



PATERNAL LOVE

ON Father's Day we celebrate and honor fatherhood. It is a day to remember the sacrifices made, love given, and lessons taught by fathers. It is celebrated on the third Sunday of June in many countries around the world.

Like people in other countries, Bangladeshis love their children. However, there are subtle differences with other cultures. For example, people here are generous with their love and affection for children, and are not shy to show this publicly. Also, paternal love very often extends to affection given to nephews and nieces by uncles (Chachas and Mamas), in contrast with the somewhat formal relations that children in the West, for example, have with their uncles.

Bangladeshis show paternal love in many ways: a lift given in a bicycle, helping with last-minute homework preparations, reading a story book to the youngster, tickling the tiny toe of a newborn, or simply sharing a peaceful, open spot.

It is all too easy to take our fathers (and uncles) for granted. When my father suddenly passed away last year, I was completely unprepared for the depth of the grief that followed. But over time I realized I was fortunate to have a devoted father. So I offer these photographs of paternal love as a tribute to my father, and to all fathers and uncles around the world.



About the Photographer

IHTISHAM KABIR is an amateur photographer who has photographed Bangladesh since 1984. He writes the popular weblog Back to Bangladesh (backtobangladesh.blogspot.com) and produces a daily photo-blog on Bangladesh (www.bangladeshimages.com). In 1996, his Web Exhibition, "Discovering the Children of Bangladesh," was recognized as one of the Web's ten best photo sites.

In professional life, Ihtisham Kabir is a software engineer who worked in Silicon Valley for over two decades. His work revolves around digital image processing. He is the author of several patents and the book "High Performance Computer Imaging." He can be contacted at ihtishamkabir@yahoo.com.