

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

Immature Checkered Keelback (*Dhora*).PHOTO:
IHTISHAM KABIR

Golden Hour at the Haor

Arriving at the Haor just before sunset, I realize, once again, the magic of Golden Hour. I am standing on a strip of land bisecting a fishpond and surrounded by water. Stillness has descended on the water, the muddy land and the trees, but I still feel a fine breeze on my skin. The autumn sun has decided it is done for the day and is rapidly retreating. A thin layer of mist settles over a patch of reeds growing in the pond. With hardly a bird or animal in sight, my photographic goals are foiled; nonetheless I am glad to be here.

Suddenly the water's stillness is broken by ripples. A V-shaped wake, moving smoothly over the water, approaches me. When it comes near, I discern a Checkered Keelback, *Dhora*, that lives on fish. It is a large one, tail extending a long way, and sensing me it quickly disappears underwater. Minutes later: another set of ripples, this time an immature *Dhora*, not as wary. Coming near the bank it sinks its body while keeping its head above water and sticks out its tongue as a sensor. It bobs its head up and down as if playing hide-and-seek with me.

Hoping for a last meal before nightfall, avian hunters prowl the edges of the pond. A Little Egret tiptoes with deliberate steps scrutinizing the mud for a snack. And I only see the Pond Heron, parked in the mud, because it had moved slightly. It is a patient hunter and stands still. You can tell when it strikes because its grey-brown wings flash a brilliant white.

The *rakhal* boys get busy bringing

home the cows that grazed all day in the Haor's grassland, shooting them this way and that to keep them in line. There are no buffaloes to be seen. Perhaps they are engaged in their favourite activity, rolling in the mud.

Scattered movement at one corner of a fishpond catches my eye. Coming closer, I find several fishes trawling the water, mouths open with immensely large gapes. It is unclear what the Tilapia are eating. Meanwhile, another part of the pond is covered by Water Striders – insects that rely on surface tension to skate across the water on their thin legs – but the fish seem to be unaware of them.

The cackle of birds is everywhere, yet most remain unseen. In the distance a group of Common Mynas flies to their roost, a *Dhol Kolmi* bush in the middle of a *Beel*, and settles down on top of the stems. A flock of Whistling Ducks noisily flies overhead.

The sun, meanwhile, has continued downward and soon Golden Hour is over, leaving a sweet longing in my mind. I wish it had lasted longer.

["Golden Hour," as used in photography, means the time periods just before sunset (and after sunrise) when sunrises strike the earth at an angle. Sunlight at this time is softer than mid-day. The golden coloured light can lead to beautiful photographs, but you don't have to be a photographer to enjoy Golden Hour.]

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

Missing for months!

DNCC show-cause 14 councillors for skipping meetings with mayor

MATHEWS CHIRAN

Every month, councillors of Dhaka North City Corporation hold a meeting at Nagar Bhaban in Gulshan to discuss various issues of their wards. The meetings are headed by DNCC Mayor Md Atiqul Islam.

As per rules, councillors from all 54 wards and the mayor have to attend the meetings. But at least 14 public representatives are not attending those regularly.

According to article 13 of the Local Government Act (City Corporation Act) 2009, if mayors or councillors remain absent at three consecutive monthly meetings without any appropriate reason, they will be removed from their position.

However, the councillors are still holding their posts.

To address the issue, DNCC sent show-cause notices to 14 councillors this week. Among them, four are from reserved seats.

The reserved-seat councillors are: Begum Meherunnesa Haq (ward 3), Khaleda Bahar Beauty (ward 7), Alea Sarwar Daisy (ward 12) and Elora Parvin (ward 16).

Others are: Kazi Jahirul Islam Manik (ward 3), Abdur Rauf (ward 5), Razzob Hossain (ward 6), Md Nasir (ward 20), Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (ward 25), Shamim Hassan (ward 26), Md Nurul Islam Ratan (ward 29), Md Shafiqul Islam (ward 31), Taimur Reza (ward 36) and Motaleb Mia (ward 47).

From March 1, 2018 to October 16, 2019, DNCC held 12 board meetings.

During this period, the ward-3 councillor skipped seven meetings at a stretch, ward-5 councillor attended just three meetings, and ward-6 councillor only one. The ward-25 councillor missed nine out of 12 meetings and ward-26 councillor missed 10.

The ward-31 councillor did not attend any meeting.

This correspondent spoke to a number of councillors over the issue. They alleged that though they attended the meetings, DNCC staffers forgot to include their names in the attendance sheet.

They complained that they get to know about the events

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230 SPs not assigned duties in a year since promotion

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Nearly a year back, 230 police officials got "in-situ promotion" as superintendent of police (SP) from their posts of additional superintendents, but they have not taken charge of office yet, as no posts are vacant in the force.

An "in-situ" official is someone who continues to hold the same office and perform the same duties even after being elevated to a higher position.

As a result, these officials are still performing their duties as additional SPs, which has been demoralising for them, according to officials of Police Headquarters (PHQ).

However, these 230 officials have been enjoying all financial benefits of

an SP since their in-situ promotion.

Aiming to resolve the crisis, PHQ recently proposed to create 230 new SP posts in the force after abolishing the same number of additional SP posts from the organogram.

The posts for the SPs were proposed to be created in different police units like PHQ, criminal investigation department (CID) and Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), according to officials.

"In these units, where a single SP is now taking care of a section or division, the work will be distributed among several SPs," said a high official of PHQ, requesting anonymity.

However, there will be no change in unique posts, like in 64 districts, the officer added.

The decision came at a meeting held

at PHQ on August 25. All police unit chiefs attended the meeting, chaired by Additional Inspector General (admin and operation) Moinur Rahman Chowdhury, according to PHQ sources.

The proposal was sent to the home ministry in mid-September, and is now awaiting a meeting for approval.

Currently, there are 3,102 first-class BCS cadre officers in the police department. Of them, 1,376 are assistant superintendent of police (ASP), 1154 additional SPs, 367 SPs, 105 additional deputy inspector generals (DIG), 67 DIGs, 15 additional inspectors general (grade-II), two additional inspectors general (grade-I) and an inspector general.

Once the proposal is approved,

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A perfect weekend for little ones

Thousands attend first day of children's fair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was a joyous day for thousands of children, participating in the first day of "Evaly-Kids Time Fair 2019" on Bangladesh Shishu Academy premises in the capital yesterday.

Right when the fair gate opened at 10am, excited young ones entered the venue, and celebrated their creativity, passion for making new things and outdoor play at the daylong fair.

"Today's children are tomorrow's future; so the most important thing to keep in perspective are the children of today's society, and that is why this fair has been organised to develop their future skills," said Waliullah Bhuiyan, CEO of Light of Hope, a nonprofit that organised the event.

The weekend brought an opportunity for children to engage in creative activities like crafting, creative design, art, puppet making and gaming -- activities they do not get a chance to participate in often.

"I brought my daughter to the fair so she can play and enjoy. She looks forward to such events, and they help her learn as well," said Fatima Islam, who came with her daughter Yeasha.

The second-grader at Viqarunnisa Noon School and College told The Daily Star that she wants to be an artist. "I am drawing a picture of Shaheed Minar," she showed this correspondent excitedly.

Asked if she knew the history, she spoke passionately about the historical Language Movement of 1952.

There were two separate activity zones

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Children let their imagination run wild on the first day of "Evaly-Kids Time Fair" at Bangladesh Shishu Academy yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

'People know there is no rule of law' Says Moudud Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed yesterday alleged that the ruling party is deceiving people by publicising trial of two or three cases as an example of "establishment of rule of law".

"Today justice has vanished from the legal system. It [justice] is not there. This is nothing but deceiving people. People of the country know that there is no rule of law in the country," he said while addressing a discussion at Jatiya Press Club.

Referring to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's trial, the former law minister said she was tried in a "fabricated" case. "Her conviction was raised from five years to ten years. But why should she not get bail?"

Moudud urged the Anti-Corruption Commission to seek wealth statements of all lawmakers and ministers.

"If you [ACC] have the courage and are truly an independent organisation, seek wealth statements. Then people will come to know who earned how much money and how they became rich during this government," he said.

Another standing committee member Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku said, "Big houses were constructed in rural areas. If you ask, people will say those houses belong to Chhatra League, Jubo League or Krishak League members."

DEATH OF HOUSE HELP

Woman confesses to torturing 12-year-old

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Roksana Parvin, who was arrested on Thursday in a case over torturing a 12-year-old house help to death in Mohammadpur area, gave confessional statement before a magistrate yesterday.

"I tortured Jannati Akter as she failed to do household work properly on Wednesday, that led to her death," Roksana said in her confessional statement.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Yasmin Ara recorded the statement of Roksana, wife of an engineer of Water Development Board (WDB), under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) after Abdul Alim, inspector of Mohammadpur Police Station, produced her before the magistrate this afternoon.

"Roksana confessed that she beat up Jannati and confined her in a bathroom. She found Jannati dead when she opened the door of the bathroom early Wednesday," court and police sources said.

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BHOLA INCIDENT

Protesters seek punishment of perpetrators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A religious platform yesterday demonstrated at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque premises, protesting deaths in Sunday's clash at Borhanuddin upazila of Bhola and demanding highest punishment of the killers.

Several thousand activists under Dhaka city unit of Islami Jubo Andolon, an associate body of Islami Andolon Bangladesh, gathered at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram National

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Posters hanging overhead, banners on lampposts and walls, campaigners trying to woo voters for their candidates and law enforcers on guard -- this was not a scene from any national or city polls, rather election to the governing body of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College. The photo was taken around 11am yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

TAQI MURDER

Delay in probe reflects state's indifference: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Delay in police investigation into the murder of Narayanganj teenager Tanwir Muhammad Taqi reflected the state's indifference in providing justice in some incidents, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

"Santrash Nirmul Taqi Mancha" and committee for "National Taqi Drawing and Essay Competition" jointly arranged the discussion at Bangladesh National Museum, ahead of distributing crests and certificates among this year's winners of the competition.

Taqi, who would have turned 24 this year, was kidnapped on way to a local library from his residence in Narayanganj on March 6, 2013. Police recovered his body floating in the river Shitalakhyia two days later.

Till date, the perpetrators are yet to be punished as investigators did not submit charge-sheet before court over the murder case, filed by Taqi's family. Addressing the discussion,



National Professor Anisuzzaman speaking at the discussion.

PHOTO: STAR

National Professor Anisuzzaman said since Taqi's murder, one or two rallies and discussions were held each year demanding justice.

However, it is a matter of great sorrow that the demand has not been fulfilled, he said.

"A brilliant boy like Taqi was murdered gruesomely and we can't do anything to ensure justice for him. Such inability, such incompetency resonates harshly," he added.

"We can see Taqi as a symbol," said

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