

# TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Snipe landing in Purbachol.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

## The Trouble With Snipes

The trouble with snipes is they are shy and stay well-hidden in the grass. You might be near them without knowing it. Then you come just a bit too close and they take off like a bullet.

What is a photographer to do? The answer, like many other questions of bird photography, is to get lucky!

The one time when I had a good long view of a snipe was in Hail Haor. I was lying on my belly among some weeds about fifteen feet from the edge of a *beel*, waiting for shorebirds to land on the muddy bank. Along the far edge of the *beel* appeared an unusual shape that bobbed rapidly while moving along the bank. As it came closer I saw its extraordinarily long beak which lent it the strange profile. It went back and forth over the mud, probing the ground deeply with its beak, looking for worms and insects to catch. It did not notice me - luckily - and I was able to take a few photographs. Eventually I twitched and it took off in a hurry.

The snipe is a bird of grass and mud, with a characteristic long, straight beak that is finely pitted and armed with sensory nerves. There are four species of snipes found in Bangladesh. The easiest to see is the common snipe. The others are pintail snipe, jack snipe and greater painted snipe. Except for the last one which breeds here, snipes are winter visitors to our land.

I have seen snipes several times in many areas. Except for one instance, my views were exceedingly fleeting. Their shyness also makes them hard to photograph.

The migrant snipes breed during the

summer in northern lands. In Iceland I saw common snipes as they flew in circles in the sky making a curious loud drumming sound. That drumming sound, subject of much ornithological research, is to attract a mate. The consensus today is that the snipe makes its drumming sound by beating its tail feathers against each other.

Some weeks ago, during a short break from the heavy rains, I was standing at the edge of a rain-soaked field in Purbachol, wondering if it was worth my while traversing it, when I heard a flapping noise and saw two birds coming in for a noise landing on the far side. I instinctively raised my camera and took some pictures. Then I looked through my binoculars, expecting to see two of the lapwings that inhabit that field. I was astonished to see two snipes sitting in the deep, watery grass. I got a few more pictures and then took a step forward. That was the end of that encounter as they took off.

Years ago I ran into a greater painted snipe in Hail Haor. I was able to photograph its head - bobbing above the grass level - before it flew. I also had fleeting encounters with snipes in the National Botanical Garden, in the grassland near the lake. In all cases, they would not let me come close, taking off very fast once approached.

For me snipes continue to remain elusive and it is a special day when I see one.

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## BCL man's terror pushes girl to breaking point

Her body found hanging; fellows saw the student leader drag her to an unknown place the day before

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

A teenage girl, a student of Govt LBK Degree College in Dacope upazila, has committed suicide in her dormitory room after Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) president of Bajua SN College allegedly took her to an undisclosed location by force the day before.

Joyee Mondal, 18, from Uttar Banishanta village, was a second-year intermediate student at the women's college. She secured GPA-5 in SSC.

Around 9:00am on the morning of November 6, resident students of the dormitory found Joyee's room locked from inside. As she did not respond to their knocking on the door, they looked through the window and saw her hanging from the ceiling.

Being informed, the college principal reported the incident to the police who later recovered her body and sent it to Khulna Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.

Joyee's fellow students said the day before her body was found, in the afternoon on November 5, they saw her being forcibly taken away from outside of a teacher's house where they all went to take private coaching lessons.

They also said the BCL president of SN (Surendranath) College, Inzamamul Hoq Mirza, who had long been stalking her on way to and from the tutor's house, came in front of the tutor's house along with several of his associates while Joyee and other students were inside.

He asked Joyee to come out of the house for a talk. Joyee came out and had a heated argument with Mirza. At one stage, she slapped him in the face, asking not to harass her any more.

Mirza then started to beat her up and he, with the help of his cohorts, dragged her out

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## Mohiuddin stands by CU teacher

VC says university ordinance allows faculty members to join social movement

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Former Chittagong city mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury has voiced his support for the Chittagong University (CU) teacher, who was recently threatened by a faction of the university uni of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

In a statement sent to the press on Thursday night, Mohiuddin, also the president of city unit Awami League, condemned the incident and said Chittagong City Corporation Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin has "unleashed his musclemen" on the teacher as he spoke against the holding tax reassessment.

"The teacher was also threatened," he said. "The mayor is instigating anarchy and subversive activities, which are tarnishing the image of the party and the government."

Mohiuddin is also against the holding tax reassessment.

On Sunday, Md Amir Uddin, an associate professor of the university's Institute of Education Research, was threatened at gunpoint at his office allegedly by some youths introducing themselves as activists of a faction of BCL CU unit, loyal to Nasir, for his activism against the CCC's holding tax reassessment programme.

Amir is the general secretary of Chattagram Kordata Surokha Parishad, a group created to protect the taxpayers of Chittagong.

On Tuesday, the BCL faction loyal to Nasir also vandalised the office of the university's vice chancellor, demanding the teacher's dismissal.

When asked, Nasir, also the general secretary of Chittagong city unit AL, yesterday told The Daily Star that nobody threatened Amir.

Also, "I don't have any involvement in the incidents on the CU campus... I'm here in the city and the university is around 22km away," he said. "He [Amir] is spreading propaganda to get sympathy... and failing to get support, he is now lying."

"What is the duty of a teacher? Is it to organise rallies or teach in classrooms?" he asked.

About the BCL faction's movement against Amir, Nasir said everybody has a right to voice their opinion. "...Students also have a right to speak against him on valid grounds."

Regarding Mohiuddin's allegation, Nasir said, "How can I tarnish the image of the government? I'm also a part of it... what I am doing is under the purview of law... the holding tax reassessment was also held in Dhaka and other cities."

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A tunnel dug along the Mirpur road so carelessly that it loosened earth at the base of an electric pillar, which supports a bundle of high-tension cables. Although the city corporation workers placed two bamboos to shore up the metal pillar, they may collapse under its load and cause casualties. The photo was taken in Kalyanpur on Wednesday.

PHOTO: STAR

### Obituary



Ishrat Mahmud (Babu) FCA, son of Mahmudul Haq Chowdhury & Suraiya Chowdhury, passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017 - Inna Lilliahe .... Wa Inna Elihi Raziun. He left behind his mother and son Shahriar & daughter Zaynah.

A dowah mahfil will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov, Saturday, after Asar prayers, at Gulshan Azad Mosque.

We pray for his departed soul and may Allah bless him.



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## JU gets 'bomb threat'

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University authorities have filed a general diary (GD) following an alleged bomb threat in an anonymous letter.

The GD was filed with Ashulia Police Station on Thursday, said JU Registrar Abu Bakr Siddique yesterday.

The letter, sent to the vice chancellor

earlier, reads the university administrative buildings will be blown up with time-bombs if there is no administrative reshuffle between November 5 and 9, said the registrar.

In the GD, they demanded security and drives by law enforcers at the administrative building, he said.

VC Prof Farzana Islam said police assured her of raiding the buildings soon.

### PRESENTING THE TOP 10 TEAMS



### SEASON 2

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