

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

Baishakhi Style

Like other years, I was at Shabbag early morning on Pahela Baishakh with my camera. The festive spirit and colourful attires are simply irresistible to me. I wandered through the crowd and photographed people of all ages and walks of life. Most of the revellers had invested considerable effort into dressing up in a carefree yet elegant style for the occasion.

A chubby baby, about a year old, was being carried by her mother. If there ever was a Baishakhi Princess she was the one. She wore an elegant red-and-white short-sleeved top. Her eyebrows had been lined. The crown of flowers on her head, highlighted by a large yellow sunflower half the size of her face, was striking. But the real reason she was a princess was because of her expression. She maintained a distinctly regal pout while surveying the world imperiously.

Nearby, an older girl, perhaps seven or eight, was wrapped in a rainbow-coloured sari tied tightly around her waist. A set of bangles hung around her wrist. Her cheeks said "shubho noboborsho" and "1222" in crimson paint. Her hands were decorated with henna and her forehead had a red dot.

Even among all the colours, the little boy stood out as he walked hand-in-hand with his father. That's because he wore a crisp white dhoti with a patterned red border. Near the lake, a short-haired girl walked with her mother; each was engrossed in the other's company. The girl's red and white blouse sported a "Barbie" patch. Compared to other women, her mother was dressed simply in a multi-coloured salwar-kameez, but that did not detract from her enjoying these precious minutes with the child.

The face painters were out in full force. Holding paint palette in one hand and brush in the other,



Baishakhi princess.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

they deftly painted the cheeks of women and children with words and pictures. A vendor peddled yellow and red gamchas, dangling some from his hands while stacking the remainder of his stock atop his head. A group of customers surrounded the bangle-seller who was doing brisk business. Meanwhile, a tokai girl, who was busily filling her bag with discarded bottles, had stopped dead in her tracks. She had found a kaleidoscope while poking through some discarded items. Looking into it, she entered another world for several minutes, oblivious to the merriment around her. The tokais too had put on their nicest clothes for the occasion.

Two sisters, about five and seven, wore intricate red and white headcovering (hijab). The older shied away from my camera, but the younger one posed gracefully.

Women of all ages had dressed up, some very elaborately. But that did not mean adornments could not be added! Many stopped at the row of flower shops across the museum. There were flower crowns for the head, jasmine garlands to spiral around braided hair, bangles for the wrists and flowers to wear behind their ears. After the purchase, their friends or spouses helped them wear it, right then and there.

A new style of punjabi with embroidered design around the collar and chest was popular among men. Some men wore gamchas around their head. Other fashion props included masks, hats, coloured umbrellas and sunglasses.

Once again, the first day of Baishakh had brought out the stylish in each of us.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir.

Youth killed by locals while fleeing after looting temple

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Locals hacked a "goon" to death in Tigerpass area of Chittagong city who, they claimed, robbed and vandalised a temple along with his gang members yesterday.

The deceased was Saddam Hossain, 27.

According to Mali Para residents, a small community of 40 Hindu families living on a hill owned by Public Works Department (PWD), a gang led by one Tapan Sarker set up a club on the hill some six months ago using a banner of "Bangabandhu Smriti Parishad" and had been trying to extort money

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Two hacked and gunned down in Jessore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

The bullet-hit bodies of two persons were recovered from a bush in Arpara under Jessore Kotwali Police Station yesterday morning.

The deceased were Jainal Tarafder, 40, and Litu Tarafder, 35, of Hashimpur village. Of them, Jainal was accused in five cases, including a murder case, said police.

The duo went outside together at night and remained missing since then, said a local.

Next morning locals informed police after seeing their bodies lying at the place.

It is suspected that miscreants allegedly killed them elsewhere and dumped their bodies at the place. The bodies also bore several hacking injuries, added police.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately.

The bodies were sent to Jessore Medical College Hospital for autopsies.

Capitalism root cause of discriminations against adivasis

Says Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The root cause of discrimination faced by the indigenous communities in Bangladesh is the practice of capitalism, said Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury yesterday.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a programme organised to launch a book on identity of small ethnic races in Bangladesh at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Prof Choudhury said capitalism creates a discriminatory society of multiple classes and one class discriminates the other.

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Awami League-backed mayoral candidate in Dhaka north Annisul Huq joins young cyclists on Basila Bridge during his electoral campaign yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

CJ for slashing SC holidays to reduce case backlog

Says apex court spends 6 months of vacation a yr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saying that the Supreme Court spends six months of the year vacationing, Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha yesterday stressed the need for slashing the holidays to increase the adjudication rate of cases and ease the huge backlog.

The SC enjoys at least 180 days of vacation including weekends a year, he said. The court cannot operate this way when it has more than three lakh cases pending, he added.

In South Korea, the SC enjoys only 20 days of vacation a year, said Justice Sinha, drawing on his experience of a visit to the country.

His South Korean counterpart also expressed astonishment how Bangladesh runs its judiciary when its apex court remains on vacation half of the year, he added.

The chief justice was addressing a programme on the occasion of Baishakhi Utsab (festival celebrating Bangla New Year), organised by Rajshahi University Law Alumni Association at the SC Bar Association in the capital.

Justice SK Sinha said he planned to shorten the vacation because there was no alternative.

He said he had placed a proposal to a meeting of the High Court judges for reducing the holidays, but only one of them supported him.

The chief justice said all citizens including politicians, lawyers, and judges should abide by the rule of law.

The judges will abide by the rule of law, if other citizens do, he said, adding that time had come for self-criticism.

A judge must feel what contributions he made to the country since he gets an apartment, money, and dignity, Justice Sinha said, adding that the judges had to discharge their duties in such a manner so that they did not face allegations.

The judges have to hear and dispose of cases and write and sign orders and judgments on time, he said.

Justice Sinha observed that adjudication of the bail petitions of the accused, who are in jail, is more important than hearing and clearing the bail petitions of those, who were out of prison and being searched by law enforcers.

Interpol to continue training police

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Interpol will continue to provide need-based training support for Bangladesh police, assured the organisation's President Mirreille Ballestrazzi when she met Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali on the sidelines of the Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) in The Hague yesterday.

They discussed possible capacity building support from Interpol for Bangladesh's law enforcement agencies in combating cyber crimes, including through The INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation (IGCI) in Singapore, according to a foreign ministry release.

He announced Bangladesh's decision to join the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GCFE) to be launched during the ongoing conference to promote protection for the internet ecosystem.

CITY CORPORATION ELECTIONS 2015

Manju, Nasir continue campaigns

Quader dismisses need for army in polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Immediate past Chittagong city mayor M Manjur Alam yesterday sought reelection to continue the development works he initiated in his last tenure, while a central Awami League leader campaigning for party favourite AZM Nasir Uddin criticised Manju as a complete failure.

On a campaign trail, BNP leader Manju said, "With transparency and accountability, I ran Chittagong City Corporation and tried to develop all wards equally."

He added, "To serve the people, I am running for mayorship again. I will finish the incomplete works of the city if I get your blessings and cooperation."

However, AL publicity secretary Hasan Mahmud urged the electorate to save Chittagong from the hands of Manju, who he said "totally failed" as mayor in the last five years.

"If he becomes mayor again, the high-lying areas like Andarkilla will go under water this time," Hasan said, referring to the city's chronic waterlogging.

'RESIST KHALEDA' Separately, Hasan told a discussion that the people would resist BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia if she came to the port city to seek votes for party-backed candidates.



Manju

Nasir

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Robbers strangle woman before her baby in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers strangled a woman in front of her 18-month-old baby and looted valuables from her flat at the capital's Kalyanpur on Thursday afternoon.

Although the domestic help of the house could identify one of the robbers, police is yet to arrest any of them.

The deceased Umme Rokeya, 30, was wife of Rakib Hasan Khan, a staff of a buying house in Dhanmondi.

On information from the caretaker of the house, Rakib rushed to the spot and found his wife dead on floor.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

The miscreants tied up the domestic help before killing Rokeya and looting Tk 13,000 and three tola of gold, said Rakib.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, flanked by party leaders, places a wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi 32 in the capital yesterday, marking historic Mujibnagar Day.

PHOTO: PID

Two killed in Rajshahi road accident

UNB, Rajshahi

Two persons were killed as a bus hit their motorcycle on Dhaka-Rajshahi highway at Binodpur in Rajshahi city yesterday afternoon.

The dead were identified as Ariful Islam, 32, of Debingshi Para of the city, and Anwar Hossain, 35, resident of Shorial Bus Terminal area.

Officer-in-Charge of Motihar Police Station Abdur Rauf said a bus hit the motorcycle in the area around 3:30pm, leaving Ariful dead on the spot.

His co-rider Anwar died at a local hospital.

The bodies were sent to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsies.

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