

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



His cousin Jean (left) and brother Zissou (right).

PHOTO: JACQUES-HENRI LARTIGUE

Lartigue's Photographs

Different people take up photography for different reasons but they have one thing in common: they love making pictures. Few in the annals of photography have manifested this love more than the French photographer Jacques-Henri Lartigue (1894-1986).

Lartigue made his first photos at the age of six with his father, himself an avid photographer. When he was eight he got his own camera and started down the road of photography. At a time when large, tripod-mounted cameras reigned supreme, Lartigue worked with small, hand-held cameras.

Lartigue used his camera continuously to record everything he liked about his world, capturing the antics of family, friends and staff. The Lartigue family was large and affluent. Its members played in the beach, walked dogs, raced automobiles, flew planes and kites and engaged in other, often silly, entertainment. Lartigue was always there, taking photographs to capture moments that revealed not just characters or stories but an entire epoch. He infused his photographs with a child's innocence and sense of wonder.

What factors contributed to Lartigue's vivacious photographs? He was born with a talent for composing a photograph within the frame. To this he added wide-eyed astonishment and joy at life around him. He understood technology and though these cameras were primitive compared to today's products, he pushed them to their limit. Planning to photograph an automobile race, he decided to photograph the speeding cars head-on. "I am going to use 300/second because of the car's speed," he wrote in his journal. However, for a photograph of his nanny with a suspended overhead balloon, because the shutter speeds were too slow to catch the balloon in motion, he timed his photograph while the balloon was at the very top changing direction.

Eventually he moved on from photographing outdoor activities to photographing glamour and fashion. In 1974 he became the official portrait photographer of French President Giscard d'Estaing. A pioneer of colour photography, he was using the autochrome colour process in the 1920s to make colour photographs. He was also a prolific painter and counted

Picasso among his friends. Lartigue's work remained unknown until it was "discovered" in 1963 (he was 69 then). An exhibition at the Museum of Modern Arts in New York followed and he quickly found his place among other eminent photographers. For his next projects, he chose to work in fashion photography.

In the end, Lartigue's childhood photographs anticipated the best of small-camera work to come a generation later: the likes of Henri Cartier-Bresson, Andre Kertesz and others. It was the happy combination of three things: his unique talent to see, his presence in the world when photography was coming of age, and the position in life that he inherited along with the access it assured him - that made his work magical.

I find Lartigue's photographs to be cheerful, humorous and ultimately invigorating. While serious and depressing photographs have their need and place in our world, it is to the works of the child genius Lartigue that I turn to when I need to lift my spirits.

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Gazipur mayor arrested in violence case

BNP denounces the arrest
STAR REPORT

Law enforcers arrested Gazipur City Corporation Mayor MA Mannan in Kaliakoir upazila of Gazipur last night, reports UNB.

The officer-in-charge of Joydevpur Police Station said Mannan was arrested in a violence case.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir denounced the arrest of Mannan.

In a statement, Fakhru said Mannan's arrest while he is on bail and after the court stayed his suspension order as the mayor is nothing but brutality of the government.

Meanwhile, Mirza Fakhru yesterday urged the government as well as the people to come forward to establish the politics of harmony instead of revenge, reports our Thakurgaon correspondent.

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Good days ahead

Says Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on Thursday hoped that this Bangla new year will bring good days for the people of Bangladesh, and all killings, enforced disappearances, and repressive acts will be stopped.

Khaleda said this at a programme in front of BNP's Nayapaltna central office, organised by Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangkritik Sangstha, its cultural wing, marking Pahela Baishakh.

"Let's move forward for the restoration of democracy. Good days are ahead," said the BNP chief.

BNP chief started her speech by greeting all the Bangladeshis and Bangla-speaking people and called upon all to get united, forgetting divisions and misunderstandings. She hoped that Bangladesh will be established as a country of peace, development, welfare and justice.

UNION PARISHAD ELECTIONS 2016

Local AL politics heats up over nomination

Activists vandalise party office, clash with cops, rivals, as aspirants scramble for nomination in Ctg unions

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Supporters of some Awami League nomination aspirants for the chairman post in the unions of Anwara upazila vandalised the office of Chittagong south district AL yesterday, protesting "nomination business" and "disregard" to the grassroots' opinions in nomination.

Over 300 activists of AL and its associate organisations from the unions of Anwara and Banskhalia upazilas were supposed to be selected through interviews at the office. Initially the interview had been scheduled to be held yesterday, but it was postponed the day before.

Nominees of the unions of Anwara and Banskhalia upazilas were supposed to be selected through interviews at the office. Initially the interview had been scheduled to be held yesterday, but it was postponed the day before. Towhidul Haq Chowdhury, an AL leader and chairman of Anwara upazila, who was among the protesters, said the union leaders had already prepared a list of nominees and sent it to the central committee of the party through the local lawmaker after informing the district unit of the list.

However, he said, the district leaders were trying to make a new list through interviews, and that was the reason of their protest. He denied any vandalism at the office.

However, Mafizur Rahman, general secretary of Chittagong south district unit AL, denied knowing of any such list.

He said they did not nominate anyone; the AL chief would give the final decision.

"I don't know why they were demonstrating against us... we are not the authority to give nomination; we would just recommend names to the party high command and the party chief would take the final decision," he said.

Sub-inspector Golam Faruk said when police went to resist the protesters, they pelted them leading to a clash.

Police used batons and fired tear gas and 12 blank shots to disperse them, he said.



Vandalised office of Awami League.

"The situation was brought under control around 12:15pm."

Witnesses said a few dozen people were injured but Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali Jasim Uddin said two police officials were injured. None of the injured was hospitalised.

BOALKHALI UPAZILA
Centring on the interviewing of nomination aspirants, a clash broke out in Boalkhalia upazila on Tuesday.

The supporters of two nomination aspirants clashed while the AL leaders were interviewing aspirants at the office of Chittagong south district AL.

Some 10 people were injured in the clash, said police, adding that of them, one was stabbed and admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

The south district leader, Mafizur Rahman, said they were interviewing aspirants from Boalkhalia upazila at that time.

"When the turn of Aholya Koroldanga union came, as the last union among seven of the upazila, the supporters of two aspirants -- Abdul Wadud and Abul Monsur -- locked in a scuffle," he said.

"We do not know what happened outside as we were taking interviews but we heard the scuffle continued for five to ten

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5 kids drown in 3 dists

CITY DESK

Four kids drowned in ponds and another in river in three districts on Thursday.

In Sunamganj, two schoolgirls drowned in a pond at Gobindapur village of Dirai upazila on Thursday around 2:00pm; reports our Moulvibazar correspondent.

The deceased were Safia Begum, 7, daughter of Shamsul Haque, and Liza Begum, 8, daughter of Abdul Haque of the village.

Both were cousins and students of a local primary school.

Dirai police said Safia drowned in the pond while taking a bath, and when trying to rescue Safia, Liza drowned in the water too.

Later, locals recovered the bodies.

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PAHELA BAISHAKH CELEBRATIONS

Cop apologises for misbehaviour at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

A policeman on Thursday apologised for his discourteous behaviour with a female student of Dhaka University during Pahela Baishakh celebrations in Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) area.

Constable Ruhul Amin shoved the student and hurled abusive words at her when he was clearing the road for the car of the inspector general of police (IGP), claimed the victim.

The victim is a master's student of statistics, biostatistics and informatics and vice president of DU

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