

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Learning to Fly.

PHOTO:
IHTISHAM KABIR

Here and Now

In last week's column, I mentioned The Decisive Moment, a photographic term for the moment when the subjects of a photograph in motion come together perfectly. The term is applied primarily to a street photograph, where such a moment is snatched from ongoing human activity. The subject(s) of the photograph are in motion, and in one particular instant, the photograph as framed by the viewfinder comes together in perfect geometry, preferably without the knowledge of the subjects. The photographer must click the shutter at this moment.

It was the French photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson who first made The Decisive Moment famous by publishing an astonishingly beautiful photo book of the same name. Photographers such as Andre Kertesz and Martin Munkacsi had practiced the idiom before Cartier-Bresson, but perhaps had not recognized its potential.

These photographers were empowered by smaller camera design. Before them, candid photography in the street was impossible because cameras were bulky and shutters were slow. They needed tripods and so could not be positioned or repositioned quickly; movement could not be frozen. The emergence of small hand-held cameras enabled photographers on the run to take photographs of moving subjects. Cartier-Bresson found his perfect tool in the newly invented Leica 35mm camera.

There is, however, another element necessary for practicing The Decisive Moment. This element is as important for photographers today as it was during Cartier-Bresson's day. The photographer must be Here and Now.

And so Cartier-Bresson acknowledges the influence of the book *Zen in the Art of Archery* by Eugen Herrigel. The book is a philosophical treatise on Japanese

archery and the competitive archer's need to concentrate. It dwells on "the contest of the archer with himself."

It took me some time to understand the connection between Zen, archery and photography. The common theme is attaining levels of concentration so nothing – absolutely nothing – distracts me from what is in front of the viewfinder when I am taking a photograph. I must be totally, completely Here and Now.

I practiced this principle during the years I photographed in the streets. Later when I fell into bird photography, I found it equally if not more applicable.

Let's face it, photography cries out for fussing. You fuss with the lens, with the camera settings, with the light and shadows and with everything around you. But to catch the right moment, you must simplify, so you are aware only of the subject. No tendrils of thought about "is this the right ISO", or "should I zoom in a bit more" or "am I using the right aperture." No hesitation about your position, "Should I move forward a bit?" No wondering if another bird sat on a tree outside the frame. No surprise, then, that Cartier-Bresson used only one lens (50mm) and one camera to take his best photographs. The camera became an extension of his body, his eyes, his mind.

So that's what happens in my best photographs. My entire being is concentrated looking into the viewfinder. The Decisive Moment arrives without warning. If I see it after it comes, it is already too late because in the milliseconds that my finger takes to press the shutter, it will have passed.

No, I have to feel it coming before it is here. I have to be Here and Now – just like those Japanese archers.

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

Along comes a saviour

ASP rescues infant used for begging

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

On Wednesday evening, Senior Assistant Superintendent Sultana Esrat Jahan was heading home from Police Headquarters. Near the High Court area, her vehicle got stuck in a traffic jam.

As she was waiting in front of a signal near Shikkha Bhaban, she saw a man carrying a child and asking for alms from commuters.

The man looked sickly, while the baby girl, around seven-month-old, had a burnt back and seemed drowsy. Esrat called the man and asked him who the baby belonged to. The man said the child was his.

She then tried to get out of the car to ask him further questions. At that point, he fled.

Esrat began chasing him. In her pursuit, she was also helped by the traffic police present. Other law enforcers in the area also joined in. They finally caught and took the man to a nearby police box.

Law enforcers then interrogated the man, Jahirul Islam, 40, who kept on saying the baby was his. After a while, a woman entered the police box and claimed that she was Jahirul's wife and the baby was theirs.

To verify the claim, police took the woman, Josna, to her home nearby. There, they asked locals if the baby belonged to Josna. The locals, however, said the child could not have been hers as she had been living in the locality for a long



Assistant Superintendent Sultana Esrat Jahan

time and no one had heard of her giving birth.

ASP Esrat with the help of other law enforcers then took the child to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), and admitted her to the children's ward.

"I knew something was wrong, as soon as I saw the man with the child. It did not feel right," ASP Esrat told The Daily Star.

Brig Gen AKM Nasiruddin, director of DMCH, said, "The baby was brought in a critical condition. She is suffering from respiratory problems. She has contracted a blood infection due to pneumonia."

"We are taking every measure to treat her. The treatment is being paid for by the hospital authorities," he added.

ASP Esrat was still at DMCH while doctors were looking after the baby. She left the hospital around 2am after making sure that the child's condition was stable.

Contacted, Shafiq Alam, sub-inspector of Shabbagh Police Station, said after interrogating Josna and Jahirul, they learnt that a woman named Parveen gave birth to the child in DMCH. She had met the couple before giving birth.

"After the child was born, Parveen gave her to the couple, who used her for begging," he added. SI Shafiq said Jahirul was a "drug addict" and took the child with him during begging. The couple would make around Tk 500-1,000 a day, he added.

He could not, however, say how the child had suffered the burns.

Contacted yesterday, Abul Hasan, officer-in-charge of Shabbagh Police Station, said a case was filed in this connection. The couple was produced before a Dhaka court, which sent them to jail, he added.

NOT AN ISOLATED INCIDENT
Incidents of using children – usually those kidnapped – for begging have surfaced numerous times in the past.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



PHOTO OF THE DAY

PRABIR DAS



THE MAN WHO BRINGS HOME FLOWERS FOR HIS DAUGHTERS EVERY DAY... Sitting beside a tree on Dhaka University campus, Jamal Uddin makes a garland with bokul flowers. Every morning, the 52-year-old collects these small, sweet-smelling white flowers from Ramna Park and makes around 40 garlands. He sells each for Tk 10. Jamal said most of his regulars are university students who always greet him with a smile. But, he said, the best part of his day is when he returns home with remaining bokuls, gives them to his three daughters and sees them beaming with joy.

'We won't differentiate between corruptions'

Quader criticises ACC chief's remark on graft 'committed in good faith'

UNB, Dhaka

Disapproving Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Iqbal Mahmood's comment that corruption committed in good faith is not an offence, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the government will not differentiate between corruptions.

"We'll treat corruption as corruption. There's no other way to look at it," he said while talking to reporters at Awami League president's Dhanmondi political office.

Quader, also Awami League general secretary, said he will have to comprehend what the ACC chief meant by "good faith".

Talking to reporters after attending a session on the last day of the Deputy Commissioners' conference at the Cabinet

Division, the ACC chairman on Thursday said he had told the DCs that corruption committed in good faith by officers is not an offence as per law. "But it must be proved that it was committed in good faith," he had said.

About BNP's allegation that the government is creating obstacles to its organisational activities, Quader said police never created any obstacles to their programmes. "They got permission for holding rallies everywhere," he added.

About the role of government and the ruling party in dealing with the ongoing flood, he said party delegations went to flood-hit Jamalpur and Gaibandha and teams are also going to other affected districts.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Schoolboy injured in gas pipe blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolboy sustained burn injuries as a fire broke out due to a gas pipeline blast at Khelaghar playground in Tejgaon's Tejkunipara area yesterday.

Injured Raihan Miah, 13, is a seventh grader of Tejgaon Model High School.

His father Iqbal Hossain said Raihan and some other boys went to the playground after Juma prayers. They saw a spot covered with sand and bricks near the under-construction school gate beside the field.

As Raihan put his leg on the pile, there was a blast and a fire broke out, Iqbal said quoting witnesses.

"My son sustained severe burn injuries. He is now being treated at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital," he said.

ASI Abdullah Khan of DMCH police outpost said the boy sustained 40 per cent burns.

Lima Khanam, duty officer of Fire Service and Civil Defence, said there was a leak in a pipe of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited. She said two of their units went to the spot and found the leak.

They have informed the matter to the Titas authorities, who are now repairing the pipeline, she added.

DENGUE, CHIKUNGUNYA

DNCC cancels leave of officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) has cancelled leave of all employees and officials of its waste and health management departments in a bid to control the spread of dengue, chikungunya and other related diseases.

DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam made the announcement yesterday while addressing an awareness rally held on Manik Mia Avenue in the morning.

"Our employees will continue working to prevent dengue," said the mayor. He also called upon city dwellers to be aware in this regard.

Atiqul said the city corporation is working to destroy mosquito breeding grounds and kill adult mosquitoes.

"But people have to be alert too," he stressed. "They have to destroy habitats of

Aedes mosquito at their homes as they lay eggs in clean, stagnant waters."

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, officials of Directorate General of Health Services, DNCC ward councillors and people from all walks of life took part in the rally. It paraded from Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban to Bangabandhu Chatter in Khamarbari.

Meanwhile, amid a concerning rise in dengue cases in Dhaka, both its city corporations have taken various initiatives such as monitoring the effectiveness of its insecticide, awareness programmes and distributing leaflets etc.

DNCC is also planning to set up groups in different areas who will encourage people to destroy Aedes mosquito larva and supply kits to diagnose dengue to all healthcare centres under DNCC, so that people can be diagnosed easily and can avail necessary treatments promptly.

DHAKA TODAY

WORKSHOP

3D Character Animation & Motion Graphics

Venue: House 50, Dolphin Goli, Kalabagan
Time: 4pm

SESSION

Acumen Bangladesh Fellowship Information Session

Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
Time: 3:30pm

CONFERENCE

Int'l Conference & Workshop on Cyber Security & Digital Forensic

Venue: Dhaka International University
Time: 9:30am

WORKSHOP

Digital Cine Camera

Venue: Pathshala, Dhanmondi 15/A
Time: 10am

SESSION

Artist Talk by Abir Abdullah

Organiser: Kaalo
Venue: Counter Foto Mirpur Campus, 14 East Shewrapara, Mirpur
Time: 6pm

Arms trading in broad daylight

Three arrested, six firearms recovered in Dhaka's Gendaria

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three men were arrested with six loaded firearms from the capital's Gendaria area yesterday while trading arms in broad daylight, police said.

The arrestees are: Raju Gazi, 43; Minhazul Islam, 28; and Shawkat Hossain, 38.

Four foreign-made pistols, two foreign revolvers, seven magazines and 128 rounds of bullets were recovered from their possession, said Ibrahim Khan, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Wari Division), at a press briefing at DMP Media Centre yesterday.

Police, however, could not yet say from where the men got the arms or where those

would eventually end up.

The Wari DC said police took position in Kacha Bazar area around 8am after being tipped off that some arms traders may be there.

"About half an hour later, police saw some men exchanging arms and chased them," he added.

Police were able to catch three of them while two or three others fled the scene, the DC added.

At the press briefing, three police officers including the officer-in-charge of Shyampur Police Station were seen with injuries. The Wari DC said they were injured in a scuffle with the arrestees during the drive.



A part of the awareness rally on Manik Mia Avenue yesterday.

PHOTO: STA