DHAKA SATURDAY JULY 27, 2019, SRABAN 12, 1426 BS

TANGENTS BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Old town, Dubrovnik.

IHTISHAM KABIR

BEAUTIFUL Dubrovnik

ubrovnik is a port in southwestern Croatia, across the Adriatic Sea from Italy's eastern coast. Endowed with a spectacular setting, it has become a magnet for tourists who come here to enjoy sailing and water sports in the deep blue Adriatic Sea, hiking in the spectacular mountains, and exploring the remarkable old town - still surrounded by a wall - which dates back to the 10th century.

Night has fallen when we arrive at Dubrovnik; I have to wait until the next day to enjoy its vistas. Looking out the window in the morning, I see a deep blue ocean to the west, dotted with small islands. To the east, the mountains climb steeply, red and orange tiles of homes shining from the slopes.

I decide to walk the two kilometres to Pile Gate, one of the two entrances to the old town. It is a hot day (34 degrees) but the heat is dry, not moist, and thus tolerable. The road, with pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, takes me through several residential neighbourhoods. Almost every home has a garden and flowers are blooming profusely in the summer heat. Parts of the road overlook the ocean, where swimmers, snorkelers and sailors are all out enjoying summer in this land of cold winters.

Inside Pile Gate, a large poster shows the points inside the old city that received shelling and shrapnels during the Bosnian War of 1991-92. After the fall of Tito - who held together seven nations under the flag of united Yugoslavia - political disagreements led to war, with Bosnia and Croatia on one side and Serbia and Montenegro on the other. (Later, our guide made the point that it was a political rather than a religious war - despite the casualties suffered by Bosnian Muslims.)

The walls that enclose the old

town are a major tourist attraction. The pedestrian-only streets are paved with granite which is smooth and shiny after hundreds of years of use. The main street is level, but side lanes climb steeply and tourists end up negotiating long flights of stairs. Old town has historical churches, monasteries, palaces, museums, restaurants and the inevitable souvenir shops. For centuries, Dubrovnik was a republic - a sea-faring nation that rivalled Venice as a trading port. Later, it paid taxes to Turkey for protection from Venice. The town is so well preserved that it is designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. It was also the setting for the popular Game of Thrones TV show.

We go on an all-day cruise exploring the Elaphiti Islands archipelago. The ocean looks stunning with the mountain backdrop. During a stop, my son and I explore an island on foot, occasionally running into farmers selling olive oil and dried fruits by the roadside. It is like Mediterrenean islands I have seen in movies: hot, dry, and beautiful in a stern way.

There are gulls in the ocean, but I can hardly find any other birds or wildlife in either land or sea. One day, while walking through town, I see turtle doves. Presumably the season, time of day, and heavy tourist traffic has discouraged the birds. The old town hosts numerous rock pigeons in small openings in its wall. I am told that their number is regulated by feeding them food laced with contraceptives as needed.

After two days in beautiful Dubrovnik it is time to leave. Its beauty has convinced me why it is so popular and helps Croatia attract fifteen million tourists a year.

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

Advance bus ticket sale begins

First day goes mostly smooth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Braving rain, hundreds of people finally came to an end at 10:15am. yesterday gathered at various bus counters and terminals in the capital to collect advance tickets for their journey home on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

Private bus operators began selling tickets around 6am at several locations in the city, including Gabtoli, Kalyanpur and Saidabad. Tickets for August 6 to 11 were being sold, which will continue until stock is left.

The first day of the advance ticket sale went smoothly, except for a few minor issues -- such as delay in ticket booking, some mismanagement in queues, and some passengers facing unavailability of desired tickets.

During a visit to Gabtoli around 9am, this correspondent found long queues of ticket seekers -- holding up umbrellas against the rain -- at several bus operators' counters, including Hanif Paribahan and Shyamoli Paribahan.

Many of them arrived at the counters at midnight to form the queues, which gradually extended out of the premises. Despite standing for hours, most seemed content after getting their hands on tickets. "It's hard to express the

difficulties and discomfort of standing in queue for hours in such weather. But I'm relieved now, as got my desired ticket," said Ariful Haque, a university student. He went to the Hanif Paribahan

counter at Balur Math in Gabtoli

around 5am to buy a ticket for a holidaymakers had to change their Nilphamari-bound bus. His wait journey schedule.

Star that demand of tickets for August 8, 9 and 10 was very high as Eid is expected to be celebrated on August 11 or 12. As a result, many

Imran Ali, a ticket seeker at the The ticket sellers told The Daily same counter, said after waiting for nearly four hours, he came to know that tickets to Gaibandha for August 10 were sold out.

"The counter masters (sellers)

took a long time to book the tickets. Otherwise, I could have gotten one. Besides, I'm still not certain whether the tickets were indeed sold out or they kept those to sell at a higher price later on," said a visibly frustrated Imran.

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No scope to take dengue lightly: Quader

Advises health minister, mayors to talk responsibly

AGENCIES

Saying that there is no scope to take the dengue issue lightly, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday advised the health minister and city corporation mayors to talk responsibly on the matter.

"We sometimes make unguarded remarks. What the health minister and the mayor said might be their personal opinions," he said. The minister was addressing a press conference at Awami League president's Dhanmondi political office, reports UNB.

"People are worried about dengue. All of us should talk responsibly, and perform our duties properly," he further said.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque on Thursday likened the breeding capacity of Aedes mosquitoes, which are responsible for dengue, with that of Rohingyas.

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon the same day claimed that conspirators were spreading rumours about

Quader, also AL general secretary, urged party leaders and activists to concentrate on

their work instead of talking too much. He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina,

now on an official visit to the UK, has given necessary directives to the authorities concerned to save people from the dengue outbreak, reports BSS. "Aedes mosquitoes are very dangerous.

We cannot take the situation lightly as a bite of the mosquito can cause death," he said. The minister said combined operations should be launched by the ministries, divisions and city corporations to prevent the outbreak. Quader said not only in Bangladesh,

dengue is also spreading in different countries including China, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. About the recent incidents of mob

beating in suspicion of child kidnapping, Quader said, "We have called upon all not to take law in their own hands."

Awami League Organising Secretary AKM Enamul Hoque Shameem, Science and Technology Affairs Secretary Engineer Abdus Sabur, International Affairs Secretary Dr Shammi Ahmed and Deputy Office Secretary Barrister Biplab Barua were present on the occasion, among others.

Rohingyas to hinder SDG achievement

Speakers say at discussion UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said the large number Rohingyas have created a crisis which will hinder the achievement of sustainable development goals (SDG) by

They made the observation during a discussion at Jatiya They said Rohingyas are destroying the environment,

putting pressure on the economy, causing security concerns and affecting the health sector. Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, former adviser to a caretaker government, said, "We must ensure our security... it's time

to discuss our problems realistically and adress those nationally." Prof Dr Mizanur Rahman, chairman of National Human Rights Commission, said Rohingyas are a burden on the

already over-populated Bangladesh. "The international community should take responsibility," he said, adding that measures should be

taken to repatriate the Rohingyas to their homeland in Myanmar's Rakhine State. Bangladesh is currently hosting nearly 1.2 million Rohingyas. Most of them came to the country after late August 2017 when Myanmar launched a brutal offensive

against the mainly-Muslim ethnic minorities. The then top UN human rights official had described Myanmar's treatment of the Rohingyas as "textbook example of ethnic cleansing".

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Follow Gandhi's message of peace and unity: Speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Speakers at a programme

people yesterday said should follow Mahatma Gandhi's message of peace and unity to stop hostility and hatred among themselves.

They suggested youths to learn about Gandhi and his non-violent movement. Mahatma Gandhi

Smarak Sadan Bangladesh organised the programme at Jatiya Press Club to mark his 150th birth anniversary. **Prof Emeritus**

Anisuzzaman said Gandhi was jailed for his non-violent movement against the then British government in India, but he did not give up. Although he faced

oppression, he never chose the path of violence, he said. Anisuzzaman called upon everyone to follow Gandhi's philosophical doctrines of peace and unity.

Presiding over the programme, columnist Syed Abul Maksud said, "The messages and ideas of Mahatma Gandhi are more relevant now. He is a leader who transformed violent politics into a non-violent

He urged youths to nurture his message. Pratik Ghosh, directorsecretary of Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya in Barrackpore, India, said, "We should apply Gandhi's philosophy now.'

Misinterpretation of religion, alienation behind extremism

Sampreeti Utshab calls for youth engagement in peace campaigns



Discussants at the programme.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a call to tirelessly work together to eliminate extremism from the country, the two-day long Sampreeti festival) at Utshab (harmony Bangabandhu International Conference Center ended yesterday.

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) organised the festival which marked the closing of the year-long "SAMPREETI" project with an aim to engage youths in peace campaigns and keep them away from militancy.

Speaking as chief guest, Shamsul Hoque Tuku MP, president of parliamentary permanent committee on the ministry of home affairs, said, "If we put spotlight on the history of our emergence -- from Language Movement to Liberation War -- we can see the force of youths playing a key role."

"They [youths] can dismantle all kinds of irregularities. This initiative is commendable," the lawmaker added.

In her opening speech, Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, spoke on how they reached out to around 49,000 youths with the

message of peace and tolerance academics and journalists. through the SAMPREETI project. "Considering it [SAMPREETI] a of

that small clubs are functioning

effectively in social development

PHOTO: STAR

across the country. Saying that the year-long campaign will come to an end this month, Shaheen Anam said, "Now it is the duty of the youths [who participated in the campaign] to spread the teachings. They can bring peace by defeating the dark forces."

During the two-day long festival, a total of four panel discussions were held -- well attended by youngsters,

Kazi Maruful Islam, professor development studies pilot programme, the outcome of Dhaka University, presented the this could be a pathway to eliminate recommendations that came from militancy," she said, adding the discussions. "We have identified SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Don't use titles before names in judgements, orders

HC asks lower court judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has conveyed that lower court judges should refrain from using titles like "Dr" and "Barrister" before their names in judgements and orders.

Dr (Doctorate) is an academic or research degree and Barrister is a professional degree. Therefore, those cannot be a part of someone's name, the court observed, adding that the trend of using such titles takes place due to "superiority complex".

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman came up with the observation in the full

text of its order released on Thursday. On July 7, the bench passed a short order on a suo moto (voluntary) move while hearing a petition, seeking its directive upon Special Judge-5 of Dhaka, Akhtaruzzaman,

to further record statements from five witnesses in a murder case.

It came up with the order after examining that Injamamul Islam alias Zishan, an accused in the case, submitted the petition to the HC including an order delivered by the judge who rejected his (Injamamul) application for further recording statements.

The HC noticed that the judge mentioned his name as "Dr Akhtaruzzaman" in the rejection order. The judge on June 13 rejected the application in a case filed for killing one Hyaj Haque in Dhaka in 2014.

In the full text, the HC observed that a number of judges of the Appellate and HC Divisions of the Supreme Court have achieved higher educational degrees and completed higher professional courses.

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Novera Deepita's 13th death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 13th death anniversary of Novera Deepita, a journalist

of The Daily Star and a gold medalist student of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of the University of Dhaka.

Novera passed away on July 27, 2006. She is survived by her mother, two brothers, one sister, SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

DHAKA TODAY

LECTURE River, Environment, Law & State

Organiser: Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation Venue: Lecture Theatre Building, University of Dhaka Time: 5pm

SEMINAR

The Belt Road Initiative & the New International Economic Order Organiser: Workers Party of Bangladesh Venue: Jatiya Press Club (2nd Floor) Time: 10:30am

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh: Challenges & Sustainable Solutions

Venue: North South University Time: 11am

WORKSHOP

Awareness Raising on Value Added Tax & Supplementary Duty Act 2012 Organiser: Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Venue: Cirdap, Topkhana Road

CONVENTION **National Youth Peace**

Time: 12pm

Assembly Organiser: Alokito Shishu Venue: Krishibid Institution Bangladesh, Farmgate

Time: 10am