

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Pied Kingfisher.

PHOTO:
NIAZ ABDUR RAHMAN

An Exhibition of Birds

I have never been to Bhutan, though I have always wanted to visit this magical land in the mountains. Recently, though, I got a taste of Bhutan when I went to see a photography exhibition called "Beautiful Birds of Bhutan and Bangladesh" at the Shilpakala Academy. It featured sixty-three photographs by three Bhutanese and six Bangladeshi photographers.

This was the second joint exhibition of Bhutanese and Bangladeshi bird photographers. The first one – supported by the Bhutanese and Bangladeshi governments – was held in Bhutan last year.

The exhibition was sponsored and organised by the Bangladesh Bird Club, a group of sixty bird enthusiasts which was formed eighteen years ago. The Club works for bird conservation, including bird census, bird-ringing (for tracking and monitoring) and raising awareness of nature and birds – including threats to their survival – among the general population. Prominent birder Enam Ul Haque – who is also General Secretary of the Club – curated the exhibition.

Upon entering the exhibit hall, I saw the work of Yeshey Dorji. His portraits of Bhutanese birds were astonishing. A scarlet minivet seemed to come alive as did a beautifully exotic pheasant called satyr tragopan. Even though Dorji must have used a long telephoto lens, one did not get the feeling of peeping to that such a lens often imparts to the photo. Instead, the details and colour on the birds were impeccable and looking at them was almost like meeting them face to face.

Another Bhutanese photographer was Rebecca Pradhan, an ecologist who, among other things, works on saving the critically endangered white-bellied heron. Among her photos at the exhibition was a

poignant portrait of this bird.

A close-up of a spotted laughingthrush perched on a wooden fence was one of the works shown by Sonam Wangdi who works on wildlife conservation for the Bhutanese government. The expression on the bird's eyes is sharp, almost as menacing as his sharp claws which stand out in the photograph.

While Bhutanese photographs were mostly portraits of birds, Bangladeshi photographers showed birds in mostly dynamic settings.

Niaz Abdur Rahman – a noted eye-surgeon and Club President – showed several photographs including one of a pied kingfisher hovering in the air just before diving into the water. Since they are very quick, one needs to kingfisher habits very well to capture such a moment.

Majeda Haq's profile photograph of a grey-headed fish eagle, sitting with wings half-open, observing his domain and ready to pounce, shows the power of this majestic bird.

A suspenseful moment when a marsh harrier swooped down from above to attack a flock of swamphens was caught by Muntasir Kareem.

Groups of birds featured prominently among Mushfiq Ahmed's photographs. In particular, his photograph of a vibrant flock of Indian skimmers against a crisp blue sky was like a painting.

Three pied avocets, taking off in perfect order as if in a time-lapse photograph, was one of the photographs by Sanjar Rahul, who also showed a graceful pheasant-tailed jacana.

Shimanto Dipu showed a series of photographs from bird-rich Tanguar Haor including beautiful red-crested pochards and glossy ibis.

I left hoping that this splendid exhibition becomes an annual event in the future.

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ANTI-WAR CRIMINAL MOVEMENT

Rallies held in Ctg, Khulna

STAR REPORT

Hundreds of people rallied in Chittagong and Khulna cities yesterday as part of their ongoing movement to demand death penalty for all war criminals.

The rallies were called from Shahbagh Projonmo Chatter.

People of all walks of life streamed to the Gonojagoron Mancha in front of Chittagong Press Club and joined the rally at 3:00pm, reports our Chittagong correspondent.

They were shouting anti-war criminal slogans and singing patriotic songs.

A signature collection campaign was also under way on the six-point demand, which includes banning of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Noted filmmaker Morshedul Islam expressed solidarity with the demand, joining the rally in the port city.

He said the youths of today had woken

up, and they would bear the spirit of the Liberation War. He called upon the youth to stick to their movement until the final victory arrives.

The people from Khulna city and neighbouring areas joined the rally at Gallamary killing field, which started at 4:15pm, reports our Khulna correspondent.

The participants chanted slogans, sang the national anthem, and observed one minute's silence in memory of the Liberation War martyrs.

The demonstrators also strongly condemned the radical forces' anti-Islam propaganda and urged the people to boycott Jamaat's 48-hour hartal beginning Sunday.

The organisers announced to hold a rally at Chuknagar on March 8. They said tougher programmes would be declared there if Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman, who provoked religious sentiment against the youth movement, was not arrested.



Students taking their SSC examination on the weekly holiday yesterday, which was rescheduled for Jamaat-e-Islami's recent hartal. The photo was taken at Motijheel Model High School in the capital.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

BCL leader stabbed in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A local leader of pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was stabbed allegedly by activists of pro-Jamaat student body Islami Chhatra Shibir in the capital's Uttar Badda area yesterday.

The victim was Mahmudul Hasan Bijoy, 23, general secretary of BCL Ward No 21 unit of Dhaka North City Corporation.

He is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital with five cut wounds in different parts of his body.

Bijoy, also a student of philosophy department at Government Titumir College, said some four to five Shibir activists stabbed him when he came out of his house around 2:30pm.

"The Shibir activists started stabbing me, saying that I took part in the procession celebrating the announcement of Delawar Hossain Sayedee's death penalty," he said.

Badda Police Station Officer-in-Charge Iqbal Hossain, however, said Bijoy was stabbed as a sequel to a feud over business.

"We have already identified the attackers," he said that they were trying to arrest them.

STUDENTS' UNION POLLS Ten injured as two BCL factions clash

A CORRESPONDENT,
Gopalganj

Ten students of MA Khaleq Degree College in Kashiani upazila of Gopalganj district were injured following a clash between two rival Bangladesh Chhatra League groups after the college's students' union election result was made public on Thursday.

Of the injured, Ashlam Sheikh, Fayshal Bin Heron, Mehadi Hasan, Sheikh Md Tuhin, Jewel Rana, and Likhon Sheikh were admitted to Kashiani Upazila Health Complex while the rest were treated at local clinics.

Police said supporters of the BCL panel of Azad-Sawpon came out before the college on College Road after the election results, which was announced around 10:30pm, stated that they had won.

There they engaged in altercations with supporters of the independent panel of Peter-Helal, who are also BCL activists. Within half an hour, the former launched the attack, leading to the clash, added police.

The college's Principal KM Mahmud said he had heard about the clash involving the two BCL groups.

He said the two panels were among three which contested in Thursday's election. The third panel is of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

KM Mahmud said a total of 995 out of 1,085 students cast their votes in the election.

NEWS IN brief

ASK condemns Jamaat-Shibir violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday condemned the atrocities of Jamaat-e-Islami and Jamaat backed Islami Chhatra Shibir on Thursday, after the verdict sentencing Delawar Hossain Sayedee to death was announced.

Expressing grief over Thursday's incidents, ASK said Jamaat and Shibir are trying to destroy Bangladesh's religious harmony, said a press release.

On Thursday, at least 40 people were killed and about 200 others were injured in a burst of violence as Jamaat-Shibir activists clashed with police after

ACCA brand awareness fair launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), Bangladesh launched a two-day brand awareness fair on the British Council premises in the capital yesterday.

Four approved learning partners of ACCA are taking part in the fair, which ends today, said a press release. The partners are: LCBS Dhaka, Chartered University College, IBS and Saifur's University College.

Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, chairman of the University Grants Commission, attended the inaugural programme of the fair as chief guest, said a press release.

40 held for illegal border crossing at Benapole

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) held 40 people when they were trying to enter Indian territory illegally through Kharidanga bordering area near Benapole yesterday.

Of the arrestees, 17 were men, 14 women and nine children.

Benapole BGB Camp Commander Rafiqul said they could not arrest the human traffickers as they fled the scene sensing presence of the BGB team.

Later, the arrested were handed over to Benapole Port Police Station.

CRP sponsored walk held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) organised its annual sponsored walk at Rabindra Sarobar in the capital's Dhanmondi yesterday.

In the programme, about 80 disabled people, on wheelchairs, completed five laps around Rabindra Sarobar with the slogan "Break the barriers to equal access, walk towards an inclusive world".

CRP organised the walk to raise funds for the organisation. The registered participants donated a certain amount of money for each complete lap.

Epyllion Group, Pepsi and Queen's University sponsored the programme.



Workshop

Ain o Salish Kendra, and Bangladesh Legal and Services Trust will arrange a workshop on family alteration; Venue: LGED Bhaban; Time: 9:30am.

Convention

Sushasoner Janyo Pracharabhijan will organise a national convention to realise the rights of deprived people; Venue: LGED auditorium, Agargaon; Time: 9:00am.

Dialogue

The Oggro will hold a dialogue on economy; Venue: RC Majumder Arts Auditorium, Dhaka University; Time: 3:00pm.

Sit-in

Sangbidhanik Odhikar Forum will stage a sit-in on caretaker government system; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Roundtable

Paribesh Bachao Andolon will arrange a roundtable discussion on safe food law; Venue: Jatiya Press



WEATHER
TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged and night temperature may fall lightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:02pm and rises tomorrow at 6:19am.

Country's highest temperature 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and lowest 13.0 degree Celsius at Rangamati.

Highest and lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.4	20.0	37	30
Chittagong	32.2	19.6	53	41
Rajshahi	29.8	15.2	50	41
Rangpur	27.8	16.5	57	53
Khulna	30.5	16.3	50	48
Barisal	30.2	17.0	55	66
Sylhet	32.8	17.7	57	40



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

One of the six coaches which came off tracks near Feni railway station yesterday, suspending rail communications between Chittagong and other parts of the country for 12 hours. The derailment occurred as the track bolts and fasteners were removed by unknown miscreants.