

Government's sick politics making citizens suffer

Dr Kamal claims at CPB-BSD sit-in against ongoing political violence, urges unity for saving country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said ordinary citizens were suffering for the continuation of the government's "sick politics".

"This country is not the property of a person, family or party. This is the country of 16 crore people. Come and unite and we will save the country with the power of unity," he said expressing solidarity with a sit-in.

The programme, "Save the Country", was organised by the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club protesting the arson attacks, demanding a political settlement, protecting democracy and banning Jamaat-e-Islami-Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna

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Bogra BRTC loses Tk 2 crore for blockade

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation, Bogra has so far suffered a loss of over Tk 2 crore due to a few people opting to travel by buses amid arson attacks on these vehicles during the ongoing blockade.

Moreover, fewer buses are plying on established routes in fear of violence during the BNP-led alliance enforced blockade.

According to sources of BRTC, Bogra depot, usually around 40 buses ply on 26 routes in and out of Bogra every day, but now a mere 10 buses ply on only 10 routes, and they ply on an irregular basis.

Visiting the depot on Wednesday, this correspondent found no passengers in the bus travelling on Bogra-Naogaon route and very few passengers in the bus for Bogra-Joypurhat route.

However, depot sources said, the buses would run despite having few passengers.

One Akhtar Hossain said he commutes between Naogaon and Bogra for work.

"I usually travel by bus but now I have chosen to use trains as they keep a better schedule and are safer," he said.

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TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

The Joy of Photoshop

The first time I saw Photoshop was in 1990 while attending a computer graphics conference in Las Vegas. Those days I printed my black and white photographs with chemicals in the darkroom. One of the most frustrating parts was the common practice of "dodging and burning," used for selectively brightening or darkening a portion of the photograph, by wiggling a tool underneath the enlarger as the photographic paper was being exposed. It was an ad-hoc process and hard to replicate. If you made a small mistake, you wasted a sheet of expensive photo paper.

The reason Photoshop struck me was because it had a software tool called "lasso" which allowed you to draw a contour around an area within the photograph which you could darken or lighten with the mouse. This made "dodging and burning" painless.

I was not ready, however, for using Photoshop in my photography. Back then, the technical quality (that is, resolution and sharpness) of digital cameras was much worse than film. Good digital cameras became available much later.

How things change! Photoshop use is so widespread today that it has become a verb. The programme was invented in the late-1980s by brothers Tom and John Knoll who sold it to Adobe Systems in 1989 in a lucrative transaction. Tom Knoll continues to work in digital imaging. John Knoll has since become a Hollywood guru and was head of visual effects on *Mission Impossible 3: Ghost Protocol*.

These days Photoshop (or a similar software package) has become a mandatory tool for anyone serious about images. After shooting, when a photographer selects a photograph to work on, the first step is called "post" – short for post-processing.

Before "post" (above) and after "post" (below.)

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

This is a combination of steps that were once taken in the darkroom, including contrast and colour adjustment, cropping, dust removal and, yes, dodging and burning. Many professional photographers in the West outsource post to Photoshop operators in India.

The "before" and "after" photographs left show the effect of post. The overall contrast of the image has been improved and I "dodged" the eyes to make them prominent. This has enhanced the photograph. Back in film days, these corrections would have taken an hour or two in the darkroom. In Photoshop it took me less than five minutes.

Recently, I spent much time in two of Dhaka's top photo labs printing photographs for my photo exhibition (ongoing at Home n Decor on Pragati Shoroni). All day, a steady stream of photographers and studio owners arrived with portraits, wedding photographs, old damaged photographs, etc in pen drives. They handed their photos to one of the Photoshop operators in the front room. Before being printed, all photos were "retouched." It took about ten seconds to make white hair black, fifteen to remove someone's double chin, and perhaps two minutes to restore damaged old photos. My photographs skipped retouching.

To me, a fine but solid line exists between post and retouching. Post brings out what is already in the photograph by enhancing it technically (eg, increasing the contrast.) Retouching is the deliberate change of the meaning of the photograph. This is a line I am very careful not to cross.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir. My photo exhibition "Colours of Life" runs until Feb 10 at Home N Decor, Pragati Sharani, 11am-8pm daily (closed Wed.)

NEWSIN
brief

'Boyfriend' accused of rape for refusing to marry woman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

An undergraduate student filed a rape case against her schoolteacher on Thursday allegedly for refusing to marry her after their three-year long affair.

According to the complainant, Alamgir Hossain, 35, of Dhaikhata village of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, promised to marry her after she reaches the age of 18.

But a week ago, when she went to Alamgir's house to talk about their marriage, he even denied having any affair with her while his four brothers beat her with sticks, she added.

Alamgir is absconding, said police, adding that they are investigating the accusation of physical abuse made against the brothers.

Denying the allegation of abuse, one of the brothers said they only forced her out of their house as she was slandering them.

Attempted child marriage foiled in Pirojpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A 13-year-old girl was saved from early marriage in Mathbaria upazila of Pirojpur on Thursday.

Marriage ceremony of Soniya Akter, daughter of Nirob Talukder of Purbo Gulishakhali village, was due to be held with Md Hasan, 23, son of Abdul Aziz of Sabuj Nagar, said police. On information, an executive magistrate rushed to the spot and stopped the marriage. Later, Hasan, Aziz and Nirob were handed down one-month imprisonment each.

Newborn's body found in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police found the body of newborn male in a bush in Dadrajanti village under Joypurhat Sadar yesterday.

Police suspected somebody might have left the body at the dead of the night. The body was sent to Joypurhat Modern Hospital for an autopsy.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 18th death anniversary of Khairul Kabir, the founding editor of daily Sangbad and the first life member of Jatiya Press Club, also one of the authors of the historic 6-Point demand which was the basis of the demand for the erstwhile East Pakistan's autonomy.

A milad mahfil will be held today at his ancestral Ghorasal residence.

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