

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

A Keeper of Our Visual History

It is 1981. A Bangladeshi Masters student in the US visits the Metropolitan Museum in New York. There, in an exhibition called India Festival, he sees photographs from the 1880's – sepia-toned memories, works by photographic luminaries such as Lala Deen Dayal, depicting people and places in an different era. The student is enchanted. Then and there, he decides that when he returns home he will devote himself to searching out and collecting old photographs in Bangladesh.

Fast forward three decades. I am visiting my bibliophile cousin Khokon Bhai in his house in Dhaka. Knowing my passion for photography, he shows me a book that contains many old photographs and historical mementos of Dhaka. *Dhaka Club Chronicles* (2009) is a pictorial history of the venerable institution founded in 1911. The book is replete with historical photographs, documents, and pieces of history. I look through it with great interest. To my delight, Khokon Bhai gives me the book as a present.

The author of the book is Waqar Khan, none other than the student at the Met. It is his second book. His first, called *Rare Photographs of Eastern Bengal*, was published by Standard Chartered Bank in 2003 to great acclaim.

Coming home after his studies, Waqar travelled all over the country, meeting patriarchs and matriarchs of old families and convincing them to open up their family albums to him. Over twenty-five painstaking years he has built a collection of 10,000 vintage photographs scanned from various sources. They cover the period 1850-1960.

I ask Waqar about his goal. "I want to build an organised archive of these photographs that future researchers, academics and authors can access. Anyone interested in our history should be able to see these photographs from my archive. For example, the photographs can be used as illustrations in history and sociology books."

I am intrigued by the portraits in his collection. Who were these people? "They were mostly land-owners (zamindars) and the newly emergent middle classes," he says. Then he describes the historical background. Photography became commercially viable very soon after its invention in Europe in 1839, reaching subcontinental shores within a few short months. It created a sensation among members of the local upper classes who wanted their portraits taken. Waqar uses the term "self-memorialization" to express this social phenomenon. The camera's precision in rendering a portrait made it popular. Overnight, portrait painters found themselves in the background.



Waqar Khan shows a photograph.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

Much of the action took place in late 19th century in Kolkata, Madras and Bombay, where European photographers such as Bourne and Shepherd set up shop. In Dhaka, the German Fritz Kapp was the only European photographer, working under the patronage of the Nawabs.

Waqar used his contacts not just within Bangladesh, but also in Great Britain and India, while assembling his collection. The historical value of these photographs cannot be overstated. In the *Dhaka Club* book, for example, I see Ramna turned into a makeshift airfield where Allied planes are refuelling in 1945. I see riders preparing their horses for the Nawab's Cup Horserace in 1892. And I see festival-goers in 1911 celebrating the coronation of King George V at the Dhaka Gymkhana Club. (Mercifully I see no vuvuzelas!)

I ask Waqar for his parting thoughts. "Photography is an art. These images arouse one's senses at various levels. They also provide one with indispensable historical, visual and social insight." Indeed, his illuminating work is an effort worthy of our highest praise and support.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir

Newborn girl left by mother at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A newborn baby girl was found unattended at Dhaka Medical College Hospital since Tuesday.

She was born on April 16 with some urinal complexities at DMCH. Her mother, whose identity could not be known, left her at the hospital on April 19.

The baby is now being given treatment at the Pediatric Surgery Ward.

Other attendants of the ward said the mother, who already had a daughter, "regretted for giving birth to another baby girl".

DMCH Assistant Director (Administration) Khawaja Abdul Gafur said the infant was facing urinal complexities. "We've already conducted a surgery," he said.

One Monir, who had admitted the baby's mother to the hospital, was not available later, hospital sources said.

CU student feared drowned in Halda

Boy drowns in Panchagarh

CU CORRESPONDENT

A Chittagong University student went missing while he was taking a bath in the Halda River in South Nangalmora area of Hathazari upazila in Chittagong yesterday.

Noman Chowdhury of Sarakghata in Rangunia upazila is a second year student of International Relation, said police.

Noman along with five of his friends went to Hathazari to attend a marriage ceremony, said his friends, adding that he drowned while they were taking a bath in the river in the morning.

On information, a team of police and divers of fire service rushed in and started a rescue operation, said Sub-Inspector Mizanur Rahman of Hathazari Police Station.

The divers could not find any trace of Noman. Their team leader Saiful Islam said they postponed the drive till 9:00am today.

Our Thakurgaon correspondent reports, a teenage boy drowned in Chawi River in Nuniyapara village of Panchagarh Sadar yesterday.

The deceased was Mehedi Hasan Raju, 16, of Matikata Cantonment area of Dhaka.

Police said Mehedi went there with a team of Tablig Jamaat. He went to the river, adjacent to a mosque where he was staying, to take a bath and drowned as he did not know how to swim.

UN Assistant Secretary-General Haoliang Xu due today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General Haoliang Xu is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka today on a four-day visit, says a UNDP press release.

During his visit in Bangladesh, Xu, also Director of Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, will participate in a commemoration of 50th anniversary of UNDP and also Baishakh celebrations today.

He will visit Sirajganj and attend a "human development report launching programme" on April 26, 2016.

The UNDP will launch its new human development report the same day in the capital.



Relaxed and unworried, drivers park these battery and CNG-run auto-rickshaws on the bridge over Trimohini River waiting for passengers to travel to the capital's Basabo-Khilgaon Road, though they are banned from doing so, while the authorities concerned seem oblivious of the matter, making it troublesome for other vehicles to make their way through. The photo was taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed receives a crest from Anisul Islam, minister for water resources, and Farida Hossain, founding editor of the literature magazine "Obinashwar", in the capital's Bangla Academy yesterday, where the magazine honoured six eminent personalities for contributions to their respective fields.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Six eminent personalities honoured

CITY DESK

Literature magazine "Obinashwar" honoured six eminent personalities for their contributions to their respective fields, in the capital's Bangla Academy Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad Auditorium yesterday, marking its 10th founding anniversary.

They are Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed (education), Nashid Kamal (music), Mohammed Abdul Hai (Liberation War), Rafiqur Rashid (research), Golam Mostafa (photography) and Barun Chakraborty (poetry).

Water Resources Minister Anisul Islam was the chief guest at the ceremony, moderated by the founding editor of the magazine and president of PEN Bangladesh Farida Hossain.

A discussion was held afterwards conducted by Shakib Lohani, co-president of PEN Bangladesh, where Prof Emeritus Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Masud Ahmed, Syeda Irene Jaman, Lovely Basahar, Ferdousi Mahmud, and Anjuman Ara, were present.

BFUJ faction

FROM PAGE 4

sought that the killers journalist Dipankar Chakrabarty of the district be found out.

They also demanded that the administration support the journalists in discharging their professional duties without creating any obstacles.

In the meeting, the BFUJ leaders decided to hold election for the vacant post of president in the third week of July as the newly elected president Altaf Mahmud died few months ago.

3 lakh new tourism jobs by 2018

Says Menon adding Cox's Bazar airport to be upgraded to int'l one

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Cox's Bazar airport will be upgraded to an international airport by 2018, and the government is taking measures to further enrich the country's tourism sector, said Civil Aviation Minister Rashed Khan Menon yesterday.

"We are also trying to initiate Sylhet-London flight," he mentioned while addressing a "Meet the Press" programme at Sagor-Runi auditorium organised by Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Mentioning that the Bangladesh airlines industry was a profitable sector, the minister said the government was planning to increase its international routes.

"Talks on expanding the routes to Japan and Canada are going on," he added.

Mentioning that there were some problems in the management of the aviation sector, Menon also said the government recently restructured the board of Biman



Bangladesh Airlines to bring discipline and dynamism to it.

The government has primarily chosen four places in the southern part of Padma Multipurpose Bridge to build the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib International Airport, which is to be the country's largest airport, he said.

BSS reports: regarding tourism, Menon said about 3 lakh people would get employment in the sector within 2018.

He said, "Vigorous campaign is on both at home and abroad to attract tourists from different countries including China, Thailand, Bhutan, India, Myanmar and Malaysia to Bangladesh."

The tourism industry has already drawn attention of foreign travellers and Memoranda of Understandings have already been signed with some countries including Malaysia, Nepal and Thailand, mentioned the minister. He said, "Lithuania, Latvia, Ukraine and some other countries are also keen on the tourism sector of Bangladesh."

Contribute to science, tech

Nahid urges entrepreneurs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday called upon entrepreneurs to play a role in developing the country's science and technology sector.

He was addressing an award-giving ceremony organised by United Group on United International University campus in the capital, says a press release.

At the event, United Group honoured 50 researchers whose research publications were published in international journals in the field of science and engineering in 2013.

The minister handed over the awards to the recipients.

Nahid said assistance of the entrepreneurs would help materialise the government's goals.

United Group Chairman Hasan Mahmood Raja presided over the ceremony.

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Ref: DACBK/Delivery Refinancing DP/737/800/Senior/2016/202 Date: 21 April 2016

NOTICE

Request for Proposal (RFP)
Senior Loan for Refinancing of Delivery Payment for
2nd Boeing 737-800 (MSN: 40335) aircraft delivered to Biman
Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd. (Biman) has entered into an agreement with the Boeing Company ("Boeing") for the purchase of 2 (two) Boeing 737-800 aircraft ("the Aircraft") which were delivered in November 2015 and December 2015.

- The second 737-800 (MSN:40335) aircraft was acquired by and registered under a SPC (Special Purpose Company) as provided by the Ex-Im FC and therefore, financing of this aircraft can be arranged with the benefit of Guarantee of the Ex-Im Bank.

Biman seeks offer from reputed financial institutions for Delivery Financing for the second 737-800 (MSN:40335) aircraft the following form:
Invitation – Ex-Im Bank Guaranteed Loan Financing.

Purpose of Financing	Term Loan to finance the senior portion of the net delivery price of aircraft plus 100% of Ex-Im Bank Exposure Fee.
Estimated Amount of Financing	Aggregate amount of Ex-Im Bank guaranteed financing including the exposure fee will be up to USD 45.50 Million.
Term of Guaranteed Loan	12 years from respective aircraft delivery dates.
Currency of Financing	US Dollars.

2. Detailed information is available in the RFP Schedule, which may be viewed at Biman's website: www.biman-airlines.com. For further information or query, Controller of Accounts, Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd, may be contacted at Telephone: +8802-890-1590, Cell: +88-01-7777-5526, e-mail: controller@bdbiman.com during the office hours.

3. The proposal/offer should be submitted at the latest by 1000 hours BST (0400 hours UTC) on 06 June 2016 addressed to Controller of Accounts, Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd., Head Office, Balaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh through Courier Service or E-mail at finance-737-800-sl3@bdbiman.com. The proposal(s)/offer(s) will be opened on the same day immediately after the closing time. No proposal/offer would be accepted after the closing time on the date specified above. Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd. would not be responsible for late receipt of any proposal/offer due to any reason whatsoever.

4. Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd. reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposal(s)/offer(s) partly or wholly at any time and/or stage without assigning any reason whatsoever and no claim shall be entertained in this regard.

Md Mizanur Rashid
General Manager Cost, Budget, FMIS & MAE&S (Acting)

GD-909

Female drivers driving

FROM PAGE 3

Bobita Rani Das chose the profession in 2003 after receiving training from Brac. She is currently employed by IDE Bangladesh for its Rangpur office.

"I do not see myself as a female driving a vehicle, rather a driver doing her job. My salary is around Tk 20,000. I get other facilities, too," she added.

Shawkat Ali, secretary of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), told the news agency that the BRTA has also launched a driving school following the success of the programmes initiated by Gonoshasthaya Kendra and Brac.

"Around 500 female drivers took licenses from us. Their accident records are much lesser," he said, adding that the number of non-professional female drivers is also increasing.

According to BRTC, about 450 female drivers have professional licenses while 12,430 non-professional female drivers have the digital licenses.

"Female drivers are found to be more careful about rules and regulations. They don't have the tendency to overtake vehicles," said Engineer Nurul Islam, a BRTA director.

Gonoshasthaya Kendra launched its training programme in Cox's Bazar in 1996. Following that, the NGO has launched two more free driving training programmes in Savar and Dhaka, added Aklima Khatun.

Brac kicked off its programme in 2012.

Begum Shamsunnahar, acting secretary of Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, said there is a high demand for female drivers in overseas job markets.

"Till now, the number of female drivers is not mentionable. Mental or physical conditions are not a barrier, social taboo is the main reason why they do not choose driving as a career," said Aklima.

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Ready to Dine with

The Super Chefs?

Watch Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef 2016, and win a chance to meet The Super Chefs up-close!

Q. In episode 14, how many types of chocolates did Chef Abu Taleb use for making his dessert and in episode 15 how many teams will cook for the corporate guests?

A. 2; 10
B. 3; 5
C. 2; 5
D. 3; 10

Send your answer by 9pm, April 30, 2016 using the following format:
Write **SC<space>A/B/C/D** & send to **6969**