

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Uncropped photo and two ways to crop.
PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

The Joy of Cropping

Many years ago I took a photography class with the great fine-art photographer Michael Kenna, whose exquisite black-and-white photographs of landscapes, especially at night, are still considered classics. Every week, before class started, the students would hang their photographs (or "work" as we called them) on the wall. Kenna walked into class holding two L-shaped pieces of cardboard and immediately went to work on the photographs. He used the L's to crop each photograph in a variety of ways until he coaxed a much stronger image from the photograph.

Cropping, the removal of unwanted areas of an image, is probably the most basic photographic manipulation. In film days it was done in the darkroom or even by trimming the photograph itself. Today it is a basic function of photo-editing software.

I must admit, though, I took Kenna's cropping lessons with a pinch of salt. That's because I was grounded in traditional photographic discipline which strongly discouraged cropping. Following the French great Henri Cartier-Bresson, many black-and-white photographers eschewed cropping. To prove this they printed their negatives to include a thin edge around the image corresponding to negative rebate. So their photographic prints contained a thin black border around the image. If you look carefully at any of Cartier-Bresson's images, you will see black borders, proving it was an uncropped image.

I should explain the reason for this belief. Photographers strongly felt that the image should be "composed" or arranged within the viewfinder. When taking the picture, if you thought "Oh, I can fix that photo later with cropping," you would not strive for the strongest possible image and become a lazy photographer.

I certainly believe this for most types of photographic subjects, such as people, landscapes, buildings, streets, etc and try to compose in the viewfinder without having to resort to cropping.

But since I started photographing birds and wildlife, I have come to embrace cropping as a creative tool. A bird or an animal is usually a small part of the entire frame because it is far away. Presenting this picture to the viewer without cropping is of little value. Cropping the picture magnifies the subject and brings it to the centre of attention. Unlike the limited freedom of cropping in the film darkroom, the vast megapixels of the digital camera allow me great flexibility in cropping.

Good cropping is very much an intuitive exercise. The photographer must have a sense of the geometry of the image; the crop should reinforce this geometry and not fight it. Many photographs have a direction associated with them and the crop must respect that. It goes without saying that the crop should not remove important parts of an image, such as a person's legs or a bird's tail.

An example of good and bad cropping is shown above. The original image is shown on top. In the crop on the left side, the tail is cut off and the bird's head, facing left, needs more space for the eyes to "look into." A better crop on the right solves both issues.

So give creative cropping a try. Look at the proportion and overall balance of the image. Avoid placing the subject in the middle of the frame to avoid monotony. With practice, cropping will become another creative tool in your photographer's toolbox.

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We want an end to this atrocity

Buddhists say condemning violence on Rohingya in Myanmar; Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad also expresses concern

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Buddhist community in Bangladesh yesterday called upon the Myanmar government to stop the ongoing atrocities on the Rohingyas.

Expressing solidarity with the Rohingyas, around 100 people from the community, including monks, students and professionals, formed a human chain under the banner of Bangladesh United Buddhist Forum in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Amid a dramatic increase in the number of refugees fleeing violence in Myanmar's Northern Rakhine state, the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) yesterday said in the last two weeks an estimated 2,70,000 Rohingyas have sought safety in Bangladesh.

Leaders of the Buddhist forum yesterday said Buddhism teaches peace. Hatred cannot solve anything, they added.

They urged the Myanmar government and its people to take the path of nonviolence to solve the ongoing crisis. They also sought intervention of humanitarian

organisations for putting pressure on Myanmar to stop the oppression.

Ashok Barua, chief coordinator of the forum, said, "We have gathered here to condemn and protest the killing and oppression on Rohingyas... We want an end to this atrocity."

He said the country's Buddhist community will submit a memorandum to the Myanmar embassy in Dhaka tomorrow. They will also send a copy to the UN's local office and other organisations.

Ashim Ranjan Barua, president of Bangladesh Buddhist Federation, said, "What they [Myanmar government] are doing is completely opposite to Buddhism."

"The cruelty of the Myanmar government made Buddhists living in Bangladesh ashamed," he added.

Prof Tripti Rani Barua, executive president (women chapter) of the federation, said hatred cannot defeat hatred, but kindness and affection can.

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Force Myanmar to take Rohingya back: BNP

STAR REPORT

The BNP yesterday urged the government to make serious "diplomatic efforts" to compel Myanmar to resolve the ongoing Rohingya crisis.

"Our demand is very clear. Rohingyas should be given shelter, food, security and treatment. But, at the same time, the government should mount pressure on Myanmar through diplomatic efforts to send them back to their country," said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir.

As part of its countrywide programme, BNP formed a one-hour human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club protesting the repression on Rohingyas in Myanmar.

The party, however, alleged that police did not allow the BNP leaders and activists to hold their programmes in some districts.

The BNP leader said it is not necessary to inquire about the religion of the Rohingyas, but rather the concern should be that they are human beings.

"The Myanmar government has waged war against humanity and we have to resist this. Let us get united and raise our voice against the mass killing and force Myanmar to take them back," he said.

He also expressed concern over the trespassing of Myanmar Air Force helicopter into Bangladesh airspace.

Meanwhile in Chittagong, the party's city unit at a human chain in front of its office in Kazir Dewry area urged the Myanmar government to stop oppression on the Rohingyas.

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Clockwise from left, As part of their countrywide programme, BNP formed a one-hour human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, protesting the repression on Rohingyas in Myanmar. Buddhists in Bangladesh also stand up for the persecuted community, raising their voice through a human chain at the same venue. With "Bishwa Bibek Protibad Koro, Rohingya Muslim Gonohatya Bondho Koro" (Raise your voice against genocide of Rohingya Muslims) inscribed on his back, a man stands in front of the club.



PHOTO: STAR

CMP to get counter terrorism unit

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Similar to Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) is going to introduce a full-fledged counter terrorism (CT) unit for Chittagong region with an aim to expedite the ongoing drives against militants and terror-related activities.

CMP officials said forming a full-fledged CT unit is a timely move as Chittagong is geographically vulnerable to militancy. In the past, law enforcers busted several hideouts of banned militant outfits including Harkat-ul-Jihad Bangladesh (Hujji), Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) in the region, they said.

Considering the need, a proposal for the formation of CT unit under CMP's jurisdiction has already been sent to the police headquarters in Dhaka in July seeking additional manpower, said CMP sources.

The sources said a post of additional deputy commissioner (ADC) has already been created with an executive order in January 2017 for the CT unit. However, the unit will be headed by a deputy commissioner (DC).

Currently, several police personnel have been working against militancy, cyber crimes, militant financing and mobile banking-related crimes under the supervision of the newly-created post of ADC, added the CMP sources.

Talking to The Daily Star, CMP Commissioner Iqbal Bahar said, "The proposal for a full-fledged CT unit has been sent to police headquarters for approval..."

Police are going to get a nationwide Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit within months under the

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Gonojagoron Mancha March towards Myanmar embassy Monday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonojagoron Mancha, a pro-liberation platform, will lay siege to the Myanmar embassy in Bangladesh on Monday if the Myanmar government does not stop what it termed "genocide" on Rohingyas by that day.

It also urged the Myanmar government to take back its citizens from Bangladesh within that time period, said a press release.

The Mancha, led by its spokesperson Imran H Sarkar, announced the programme at a protest rally in the capital's Shahbagh yesterday afternoon.

Earlier, a procession marched from Shahbagh to Bangla Motor and ended at Shahbagh via TSC intersection of Dhaka University.

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Dutch assurance for modernising RMG sector

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Netherlands assured Bangladesh of educational scholarships, modernisation of ready-made garment (RMG) products and reinvigoration of collaborations on a host of sectors including blue economy and water diplomacy.

The assurance was made following a discussion between the Bangladesh embassy and the Dutch Organisation for Internationalisation in Education (EP-Nuffic) in the Netherlands, according to a press release from the Bangladesh embassy in The Hague.

On September 5, a delegation led by Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal called on Theo Hooghiemstra, director of EP-Nuffic, and handed over a working paper containing proposals of cooperation in different sectors of interests in Bangladesh, the release said.

Based on the "Framework of Intent on Partnership for Knowledge and Innovation" signed in June 2015 in Dhaka between Bangladesh and the Netherlands during the twin-ministerial visit from the Netherlands, the Bangladesh embassy and the EP Nuffic have been working on to identify sectors of enhanced cooperation.

During the meeting, Ambassador Belal sought Dutch cooperation in incorporating modern practices and technologies from leading Dutch institutions and organisations

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A number of container handling equipment at the Chittagong port. Chittagong Port Authority recently purchased 46 such equipment, including four rubber-tired gantry cranes, worth Tk 138 crore, to ease activities at the port.

PHOTO: STAR

New terminal to boost Ctg port capacity

Tk 1,868cr project kickstarts
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a programme in Chittagong yesterday expressed resentment that Chittagong port had not seen required infrastructural development for long.

As a result, the port is facing problems to handle the ever-increasing number of vessels and containers, they said.

They made the comments at the programme on the occasion of foundation laying at the project site of Patenga

Container Terminal (PCT) in the port city's Patenga area. Shipping Minister Shahajan Khan was present as the chief guest.

The speakers hoped that the timely completion of the Tk 1,868 crore project would boost port activities significantly.

The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) is going to build the new terminal. The New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) of the port was built 10 years back in 2007.

The engineering corps of Bangladesh

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Tofa, Tahura ready to leave hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The recently-separated conjoined twins of Gaibandha are ready for release from hospital as doctors believe they are developing normally after a major splitting operation early last month.

Tofa and Tahura, now 10-month-old, are currently out of danger, Associate Professor Shahnoor Islam of Dhaka Medical College Hospital told The Daily Star. "We hope they will do fine."

Hospital authorities will release them tomorrow after a scheduled visit of Health Minister Mohammed Nasim.

The babies, who were

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Passengers await their turns at Chandpur Launch Terminal while a jam-packed launch sets sail towards the capital. As the Eid holidays came to an end, holidaymakers started returning to Dhaka in droves. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ALAM PALASHI