

TANGENTS
BY IHTISHAM KABIR

Taking Flight

A bird taking flight is an exquisite and miraculous event. Raising its wings, it spreads them while kicking off with its feet to sail through the air. The swift and energetic display has visual drama. Capturing it on camera is a challenge for the photographer, mainly because one cannot predict the precise moment of takeoff.

Many birds are so fast that the human eye cannot resolve all the different movements working together to attain flight. Other birds are slower to lift off and we can see the motions they go through before attaining flight.

For example, consider the largest bird of Bangladesh. The Lesser Adjutant, a long-legged stork, stands at over three feet tall and weighs around ten pounds. For food it forages from soft ground such as river banks and paddy fields. It needs a long runway when it takes off because it runs while flapping its wings until it reaches takeoff speed. The photographer has enough time to catch the action.

A Pallas's Fish Eagle, also a large bird, often takes off from tall branches. It flaps its large wings across a wide arc several times as it is taking off. While it takes off faster than a Lesser Adjutant, it is still slow enough to capture if your camera is focused on it.

On the other hand, small and medium birds such as Sparrows, Doves or Parrots take off like a bullet. It is extremely difficult to capture this on camera: a photographer must make numerous attempts before a satisfactory photograph is captured.

Several water birds, such as the Coot or the Purple Swamphen, run on the water before taking off, leaving a series of concentric ripples in their wake. They are easier to catch on camera if you are prepared. Ducks are another matter. They take off very fast. But



Black-headed Bulbul taking flight.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

a flock resting on water will take off somewhat sequentially, creating an opportunity for the alert photographer.

When I find a bird resting long enough for me to focus my camera on it, I immediately take a picture. Then I wait for it to take off so I can have an "action shot". It never notifies me, but sometimes drops indirect hints. For example, if it defecates, chances are it will fly soon. Sometimes, after preening its feathers, it will wait for a few seconds before flying. Before flight, larger birds sometimes crouch. But I miss the vast majority of my attempts because in the split second of takeoff, my finger on the shutter is too slow.

There are several points of photographic aesthetics that come into play. For example, if it flies away from you, the photograph

is not interesting. Usually birds fly into the wind in order to get lift, paying attention to wind direction is helpful. If you can photograph from above the bird – for example, from a tower or a rooftop – you can capture nice wing patterns.

The basic science of flight is the same for all birds. With their strong muscles they flap their wings which propel them forward, getting the air over and under their wings moving. This creates an upward force, lift, which enables them to fly. Yet each bird species has its own signature style of taking off. Photographing this action has been a challenge, but if I get a good shot it makes the effort worthwhile.

facebook.com/ikabirphotographs or follow ihtishamkabir on Instagram.

No budget talk at DU senate session

Treasurer points to pandemic, early call for session as reasons

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

Dhaka University's annual senate session is going to be held tomorrow, but the university's annual budget is not ready yet.

Though "presentation of budget by the treasurer" was stated as one of the ten meeting agenda, the treasurer wrote to the VC, stating it is not possible to prepare the budget due to the current coronavirus crisis and the session being called early.

"In DU's history, the budget was never presented in early June. If it happens, it will be considered a violation of financial policy," said the letter by Treasurer Prof Kamal Uddin, sent three days before the June 10 syndicate meeting.

"Since the budget is yet to be placed before the finance committee, there is no scope of presenting it to the syndicate," the letter concluded.

Contacted, DU VC Prof Akhtaruzzaman said that they need more time to prepare the budget due to the pandemic.

An invaluable service

Abul Khair Group supplying oxygen to Ctg hospitals for free

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Abul Khair Group has come forward to ease the oxygen crisis by supplying a bulk amount of oxygen to hospitals for free to support coronavirus patients in Chattogram.

The business conglomerate has been supplying oxygen since May 12. Three hospitals, which are treating Covid-19 patients, have been receiving oxygen cylinders from the group. It is also providing oxygen to law enforcement agencies and defence organisations, among others.

Imrul Qader Bhuinya, senior manager of AKS plant at Shitolpur from where the oxygen is being supplied, told The Daily Star that they have come up with the decision when they came across reports on people dying in want of it.

"As we have a plant for producing oxygen for industrial purpose, we thought we could produce medical-grade oxygen by setting up some extra equipment," he said.

The AKS plant authorities had to buy 300 large cylinders to carry those oxygen to hospitals. Currently they are supplying oxygen to General Hospital, Bangladesh Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases, and Chattogram Field Hospital.

Sheikh Fazle Rabbi, civil surgeon of Chattogram, told this newspaper that they would have to face a dire situation, had AKS not supplied oxygen for free. "This is really commendable... We hope every big conglomerate will come up with such help," he said.



An out-of-order disinfection tunnel lies on a footpath in the capital's Mirpur, as a roadside clothes vendor hangs some of his products on it for display. While many of these were set up well-intended at public places, not all of them have been maintained. The World Health Organization has also since said the use of spraying chemicals for disinfection may not be efficient, and rather can be harmful for health. The photo was taken recently.

Road crash kills youth

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A university student was killed and another person injured in a road accident in Birol upazila of Dinajpur yesterday afternoon.

The deceased -- identified as Taher A Faiaz Mou (19) -- was an honours second year student of Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University, according to police.

Mou and her cousin were going to Birol area by a motorcycle, said Birol Police Station Officer-in-Charge Sheikh Nasim Habib.

It collided head-on with a truck on Bochaganj-Dinajpur road, leaving Mou dead on the spot and her cousin injured, he added.

The body was sent to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital for autopsy; the injured was undergoing treatment there, said the police officer.

UNDERAGE ACCUSED IN CRIMINAL CASES

880 children detained in 3 centres

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

A total of 880 children are still detained in three "Shishu Unnayan Kendra" (children development centres) in connection with different criminal cases, even after 489 were granted bail in last 20 working days.

Among the 489 children, who secured bail, 460 were handed over to their guardians and the process to hand over the rest to their guardians is underway, MM Mahmudullah, deputy director of (institution) of department of social service under the social welfare ministry, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said among the 880 detained children, 550 are in Tongi Shishu Unnayan Kendra, Gazipur; 239 are in Pulerhath Shishu Unnayan Kendra in Jashore and 92 in Konabari Shishu Unnayan Kendra in Gazipur.

They have been arrested in connection with criminal cases filed on different charges including stealing, robbery, mugging, rape, torture and possessing illegal arms, he said. Mahmudullah said they have been in the custody of Shishu Unnayan Kendra for different periods of time while some have been kept in

the custody for two to three years.

In some cases, it takes a long period of time to help some children secure bail, as their guardians and bail grantors cannot be found, he said, adding that police stations also often refuse to grant them bail after arrest although they have legal rights to grant bail to the accused considering the offence.

Contacted, Supreme Court Spokesman Md Saifur Rahman yesterday told The Daily Star that the SC Special Committee for Child Rights have taken necessary measures in association with the Unicef, and social welfare ministry of the country to release the children, who were granted bail, from the Shishu Unnayan Kendra and help them reach their guardians.

He said Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain is monitoring the total process of granting bail by the virtual courts operating across the country.

Justice Muhammad Imman Ali, a senior judge of the SC's Appellate Division, and chairman of the committee has been monitoring all issues regarding filing bail petitions for the detained children and their release as well as bail to the accused

after holding virtual hearings of the petitions filed by them.

With these orders of bail for the children, a total of 33,155 people accused of criminal charges, have secured bail from the lower courts across the country in last 20 working days.

The lower courts have granted bail to 5,675 people in five working days in the last week, while the subordinate courts have disposed of 60,389 petitions.

The courts have disposed of total 12,762 bail petitions and granted bail to total 5,675 accused in five days last week (June 7 to June 11) in connection with the cases filed against them, according to the sources.

Most of the accused who were granted bail have already got released from jail. The virtual court functions started on May 11 after a gap of 46 days in order to deal with urgent cases.

The regular activities of courts remained closed since March 26 due to ongoing coronavirus outbreak. On May 10, the chief justice issued some directives for the courts on dealing with urgent cases through using ICT during the ongoing closure.

Returnee workers will be sent back after training

Says expat welfare minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will take steps to send returnee migrant workers overseas again after providing them with training and helping develop their skills based on changing demands in post-pandemic international labour market, expatriates' welfare minister Imran Ahmad said on Thursday.

The steps will be taken, alongside loan facilities worth Tk 700 crore, for returnee workers, he said during a virtual inter-ministerial meeting, said a press release.

He said considering that demand for farm and health sector workers may go up in post-pandemic labour market, a decision in principle was taken to provide training to create skilled workers for the sectors.

Meanwhile, speakers during an online consultation arranged by International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Bangladesh and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on Thursday stressed on how different stakeholders can support the government to combat human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, said a separate press release.

IOM Bangladesh Chief of Mission Giorgi Gigauri said vulnerabilities of migrants increase during disease outbreaks, while

providing assistance is more difficult.

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen said in the wake of the recent killing of 26 Bangladeshis in Libya by migrant smugglers, the government was considering updating the existing migration-related legislation to bring illegal migration seekers and their families under "accountability mechanism".

Local traffickers and human smugglers often lure people by false promises of lucrative jobs across the world, said National Human Rights Commission Chairman Nasima Begum.

"To ensure the increased protection and respect for the fundamental human rights of current and aspiring migrants in Bangladesh and abroad, it is crucial to adopt a whole-of-society approach," noted UN Resident Coordinator Mia Seppo.

Law and Justice Division Secretary Golam Sarwar said seven anti-human trafficking offence tribunals were established in seven divisional headquarters in March, and specially trained judges have been appointed to those tribunals.

Sergey Kapinos, regional representative, UNODC Regional Office for South Asia, said they are ready to support the government in addressing human trafficking.



A vibrant pigeon market, that used to sit every Friday in Old Dhaka's Kaptan Bazar, had been on hold for several months since the coronavirus pandemic brought the country to a near standstill. Last week, the market reopened as pigeon fanciers and birdkeepers from all over the city flocked to the spot, to indulge in a hobby that is said to be 10,000 years old.



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED