

## TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Trees at Shatchori.

PHOTO:  
IHTISHAM KABIR

## PM seeks Boeing aircraft early

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday asked US aircraft maker Boeing to hand over two aircraft to Biman Bangladesh Airlines this December instead of early next year.

She assured Bryan M Lopp, director, International Operations and Policy, Government Operations of Boeing, of resolving the financing issue as early as possible on the government side to expedite the process.

Boeing is scheduled to deliver two Boeing aircraft (777-300ER) in February-March 2014, PM's Media Adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury told reporters after the meeting.

Lopp called on Hasina as part of a delegation of US-Bangladesh Working Group under the US Chamber of Commerce at Hotel Grand Hyatt in New York.

When the Boeing director raised the issue of financing problems on the Bangladesh side, Hasina said the issue would be resolved as early as possible to expedite the process.

In this regard, she said she had already instructed the authorities concerned to remove the difficulties in the procurement process of the two aircraft.

The premier is now in the US on an eight-day official visit to attend the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

## Artist Goutam's exhibition opens in Galleri Keya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After around 16 years, artist Goutam Chakrabarti yesterday opened a two-week painting exhibition of his in the capital's Galleri Kaya yesterday, attended by eminent artists Murtaza Baseer, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury and Shamsul Wares.

The exhibition, "I Am", open from 11:00am to 7:30pm till October 11, showcases 27 oil paintings, 15 watercolours, 10 serigraphs, 10 drawings and six charcoal works, ranging from Goutam's elephant series to fiercely angry cats.

The exhibition is jointly sponsored by aamra and Palace Luxury Resorts.



Guests at the inauguration of a two-week painting exhibition by artist Goutam Chakrabarti in the capital's Galleri Kaya yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## Ferry service limping in Pirojpur's Bekutia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Ferry service in Pirojpur district's Bekutia Ferry Ghat over the Kacha river, connecting the Khulna-Barisal road, is running at a snail's pace since Thursday when one of the two engines of the lone ferry broke down around 10:30am.

The remaining engine also broke down for around 11 hours before being fixed around 8:00am yesterday. Meanwhile, some 200 trucks and buses accumulated at both ends, causing sufferings to hundreds of stranded passengers.

"We are waiting here for about three hours. But it seems nothing can be done," one passenger, Roksana, heading for Barisal told The Daily Star yesterday.

The truckers had to stay put for longer periods as buses were given priority to cross.

"I have been waiting here since Thursday around 11:00pm," said one trucker, Sajal Khan, heading for Patuakhali, around 1:00pm yesterday.

Ayub Ali, the ferry staff, said, "Generally it takes 20 to 25 minutes to cross but now, with one engine against the strong current, it is taking double the time."

## SHATCHORI

In all my travels I never experienced anything like this. One moment I was walking fine, the next moment my entire left leg and half my thigh had sunk into the mud. It was only by shifting my entire weight on the other foot that I stopped my plunge. I had been walking on the bed of the stream called *chhora* in Shatchori National Park, taking pictures along the way. The stream was a bare trickle and the sandy ground, though wet, was firm. My guide Haris, who has brought hundreds of visitors here, had asked me to follow his footsteps. He knew the terrain. But I had veered off a little to compose a photograph and here I was, about to be swallowed by the earth.

My first thought was "quicksand" and I froze. Haris turned around, startled. I asked him to hold out the umbrella in his hand so I could grab it and pull myself out. Instead, he reassured me and offered his hand. Gripping it, I got out of the hole. The rest of the walk was event-free.

Shatchori national park, comprising 243 hectares in Habiganj, is only three hours (130 km) from Dhaka. You head towards Sylhet and turn right towards Chunarughat at a roundabout. The park has three walking trails: a half-hour trail, a one-hour trail and a three-hour trail. I had chosen the three-hour trail.

It had drizzled all morning. When I started walking, I realized my umbrella was awkward because it caught on every twig and branch that stuck out into the trail. But it was better than a raincoat because it provided protection for my camera.

Off the trail, shooting skyward from

the low-growth jungle, were large, tall trees. The trees were not as dense as they were in Lawacherra National Park - apparently many had been cut down in recent years. There were *chapalish*, *dumur*, *banyan*, and variations of *jolpai*.

Chapalish belongs to the jackfruit family, and may be mistaken for a jackfruit tree from afar. Its fruit is the *cham kathal* which looks like a miniature jackfruit with smaller cloves that are sour instead of sweet. Some banyans supported fat creepers which spiralled around their trunk.

The park also has wildlife: capped langur, hoolock gibbon, fishing cat, wild boar and barking deer. I saw the langurs only; they were friendly and allowed me close. Hoolock gibbons can be tracked following their loud calls, but today, because of the rain, they were quiet. There were numerous insects, including the giant, colourful wood spiders. The park also has many birds including hornbills and trogons. Most birds are high up in the canopy and difficult to photograph. There were, surprisingly, no leeches.

While walking and observing the surroundings, I tried to imagine what this forest would have been like in its pristine form. Paradise lost, indeed.

My guide was the second I have used from the Nishorgo program, which trains guides to accompany visitors to the national parks of Bangladesh. These guides, knowledgeable and competent, can make a big difference when one is exploring remote but beautiful places like Shatchori that can hide many dangers.

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## Website on Samson Chy launched

CITY DESK

A web portal on the life and works of revered industrialist and founder chairman of Square Group late Samson H Chowdhury was launched on Thursday.

The website was inaugurated by Chairperson of Square Foundation and Anita Samson Foundation's Trustee Board Anita Chowdhury in the Square Hospital auditorium in the capital.

In her speech, Anita Chowdhury said, "Samson H Chowdhury was not an icon to just the Square Family but also to the entire populace of Bangladesh. The younger generation will get to know his legacy through this website and be inspired to bring positive changes to the country."

Chairman of Beximco Group Sohel Rahman, Bishop Theo Tonius, and top Square Group officials attended the launch, said a press release.

From the humble beginnings of a village pharmacy in Pabna in 1952, Samson Chowdhury used his dedication, hard work and intellect to found one of the largest conglomerates of the country.

The portal--www.samsonchowdhury.com--will contain information on his life, works and his contributions to the economy and development of Bangladesh.

The legendary entrepreneur passed away at a hospital in Singapore on January 5 last year. He was 86.



Family, friends and near ones of Bokhtiar Mohammad Latif form a human chain before Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding immediate identification, arrest and trial of his murderers. The 19-year-old A-level student was shot dead by masked assailants right before his parents inside his Jatrabari residence on September 13.

PHOTO:  
STAR

## UPCOMING EID, PUJA IGP orders tighter security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Hassan Mahmood Khandker on Thursday directed his force to stiffen security and perform its duties carefully to ensure peaceful celebrations of Eid-ul Azha and Durga Puja, two of the largest festivals of Muslims and Hindus.

He especially urged caution against the evil quarters who may commit militant and terrorist acts centring the war crimes verdicts.

The police chief's directives came at two separate meetings on security during the two religious festivals at the police headquarters in the capital, said a press release.

The police personnel were also ordered to ensure smooth transportation of truckloads

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## SHOT DEAD BEFORE PARENTS Arrest of killers demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With police yet to announce any headway nearly took weeks past the murder of an A-level student right before his parents, family, friends and loved ones yesterday took to the capital's streets to vent their frustration and grief.

The aggrieved protesters, including parents of the 19-year-old, Zaheed-al-Latif and Fardoushi Latif, formed a human chain before Jatiya Press Club and brought out a procession in the area, stating that they had no other recourse to justice.

Breaking down in tears at one point, they demanded that the murderers be quickly identified, arrested and tried.

Some nine masked assailants barged into the room occupied by Bokhtiar Mohammad Latif and his parents in their Jatrabari residence on September 13 around 3:00am and shot him dead with a bullet through the chest.

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## Only Tarique can advance nation Say BNP leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of BNP leaders, academics and jurists yesterday called BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman the only "visionary leader" who can lead the country to prosperity.

"Tarique Rahman has created a distinctive culture in the politics compared to the present trend of hatred and vindictiveness," said BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir.

"He is our future leader who is showing us dreams. There is no doubt that we are going to get a proper leader," he told a roundtable at Hotel Purbani in the capital.

Dhaka University professors Mahbub Ullah, AFM Yusuf Haider and Abu Ahmed and Vice Chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council

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## NEWSIN brief

### Shoe factory gutted in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A tin-shed shoe factory was gutted in a fire in the capital's Lalbagh yesterday morning.

The fire broke out at Babar Shoes in Shaheednagar area around 6:30am, said fire service officials.

The fire, originated from an electric short-circuit, was brought under control around 8:00am, said Enayet Hossain, senior station officer at Lalbagh Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Nobody was inside the factory during the fire, he added.

### BSF picks up cattle trader in Jessore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Indian Border Security Force picked up a Bangladeshi cattle trader from Putkhali border in Jessore on Thursday night when he was crossing the border into Bangladesh with cattle.

The cattle trader was identified as Md Shaheen, 32, of Mohisakura village.

Sources in the Putkhali camp of 23 Border Guard Bangladesh said Shaheen was crossing the border with three other cattle traders when they were spotted by BSF members of Angrail camp.

The BSF members caught Shaheen but the others managed to flee.

BSF has informed BGB that they handed Shaheen over to Bogaon Police Station in India yesterday, added the sources.

### 150kg hemp seized, 2 held in Brahmanbaria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two people with 150kg of hemp at Jangal village in Sadar upazila of Brahmanbaria yesterday noon.

The arrestees are Md Ruhul Amin, 30, a trucker, of Dimatala at Debidwar in Comilla; and Roky, 20, his helper, of Kalibala in Bogra.

Acting on a tip-off, a team from Rab-9 raided the truck near Comilla-Sylhet highway and held them with the hemp, Rab sources said.

### 8 bombs recovered in Jessore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered eight bombs, one shutter gun, and 400 grammes of gunpowder at Mohisakura village in Sharsha upazila of Jessore district yesterday morning.

Acting on a tip-off, a team from Rab-6 recovered the items from a house of one Sahhaj Morol around 4:30am, said Maj Zahid.

Sensing the presence of Rab, Sahhaj managed to flee. A case was filed with Sharsha Police Station.

### Chinese embassy in Dhaka celebrates its founding anniversary

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Chinese embassy in Dhaka celebrated the 64th founding anniversary of the country through organising a gala reception at the capital's Radisson hotel Wednesday evening.

Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives and Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam attended the function as chief guest while Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jun delivered the welcome speech.

Ministers, lawmakers, diplomats, senior politicians, journalists and businessmen were present at the reception that started with a spectacular dragon dance performed by Bangladeshi dancers.

### Tea vendor hacked by 'extortionist'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A tea vendor was hacked by an alleged extortionist in front of Shishu Park in the capital's Shahbagh area yesterday.

The injured, Nazrul Islam Bapari, 32, is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital with injuries on his left hand.

Witnesses said, the incident occurred when one Nazrul, 30, had an altercation with the victim over extortion demand.

### Man held over attempted rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Locals beat a man and handed him over to police as he attempted to rape an 11-year-old girl in their house at Kazla in the capital's Jatrabari area yesterday.

The man, Mahbubur Rahman, 24, a CNG-run three-wheeler driver and cousin of the girl's father, used to live in her house as a paying guest.

A case was filed against him with Jatrabari Police Station in this connection.

## Three kids drown in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Two siblings and another child drowned in separate incidents in Kulaura and Kamalganj upazilas of Moulvibazar district yesterday.

In Kamalganj, Mamun Mia, 4, son of Abdul Malik, of Sonjorpur village, drowned in a pond near his home while he was playing beside it around 10:00am.

During the incident, his sister Fatema Begum, 7, also drowned in the pond while trying to save her brother.

Nihar Ranjan Nath, office-in-charge of Kamalganj Police Station, confirmed the incident.

In Kulaura, a four-year-old boy drowned in a pond adjacent to his house at Vadhail Dewor village in the morning.

The victim was Pritom Odhikari, 4, son of Prodwp Odhikari.

BC Dhur Odhikari, the victim's uncle; and Kulaura police

Off Md Hasanuzzaman said Pritom was playing near the pond.