

# TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Wealth of green at Satgao Tea Estate.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

## GREEN

Green is the most salient colour of our land. It appears in numerous varieties and has influenced our lives, our thinking, our emotions and our creativity from time immemorial. Our poets, story-tellers, painters, singers and photographers have all partaken from this green splendour. Unlike the Eskimos who have numerous words for snow, Bangla and its dialects have a small set of words for green. One of these, in Sylheti, is "kochua" - referring to the colour of *kochupata*.

Green is also one of the three primary colours, the others being red and blue. That means any colour can be made by mixing appropriate amounts of green, red and blue; it also means there is a little bit of green in almost all colours that we see. When we look at something, the eye passes this visual information to the brain which processes and recognizes the scene; green contributes the lion's share of information passed to the brain. Put another way, 60% of the information of any scene comes from green, the other 40% from red and blue.

Green plays an important role in nature because it is the colour of chlorophyll, the substance in all plants and grass that converts the sun's energy into plant food and changes carbon dioxide to oxygen. But today, the popular meaning of green has come to encompass everything friendly to nature and ecology. This meaning has extended to all spheres of language and increasingly connotes the fragility of our planet and our efforts to save it from destruction. Green denotes not

just beauty but our attempts to save the earth from ourselves.

But has green always enjoyed this overarching exalted status? Note that humans have appreciated the beauty of flowers and birds for centuries. So much so that in psychology, not appreciating and enjoying flowers is considered a sign of clinical depression. But green has not been a symbol of beauty in historical times. For example, forests and mountains were considered hostile places in the imagination of our forefathers. In any number of fairy tales - recall Hansel and Gretel - the green, dark forest hides dangers, demons and death.

Green has other meanings, too. For example, it is tied to envy, as in "When Mrs. Jones saw her neighbour's new car, she turned green with envy." If someone appears sick or nauseous, we say they are looking green. Being the colour of the American dollar bill, green is also linked with money. And in the land of science fiction, aliens are often "little green men."

Be that as it may, there is something extraordinary about the green we see in the Bangladesh countryside. It soothes me with its infinite variations, its richness and its calming effect (perhaps because of a subconscious association with food.) In particular, the sublime green of our rainy season reminds me of life's continuous renewal, and how generous and forgiving our planet is and how urgent it is we take every step to save it.

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## PADMA BRIDGE GRAFT Govt to take action: Inu

OUR CORRESPONDENT, KUSHIA

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday said the government would take action against persons found involved in the Padma bridge graft and hence tarnishing Bangladesh's image.

"There is no chance of escape," he said after inaugurating a newly built building of Kharara Primary School in Kushia's Mirpur upazila.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police announced on Wednesday to have charged a former senior executive of SNC-Lavalin and two influential Bangladeshi businessmen and lobbyists with bribery related to the Montreal-based engineering giant's failed bid to oversee the building of the \$3-billion bridge.

Citing BNP Joint Secretary Ruhul Kabir Rizvi's comment on Wednesday that "slowly the cat will be out of the bag".

"How can BNP talk about corruption when the two sons of its chief fled the country with specific corruption allegations against them," he said, adding that if BNP wanted democracy then it should follow democracy's norms.

## Japanese tourist falls prey to Jamaat terror

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CIG

Sitting by the window, Shiho Nishiyami was travelling back to Dhaka from her three-day trip to Cox's Bazar on Thursday night. Suddenly, the bus was showered with bricks and stones from both sides, and a projectile struck her left eye holing through the window pane.

"Her eye was bleeding," said Krishna Raj, supervisor of the Hanif Paribahan bus, which came under the attack by pickets during the second day of Jamaat-e-Islami's 48-hour shutdown when it reached Keranihat of Satkania upazila, Chittagong around 11:00pm.

The bus soon took her to a hospital in Keranihat, he said. The 31-year-old Japanese woman was treated primarily there before being taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) around 1:30am yesterday.

Dr Saidul Alam Prince, associate professor at the nuclear medicine department at CMCH, where she was admitted, said the cornea and lens of her left eye were badly bruised, and the infection might spread to the right eye. "If not treated abroad in time, she might lose both eyes," he told The Daily Star.

After her arrival, the CMCH authorities contacted the Japanese embassy in Dhaka, from where a three-member team came to Chittagong and flew her to Dhaka around 7:20pm last night, the doctor said, adding that Nishiyami would be taken to Bangkok.

The Japanese woman arrived here on September 5 on her first-ever visit to Bangladesh, said Dr Saidul, who took the details from the victim. She travelled to Cox's Bazar on September 17 and was scheduled to fly to Nepal at 10:00am yesterday, he added.

## DU student killed under wheels of train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, COMILLA

A Dhaka University student was killed and his grandmother was injured after they fell under a running train when they tried to get down from it in Nather Patua Railway Station in Monohorganj upazila on the Dhaka-Noakhali route yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Mahabubul Hasan Shiblu, 25, an honours final year student of Dhaka University's Islamic studies department and the son of Mokbul Hossain of Senbag upazila in Noakhali. His grandmother, Rabeya Khatun, 70, is undergoing treatment at a local hospital in Comilla.

Md Shaidullah, officer-in-charge of Laksam Government Railway Police, said the two were trying to get down from the running Dhaka-bound "Upakul Express", when Shiblu slipped and fell taking his grandmother down with him.

The body has been sent to Comilla Medical College Hospital for an autopsy. An unnatural death case was filed.

## Ban imposed on BNP, AL rallies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, PATUAKHALI

The Patuakhali district administration imposed Section 144 indefinitely at Hatalia bazar area in the sadar upazila where the BNP and the Awami League called meetings at the same time yesterday.

Police said the ban was slapped to prevent any clash between the two parties.

BNP's Kalikapur union unit announced on Thursday to hold the rally at 4:00pm for opening a new party office at the union, while the ruling AL declared yesterday noon to organise a meeting of party activists at that venue at the same time.

It's more adventurous, more daring, and more exciting than ever before. It's the Mountain Dew new 'Long Neck' Neon Pack now available in 500 ml PET bottles. The neon colored bottle, has already created extreme buzz among the Bangladeshi youth and is perfect for those looking for thrills in life. This exhilarating new innovative packaging now available all across Bangladesh!

Transcom Beverages Limited and PepsiCo are very excited to introduce the Mountain Dew New Long Neck Neon Pack. The brand new packaging is the first of its kind in Bangladesh. PepsiCo hopes that thrill seekers will now adopt it as a part of their repertoire.

The campaign will be launched via Television, OOH and retail. The new shape will be launched via a TVC as well as innovative L-shaped up to 4...

Members of the ethnic Urao community performing a dance yesterday during Karam Puja "to celebrate Mother Earth, get better crop yields and ward off evil". The photo was taken from Gunigram area of Rajshahi.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

## Fundamentalists hamper women's progress

Say Mahila Parishad leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fundamentalists and vested quarters are trying to put setbacks on the progress of women who came out of their houses to turn the economy's wheels and contribute to the nation's growth, said Bangladesh Mahila Parishad leaders yesterday.

Addressing a conference they organised for women workers in the capital's Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, they urged the women to wage a movement against those who try to segregate them from ongoing development activities.

The conference was titled, "Resist communalism and fundamentalism for strengthening democracy and establishing good governance".

The leaders also demanded a stop to sexual discrimination in pay schemes and sexual harassment by colleagues and superior officers, adherence to working hours as per the labour law, and female-friendly work environments, especially separate toilets at mills and factories.

Sharing her experience, construction worker Pyara Begum said, "I have to toil from 8:00am to 8:00pm only for a daily wage of Tk 200 while male workers receive Tk 400."

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## PM to open atomic energy info centre Oct 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the Atomic Energy Information Centre at Bangabandhu Novotheatre in the capital's Bijoy Sarani on October 2.

The centre is being set up following a memorandum signed between the Russia's State Corporation "Rosatom" and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Bangladesh on June 4, 2012.

The centre will regularly undertake various educational activities to provide basic knowledge on nuclear energy and application of Russian nuclear technologies in the fields of agriculture and medicine, available specialities in the nuclear sector and scope of obtaining Russian nuclear education.

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## Obituary

We deeply mourn the death of our beloved colleague Mohammed Saiful Islam.

He was our Area Head - SME, Chittagong. His death is an irreparable loss to the EBL family.

We pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

May the Almighty give courage to the bereaved family to bear the loss with fortitude.



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