

# TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

## BE PREPARED

When my son was growing up, he joined the Scouts and I volunteered as a parent, serving as Scoutmaster for Boy Scouts of America. It was a good experience for both of us. He went on to attain Eagle Scout rank and I learned about outdoor preparedness and safety.

Years later, here in Bangladesh I see many people enjoying outdoor activities. Winter is, of course, the best season for camping, bird-watching, trekking, climbing, boating and other adventures. In particular, it is delightful to find the youth enjoying the outdoors in this pleasant weather.

But I also see many who are unprepared. And so every year we hear about accidents in the outdoors, particularly when young people go on an outing outside the city, for example, into a national park or to the beach or a river. With simple precautions many of these accidents can be avoided.

The fundamental rule is that the great outdoors may look beautiful and tranquil, but it is full of surprises and not always benign. This fact is easily forgotten if you grew up in a city. In the outdoors you must be prepared to protect yourself.

Here are some simple rules to avoid turning that adventure into a nightmare.

**Take a buddy:** If you go for a walk in the forest, or in an uninhabited area, or out on a boat or for a swim, never go alone. This is common sense. There are many unexpected things that can happen – a wrong footstep can sprain an ankle, or you may unwittingly step on quicksand while walking through a dry creekbed like I did years ago – and a companion can save the day.

**Stay hydrated:** Carry bottled water with you in any outing because even in winter the sun can get hot dehydration will spoil your enjoyment. Bring some bananas, nuts or dates for nourishment; remember, salty snacks make you thirsty.

**Appropriate clothing:** It makes sense to wear several thinner layers of clothes instead of one thick coat in colder weather. This



The forest beckons.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

way you can peel off the layers as the day warms and put them on again when it becomes cold. For the outdoors, synthetics are preferable to cotton, because once cotton gets wet, it takes forever to dry, accelerating the loss of body heat. Wear muted colours (green, grey, khaki, brown) rather than loud ones which clash with natural surroundings. (More than once, when we were admiring the greenery of Sundarban from our dinghy, a brightly attired *genji bahini* wearing logo T shirts came along in another boat, rudely breaking the spell.)

**Hat:** In the cold, 80% of the heat lost from your body leaves through the head, and a hat can reduce that. In the sunlight a hat protects your eyes from direct sunlight and from sunburn. A *gamcha* can also protect your

head. **Shoes:** Wear comfortable shoes, such as hiking shoes or sneakers, when you are outdoors. If they are brand new, make sure to break them in before wearing them on a long trek – otherwise blisters may result. Some people prefer open footwear – sandals or sandals-shoes – when outdoors, but I like to protect my feet from leeches, insects, sharp roots, etc.

And please don't play loud music when you are in a pristine natural area. It annoys other people, birds and wildlife.

We have a beautiful country and this is the best time to enjoy it. What are you waiting for? Let's go!

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# BNP-nominated Jamaat men confident of win in Khulna

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

BNP-nominated candidates from Jamaat-e-Islami have full confidence to keep five constituencies in Khulna division in the December 30 general election.

Mia Golam Porwar from Khulna-5, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad from Khulna-6, Abdul Alim from Bagerhat-4, Muhaddis Abdul Khaleque from Satkhira-2 and Gazi Nazrul Islam from Satkhira-4 are contesting the polls.

These five constituencies were stronghold of Jamaat previously.

A total of eight candidates, including the five, from Jamaat are contesting with BNP's electoral symbol "Sheaf of Paddy" in Khulna division.

The Daily Star talked to around 20 leaders and activists in those areas. They all expressed their hope to win in the election.

In recent years, Jamaat and BNP were able to attain support of voters in those constituencies.

On the other hand, Awami League-led grand alliance is also trying to capture all 36 seats in Khulna division. AL leaders claimed that they have received good response from supporters at union and village levels.

KHULNA

Mia Golam Porwar and Narayan

Chandra Chanda from the AL-led alliance are vying for Khulna-5 (Dumuria-Phultala).

AL bagged the seat in 1991, 1996, 2008. However, Jamaat got it in 2001.

Golam Porwar defeated Narayan Chandra by 4,686 votes in 2001 and in 2008 Narayan defeated Golam Porwar by 39,288 votes.

Golam Porwar told The Daily Star that if the election is held in a free and fair manner, the victory will be theirs.

AL leaders and activists hope that 64,643 new voters will cast their ballots in favour of AL as the party believes in development.

Meanwhile, Khulna-6 (Koyra-Paigachha) has been a stronghold of Jamaat for years.

AL candidates won the seat in 1996 and 2008 and Jamaat in 1991 and 2001. Jamaat candidate Shah Md Ruhul Kuddus defeated AL candidate Sheikh Md Nurul Haque in 1991 and 2001.

AL candidate Nurul Haque and Shorab Ali Sana regained the seat in 1996 and 2008.

Both the two former MPs did not get AL tickets this time. New face Akhteruzzaman Babu, district AL organising secretary, is contesting. His opponent Abul Kalam Azad, Khulna city Jamaat Amir, is now in jail in an arson case.

BAGERHAT

Jamaat won Bagerhat-4 (Morelganj and Sharonkhola) seat in 1991 and 2001 election. AL candidate Dr Mozammel Haq was elected MP in 1996 and 2008. This time, he is contesting with Jamaat candidate Abdul Alim.

SATKHIRA

There will be a contest between BNP nominated candidate from Jamaat Abdul Khaleque and AL-led grand alliance candidate Mir Mostak Ahmed Robi in Satkhira-2.

This correspondent could not contact Abdul Khaleque as he is in jail custody on charge of arson and subversive acts. About 16 cases have been filed against the district Amir of Jamaat.

In 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2001 Jamaat won the seat.

Abdul Khaleque defeated Md Nazrul Islam of AL by 54,345 votes in 2001.

However, in 2008 Abdul Khaleque was defeated by MA Jabbar of Jatiya Party by 18,864 votes.

Mostak Ahmed Robi said Jamaat has not done any field-level work there although its candidates were elected MP four times.

"Young voters don't trust Jamaat as they know its previous

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BNP candidate Abdullah Al Noman (Chattogram-10) campaigns at Wapda Colony in the port city yesterday.

## Elderly man killed, money looted in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An elderly man was murdered allegedly by a domestic help and Tk 2 lakh in cash was looted from his flat in Chattogram city yesterday.

The deceased is Tofayel Ahmed Rafiq, 60, a former businessman and son of Barik Mia, a locally renowned man of Fakirhat area. Rafiq was also the brother-in-law of Awami League candidate MA Latif (Chattogram-11), said police.

Assistant Commissioner (Port) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police Kamrul Islam said one of the male domestic helps working for Rafiq fled after the murder, while Tk 2 lakh went missing; he kept the cash for a surgery he was supposed to undergo in a couple of days.

"The incident took place on the first floor of Rafiq's three-storey house, between 2:00pm and 4:00pm," said Officer-in-Charge Mohiuddin Mahmud

of Bandar Police Station.

Rafiq was a widower and used to live alone with his three male domestic helps on the first floor while his two sons and a daughter live on the second floor. A few days ago, he appointed a youth, aged about 20, as a worker, and he has been missing since the murder, said the OC.

Rafiq last talked to his sons yesterday noon. In the evening when no response came from the flat, family members broke the door open and found Rafiq in the bed. He was hit by some metal object in the head, and blood was oozing out of his ears and nose, the officer said.

Rafiq was pronounced dead at Chattogram Ma o Shishu Medical Centre.

The family could not recall the name of the missing worker as he was a newcomer, the OC said, adding, "Police are collecting CCTV footage from near the building to trace his last location."

## Brothers run over by bus

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Two motorbike riders were killed when a bus ran over them near a police outpost in Dhaka-Chattogram highway's Feni municipality area yesterday afternoon.

The deceased – Noor Mohammad Munshi, 38, and Noor Nabi Chowdhury, 30 – were brothers, and residents of the district's sadar upazila, police said.

According to witnesses, the incident took place around 4pm when a Chattogram-bound bus reached Rampura Highway Police Outpost and hit a motorbike approaching from the opposite direction, and ran over it.

The motorbike was heavily damaged and its two riders died on the spot, they said.

Abdul Awal, officer-in-charge of Mohipal Highway Police Station in the district, told the correspondent that police seized the bus and sent the bodies to Feni sadar hospital's morgue for autopsy.

However, the bus driver and his helper managed to escape, he said, adding that they were preparing to file a case in the connection.

## Businessman murdered in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A businessman was stabbed to death at his home in Dhaka's Sabujbag area early yesterday, police said.

The deceased was identified as Abdullah Al Mahmud, 43, originally from Noakhali, said Abdul Kuddus Fakir, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sabujbag Police Station.

On information from neighbours, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body, said the OC.

Hazera, a resident of the same building, said that upon hearing noises she came out of her apartment and saw one Rakib, in bloodstained clothes, hurriedly leaving the building.

Rakib, 25, a youth from

Laxmipur, once lived in the opposite building in the area.

"When I asked him what happened, he said that a scuffle took place upstairs, and left," Hazera said. "I went upstairs to find Mahmud's apartment door open and his body in a pool of blood."

Hazera quickly informed Mahmud's family members of the incident.

Mahmud had been living in Uttar Bashabo with his wife and two children since 2010, his younger brother Fazlul Haque told police.

His wife and children have been in Noakhali since December 11, Fazlul added.

Rakib was in good terms with Mahmud and his family members, Fazlul said, adding, although Rakib left the area in

2016, he never stopped contacting Mahmud.

"Rakib often visited Mahmud's home and even had dinner with him two days ago," claimed Fazlul.

Meanwhile, Fazlul also informed Bahauddin Sohel, organising secretary of Subornachar Welfare Association, of which Mahmud was a member.

"We saw the CCTV footage of Rakib running away. Police also obtained the footage," Sohel said.

Mahmud helped many in Noakhali secure bank loans and had "financial transactions" with them. This might have got him killed, Sohel said.

Meanwhile, Fazlul filed a case with Sabujbag Police Station in this regard.

## Injured UP member dies

Mob torches, vandalises 50 houses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

An injured union parishad member in Gouripur upazila of Mymensingh died at a Dhaka hospital Thursday night.

Mustakim Mia, 35, a member in Ward 4 of Bokainagar Union Parishad, was injured critically in an attack on December 7.

His wife Asma Akter, in a case filed the same day with Gouripur Police Station, accused her husband's rival Swapon Mia, a member in the same union parishad, and 11 others for the attack.

Mustakim and Swapon had rivalry over establishing supremacy in the area, said Officer-in-Charge Abdullah Al Mamun of the police station, quoting Mustakim's family members.

Iron rods and sticks were used in the attack that took place in Basabari village of Gouripur, he said, adding that immediately after the attack Mustakim was taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, from where he was transferred to Dhaka.

Mustakim died due to kidney damage that he sustained in the attack. He also had severe injuries to both his legs, hands, waist and abdomen, said the OC.

Meanwhile, after the news of Mustakim's death reached the area, nearly 50 houses, belonging to Swapon and his accomplices, in four nearby villages were torched and vandalised by a rampaging mob. The mob also looted valuables from the houses, alleged locals.

Fire service rushed to the area and doused the fires while police brought the situation under control. Additional police were deployed in the area to avert further untoward incident.

Additional Superintendent of Police (Administration) in Mymensingh Humayun Kabir visited the spot.

No one was arrested and no case was filed over the arson attack and looting yet, OC Abdullah said.

So far, Swapon's father Shahed Ali, an accused in the case filed by Mustakim's wife, has been arrested. Shahed Ali is a former vice-president of Awami League's Bokainagar Union unit, he also said.

## Biker, friend die in road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two friends were killed in a road accident in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area on late Thursday night, police said.

The deceased were identified as Sakibul Islam and Tayebul Islam, both 25, confirmed Rashid Sarker, sub-inspector of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

The accident took place around 11:30pm when a cargo van hit Sakib's motorbike near Shishu Mela, killing Rashed on the spot, said the SI.

Injured critically, Sakib was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival.

Sakib was a BBA final year student of Tejgaon College, while Rashed of Mirpur Bangla College.

Both lived near Mirpur Shah Ali Police Station area with their families, said Sakib's friend Mahmud Hasan.

Meanwhile, police arrested Monir Hossein, driver of the cargo van, said SI Rashid Sarker.

A case was filed in this regard by Rashed's elder brother Nurul Alam.

Police yesterday produced Monir before the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Devdas Chandra Adhikary, with a five day remand prayer.

## 2 arrested for making derogatory remarks about PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) officials arrested two men at Sitakunda upazila in Chattogram yesterday on charge of making derogatory remarks about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, on social media.

The arrestees were identified as Ikram Shafi, 48, and Azad Kamal Nishan, 20, hailing from Kumira of Sitakunda upazila of Chattogram, said PBI officials.

Shafi, Nishan, and Bakkar, an associate, run a photocopy shop near Kumira Mazar Gate in Sitakunda, said Santosh Chakma, inspector of PBI, Chattogram. The

trio used to disseminate misleading information through a fake Facebook account, he added.

They also made derogatory remarks about the prime minister and her ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy using this account, he said.

The PBI Cyber Security Cell detected them and their location, he said, and conducted a drive in Kumira Mazar Gate area early yesterday, arresting Shafi and Nishan; Bakkar fled the scene sensing the police drive.

"We are conducting a drive to arrest [Bakkar]," he said, adding, "A case under the Digital Security Act has been filed against them with Sitakunda Police Station."