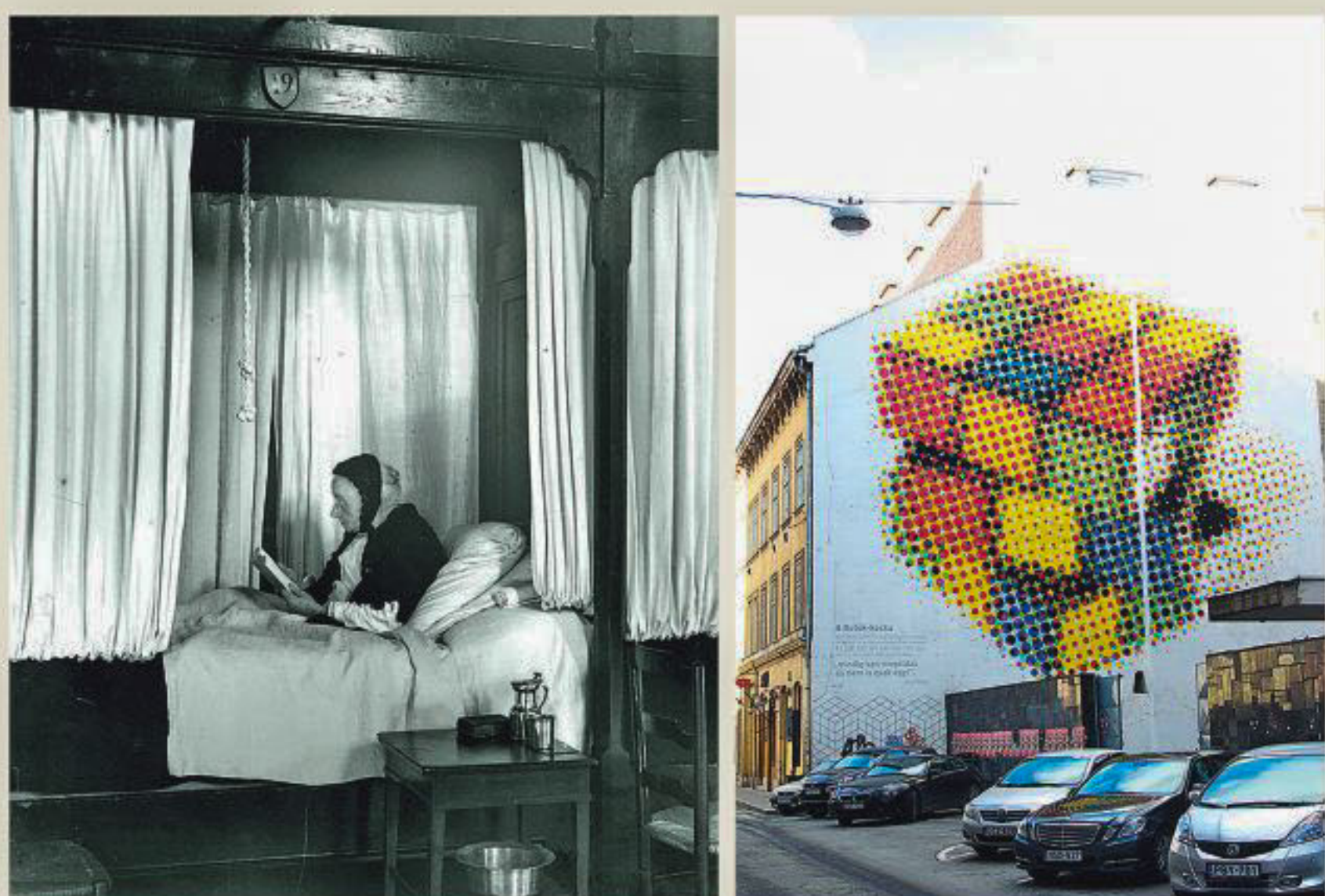


TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Left: Reader (by Andre Kertesz) . Right: Street art in Budapest today (by Ihtisham Kabir.)

Lives of a PHOTOGRAPHER

I was fortunate to have discovered the photographs of Kertesz early in my photographic life. They have inspired and nourished me for decades. Spanning a number of genres, including street and candid photography, still life, portraiture and modernist distortions, his black and white photographs are special because they contain formal beauty, lyricism, and poignant human interest all effortlessly tied together.

The photographer's life, however, was anything but effortless.

Andre Kertesz was born in Budapest in 1895. He started to photograph in 1914 and worked until his death in 1985. He lived in Hungary, Paris and New York. At each place, he came close to fame and success but they somehow eluded him until late in his life. But everywhere he created photographs that became classics and influenced countless other photographers.

My first brush with his work was through his book *On Reading*. One of my favourite photo books, it is filled with touching, sensitive photographs of people around the world caught in the act of reading. Turning the pages of this book is always a rich experience because it allows me to enter worlds that readers inhabit.

Kertesz's early photographs of Hungarian village people are also touching. These photographs are steeped in Hungarian folk traditions that also influenced the composer Bartok and his guru Kodaly. They look at the village people through gentle eyes, revealing and insightful.

Kertesz moved from Hungary to Paris in 1925 to pursue his photographic dreams. He became close to the modernist movement, particularly his compatriot photographer Brassai, and had a solo exhibition in 1927. However,

due partly to his unwillingness to learn French, he did not attain the fame he deserved. In 1933, on the cusp of success in Paris, he accepted an offer from an American company and moved to New York. There, the collaboration he expected did not work out, but being Jewish he did not want to return to Europe during the tense years before the Second World War. He fell into relative obscurity, worsened by his unwillingness to learn English. During the war, Kertesz and his wife were labelled "enemy aliens" and he was advised not to take photographs in the street. For two decades he worked for different magazines, making fashion and interior design photographs, but he was little known for his art.

In 1964 he finally attained fame with a solo exhibition at the New York Museum of Modern Art. Thereafter he was sought after as an art photographer.

A committed and consummate artist, he did not stop working as the end approached. His mobility was restricted, but he photographed people on the street below from his window with his Leica. An exquisite book called *From My Window* was the result of this work.

Lyrical and exuberant, Kertesz's photographs reveal special moments and were precursors to the "Decisive Moment" made famous later by Henri Cartier-Bresson.

The manifestation of the creativity of great artists evolves over time and circumstances. They often leave behind works in many genres. Kertesz's life and work is a fine example of this. They are a rich and delightful gift for visual connoisseurs and creators alike.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir or follow "ihtishamkabir" on Instagram.

'Resign if you can't control dengue'

Speakers at human chain call out city mayors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cultural personalities and journalists at a human chain yesterday demanded that both the Dhaka city mayors resign if they cannot check mosquitos and the recent dengue outbreak.

They also demanded that the government take serious measures regarding mosquito control, keep the city clean and provide proper treatment to patients who are suffering from the mosquito-borne deadly disease.

Gourab 71, a platform of cultural and social activists, organised the human chain in front of National Museum.

Speaking at the event, noted cultural personality Golam Kuddus said dengue has become a matter of panic to almost all Dhaka residents.

In this context, the role the city mayors are playing is unacceptable; besides, their indifference and irresponsible remarks have infuriated people, said Kuddus, president of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote, a coalition of cultural activists.

"Will we be home from dengue if we keep our homes clean? Did you do your part -- clean the drains?" he asked, referring to both the Dhaka city corporations.

Urging the mayors to protect city dwellers from mosquitos immediately, he said, "If you fail to do so, people will not forgive you."

Syed Ishtiaque Reza, editor-in-chief of Gazi Television (GTV), said mosquito control is a key responsibility of the mayors under the current circumstances. "If they can't do it properly, they should resign -- acknowledging their failure."

The veteran journalist also criticised the mayors for denying media reports on the recent dengue outbreak.

Gulshan Ara Urmy, a mother whose daughter died of dengue recently, said the mayors cannot avoid their responsibilities behind the cause of her daughter's death.

"Only they can feel the pain who have lost their loved ones," she said.

Among others, Gourab 71 President Monirul Islam and General Secretary FM Shaheen spoke at the human chain.

Mobile courts run by executive magistrates unconstitutional

Humanity Foundation statement says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Running mobile courts by executive magistrates is unconstitutional and establishing such parallel judiciary is damaging, Humanity Foundation -- a rights organisation -- said in a statement.

"The law allowing executive magistrates to run mobile courts is one kind of military order. The Supreme Court has declared military orders in all situations illegal. So, any attempt to provide judicial powers to deputy commissioners (DC) to take criminal offences in cognisance will be unconstitutional," the organisation said.

"Mobile courts are prevalent across the world, but they are not conducted by executive officials anywhere except Bangladesh. The High Court has scrapped the rules of the Mobile Court Act 2009, under which executive magistrates run mobile courts. The matter is currently pending with the Appellate Division. But the law is continuously going against the 1972

constitution," it added.

The statement signed by Advocate Muhammad Shafiqur Rahman, chairman of Humanity Foundation, further said it is a matter of concern that the DCs are planning to attain judicial powers to hold summary trial of criminal offences by taking those in cognisance, and they will make recommendations in this regard on the upcoming DC conference.

"We have learnt the logic behind enabling taking offences in cognisance is that executive magistrates, who are BCS administration cadres, operate mobile courts against 104 offences including evicting illegal occupation and controlling narcotics; the offenders who are aware of the limitations of the mobile court don't confess to their offences and thus can't be brought to book. As a result, common people are victimised and deprived of instant justice," the statement said, adding that trial based on confession is not seen anywhere else; it is an artificial limitation.

Dhaka, Seoul eye stronger ties

South Korean PM due today

UNB, Dhaka

With South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-nyon scheduled to arrive today on a three-day official visit to Bangladesh, both the countries are keen on greater engagements in trade and investment.

A number of instruments on trade, investment and cultural fronts are likely to be signed during the visit to strengthen bilateral relations.

Bangladesh will be Lee's first destination

as part of his four-nation tour from July 13-21, aimed at strengthening Seoul's ties with Central and Southwest Asia with a balanced diplomacy in the Middle East. He will also visit Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Qatar.

During his visit to Bangladesh, the Korean PM will hold a bilateral meeting with his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina at PMO tomorrow afternoon. Lee Nak-nyon will call on President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban in the evening.



Left, an umbrella placed under the roof of DCC market in Karwan Bazar did not really help stop rainwater from seeping in. Even though rain disrupted city life yesterday, this little girl was thrilled by the droplets of water, wind in her face and fresh earthy smell, while their vehicle remained stuck in traffic on Mirpur Road near Dhanmondi 27.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN, PALASH KHAN

'Hizb ut-Tahrir' man held in Wari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU) of police claimed to have arrested an alleged member of banned militant outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir in Wari on Thursday.

Jahid Uddin Ahmed alias Zakir alias Milon, 48, joined the militant group in 2004. He had been active in propagating their ideology in Demra, Wari and Gendaria areas since 2014. Md Mahiduzzaman, superintendent of police (legal and media) of ATU, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He was arrested several times beforehand for his alleged involvement in militancy. During the arrest, police seized anti-state leaflets and extremism provoking books from his possession. A case was filed with Gendaria Police Station under the anti-terrorism act.

Reinvention imperative for business

Say speakers at BYLC summit



The summit focused on how youths can prepare themselves to start their own venture.

CITY DESK

To be successful, aspiring entrepreneurs should be ready to take risks and learn how to reinvent their businesses, stated speakers at a panel discussion titled "Entrepreneurship" on the second day of the Youth Leadership Summit organised by Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC).

The panel, consisting of reputed entrepreneurs, provided a practical orientation to the delegates on the opportunities and challenges of entrepreneurship, and how today's youths can prepare themselves to start their own venture.

Pial Islam, managing partner of pi STRATEGY, who was also a moderator of the panel, said reinvention is the key to staying relevant. "Most entrepreneurs around the world haven't become successful by staying in the same

place. They have become successful by reinventing their product, team, and market," he said. Ivy H Russell, founder and CEO of Maya; Bijon Islam, CEO of LightCastle Partners; and Ovick Alam, co-founder of WebAble, attended the session as panelists.

A concurrent panel on "Leadership for the public good" was also organised on the same day.

"A key purpose of leadership is giving voice to the voiceless and marginalised groups of society," said Dr Abdun Noor Tushar, CEO of Nagorik TV.

Md Ahsanul Arefin Chowdhury, e-learning expert, a2i Programme; Rayhana Taslim, project director, Establishment of 9 Government Secondary Schools Project, DSHE, Ministry of Education; and Shakil Ahmed, associate director, Public Affairs, Teach for Bangladesh, spoke as panelists at the session.

Four arrested over schoolboy murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has arrested four teenagers in connection with killing of a schoolboy, Shuvo Ahmed, in Tongi a week ago.

The four were arrested from different areas in Gazipur on Thursday, said Salah Uddin, an acting company commander of Rab-1. All the arrestees are under 18, he said.

Shuvo, 15, a ninth grader at Tongi's Future Map School, was hacked to death on July 7.

Quoting the prime accused, one of the arrestees, officials of the elite force said he got acquainted with Shuvo around six months ago when he got admitted to the school.

A day before the murder, Shuvo took a picture of the accused when he was sitting next to a girl in a bus while they were returning to Tongi from an excursion in Dhaka, Rab said in a statement.

As Shuvo showed the photo to his friends and joked about it, the accused got angry and planned to kill him. Another arrestee told Rab that he took part in the incident as he also had a feud with Shuvo.

On July 7, they called Shuvo out of his home around 9pm and stabbed him with a knife. Shuvo's father filed a murder case against six people with Tongi East Police Station.

Bangladesh proposes Commonwealth business connectivity conference

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam has proposed to host a "Commonwealth Business-to-business Connectivity Conference" in Dhaka in the first quarter of 2020 as the lead country within the Commonwealth entrepreneurs and businesses.

The state minister, while addressing the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting (CFAMM) held in London, UK, put forward a few proposals recently, the Bangladesh High Commission in London said yesterday.

The United Kingdom, chair-in-office of the Commonwealth, hosted the 18th CFAMM -- a special meeting as the Commonwealth celebrates its 70th birth anniversary and embarks on a historic reform process.

The state minister for foreign affairs headed a six-member Bangladesh delegation to the meeting. He also outlined Bangladesh's plan to launch a virtual hub for connecting business, trade and policymaking bodies for both documentation and showcasing business opportunities across the Commonwealth.

Shahriar Alam urged the Commonwealth member states to share their business and trade information to help enrich the proposed virtual platform. He also conveyed plans to make a special publication on the occasion of the said business conference.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

DHAKA TODAY

- PROTEST**
Rally against the recent rape incidents
Venue: Bangladesh National Museum
Time: 11am
- DISCUSSION**
On Liberation War history
Organiser: Dhaka University Literature Society
Venue: DUCSU Cafeteria, University of Dhaka
Time: 4pm
- TRAINING**
On e-commerce for women
Organiser: Women Entrepreneurs of Bangladesh
Venue: Daffodil International University, Mirpur Road
Time: 3pm
- CONFERENCE**
3-D Animation in Bangladesh
Venue: Mukarram Bhaban, University of Dhaka
Time: 9am
- DEBATE**
Preventing sexual harassment
Organiser: Debate for Democracy
Venue: Bangladesh Film Development Corporation
Time: 11am
- LEARNING SESSION**
Preventing Sexual Harassment
Venue: Story World, Mirpur DOHS Shopping Complex
Time: 6pm
- SEMINAR**
On Search Engine Optimisation
Venue: SoftmetBD, Road-11, Uttara
Time: 4pm

DREDGER FOR SALE
10", 18" & 24" YEAR 2008-DREDGER FOR SALE
FROM GERMANY & NEDERLAND
25% OF NEW PRICE
CAN BE FULLY REPAINTED AND REFURBISHED BEFORE DELIVERY FROM EUROPE
+4530809288 DENMARK
POWERPLANT-SERVICE.COM M-01727211913, +8801714031330 (ROAMING)