TANGENTS
BY IHTISHAM KABIR

Primates of Bangladesh

On a summer morning several years ago I climbed up the watchtower in Satchori National Park looking for birds. In two hours I saw little. I was about to call it a day when, across the field below, I saw a troop of monkeys making its way through adjoining trees. The dark, close-cropped hair on their forehead marked them as Northern Pig-tailed Macaques. As I watched, a fight broke out between two youngsters. They started out making faces and were soon swinging towards each other like Tarzan, shouting and baring their teeth. The quarrel lasted only two minutes before the troop disappeared into the jungle.

These macaques are one of nine non-human primate species listed in Dr. Monirul Khan's *Photographic Guide to the Wildlife of Bangladesh*. The other primates found in Bangladesh are Bengal Slow Loris, Assamese Macaque, Long-tailed Macaque, Rhesus Macaque, Northern Plains Langur, Phayre's Langur, Capped Langur and Western Hoolock Gibbon.

Pig-tailed Macaque, Satchori, Bangladesh.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

Where does one look for them?

The easiest to see is the Rhesus Macaque, our common *Bandor*. It is found in many places including old Dhaka. It has adapted only too well to humans.

On the other hand, Long-tailed Macaque and Plains Macaque are rare and hard to find. The Bengal Slow Loris, being nocturnal, is also elusive.

The remaining primates can be seen in our protected forests with some effort and guidance.

The Hoolock Gibbon has the distinction of being the only ape in South Asia. It is classified as a "small ape" as opposed to "great apes" like gorillas, chimpanzees, orang-utans and humans. Its call is unmistakeable: a sonorous *uuuaa-uuuaa-uuua* that echoes through the forest. These loud calls come during the day, often in a duet or chorus, to communicate among the group. When I was tracking Hoolock Gibbons in Lawacherra National Park with a guide, these calls helped me find them – creatures with long arms, white bands over the eyes, and missing tails.

At a pond in Satchori, I observed groups of Pig-tailed Macaques as they came to drink water. They drank in two styles. Most of them crouched low to reach the water. But young athletic ones preferred to hang upside down from overhanging branches to reach the water. Groups sometimes broke out in fights, usually more violent than the one I observed from the tower.

Capped Langurs are, in my observation, more sedate than the other primates. They often sit still on high branches, their extraordinary long tail hanging below them, as they watch the world below go by. When you notice them, they can startle you with their appearance: a deep black face with large black eyes and a sober expression set against a beige-orange body. In motion through the forest they are just as agile as other monkeys, using their tails for balance and steering as they jump from tree to tall tree.

Phayre's Langurs are black or dark-grey. They have white rings around their eyes which look like spectacles – hence their Bangla name *Choshma Bandor*. Their social organization is complex. Parents take turns caring for the young, and youngsters become jealous when a sibling gets more attention from the parents. Infants are born pale orange; as they grow older black spots appear on their body until the entire body turns black.

I discovered that finding and observing our primates was an exciting experience. They are well worth our attention and conservation efforts.

facebook.com/ikabirphotographs or follow ihtishamkabir on Instagram.

'Reopen 25 jute mills, pay dues'

Workers reiterate demands at Khulna procession

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Jute mill workers in Khulna yesterday reiterated their demand for payment of all arrears and reopening of 25 jute mills under government initiative.

They brought out a procession with sticks in their hands in the city's Khalishpur industrial area.

They said the government must pay the dues of five jute mills -- including Daulatpur and Khalishpur jute mills -- according to wage scale 2015.

Khalishpur, Daulatpur Jute Mill Joint Factory Committee brought out the procession in front of Daulatpur Jute Mill which ended at People's Chattar. A meeting was also held there.

Hundreds of workers of closed jute mills, and leaders and activists of various organisations participated in the procession led by the committee general secretary Alamgir Kabir.

The committee President Munir Hossain presided over the programme.

Speakers alleged that the main reason for the loss incurred by the 25 closed jute mills was rampant corruption by ministers, secretaries, corrupt officials of BJMC and consultants at the jute ministry.

Now the consequences of the closure of jute mills have been fallen on the innocent workers, they said.

Workers vowed to thwart the conspiracy behind such a situation.

Protesters said the workers are presently facing severe financial hardship due to unemployment. Many of their children have already dropped out of schools.

The government is out to loot crores of taka by destroying jute industries in the interest of some local and foreign groups, they added.

Mizanur Rahman Babu, coordinator of Left Democratic Alliance; Munir Chowdhury Sohel, coordinator of Gana Sanghati Andolon, Khulna district unit; SM Chandan, organizing secretary of Trade Union Centre, Khulna; Al-Amin Sheikh, convener of Student Federation, the district unit; and workers' leaders Abdul Hakim, Mosharraf Hossain and Putul Begum, among others, joined the protest programme.

Workers brought out a procession in Khulna city yesterday, demanding reopening of 25 jute mills under government initiative and payment of their arrears. The photo was taken from BIDC Road.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Dr Milon Day to be observed today

BSS, *Dhaka*

Shaheed Dr Milon Day will be observed across the country today, commemorating the 31st martyrdom anniversary of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon, then joint secretary general of Bangladesh Medical Association.

Dr Milon, who was also a lecturer at Dhaka Medical College, was killed by goons of the military junta near the Teacher-Student Centre of Dhaka University at the height of the anti-autocracy movement on this day in 1990.

The sacrifice of Dr Milon transformed the anti-autocracy movement into a mass upsurge, which prompted the fall of the then autocratic regime, paving the way for restoration of democracy.

On the eve of the day, President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages, recalling Dr Milon's sacrifice.

In his message, the president expected that the new generation will involve themselves in the democratic practice, being imbued with the ideology of Dr Milon.

The PM said Dr Milon is one of the main leaders of the anti-autocracy movement, adding, "The movement got new speed through the supreme sacrifice of Dr Milon."

Different political parties, socio-cultural organisations and professional bodies have chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day.

Reminiscent of an enlightened

FROM PAGE 3

the country. We have temples in all the ancient and prominent districts of Bangladesh, and our followers celebrate every ceremony with great religious fervour."

Both Ranabir and Dipak declined to reveal the number of Brahmas in Bangladesh, saying, "It's a secret we cannot reveal, and the number you see in different reports in the media is incorrect."

"We never preach our faith aggressively among the masses. Rather, if somebody accepts our faith, they are required to practise our monotheistic belief for three years under our observation. Our patrons never focused on increasing the number of followers, rather they focused on doing charitable activities," said Dipak.

Brahma Samaj celebrates three big festivals -- birth and death anniversary of its founder Raja Ram Mohan Roy on the first day of the Bengali month Baishakh and 6th day of the Bengali month Bhadra, respectively, and the founding anniversary of the faith on the 11th day of the Bengali month Magh.

"Since we do not worship any image, idol or a particular deity, people from all faiths, particularly Muslims, Sikhs and Christians, usually join us without any hesitation. They also feel free to join the feast since the food is not 'prasada' (food offering to a deity which is later shared with worshippers)," said Ranabir.

However, these festivals could not be arranged in the last two years due to the pandemic.

A weekly prayer is held every Sunday, where the acharya recites from the holy scriptures and sings the holy chants in the prayer hall of the temple.

The prayer hall is a large room equipped with long benches, where men, women and followers from all faiths can sit together to attend the prayer. The acharya stands in the dais to conduct the prayer. There is no image or idol in the prayer hall. Only one holy word, "Om", is written on the wall above the dais, which is a sacred word adopted from Vedic scriptures.

According to noted historian Muntassir Mamoon's book "Dhaka Shamagra", Brahma Samaj was founded in Dhaka in 1846 by a government officer called Brajasundar Mitra.

In 1865 and 1869, philosopher Keshab Chandra Sen visited Dhaka to preach the belief of Brahma Samaj. His speeches at Ahsan Manjil, the residence of Dhaka's nawab Khwaja Abdul Ghani, inspired thousands of people, particularly Hindu youths, to embrace Brahma belief.

In 1869, the temple was built in Dhaka at the cost of Tk 10,000, due to increasing number of Brahma followers. Dinanath Sen, a renowned teacher of Dhaka Collegiate School played a key role in establishing the temple.

In 1871, a library was built on the first floor of the temple. According to Dhaka Shamagra, it was the first public library of Dhaka. According to Ranabir and Dipak, in 1947, the library had 30,000 books in its collection.

Like the Brahma Samaj, this library is also nothing but a skeleton of its former self, since after the 1947 Bengal partition, many of its patrons fled to India. The library was burned to the ground by Pakistan army during the Liberation War.

According to Ranabir, "Almost all of our collections have been destroyed and lost during the Liberation War. After the war, we published advertisements to recover our lost books but did not get much response."

Ranabir told The Daily Star that they were unable to use or repair the library building, due to an on-going case over its ownership.

"With the decreasing number of followers, our resources have also decreased, but we're satisfied for the fact that we can practice our faith in peace and harmony," he added.

NARAYANGANJ FIRE

RMG factory worker succumbs to injuries

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *N'ganj*

One of the three garment workers who were injured in a fire at Narayanganj's Siddhirganj area on Thursday night died yesterday morning.

Mamun (27) breathed his last around 8:30am while undergoing treatment at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, said Inspector Bachchu Miah, in-charge of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) Police Outpost, quoting doctors.

"Mamun suffered 99 percent burn injuries. His body has been kept at DMCH morgue," the inspector said.

The two injured -- Parvez (28), with 99 percent burn injuries, and Jibon (20), with 30 percent burns – are being treated at the hospital.

The trio worked at Ananta Apparel Garment Factory in Narayanganj.

The fire started on the fourth floor of a seven-storey building.

According to fire service officials, they suspect that gas accumulated in the kitchen of the house. Later, the fire broke out when one of them went to light the stove.

Cultural centre with

FROM PAGE 3

had not come in yet as the councillor hadn't arrived.

The correspondent got to know from him that the office of Shahid Ullah Minu, councillor of DSCC Ward-46, is located at the ground floor.

Inside the auditorium, the chairs were in dilapidated condition. An unusual odour had developed as the auditorium hadn't been in regular use for sometime now.

A shopkeeper near the centre said, "Dramas are occasionally held on Fridays and Saturdays. Besides, owing to the councillor's office, the place is crowded with political people all day long."

Contacted, Kamal Bayazid, secretary general of Bangladesh Group Theater Federation, said, "The present rent rate is out of reach for many theatre groups. The environment here isn't exactly appropriate for staging dramas either. The AC is broken, the makeup room is wrecked, the seating conditions are terrible -- all of it makes for an adverse environment."

He also mentioned that other places charge much less (around Tk 5,000 to 6,000).

On this issue, Amaresh Mandal, in-charge of the cultural centre, said, "Whether we stage dramas here or not, our expenses rack up to a huge amount every month."

Acknowledging the AC issue, he said, "We have asked the city corporation to fix them. Hopefully, they will tend to this soon."

Bike for Buriganga

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Prof Kamruzzaman said cyclists understand the importance of a healthy and robust environment. They are also conscious of their own health. Like the cyclists who attended the rally, everyone should raise their voice and act to protect the Buriganga river, he added.

The events were supported by Stamford University's environmental science department, in cooperation with USAID, FCDO, and Counterpart International.

Investing in girls' education 'game changer'

Says British PM's envoy Helen Grant

UNB, *Dhaka*

British Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Girls' Education Helen Grant has emphasised investing in girls' education, which she thinks is an "absolute game changer" and ensures a safer, fairer and better world for girls.

She said that their education is a key priority for the UK government.

Grant, who was appointed to the post in January 2021, made the remarks yesterday, before wrapping up her visit to Bangladesh.

While talking to a small group of reporters at the residence of British High Commissioner Robert Chatterton Dickson, Helen listed poverty, climate change, gender-based violence, early pregnancy and forced marriage as some of the barriers that need to be addressed through joint efforts.

As girls remain at greater risk of violence, sexual abuse, and child marriage due to being out of school, she said investing in girls is very important.

The UK government has recently contributed USD 34.7 million to Unicef through the British High Commission in Dhaka to provide access to quality education for the most disadvantaged and out-of-school children in Bangladesh.

"Bangladesh has made significant progress towards ensuring education for every child. But persistent and complex challenges remain when it comes to equitable access and the quality of education," said Sheldon Yett, Unicef representative to Bangladesh.

The Garo community in Dhaka city marked the traditional "Wangala" -- the celebration for bountiful harvest -- with a daylong event at Gulshan Model High School and College premises yesterday. The event was divided into several parts, including ritual prayers, traditional cultural performance, and a discussion on the significance of the day.

PHOTO: STAR

TO-LET
A lake side apartment (1400 Sft.) ready for rent at Gulshan near circle -1, from december 2021. 3 beds, 3 baths, two varandas, specious drawing room dining and wide kitchen.
Contact : 01771120078

Plot sale in Purbachal
Attached with Rajuk project & 180 feet bypass highway. Different size of plot. Hand over from 2023. Investors are invited to get the best return, Call for details.
01978092241, Purbachal Hill City a Project of Biswas Builders ltd.

রেডি ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়
বসুন্ধরা ও বনানী আ/এ ২২০০ থেকে ৩০০০ বর্গফুটের রেডি ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়। জেমস্ প্রপার্টি
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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
e-Zone
Servicing Change Managers
E-Zone HRM Limited is a management consulting group providing one-stop HR solutions.
E-Zone HRM Limited has a formal agreement with one of the United Nations agency to provide outsourcing services under a third party contract.
E-Zone HRM Limited is now seeking applications for a UN Organization from Bangladeshi Nationals for the following vacancies under third party outsourcing contract modality. For detailed Job Description, please visit the following website link to apply for the post.
Title: National Consultant (MNCAH) at NOB level
Duty Station: DGHS, Mohakhali Dhaka, Bangladesh,
Contract Duration: 11 Months period (Dec 2021-Oct 2022).
Number of Vacancies: 1(One), **Contract Type:** Contract with E-Zone.
Last Date of Application: 3rd December, 2021
https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un73.html

কমার্শিয়াল প্লট বিক্রয় বসুন্ধরা বারিধারায়
বসুন্ধরা বারিধারা আবাসিক এলাকায় ৭ বিঘা, ৫ বিঘা, ২ বিঘার, কমার্শিয়াল রেজিষ্ট্রেশন, মিউটেশন, বাউন্ডারী করা নির্ভেজাল প্লট বিক্রয় হইবে। যোগাযোগঃ
মোবাইল: ০১৭১১৫৪৬৬৮৭, E-mail: mdfariduddin6687@gmail.com

Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS)
House # 6, Road # 23/C, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212
Tender Ref. no 42.06.2626.101.06.001.21-2438 Date : 24 November, 2021
1st Corrigendum Notice
It is hereby notified to all concern that under unavoidable circumstances the Second Re-Tender Notice for the work of Supply, installation & commissioning of lifts for CEGIS Office Building at Plot No. F-14/E, Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. Tender Ref. no 42.06.2626.101.06.001.21-2350, dated: 14.11.21 is to be amended as follows:

SL. No.	As mentioned in Original Notice	To be Revised
Tender Notice Sl. No. 8	Last Date & Time of Selling Tender: 30/11/2021, 05:00 p.m.	Last Date & Time of Selling Tender: 12/12/2021, 05:00 p.m.
Tender Notice Sl. No. 9	Last Date & Time of receiving Tender: 01/12/2021, 01:00 p.m.	Last Date & Time of receiving Tender: 13/12/2021, 01:00 p.m.
Tender Notice Sl. No. 10	Date & Time of Opening Tender: 01/12/2021, 03:00 p.m.	Date & Time of Opening Tender: 13/12/2021, 03:00 p.m.
Tender Notice Sl. No. 12	Date and time of Pre-tender meeting: 24/11/2021, 10:30 a.m.	Date and time of Pre-tender meeting: 05/12/2021, 10:30 a.m.

All other terms and conditions of the original tender will remain unchanged. This Corrigendum Notice will be a part and parcel of the Re-Tender.
Project Director, CEGIS Office Building Construction Project