

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Dingo at Kakadu National Park.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

DINGO

It was Meryl Streep that made the Dingo famous.

In August 1980, a family was camping in Ayers Rock, Australia when tragedy struck. Their nine-week old baby girl disappeared from the campsite. Her parents thought that a Dingo had taken her, but the police suspected otherwise. The parents were charged with murder. The baby’s mother, Lindy Chamberlain, was convicted of killing her own daughter and imprisoned. It was many years later, after investigations were re-opened following the movie “A Cry in the Dark,” that it was confirmed that a Dingo had indeed taken the baby and killed it. Lindy Chamberlain – who was portrayed by Meryl Streep in the movie - was exonerated.

A Dingo is a wild Australian dog. Fossils indicate it was brought to the island continent 3500-4000 years ago by seafarers, probably from Asia.

It may live alone or in packs of up to ten animals. Coloured reddish or brown, it has white legs and chest, and a bushy tail. It is found all over Australia as well as in Southeast Asia. Its canine teeth are longer than those of a domestic dog, and its muzzle is also longer and more tapered. Like other wild dogs and unlike domestic dogs, it lacks dewclaws – the extra claw growing higher on dog’s feet.

The Dingo is Australia’s largest terrestrial carnivore (in the water there are crocodiles!) It hunts in packs, communicating with each other by howling rather than barking. It will eat mammals such as rabbits, kangaroos, wallabies and wombats. However, in places where these are scarce the Dingo will attack and eat farm animals. Thus it is unpopular with Australian farmers

and regarded as a pest in some places where it is killed in large numbers. This is part of the reason for their status as Vulnerable to Extinction according to IUCN.

I have been to Australia thrice but saw Dingos only during my last trip. Early one morning my friends and I were driving out of Kakadu National Park. The forest on either side of the road was fenced off with barbed wire to prevent kangaroos from running into cars. In the early morning light we saw a Dingo inside the fence, looking a little like our *Khek Sheyal*. We immediately slowed down and it ran along the fence parallel to us before disappearing into the wilderness.

A few minutes later, we saw a second Dingo. It was more obliging. As we stopped the car it stared back at us allowing me some photographs.

Perhaps they are not well-loved, but as Australia’s apex predator, Dingos serve an ecological purpose. They control the population of smaller animals and suppress feral predators such as cats and foxes.

Dingos are, of course, only one type of wild dog. In Bangladesh we have the wild dog known as *Dhole*, sometimes seen in our national parks. The wild dog seen in Africa is dark coloured with black and white patches. Wild dogs have their own species name; for example, the *Dhole* is *Cuon alpinus*. However, the domestic dog does not have its own species name and goes by the wolf’s *Canis lupus*. Domestic dogs can mate with wolves but not with wild dogs.

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Police await green light to arrest NID forgery suspects

Law enforcers fear the delay may give them chance to destroy evidence

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Investigators of the much-talked-about case of National Identity (NID) scam involving Rohingyas have been waiting for the green signal from high-ups to arrest the Election Commission (EC) staff members whose involvement were found in confessional statements of three forgery gang ring leaders.

Though a national security issue, investigation into the case -- filed with Kotwali Police Station on September 17 -- has remained stuck for over a month for not getting any response from the police high officials and other concerned bodies.

The case in being investigated by the Counter Terrorism (CT) unit of CMP.

A letter has already been sent to Police Headquarters and the home and public administration ministries, seeking the next course of action in this regard, said a top CT official. He said they have also mentioned names of the EC officials, allegedly involved in NID forgery.

However, a circular issued by the ministry of public administration last month, regarding arresting government officials has created legal tangles, said police sources. The notice said government permission is needed before arresting its officials.

Investigators fear that due to “delay in official procedure”, accused EC staffers may eventually get time to destroy the evidence.

So far, eight persons including an office assistant and two technical experts of Chattogram and Dhaka EC office have been arrested in this connection.

Chattogram EC office assistant Joynal, technical expert Omar Faruk and another technical expert of EC Headquarters Shah Nur Mia gave confessional statements before a court under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Joynal is the ringleader of a NID forgery gang while Shah Nur allegedly ran another gang from Dhaka.

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JU PROTESTS

Demonstrators feeling ‘a sense of insecurity’

JU CORRESPONDENT

Agitating teachers and students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) -- who have been demonstrating for over a month demanding removal of VC Prof Farzana Islam from her post -- yesterday said they were feeling a sense of insecurity on campus.

“We are panicked, as the university administration is trying to harass teachers and students by different detective and state agencies. A movement can never be daunted by threat. It’s totally unexpected,” Prof Jamal Uddin Runu, one of the organisers of “Jahangirnagar Against Corruption”, said at a press briefing around 4pm.

Prof Jamal, a teacher of Environmental Science, said they urged the chancellor to take initiatives to bring an end to the ongoing crisis through discussion, but to no avail.

Two senior professors said they were “anxious” over recent visits at their residences by members of intelligence agencies on Thursday night.

Earlier, Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders who had publicly spoken about receiving a hefty amount of money from the JU VC, had also sought security.

Those students are currently staying outside the campus, after being threatened over phone by anonymous persons last month.

Prof Sohel Rana, general secretary of JU Teachers Association (JUTA), said, “I also talked to JUTA president in

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A man carefully puts seeds in a bag while his wife holds it firm. To make sure the seeds don’t fall on the ground, they also keep those over a sack. The couple has been doing this for a while -- collecting discarded vegetables from Karwan Bazar kitchen market and saving the seeds. After gathering those, they wash the seeds, dry them and sell for Tk 100 a kg. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Promoting women entrepreneurs

Month-long Int’l Women’s SME Expo begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

With an aim to boosting women entrepreneurship, the month-long 13th International Women’s SME Expo Bangladesh kicked off in port city yesterday.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi inaugurated the fair, which is being organised by Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CWCCI) on Polo Ground premises.

The minister said in terms of education, business, entrepreneurship and empowerment, the country’s women have progressed a lot over the years.

The minister opined that the rate of loan recovery from female entrepreneurs is much more satisfactory compared to their male counterparts. Women are also playing an important role in small and medium enterprises, he said, adding that

all necessary support in this regard will be provided to them.

Indonesia is the partner country of this year’s expo.

Speaking at the event, Indonesian Ambassador Rina Soemarno said the trade value between Indonesia and Bangladesh reached around US \$2 billion in 2018. But this number does not reflect the actual bilateral trade value because many of such trade come through third countries such as Singapore, India and China.

“Therefore, we put a lot of importance in participating in this expo as well as organising our own expo for the last two years in Dhaka,” she informed.

President of Asian Arab Chamber of Commerce Princess Fay Jahan Ara, Indian Economic Trade Organisation (IETO)

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‘None will be spared to keep Sundarbans free from robbers’

Home minister says in Bagerhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday warned those who are still trying to continue robbery in the Sundarbans, saying no one will be spared to keep the forest free of robbers.

He made the remarks while addressing an event marking the first anniversary of the prime minister’s announcement of the Sundarbans as robber-free.

The event, at Bagerhat Sheikh Helal Uddin Stadium, was organised by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

The minister said, “We have a soft corner for those who are returning from the evil path, responding to the prime minister’s call. All kinds of arrangements are being made for their normal living. The cases that are pending against the robbers, excluding murder and rape, will be withdrawn after legal procedures.”

Earlier, the minister unveiled the digital logo of

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Bus service from Pirojpur to Kolkata begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

It will now be easier for travellers to go from Pirojpur to Kolkata in India on bus as Green Line Paribahan has launched their service in this route yesterday.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Piropur Abu Ali Sazzad Hossain inaugurated the service at Pirojpur District Bus Terminal.

Hyatul Islam Khan, superintendent of police in Pirojpur, was also present during the event.

Mid Nazrul Islam, representative of Green Line’s bus counter in Pirojpur, said one air-conditioned bus will operate on the route every day.

He said a total of 36 passengers will be able to travel at once.

At first, a bus will take passengers to Benapole, explained Nazrul, adding that after completing all formalities, passengers will board another bus and head to New

Market in Kolkata.

The total travel cost will be Tk 1,200 per passenger from Pirojpur and Rs 1,000 from Kolkata.

Every day a bus will leave for Kolkata at 7am and passengers will reach the location at 3:30pm. The service from Kolkata to Pirojpur will begin at 8am.

Before, travellers had to go to Benapole by other buses and enter India through organising transport by themselves, said Nazrul.

The process has been streamlined now, he said.

On the first day, 29 passengers travelled to Kolkata through the bus service, Nazrul said.

People from other southern districts will be able to avail the service as well, he said, adding that travellers will be able to collect tickets from Bagerhat, Khulna, and Benapole counters.



Protesting the torture and sexual abuse of Bangladeshi female migrant workers by their employers in Saudi Arabia, people from all walks of life form a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Sachetan Nagarik Samaj organised the event.

PHOTO: STAR

A celebration of tradition

Garos observe Wangala in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Garo community in Dhaka marked “Wangala” -- the celebration for bountiful harvest -- amid fanfare yesterday at DNCC field in Banani.

Being a weekend, people from all walks of life thronged the venue since morning. Youngsters dressed in traditional attires and ornaments sang religious songs and welcomed guests with flowers, while different stalls showcased Garo culture, food, attires and ornaments.

“We eagerly await Wangala,” said university student KripanJoli Manda. “It helps us uphold our values and teaches the importance of unity.”

The programme started around 8:30am with youngsters in “dakmanda” and “daksharee” (colourful attires made from raw cotton fabric traditionally worn like sarong) offering prayers.

Community leaders say the festival is held between September and December. On the day of Wangala, Garos offer crops to “Misi Saljong” (who blesses them with harvest), and “Tatara” (believed to be the creator of earth) and “Sushumi” (who cures diseases and bestows them with wealth).

According to tradition, Garos consume the crops only after dedicating it to the divinity.

The first part of the festival featured “Rugala” (puja and other religious formalities of offering crops to the gods), where the “Khamal” (chief priest) prays and implores the gods to receive the crops.

Mithun Raksham, a writer and publisher from the Garo community, said, “Through this festival, we try to follow the rituals our ancestors practiced so that we can stay connected with them.”

Indian Garo band “Notes of A’rongga” and Bangladesh’s “Sacrament” enthralled audience with their performances in the evening.

Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam and lawmaker Jewel Areng attended the festival, among others, in the afternoon.

Ninth-grader electrocuted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A ninth-grader of Dhaka Residential Model College (DRMC) was electrocuted on his school premises yesterday, while attending an event.

Naimul Abrar was visiting the anniversary celebrations of youth magazine Kishor Alo when the incident happened.

Two doctors at the emergency medical camp at the event attended to him immediately, after which he was rushed to a private hospital in Mohakhali where doctors declared him dead.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at DRMC ground last night, after which he was taken to his home in Noakhali for burial.

Editor of Kishor Alo Anisul Hoque expressed shock and grief over the incident. He said if the accident happened due to negligence, due action will be taken.

A probe committee was formed by DRMC to look into the matter, said its principal Brig Gen Kazi Shamim Farhad.

Assistant Commissioner of police for Mohammadpur zone Shibli Noman confirmed the incident, and said an unnatural death case would be filed.