the crack of dawn and traipsed all day through Paris carrying his camera equipment. At that time photography was cumbersome: cameras were big and required a tripod. Between camera, lens, tripod and film-holders for his sheet film, Atget's gear easily weighed twenty kilograms.

Paris was becoming a modern city, with the old buildings and streets being torn down to be replaced with newer constructions. A new Metro was being

built. Atget made it his mission to capture the old Paris with his camera before it disappeared altogether.

What made Atget's photographs so special that even today, so long after his death, they are greatly loved?

More than anything else, Atget's photographs were about creating a document, as objective and clear-sighted as possible, of disappearing Paris. While the subject matter has sentimental overtones - a beautiful old city making way for a dynamic modern one - the way in which Atget documented it was anything but sentimental. His photographs have no soft-focus or other painterly effects - only crisp, precise, unblinking looks at many parts of the city, including its storefronts, stairways, streets, gardens and buildings. He often relied on long exposures in early morning light, lending his photographs a distinct look. His compositions are meticulous and well-balanced, have great depth of field and, above all, are utterly and astonishingly beautiful.

That is why Atget's work is revered: he brought out the possibility inherent in the medium of photography to attain something unique, without any confusion or compromise, and did it in his own style, all at a time when photography was trying to find its identity and many photographers were busy trying to be like painters.

While Atget's work was never exhibited during his lifetime, there have been numerous posthumous exhibitions of his work in museums throughout the world. Thanks in part to Berenice Abbott's tireless advocacy, Atget's photos of Paris are recognized as masterpieces of world photography today.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir.

Traders bring animals in city defying time bar

HELEMUL ALAM

In a bid to take up a favourable spot, traders are bringing sacrificial animals to the capital's makeshift markets nearly a week ahead of the period Dhaka city corporations had allowed for their arrival marking Eid-ul Azha on October 27.

The city corporations (south and north) had allowed four days, from October 24, for traders to bring sacrificial animals and for running the 19 sites leased out across the city this year to minimise traffic congestion and public nuisance.

However, this correspondent yesterday found most markets running.

Many traders are sending their representatives to reserve favourable spots. A banner in one part of a market in Kamalapur's Balurmath reads "This is the spot for Pabna's Rob Bepari to keep his 50 cows."

Though the market leaseholders are not supposed to charge Hasil, a percentage of the price paid by the buyers of sacrificial animals, in excess of the four days, some of them were found involved in the malpractice.

It is totally illegal to run the markets in excess of the four days, said Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Estate Officer Mohammad Didarul Alam.

DSCC Executive Magistrate Ananda Kumar Biswas said a meeting over the irregularities would be held in DSCC tomorrow and a drive would be carried

out as per the meeting's instructions.

Legal action would be taken against the leaseholders found to have crossed the specific boundary lines delineated for their markets. No market has been allowed on the streets, he said.

Ananda said legal action would also be taken against leaseholders charging in excess of the Hasil rate, fixed at five per cent of the purchase price this year.

Moreover, DSCC will deploy health inspectors to detect and remove sick animals from the markets, he said.

The markets in DSCC are in Kamalapur's Balurmath; Dhupkhola's East End Club field; playgrounds of Jigatala-Hajaribagh, Rahmatganj, Meradia Bazar, Armanitola, Maitri Shanga in Khilgaon and Sadeque Hossain Khoka; the Adarsha School field and its adjoining open spaces in Golapbagh; and an open space adjoining Postogola crematory.

Dhaka North City Corporation leased markets in Uttara Azampur Government Primary School field; Dhaka Polytechnic Institute's playground; open spaces in Bonorupa Housing Project, Agargaon Slum, Eastern Housing in Mirpur Section-6 and Sonargaon Janopath in Uttara Sector-11; open spaces adjoining Taltala Bus Stop and Banani-Kakoli Rail Station; and a roadside open space in Baridhara Block J.

Besides, the Gabtoli cattle market runs throughout the year.



PHOTO: STAR

Dhakabashi, an organisation, arranged a henna festival at Teacher-Student Centre of Dhaka University yesterday ahead of Eid-ul Azha.

Ramu attack worries young Buddhists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The young Buddhists have termed the Ramu violence an attack on their existence, which has been jeopardised through trepidation and mistrust.

"We are really worried about our future in the country as we are falling victims to attacks and violence in different places," said Probal Barua Sani, a private university student in Chittagong.

"We are now living with an inferiority complex, which seriously affects our psyche," he told The Daily Star at the Second Buddhist Youth Festival-2012 at the capital's Bangladesh Shishu Academy yesterday.

Several other youths who attended the festival echoed Sani.

The daylong festival included discussion, magic show, fun show, documentary show, career seminars, jubo adda, and quiz competition.

Although the festival was supposed to be a source of great enjoyment for the Buddhist youths, the September 29 attack in Ramu in Cox's Bazar and some other places in Chittagong has overshadowed it.

A young jobholder, Ripon Barua, said he did not want to recall the ugly and terrible experiences of the violence and wanted live peacefully with all other communities.

Founder Chairman of Buddhist Youth Festival Group Charu Uttam Barua said the young generation would prove through their activities that the Buddhists and their culture were not any different in the country.

Educationist Prof Muhammad Zafar Iqbal said there was no scope to consider any particular community separately because all were citizens of this country.

Terming the Ramu violence a failure of the administration, he urged the government to be alert about the evil forces so that such incident does not repeat.

Two Shibir men arrested over Ramu violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two activists of pro-Jamaat student organisation Islami Chhatra Shibir were held yesterday on charge of their involvement in vandalism at a Buddhist temple in Cox's Bazar on September 30.

The arrestees are Mohammad Emran, 22, son of Kalu Mia, and Ziabur Rahman, 27, son of Sayed Alam. Both are residents of Uttar Khamarpara area of Chowfaldondi of Cox's Bazar.

Jashim Uddin, officer-in-charge of Cox's Bazar Model Police Station, said they arrested the people from Khamarpara of Chowfaldondi area around 5:00am.

Mahmudul Haque, sub-inspector at

the police station, said the arrestees took part in vandalism of a Buddhist temple in Khurolia Barua Para.

Police filed two cases with Cox's Bazar Police Station the next day of the incident. Of the cases -- one was filed for vandalising the temple and another for assaulting policemen, he said, adding that the arrestees were shown arrested in the cases.

Meanwhile, police yesterday evening arrested another person from Ramu on charge of torching and vandalising Buddhist temples on September 29.

The arrestee is Rahamat Ullah, 30, son of Jabor Ullah, resident of Lamarpar Ukhia Ghona of Ramu.

Admin's silence slammed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Slamming the administration for its silent role during the violence in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong, speakers at a rally yesterday demanded punishment for the responsible persons of the local administration.

They also demanded a judicial probe to be headed by a former Supreme Court judge to find the culprits involved in the violence.

Convener of Gono Oikya Committee Pankaj Bhattacharya blamed the local administration for the incident, saying it aided the violence.

"The administration which remained silent during the Ramu incident would also remain silent if any attack was made on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," he told the citizens' rally before Teacher-Student Centre, Dhaka University.

He also asked the premier to be aware of the administration.

On September 29-30, a mob destroyed 12 Buddhist pagodas and over 50 houses in Ramu and Patiya.



Participants at a rally at Teacher-Student Centre of Dhaka University yesterday protesting the attack on Buddhists.

PHOTO: STAR

NEWS IN brief

Political parties demand judicial probe into attack on Buddhists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of seven political parties at a rally on Thursday demanded the government to conduct judicial probe into the recent attack on Buddhists and ensure security during Durga puja across the country.

Protesting the recent communal attacks, the seven political parties -- Workers' Party of Bangladesh, Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity, Ganatantri party, Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal, Gana Azadi League, Gana Oikya and Communist Kendra -- jointly organised the rally on Jatiya Press Club premises.

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon said fundamentalists are conspiring to foil the war

11 robbers held with boats, arms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG) arrested 11 robbers with three fishing boats, a huge quantity of fish and some sharp weapons from the outer anchorage area of Chittagong Port early yesterday.

A team of BCG East Zone led by Lt Commander Atiqur Rahman arrested the people after conducting drives from 1:00am to 6:00am, a BCG source said.

The BCG team seized the boats containing 300kg of fish, three knives, two machetes, three shovels, three grapnels, a small anchor and ropes from their possession, the source said.

Mob kills mugger in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

An alleged mugger was killed and another injured in a mob beating in Amasu-Kukul area of Rangpur city yesterday morning.

The deceased was Bappy, 22, son of Saiful Islam of New Jummapara, while the injured was his accomplice, Abdur Rahim, 25, son of Abdul Gani.

Police said the mob beat them when they tried to flee after snatching a battery-run auto-rickshaw.

They were rushed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital, where Bappy died.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Biplobder Kotha will organise a discussion on eight revolutionaries; Venue: Liberation War Museum; Time: 4:00pm.

Memorial lecture

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh will hold the Professor Shafiqur Rahman Memorial Lecture 2012; Venue: its auditorium; Time: 4:30pm.

Protest rally

Gonotantik Bam Morcha will organise a rally protesting border killing; Venue: before Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.

Lecture

Muktachinta Forum will organise a solo lecture on recent political trends; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 11:00am.

Human chain

Muslim-Hindu-Buddha-Christian Sampriti Parishad will form a human chain protesting the recent attacks on Buddhists; Venue: before Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Human chain

Shamajik Protirodh Committee will form a human chain protesting the

recent attack on Buddhists; Venue: before Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:00pm.

Conference

Department of English, Dhaka University will organise an international conference on "Teaching and Learning English through Technology"; Venue: Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban; Time: 9:30am.

Discussion

Association for Land Reform and Development will hold a discussion on food security; Venue: Cirdap Auditorium; Time: 10:00am.

Seminar

Bangladesh National Museum will organise a seminar in celebration of "Dhaka, the Capital of Islamic Culture for Asian Region 2012"; Venue: Ahsan Majil Museum; Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Society of the Deaf and Sign Language Users will organise a discussion on caring for deaf children; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 3:30pm.

Discussion

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Light fog is likely to occur over the river basins of the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:28pm and rises tomorrow at 5:59am.

Country's highest temperature 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Bhola and lowest 20.0 degrees at Dinajpur.

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	33.8	25.7	65	67
Chittagong	32.8	25.6	89	80
Rajshahi	32.2	21.0	77	78
Rangpur	31.6	20.8	71	70
Khulna	33.0	24.3	79	83
Barisal	33.0	24.5	82	92