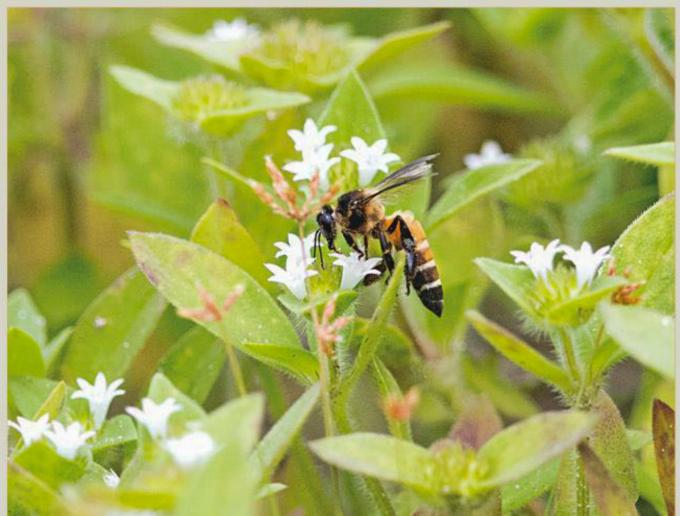


TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Bee at work in Purbachol.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

Honeybees

Like the proverbial mad dogs and Englishmen I am out in the midday sun during this heat wave looking for birds in an open field in Purbachol. The pickings are slim: the time of day is not right and neither is the season. I am about to give up when, among the small wildflowers growing in the grass, I see movement. Coming closer, I spot one honeybee, then a few more. They are buzzing frantically from flower to flower doing their job of collecting nectar. Forgetting the heat, I watch with amazement and respect. They do not take a moment's rest and continue for several minutes before moving on to another patch of wildflower.

The honeybee is perhaps one of the most important creatures in human civilization. Domesticated since ancient times for producing honey and beeswax, this insect is also responsible for pollinating most of our agricultural crops.

Although there are over 20000 species of bees in the world, only seven species from them are honeybees. These species are divided into 44 races or subspecies. The honeybees in Bangladesh include *apis cerana*, *apis mellifera*, as well as the highly productive *apis dorsata* (giant honeybee) in Sundarban. The Sundarban honeybees can be ferocious and their bite causes fever and diarrhoea. (In a previous Tangents column I have described my adventures hunting for honey in Sundarban.)

Honeybees are social creatures with an elaborate hierarchy. Working under the supervision of the queen bee, they collect nectar from flowers (and sometimes leaves) and bring it to their beehive. Here, the bee regurgitates the partially digested nectar, passing it on to another bee. After some more passing, the nectar is deposited inside

the hive and bees vigorously fan it with their wings to evaporate water from it, thickening it into honey.

One of the most fascinating characteristics of honeybees is communication. People have known for centuries that when a lone honeybee finds a new source of food, it returns to the hive and communicates the location of this food to its fellow honeybees. But how does it do it? Does it make them follow it to the source? Does it leave a trail of honey along the way for other bees to follow?

The answer, it turned out, is much more elegant. It won a Nobel Prize for Karl von Frisch, a German scientist who discovered that after discovering a food source, a honeybee performs an elaborate dance at the hive to communicate its location to fellow workers. This symbolic communication is tantamount to language. Von Frisch discovered there were two types of dance: the round dance which told the bees about a food source within a short distance, and a waggle dance which communicated both direction and distance of food that is farther away.

All this communicating by dance is easy to observe in light, but the bee performs it in the darkness inside the hive. In the darkness it uses an elaborate set of references to convey the message. For example, if the food is located in the direction of the sun, the bee runs upward along the wall of the hive. If the food is away from the sun, the bee runs downward.

So the next time you see a honeybee on a flower, you might want to remember you are looking at one of nature's miracles.

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RMG worker gang raped after abduction, 3 held with video

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A female RMG worker was gang raped in a Dhamrai house after being abducted on Thursday.

Rapid Action Battalion yesterday arrested three youths -- Ripon Mahmud, Khokon and Zanto Mia of Noarhat area in Savar in this connection, said Rab-4 Company Commander Maj Abdul Hakim at a press briefing at Nobinagar camp.

On Thursday, the three allegedly abducted the woman, aged around 25, while she was going to Kaliakoir. They took her to the house near Dhamrai Dhulibita kitchen market and raped her, said the Rab official quoting her. The three also videotaped

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Removal of Lady Justice's statue sparks protests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Various socio-cultural, student and political organisations in Dhaka and Chittagong yesterday protested removal of the statue of Lady Justice from the Supreme Court premises.

They also demanded its immediate reinstallation on the same location.

In the capital, different cultural, rights and student organisations organised a torch rally and human chain in protest. Chanting slogans, more than a hundred activists marched from Shahbagh intersection to TSC of Dhaka University.

They also demanded release of protesters who were arrested in the morning for protesting against the removal of the statue and declared to organise continuous protest all over the country.

Earlier, the activists organised two human chains in front of the national museum in Shahbagh.

Speaking at a human chain, Sammilita Sangskritik Jote Pridhan Golum Kuddus said, "The sculpture should be reinstalled

on the court premises, otherwise they [the extremists] will force to remove other sculptures like Shaheed Minar, National Memorial and Raju sculpture."

Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir said removing the sculpture around midnight was reprehensible. If the government did so to make Hefazat-e-Islam happy, they should make their stance clear, she said.

Spokesperson of a faction of Ganajagan Mancha Imran H Sarker said installing and removing the sculpture was part of the government's politics as it wanted to resist people's protest against the recent incidents of rape and sending the Narayanganj schoolteacher to jail.

Meanwhile, Awami League's ally and a partner in the coalition government, Workers Party of Bangladesh also protested the incident.

"Removal of the sculpture is a shameful surrender to the fundamentalists," it said in a statement issued yesterday.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 2

Three brothers drown in Keraniganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three brothers drowned while taking a dip in a branch of the river Buriganga in South Keraniganj, on the outskirts of the capital, yesterday.

Md Hridoy, 18, Md Ibrahim, 22, and Md Hossain, 14, went to Hasnabad area to attend a wedding ceremony on Thursday. Yesterday, they went to bathe in the river and drowned around 12:00noon, their uncle Al Amin told The Daily Star.

Hridoy was rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where he was declared dead. The bodies of Ibrahim and Hossain were found floating in the river an hour later.

The bodies were handed over to the family after autopsies, said Ful Mia, a sub-inspector of South Keraniganj Police Station.



EVERYWHERE THERE'S DUST IN THE WIND... This photo taken on Kazi Nazrul Islam Road in the capital is not of usual dust kicked up by vehicles. City dwellers and commuters were caught off guard yesterday afternoon, around 4:30pm, when a sudden strong wind created this dust storm. Massive construction work of flyovers, metro rail and year-long development works by city corporations, different government utility service providers and private development firms have turned Dhaka into a dust bowl. On January 25 last year, the High Court demanded an explanation from the government on the steps taken to remove dust, smoke and other deadly elements causing damage to public health in four city corporations -- DSCC, DNCC, Gazipur and Narayanganj. No noticeable measure, however, has yet been taken by the authorities in this regard.

Injustice of compensation

Families of workers killed in Ctg shipbreaking yards allege that they are not getting such proper benefit

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Al-Amin came to Chittagong all the way from Khulna in search of work so that he could support a seven-member family back home. But little did he know what awaited him.

While on duty, the 27-year-old worker of a shipbreaking yard in Chittagong got killed in an accident on September 5, 2015 -- an end to his struggle for bringing smile to his family members. However, the sufferings of his dear ones began as his untimely death put his entire family into poverty.

Al-Amin's sister Rabeya said the compensation they had received at the cost of the only earning member of the family was insufficient. They now find it difficult to make ends meet, she said, adding, "We got three lakh taka as compensation -- Tk 1 lakh through a labour court and Tk 2 lakh directly from the owner."

Though there is a government regulation

YEAR	WORKERS KILLED
2005	8
2006	10
2007	8
2008	14
2009	25
2010	11
2011	15
2012	22
2013	13
2014	9
2015	13
2016	17
Total (12 years)	165

SOURCE: NGO SHIPBREAKING PLATFORM

that shipbreaking yard owners will have to pay Tk 5 lakh for each death in accident at the yards, families of the deceased workers allege that they have not received proper compensation as per the rule.

Take another example of Abdul Karim.

The 22-year-old worker was killed in an accident at another shipbreaking yard on May 29 last year, putting his family into severe financial crisis.

Karim's mother Amena Begum said she had received Tk 1 lakh through a labour court and Tk 80,000 from the owner. "Karim was the lone bread earner of the family...the money we got as compensation was very little."

In the last 12 years, between 2005 and 2016, at least 165 workers like Al-Amin and Karim got killed in accidents at shipbreaking yards in Chittagong, according to NGO Shipbreaking Platform, a coalition of environmental, human and labour rights organisations whose goal is to prevent toxic end-of-life ships from being beached in developing countries.

However, allegation runs rife that the number of actual deaths might be higher than the abovementioned figure, as accidents at yards are not

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



PM to join IAEA confce in Vienna on May 30

Diplomatic Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend a conference of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna on May 30, which will discuss how the nuclear technologies can contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The conference has been organised marking the 60th anniversary of the IAEA.

As per the programme schedule, foreign ministry officials said the prime minister will depart Dhaka for Austria on Monday (May 29) on a two-day visit.

She is expected to hold bilateral meeting with her Austrian counterpart Federal Chancellor Christian Kern.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali will hold a press conference tomorrow morning on the prime minister's visit.

According to the IAEA's website, the Bangladesh prime minister along with the presidents of Uruguay and Mauritius and high UN officials will address the opening session of the international conference on "IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme: Sixty Years and Beyond - Contributing to Development" on May 30.

2 JU students die in road crash

Fellows block Dhaka-Aricha highway

JU CORRESPONDENT

Two Jahangirnagar University (JU) students were killed as a bus rammed a human-hauler carrying them on Dhaka-Aricha highway in C&B bus stand area of Savar early yesterday.

The deceased are Nazmul Hasan Rana, 24, a student of marketing and Arafat, 24, of microbiology. Both were third-year students and residents of Al Beruni Hall.

Rana hailed from Pabna while Arafat from Narshingdi.

The incident took place when the duo was returning to the campus from a mosque

in Savar around 5:00am, said Mahbub Morshed, assistant proctor of JU.

Rana died on the spot while Arafat succumbed to his injuries at Savar Enam Medical College Hospital nearly after eight hours, the proctor added.

Following the incident, hundreds of students of the university blocked the highway in front the main entrance and Joy Bangla Gate separately yesterday noon.

The also came up with some demands including immediate arrest of the bus driver, compensation for the family of the deceased and a foot bridge at Prantik Gate.



An artist draws a symbol during a 'protest through drawing' organised by Bangladesh Charushilpi Sangsad in front of Fine Arts Institute at Dhaka University yesterday. The event was organised to press home their demand of making fine arts studies compulsory at schools and withdrawing bigoted items from textbooks.

25 activists of Jamaat, Shibir arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police claimed to have arrested 25 activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student front Islami Chhatra Shibir in the capital's Panthapath area yesterday.

On information that an IT firm was set up on the sixth floor of Haque tower in the area for spreading anti-government propaganda online, a team of police conducted a drive and arrested them, Biplob Kumar Sarkar, deputy commissioner, Tejgaon division of DMP told The Daily Star.

They were also trying to raise public opinion against the trial of war criminals through internet, the DC said.

Officer-in-charge of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station GG Biswas said 16 computers and some books were seized from the office.

Police are interrogating the arrestees to check their details, he added.

Arrested person killed in 'gunfight' with Savar cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A "drug peddler" was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Birulea area of Savar, outside the capital, early yesterday.

Mokter Hossen alias Mukti, of Anandapur Coto Bolimahar area, was wanted in some 12 cases, including drug peddling and murder, and was arrested near his house on Thursday night, said Savar model police. They took him to Birulea area to recover arms when his associates opened fire on police and the law enforcer fired back.

Police recovered a pistol and three bullets from the spot. Meanwhile, Shagor Hossen, son of the deceased, said some eight men in plainclothes, identifying themselves as members of the Detective Branch of police, picked up Mukti, Shagor's uncle Sanowar Hossen and aunt Shahanaz Begum on Wednesday.

On Thursday, Sanowar and Shahanaz were sent to jail by a court in a case over attacking police on March 25 when they went to Mukti's house to arrest him.

"But when I contacted DB police and Savar model police, they said they did not arrest my father," said Shagor.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.