

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

Cock-of-the-rock

“We have a little problem,” said Gabriel, my birding guide. This side-trip from my base in Manaus, Brazil was turning out more exciting than I had planned. The lodge had lost electricity when we arrived on this hot day. But Gabriel was not talking about electricity. Having gone off to scout the forest where the strange-looking birds could be found, he had returned with sombre news. To get there we had to cross a small river, a tributary of the Negro, with dark tea-coloured water. It had rained so much the day before that the river had overflowed and its wooden walking bridge was a foot underwater.



Guianan cock-of-the-rock. PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

I looked at the flowing water and shook my head. It was my camera I was worried about; if I lost my footing while crossing that bridge, I could swim to safety, but my expensive gear would be finished. However, I had not come all this way to return empty-handed, so wrapping my camera in several layers of plastic I stuffed it inside Gabriel's backpack. He was certainly more surefooted than I, so he would carry it.

movement or noise could frighten away the birds. Within a few minutes we saw one on a low branch in the distance. It was coloured an outrageous orange and in the drab, grey forest, it stood out like a burning flame. Soon, other birds joined; they flew around in the clearing and came closer at one point. I was finally able to photograph the Guianan Cock-of-the-rock.

The Cock-of-the-rock is the most unusual bird I have seen. There are two species of this bird in the genus Rupicola, the Guianan and the Andean Cock-of-the-rock. Both are seen only in South America. Males are spectacular but females are drab. They spend their time up in the forest canopy and are difficult to see. However, this area is one of the few known places where they

are within easy reach, close to the ground. While we were there several other photographers showed up. As we made our photographs, there was a shared sense of awe at this wonder. Meanwhile, more birds joined, scattering around the trees. Then, as suddenly as it had arrived, the flock flew back up to the canopy.

Exhausted, drenched, but happy, we hiked back, crossed the river with more confidence and returned to the lodge. The electricity had returned by now. I photographed many other birds on that day I spent at Mari Mari Lodge, but the Cock-of-the-rock was undoubtedly the most spectacular.

facebook.com/ikabirphotographs or follow 'ihtishamkabir' on Instagram.

Luma was arrested for her quota reform connections

Allege family, leaders of the movement

Lutfun Nahar Luma was arrested only because of her involvement with the quota reform movement, and it was done to foil the movement as well as to weaken their mental strength, alleged quota reform protesters yesterday.

Leaders of Bangladesh Shadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, the platform of quota reformists, made the claim at a press conference at the auditorium of Crime Reporters Association of Bangladesh.

“False allegations were raised against Luma that she had given provocative posts on social media, but law enforcers failed to show any evidence to back the allegation,” said Ataulah, a joint convener of the platform, while reading out a written statement.

He also claimed that Luma did

not make any controversial comments centring on the road safety protest and was outside Dhaka during the time.

The platform also demanded unconditional release of her and other arrested quota reform leaders before Eid-ul-Azha.

Luma, a student of Eden College and a joint convener of quota reform protest, was picked up from her grandfather's house in Sirajganj in a raid in the early hours of Wednesday. She was shown arrested in a case under the controversial Section 57 of the ICT act, filed with Ramna Police Station on August 5.

Najmul Islam, additional deputy commissioner of the cybercrime monitoring team of DMP, told The Daily Star that Luma was arrested for “instigating violence during the road safety protest,” and

Dr Kamal pleads to PM to release arrested students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday earnestly requested Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to release the students who were arrested after quota reform movement and students' road safety protests, before Eid-ul-Azha.

Dr Kamal, also the president of Gono Forum, came up with the remarks while addressing a discussion programme at the Jatiya Press Club. Jatiyo Oikyo Pokriya organised the discussion, demanding unconditional release of the students.

Kamal said he hopes the premier will show generosity regarding the release of 97 arrested students. “What do the students want? They want reform of quota system. Reform is a good word across the world. How the reform can be done well is a matter of discussion. If they [the arrested students] went to Bangabandhu to seek apology, he would do it. I do not except any less from Bangabandhu's daughter,” he said.

“You surely believe that I am your well-wisher,” the eminent lawyer also said to the PM. “At the age of 81, I am urging you to release the students so that they can enjoy Eid with their family members. I believe you

Hasina mourns Vajpayee's death

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed deep shock at the demise of former Indian prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

“He was our great friend and highly respected in Bangladesh,” she said in a condolence message to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. “We're deeply shocked at the sad demise of one of the most famous sons of India,” Hasina added.

She said as a token of recognition for Vajpayee's invaluable contribution to Bangladesh's Liberation War, the government conferred on him the Bangladesh Liberation War Honour.

“Today is certainly a day of great sadness for all of us in Bangladesh.” She expressed heartfelt

'Please help us find him'

Wife of 'missing' former Rab CO seeks PM's intervention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wife of Lt Col Hasinur Rahman, a former commanding officer of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), yesterday pleaded to the prime minister for her help in finding Hasinur, who has remained missing for over a week.

“Please bring my husband back. He [Hasinur] is innocent and not involved with anything. I beg to the prime minister so that she would order the law enforcement agencies to find my husband,” said his wife Shamima Akhter at a press conference at Crime Reporters' Association of Bangladesh in Dhaka's Segun Bagicha.

Former CO of Rab-7 Hasinur, who was also in the army (sacked), was allegedly picked up by 14 to 15 plainclothes men around 10:30pm on August 8 when he was on his way home after meeting his friends, Shamima said.

Quoting locals, Shamima on August 9 said her husband cried for help when plainclothes men tried to force him into

a microbus. As locals approached to help him, the men, wearing jackets with “DB” inscribed on them, told them they were from the Detective Branch (DB) of police.

They came in two Hiace minibuses, Shamima said. They also picked up the caretaker of the house as he tried to capture photos but later dropped him near ECB intersection, she added.

Shamima filed a general diary with Pallabi Police Station seeking his safe return. She, however, alleged that Pallabi police initially refused to register the GD.

Later, the investigation officer of the police station called them once in last one week only to enquire about the GD, she added. “I have no clue why my husband could be picked up.”

“He has no enmity with anyone. For the last four years, he used to stay at home and looked after a share business in stock exchange,” she added.

She said they searched for him in every



Bangladesh Biplobi Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday, demanding that the authorities concerned train drivers, give them appointment letters, and arrest the “godfathers” of the transport sector.

PHOTO: STAR

Comprehensive planning a must

Suggests Poba for a liveable Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should form a powerful working committee, involving its 54 departments and experts concerned, within six months to prepare a master plan for a liveable Dhaka, said Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) yesterday.

Once the master plan is chalked out, the committee will swing into quick action so that the plan is executed, it added.

The organisation came up with the suggestion at a press conference at their office in the capital in the wake of Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) global survey that had ranked Dhaka as the second least liveable city in the world, said a press release.

They also suggested ensuring administrative, political and economic decentralisation. Mismanagement is going on everywhere including in traffic, road and housing management due to unplanned urbanisation, said Dr Lelin Chowdhury, joint general secretary of Poba.

“Since the last seven years, Dhaka was ranked as second to fourth least liveable

Absurd and imprudent

Says Fakhru about PM's comment on Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's comment involving BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the August 15 carnage conspiracy is “absurd and imprudent”, said party's Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday.

“Our self-declared prime minister used to see the ghost of Zia family and BNP everywhere. Otherwise, how could you involve Khaleda Zia and Ziaur Rahman in the 1975 incident?” he said.

He said this while addressing a solidarity meeting against repression on journalists. It was arranged by pro-BNP factions of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) at Jatiya Press Club.

Fakhru further said, “As a politician having the experience of governing the country, such imprudent comment does not fit you. We strongly condemn her remark.”

there is no doubt that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was also involved in the August 15 carnage conspiracy.

“Zia's wife (Khaleda) brought self-confessed killer of the father of the nation to parliament by rigging votes... Not only Zia, but also his wife was involved in the conspiracy of the August 15 carnage. There is no doubt,” the PM said.

The BNP leader also said their party extended its support to the student movements from the very first day. “We must support the students' demands for quota reform and safe roads. We also call upon people to come forward not only for safe roads, but also for a safe Bangladesh.”

Fakhru also urged people, including political parties and professionals, to get united to save the country from misrule.

“Political parties have greater responsibility to protect people. Our leader [Khaleda] before going to jail called for unity to remove the current regime,” he said.



Md. Hashem Chowdhury

Obituary

We are grieved to inform of the sad passing of Md. Hashem Chowdhury, 58, Additional Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer of Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTB) at 9:40 pm on Thursday, August 16, 2018 at United Hospital, Dhaka (Inna Lillahe Wa Inna Ilaihi Raje'un). His Namaz-e-Janaza was held at Bashundhara Boro Masjid after Fajr prayers yesterday (August 17, 2018) after which his mortal remains were taken to his village home at Chouddagram, Kumilla. The Qul Khwani will also be held at his village home. The bank will arrange a Doa Mehfil after Asr prayers on Sunday, August 19, 2018 at MTB Centre, 26 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212 and another one on Saturday, August 25, 2018 at Gulshan Central Mosque (Azad Masjid).

Our deepest sympathies go out to his wife, two daughters and elder son-in-law.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are kindly requested to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.



মিউচুয়াল ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
Mutual Trust Bank Ltd.

you can bank on us