

## TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



The Author with Frank Espada.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

## Egoless Photography

I vividly remember when I discovered photography. I was a third-year undergraduate engineering student in the United States when I experienced a revelation while visiting an exhibition of Ansel Adams' photographs at the university museum. Around the same time I discovered *The Decisive Moment*, a book of photographs by Henri Cartier-Bresson. These two bodies of work thrilled and delighted me. The beauty of the photographs held me spellbound and I marvelled at the people who had made them.

This was my entrance into the world of photography – at a time with no Internet or smart phones. This was good in a way, because I spent my free hours poring over books by great photographers, avoiding information overload and focusing only on classic works. I also learned from magazines and drew inspiration from visiting photo exhibitions.

Soon I wanted to proceed beyond just looking at fine photographs. I was ready to create my own. So I took classes to learn technique: camera basics and black and white film processing. That was the easy part. The hard part was learning aesthetics – what makes a photograph worthy. This took more time. I got others to critique my work. I looked at lots of photographs, all the while trying to place myself in the shoes of the photographers.

As I approached this, my Western education and mindset, which places emphasis on the individual and his creativity, played a big role. Ever since the Renaissance, creative work in the West has largely emphasized the individual. The overarching importance of the individual's view of the world was paramount in Western art.

As an example, consider the mathematics of perspective as invented by Leonardo da Vinci. It

enables painters to paint with "me" at the centre and the world radiating out from there. In contrast, the artist in East was more humble and anonymous. For example, note the lack of perspective in paintings from the Mughal times – the painter is not at the centre of the world.

In photography classes, too, teachers emphasized the individual's point of view. "What do you want to say in this photograph?" and "How do you see it?"

And so my ego ran away from me and embedded itself into each photograph I made. Fortunately two things happened. I kept working away at photography, striving towards maturity. And I married a woman who encouraged and understood my passion.

But a longer process was also in the works. Writing software in Silicon Valley, I matured as an engineer. In the process I learned that when you create something for others, you must provide some value in your creation, be it software or photography. What the viewer sees in a photograph should not be just an exercise in ego gratification, but rather be something that he or she finds useful, something that makes his or her time worthwhile. Beyond the camera, I learned to approach the subject of the photograph with respect and empathy. Slowly but surely, my ego returned to my control.

My photography teacher Frank Espada was instrumental as I learned to approach photography with humility and gratitude.

And so today, if the viewer taking a moment to look at my photographs feels that their time was well-spent, then I feel humbled by their attention and grateful for being able to create such a work.

facebook.com/ikabirphotographs or follow ihtishamkabir on Instagram.

## AL, BNP candidates promise to keep holding taxes down

ARUN BIKASH DEY and MOSTAFA YUSUF, Ctg

Both BNP and AL-nominated mayoral candidates of Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) polls focused on issues relating to holding taxes while campaigning yesterday, pledging to keep the tax rate at a tolerable level so residents do not suffer.

BNP candidate Shahadat Hossain conducted his campaign in areas of the city's Halishahar. He started at Dakkhin Madhyam Halishahar after Juma prayers, with a large number of leaders and activists of BNP and its associate organisations accompanying him.

During his campaign, he pledged to keep holding tax rate at a tolerable level, if elected.

Shahadat also pledged to provide readymade garment workers and their families with treatment facilities and drinking water for free, and make housing cheaper. A huge number of garment workers reside in the area.

He then went to campaign at Uttar Madhyam Halishahar, where he assured residents that holding tax rate will not be increased, if he is elected mayor.

Shahadat also said he will keep interests of tenants in mind. Some 60 per cent of port city residents are tenants, and he will defend their interests, he said, adding, "If I'm elected, I'll form a master-plan to develop the city."

He further said he will take initiatives to address waterlogging, if elected.

Meanwhile, AL candidate Rezaul Karim Chowdhury



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## Two injured in clash between councillor aspirants' supporters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Supporters of an Awami League-backed councillor candidate and a "rebel" candidate from the party yesterday clashed during campaign, ahead of Chattogram City Corporation election, injuring two people.

The followers of Nazrul Islam and Abdul Kader, of ward-28 (Patantuli), attacked each other around 4pm in Banglabazar area, said witnesses.

Mehedi Hasan, deputy commissioner of Chattogram Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star that they were aware of the incident, but did not get any formal complaints.

"We have started a drive to arrest those involved in the clash," he said.

Witnesses said AL mayoral candidate Rezaul Karim was scheduled to campaign in Banglabazar yesterday afternoon.

At that time, supporters of the two councillor candidates gathered there, chanting slogans in favour of their respective leaders, triggering the clash. Following the incident, Rezaul went back without conducting campaign, said locals.

Talking to The Daily Star, Abdul Kader, the rebel candidate, alleged that Nazrul's supporters attacked his activists without any reason.

However, Nazrul Islam denied the allegation. "He [Kader] was staging a drama as he did not get support from the party," he said, adding that no clash took place between their supporters.

The two persons injured in the clash were identified as Babul Das Tonoy (43) and Abdul Gani (40).

They were taken to Chattogram Medical College Hospital with injuries on different parts of their bodies, said Amir Hossen, a constable at CMCH police outpost.

Doctors advised them to be admitted to the casualty ward, he said.

## 'To the roots we must go'

Tea garden workers' communities come together to celebrate Fagua in Sreemangal

MINTU DESHWARA

For the first time ever, a day-long Fagua festival was held in the remote Sreemangal upazila headquarters, about 42 kilometres from Moulvibazar district town.

Organised by Fagua Utshab Udjapon Parishad, the programme was held at Phulchhara tea garden football field premises. Pranesh Goala, member secretary of the organising committee, said, "We took this initiative with the aim to preserve our culture and rituals."

It brought together representatives of over 20 communities, who put on display recitals and performances in their own languages. In fact, other than the national anthem and a patriotic song in Bengali, every other production was done in the ethnic languages of the communities.

Fagua is considered the biggest of all cultural celebrations for communities living in tea gardens, locals said. The festivities have long been an event that occasions garden owners to declare holidays for two or three days. For those working and living outside, these are the days that bring them back home.

On a visit there, this correspondent saw a huge crowd gathered at the festival

ground. Centered around the Holi festival, Fagua is a celebration of colors, which was evident in the paint that adorned the faces of almost everyone who was there.

Balaram Bhar, a tea worker from Phulchhara tea garden, said, "Our lives are riddled with struggles. I have to provide for a family of five earning only Tk 102 per day, inevitably running into many crises."

"But during these three days of Fagua, we get to immerse ourselves in joy. We try to ride this time with our friends and family, forgetting about the hundreds of shortages that are part and parcel of our lives," Balaram said.

However, before yesterday's event, Fagua used to be celebrated informally -- indoors or in close neighbourhoods.

Which is what makes yesterday's programme such a landmark event. It was the first time a formal celebration of Fagua took place.

The performances evoked a strong sense of cultural pride in the attendees, most of whom had never witnessed such a robust exhibit of their own cultures before.

Joyram Chasa, from Kurma tea garden in Kamalganj upazila, said, "Despite

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Artists from various tea garden workers' communities came together to stage recitals and performances representing their own cultures, all in their own languages.

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## 'Stalker' kills youth during arbitration

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

An alleged stalker reportedly killed a youth as the victim talked against him during a village arbitration in Cumilla's Raghurampur village on Thursday.

Family of deceased Abdul Awal (30) filed a case against 12 people – including alleged killer Aslam, his father Siddikur and brother Akiz – with Debidwar Police Station.

Police yesterday arrested Siddikur and Akiz, said the OC, adding that Aslam has been on the run since the incident.

Awal's family said Aslam and his accomplices hacked Awal to death, during an arbitration following complaints by the father of a schoolgirl that Aslam used to stalk his daughter.

## Road crashes kill 6

STAR REPORT

Six people, including four in Mymensingh alone, were killed in separate road accidents across the country yesterday.

A rickshaw puller and his passenger were killed at Bhaluka Bus Stand area on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway when a Dhaka-bound sand-laden truck hit a rickshaw, reports our district correspondent.

The victims were identified as Ratan Islam (41) and Anwar Hossain (40), said Al Mahmud Adnan, OC of Bhaluka Highway Police Outpost.

Police and firefighters recovered the bodies, and later handed those over to their families, he said, adding that the truck was seized but its driver fled.

Elsewhere in the district, a freedom fighter and his brother were killed at Kanhor area on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Trishal last night. The victims are Abdur Rahim (70) and Abdul Mazid (65).

Quoting locals, Trishal police said a Mymensingh bound bus crushed the brothers while they were crossing the road around 8pm. The bus driver fled the scene with the vehicle, he added.

A motorbike collided with a picnic bus at Cumilla Kotbari area, killing

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A crowd gathers around the site of a road accident in Mymensingh's Bhaluka upazila, when a sand-laden truck hit and killed two persons.

PHOTO: STAR

## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়  
(দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা ও ত্রাণ শাখা)  
বাঁশখালী, চট্টগ্রাম

তারিখঃ ০৮/০৩/২০২০খ্রিঃ

স্মারক নং-৫১.০১.১৫০৮.০০০.৪২.১৩২.১৯/১৩৯	
কাজের নাম	২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বছরে নিম্নলিখিত ঘূর্ণিঝড় আশ্রয় কেন্দ্র মেরামতকরণ প্রকল্পঃ (১) পূর্ব রায়ছটা সরকারি প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয় কাম সাইক্লোন সেন্টার মেরামত প্রকল্প (২) উত্তর কদমরসুল সরকারি প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয় কাম সাইক্লোন সেন্টার মেরামত প্রকল্প (৩) পূর্ব কাহারখোনা সরকারি প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয় কাম সাইক্লোন সেন্টার মেরামত প্রকল্প (৪) উত্তর সরল সরকারি প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয় কাম সাইক্লোন সেন্টার মেরামত প্রকল্প (৫) তোতকখালী খুদুকখালী আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র মেরামত প্রকল্প (৬) মহাজের পাড়া খুদুকখালী আশ্রয় কেন্দ্র মেরামত (৭) ১নং খুদুকখালী রেড ক্রিসেন্ট আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র মেরামত (৮) পশ্চিম বাহারছড়া রত্নপুর ঘূর্ণিঝড় আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র মেরামত প্রকল্প (৯) পশ্চিম বাহারছড়া ১নং ওয়ার্ড ইফাদ সাইক্লোন সেন্টার মেরামত প্রকল্প।
যোগ্যতা	উপজেলার তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদার/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান।
দরপত্র প্রক্রিয়া	সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (LTM)।
প্রাক্কলিত ব্যয়	প্রকল্প নং (১) ৪,৯৮,০৫১/- টাকা, প্রকল্প নং (২) ৪,৯৮,৫৪৭/- টাকা, প্রকল্প নং (৩) ৪,৯৭,০১৬/- টাকা, প্রকল্প নং (৪) ৪,৯৮,৪৫৬/- টাকা, প্রকল্প নং (৫) ৪,৯৭,০৩৮/- টাকা, প্রকল্প নং (৬) ৪,৯৮,৩০২/- টাকা, প্রকল্প নং (৭) ৪,৯৮,০১৮/- টাকা, প্রকল্প নং (৮) ৪,৯৯,০১৮/- টাকা, প্রকল্প নং (৯) ৪,৯৮,৯০০/- টাকা।
বায়নার টাকার পরিমাণ	উদ্ধৃত দরের ৩% হারে।
দরপত্র বিক্রির তারিখ	১৬/০৩/২০২০খ্রিঃ হতে ১৮/০৩/২০২০খ্রিঃ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত)।
দরপত্র মূল্য	৫০০/- টাকা হারে।
দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ	১৯/০৩/২০২০ দুপুর ১-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ	১৯/০৩/২০২০খ্রিঃ বেলা ২-০০ ঘটিকা।
বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলী	(১) ৫% এর অধিক নিম্নদর অথবা ৫% এর অধিক উর্ধ্ব দর সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। তবে ১ম বার আহ্বানকৃত দরপত্রের ক্ষেত্রে যে কোন পরিমাণ উর্ধ্ব দর গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। (২) বায়নার টাকা স্ব-স্ব উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের অনুকূলে যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার দরপত্র সিডিউলের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে। (৩) সংশ্লিষ্ট উপজেলা দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটির সুপারিশক্রমে উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের অনুমোদনক্রমে উপজেলা প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়ন কর্মকর্তা কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করবেন।

মোমেনা আক্তার  
উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার  
ও  
সভাপতি

প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়ন ট্রান্সফোর্স কমিটি  
বাঁশখালী, চট্টগ্রাম

জিডি-৫০২