

# TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Decorated cow.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

## Cattle Market Blues

While it is hard to claim a special love for cattle markets, they are nevertheless unique places. The largest such markets assemble before Eid ul Azha and I recently spent some time in one in old Dhaka's Naya Bazar.

I was there ostensibly to help my friend Tutul pick out a Bhutti cow. These rare miniature cows have tender meat. Another friend, Sami, had sent searchers to the city's cattle markets and had located them here. So the three of us showed up, and of course I had camera in hand.

An Eid cattle market with many large angry animals and annoyed people searching for a satisfactory *Qurbani* can be a stressful place.

There are several things to watch for.

The most important is to avoid standing behind a cow. In particular, move quickly if the tail goes up as this indicates the cow is about to relieve itself.

When you enter the market, you will probably step carefully avoiding the ubiquitous cow dung. However, you will soon realise the futility of this. Before the day is over, you will become immune to the sight and smell of dung as it will permeate your entire body. Tell yourself that dung is a Good Thing, and much of the food you eat today - vegetables, fruits, rice - owe their existence to dung.

At least dung did not frighten me. Cows being moved from point A to point B were another story. A commotion behind with shouts of "Goru Ailo (cow coming!)" alerted me to this danger. When I turn around to investigate, I saw a gigantic cow,

seemingly out of control, chasing two men who were allegedly leading it to point B. People were jumping pell-mell to get out of its way, and when I realised the cow was headed for me, for a split second I felt the excitement those people in Pamplona must feel during the "running of the bulls." Then I jumped wide and landed in an ankle-deep puddle of dung.

How to photograph in this excitement? Cows are visually boring, and the chaos made it hard to compose any decent photograph, but I was struck by the extraordinarily colourful decorations placed on the animals. Some cows had decorated horns, others had elaborate garlands around their necks, and still others had simple coloured paper stuck on their foreheads.

While photographing, I spoke with several cattle salesmen. They wore glum looks as they told tales of low prices. For the days the market lasted, the sellers stayed next to their cows day and night. Their living conditions were miserable.

Most of the sellers I met came from Kushtia which is a major cattle-producing region. The farmers buy immature cows and fatten them in their farms or homesteads.

After the Bhutti cow was purchased, walking it back along the road was another adventure. The next day I returned alone for more photographs, but by then prices had fallen even more, and the previous day's festive mood - including cow decorations - was just a memory.

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# Give Jamaat-Shibir men to police

## Home minister urges citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Warning that fundamentalist forces would be contained strictly as per the country's laws, Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir yesterday urged citizens to catch Jamaat-Shibir men, wherever they were found, and hand them over to police.

He said as police was the government's "democratic battalion", they showed the highest patience after being attacked by Jamaat-e-Islami and pro-Jamaat student organisation Islami Chhatra Shibir men for "four consecutive days".

But police would no more show restraint, warned the AL Presidium member.

Addressing a protest rally on Bangabandhu Avenue with Jubo League Chairman Omar Faroque Chowdhury in the chair, Alamgir urged citizens to remain alert so that reactionary forces do not get the opportunity to create anarchy.

Jubo Sangram Parishad, a platform of youth bodies of the ruling AL-led 14-party combine, organised the rally protesting the attacks and vandalism of public property by the Jamaat-Shibir men.

Workers' Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon said time had come again to build resistance against fundamentalist forces.

BNP's leaders were demanding release of war criminals who were facing trial for their crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War. They were patronising Jamaat-Shibir's planned violence to protect the latter, he said.

Omar Faroque said the time had come to think about the role of police following the attack. Fundamentalist forces carried out attacks one after another but the role of police is not clear, he said.

He questioned whether followers of Lutfozzaman Babar, the former state minister for home facing trial in different cases including the one for the August 21 grenade attack on a 2004 AL rally, were becoming active in the police force.

Jubo League General Secretary Harunur Rashid, Jatiya Jubo Jote President Rokunuzzaman Rokon, Jubo Maitree President Mostafa Alamgir Raton and Jatiya Jubo Oikya President Khairul Alam also spoke on the occasion.



The entire carriageway of a stretch of the capital's Sayedabad road, which was temporarily repaired just ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, has returned to bad shape again. The photo was taken near Sayedabad level-crossing yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

## Trade unions vital as labour law ineffective

Say rights activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's existing labour law and court are not satisfactory in protecting workers' rights, opined labour rights activists and trade union leaders yesterday.

A combined effort of all stakeholders is necessary to make the labour justice system effective, they said. They stressed the need for trade unions in ensuring justice of labourers.

The opinions came at the inauguration of a two-day workshop titled "Labour Justice System to Protect Labour Rights: Present Status and Imperatives" organised by Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies at a hotel in the capital.

Rajekuzzaman Ratan, general secretary of Socialist Labour Front, said the existing labour law was not properly implemented while it was being mostly used to rule the labourers and curb their rights.

Justice Nirmalendu Dhar said the scope of Bangladesh Labour Law, 2006 needs to be widened and it must recognise anybody who worked for a wage as labourers.

# Pro-liberation forces urged to be united to tackle Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political leaders, educationalists and an economist yesterday emphasised unity among pro-liberation political and social organisations to tackle anti-liberation and communal forces in the country.

They also urged the government to take stern action against Jamaat-e-Islami particularly regarding donations they receive from abroad.

Speakers were addressing a discussion styled "Mayhem of Jamaat: Trial of War Criminals and Future of Democracy" in the capital's Liberation War Museum auditorium.

Following the recent Jamaat's and Islami Chhatra Shibir's violence

across the country, Gano Oikya organised the discussion with its Convenor Pankaj Bhattacharya in the chair.

Bimal Biswas, politburo member of Workers' Party of Bangladesh, said people have seen the atrocities Jamaat committed during the Liberation War and their recent "mayhem" across the country.

"To tackle their anarchy, everybody should stand against them," he said.

Khandaker Ibrahim Khaled, chairman of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, said Jamaat receives financial support from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

"It is not possible to weaken them

unless their source of funds is cut off and it is the government's responsibility to take action in this regard," said Khaled, also an economist.

Pro-liberation forces have to work together so that the ongoing trial of war criminals is not stopped, said Syed Abu Jafar Ahmed, general secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh.

Pankaj Bhattacharya vowed to initiate a movement uniting all progressive forces against the communal forces.

Educationalist Prof Syed Anwar Hossain and Sharif Nurul Ambia, general secretary of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, were present among others.

## India ready to extend agri assistance

Pranab tells Matia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India is ready to extend assistance to Bangladesh in the field of agriculture, said Indian President Pranab Mukherjee on Wednesday.

"Multifaceted cooperation between the two countries has further strengthened through a number of initiatives taken by both sides over the recent past.

"India is happy to contribute and participate in Bangladesh's development," he told Bangladesh's Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury during a meeting on Wednesday night.

Matia is in India to explore bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture.

During the meeting, Indian Water Resources Minister Harish Rawat said New Delhi would help Bangladesh set up small facilities for irrigation.

A Rashtrapati Bhavan statement on Thursday said, "The president conveyed to the agriculture minister that India would be happy to extend every assistance possible in the field of agriculture."



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands over to Sanghanayaka Suddhananda Mahathero the deed for a piece of land adjoining the capital's Dharmarajika Buddhist Monastery at International Peace Conference yesterday. The land will be used for building an auditorium for the monastery located in Kamalapur. PHOTO: PID

# NEWS IN brief

## Muhith's comment on Dr Yunus personal: Hanif

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Finance Minister AMA Muhith's comment on Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus at a programme on Thursday was his personal opinion and not the government's, said Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif.

Hanif, also special assistant to the prime minister, told this to journalists after attending a citizens' assembly in Kushtia organised by Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad Kushtia district unit yesterday.

"Dr Yunus had the scope to do a lot for the country abroad," said Hanif. But the Grameen Bank founder did not do that, he added.

## HKI's president due today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kathy Spahn, president and CEO of Helen Keller International (HKI), will arrive in Dhaka today on a five-day visit to observe the organisation's programmes in Bangladesh.

During the visit, she will meet the government's high-ups of food, health, and nutrition sectors, said a press release.

She will also visit the HKI's Diabetic Retinopathy, Education, Training and Treatment programme in Chittagong and Homestead Food Production programme in Satkhira.

## Apollo Hospitals launches info centre in Narayanganj

METRO DESK

The Apollo Hospitals Dhaka launched an information centre at 128, BB Road, Sugandha Palace (beside Dhaka Bank) in Narayanganj yesterday.

The hospital's Senior Consultant of General and Laparoscopic Surgery Dr Anisur Rahman, and Director of Human Resources Sarath Jayasinghe, among others, were present in the inaugural function, said a press release.

The hospital has been providing similar services to local people through such centres in Chittagong, Sylhet, Bogra, Khulna, Comilla and

## Jubo League to observe 40th founding anniversary tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Awami Jubo League, the youth wing of ruling AL, will observe its 40th founding anniversary tomorrow.

To mark the day, a discussion meeting will be held in the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina will attend the



### Roundtable

The Daily Star will organise a roundtable to discuss different aspects of the draft Science and Technology Policy Action Plan; Venue: The Daily Star Centre (conference room, level-3); Time: 10:30am.

### Human chain

Save the Environment Movement will form a human chain demanding a stop to the pollution and encroachment on Buriganga River; Venue: before Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University; Time: 11:00am.

### Citizens' rally

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon will

organise a citizens' rally demanding the removal of power plant projects from adjacent areas of the Sundarbans; Venue: before Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

### Homage

National Committee to Observe Manabendra Narayan Lama's 29th Death Anniversary will organise programmes to pay homage to Manabendra Narayan Lama; Venue: Shoparjito Swadhinata Chatter, Dhaka University; Time: 2:30pm.

### Wreath placing

Shaheed Noor Hossain Sangsad will place wreaths in remembrance of



# WEATHER TODAY

## Temperature may remain unchanged

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today.

Light fog may occur over the river basin of the country during early morning, Met Office said.

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

The lowest minimum temperature is likely to be 16-17 degree Celsius and highest maximum temperature may be 30-31 degree Celsius.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:15pm and rises tomorrow at 6:11am.

Country's highest temperature 31.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 15.6 degrees at Rangpur.

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	28.6	19.8	53	66
Chittagong	29.9	23.2	78	62
Rajshahi	29.0	16.6	83	77
Rangpur	27.2	15.6	95	65
Khulna	30.0	20.4	75	73
Barisal	29.0	20.3	85	91
Sylhet	28.0	19.0	72	81