

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Jackfruit and other trees on a winter morning.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

A Winter's Morning

It was barely light outside when I awoke, cold and groggy. My limbs under the quilt groaned at the cold and refused to move. But the prospect of photographing a winter's morning in the countryside was tempting. Dragging myself out of bed, I put on my clothes, hat, jacket and shoes. Minutes later, I was outside, camera and tripod in hand.

A fine odour immediately hit my nostrils: a melange of the smell of trees, grass, dead leaves and hay, all carried by the fine droplets. The mist enveloped me after a few steps. The morning sun was having trouble waking, too, for I could not see clearly beyond a few feet. The details of the trees blurred as the distance grew until everything merged into a dense patch of gray. Overhead, the branches of a Chhatim tree disappeared in a spiral into the haze. An extra thick layer of mist hovered over an empty rice field looking forlorn with its shaved stalks.

Everything on the ground grass, hay, bunches of leaves, even the soil - was like wet sponge. My shoes and trouser legs were drenched in minutes. I felt something drop on my shoulder and jumped, hoping it was not a bird's dropping. No, it was water. The dew accumulating on leaves formed drops that slipped to the ground. On some leaves it accumulated along the edges, giving them a crystalline sharp outline.

I stood still for a few minutes. As the rustling of leaves underfoot fell silent, other sounds of morning came into focus: the pitter-patter of dew drops and

the shuffle of an early squirrel searching for breakfast. A lonely dove warbled from a distance. Presently, more birds joined in: some whistled sweetly, some cackled, while others screeched. Yellowing jackfruit leaves, weighed down by the water, dropped here and there. Music wafted in from village radios afar, the mist modulating it between clarity and muffle.

The sun started asserting itself and the grey morning slowly came alive. Hesitantly at first, the pencil-thin rays made their way through the mist. The world gradually shifted from black and white to colour as light reflected from the grass, tree-trunks and leaves, illuminating a dew-laden spider-web here and a shy wildflower there. This light had unexpected qualities: looking away from the sun, it had a bluish cast, but towards the sun, the faint pink and orange of morning light was intensified by the mist.

Overhead, the sun claimed its first victory over the mist and the high branches basked in golden sunlight. The battle moved lower as those hesitant rays now became shafts of light among the trees, playing peek-a-boo with the mist, branches and trunks. But the game was short, for the sun's rays rapidly grew bolder until they burned up the mist completely and the world was awash in light.

Dear reader: Happy New Year! May 2011 bring you lots of light.

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Call to save playgrounds

A CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers demanded recovery of the playgrounds from land grabbers in the port city.

The demand came at a human chain and procession programme in front of Chittagong Press Club yesterday.

Speakers said many playgrounds have been lost due to profit-making attitude of governments, autonomous organisations and industrialists.

Abul Momen, residential editor of The Daily Prothom Alo, also spoke.

Bella, Dristy, Aparajeya Bangladesh, IPSA, BITA, Protom Alo Bandhu Sabha, Bodhan, Red Crescent Society participated in the human chain.

3 killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Three people were killed on the spot and six others injured when a truck collided head-on with a pick-up van at Mustafapur in sadar upazila yesterday morning.

Two of the deceased were identified as Rimon Hossain, 37, and Anik, 23. The injured were admitted to the sadar hospital.



PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka Electricity Distribution authorities cut off the illegally taken Internet and satellite TV cables over the electric poles between Farmgate and Sonargaon hotel intersection on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the city yesterday.

ISPs planning strike to protest cable cut

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

Internet Service Providers Association of Bangladesh (ISPAB) plans to go for two-hours strike everyday from Monday protesting the government's removal of overhead cables.

The drive was launched on December 12. Dhaka Electric Supply Company (Desco) yesterday launched the drive from Jahangir Gate to Uttara at 11:00am, while Dhaka Power Distribution Company (DPDC) started from Jahangir Gate to Shahbagh.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people of different parts of the city yesterday could not watch cable satellite television channels and remained out of internet for the drive.

The affected areas include Uttara, Khilkhet, Nikunjjo, Badda, Malibagh, Demra, Lalmatia Sobahanbagh.

Desco officials will hold a meeting with ISP's representatives today at its Uttara office, he said.

The decision for strike will be finalised at Sunday's meeting of the general members of the association, said ISPAB President Akhtaruzzaman Manju yesterday.

DPDC staff dies after fall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An employee of the Dhaka Power Distribution Company died after falling from an electricity pillar while cutting internet wires opposite to the prime minister's office yesterday. Masud Rana, 30, a line-man of the company, at about 11:00am fell from nearly 12 feet high of the pillar.

He was rushed to the DMCH where doctors declared him dead.

Make zebra crossings on busy roads

Environmentalists urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmental activists yesterday demanded marking zebra crossings at all busy thoroughfares in the capital to ensure safe movement of pedestrians.

They placed the demand after drawing a zebra crossing in front of fine arts faculty on Dhaka University campus, jointly organised by Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Save Environment Movement) and Nirapod Development Foundation.

Environmental activists there urged the government to not misuse funds by building foot-over-bridges in the city as most pedestrians do not use them.

They also demanded making separate walk-lane along busy streets for pedestrians. They urged all to practice walking instead of using vehicles.

Environmental activists Abu Naser Khan, Ibnul Sayed Rana, Syed Mahbubul Alam and Moshir Rahman Rubel, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Fake-note making factory busted

Huge quantity of counterfeit notes seized, two held

UNB, Dhaka

Police busted a counterfeit notes making workshop and seized a huge quantity of Tk 1,000, 500, 100 denomination notes in a house at Badda in the city yesterday.

Abdur Rahman, 22, and Sijad Hossain alias Rabin, 24, were arrested from the spot. A computer, one scanner, one T printer and fake notes making paper and materials were also seized.

Badda police said on information they raided a room on the rooftop of a five-storied building at Road No 4 near Ananda Nagar Ideal High School.

Dhaka, Delhi water level measurement starts today

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Like every other year, Bangladesh and India will record water level at different points of the Ganges and the Padma from today to May 31 as agreed in the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty, 1996.

A four-member Bangladesh team led by Mahamudul Rahman, executive engineer of Joint Rivers Commission, is now in India to measure the Ganges water level at two points of Farakka.

Another two-member Indian delegation came to monitor the water level of the Padma at Hardinge Bridge point, Harunur Rashid, executive engineer of Water Development Board's hydrology department, Pabna, told The Daily Star.

Birth anniversary of Palli Kobi Jasimuddin today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur



Today is the 108th birth anniversary of Palli Kobi Jasimuddin.

On the occasion, Jasim foundation and different socio-cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes at the ancestral home at Gobindapur village in Sadar upazila of Faridpur. They will pay tributes to the poet by placing wreaths at the mazar of the poet located on the premises of the poet's home. A month-long 'Jasim Palli Mela' will be inaugurated at Jasim Udayan at the site of poet's ancestral home.

Bulbul Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 92nd birth anniversary of Bulbul Chowdhury, a famous dance maestro and founder of Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts, says a press release.

On the occasion, BAF will bring out a colourful rally from Wise Ghat area to Shilpakala Academy in the morning. Students of BAF will take part at the rally.



PHOTO: STAR

Students from Ananda Niketan School perform a dance during "English Medium Schools Cultural Programme-2011," organised by The Daily Star, at Sylhet auditorium yesterday.

Muggers shoot motorcycle rider

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers shot a motorcycle rider to snatch the motorcycle near Old Airport in the city yesterday.

Police said when Imarat Ali, security-in-charge of a developer, was going towards Gulshan, three muggers on a motorcycle chased him and shot on his leg in Agargaon around 5:30am.

He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

TWO SIBLINGS KIDNAP

Tk 20 lakh demanded as ransom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Kidnappers of two brothers in Alamdanga upazila of Chuadanga demanded a ransom of Tk 20 lakh yesterday, a day after the abduction.

The criminals picked up Serajul Islam Liton, 38, and Majidul Islam, 35, of the village Jehala in Alamdanga on Wednesday night.

On Thursday night, the gang demanded the ransom over phone and threatened to kill the two if their families go to police.

Woman killed, nine injured in clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

An elderly woman was killed while nine others injured in two clashes over land dispute at Baharampur Charvita and Damon villages in Haripur upazila yesterday.

Jolimon, 85, wife of late Shahamon Ali of the same village, died at Haripur Health Complex. Police arrested Mizanur and Kamal.

The first clash ensued when one Mizanur and his accomplices went to plough on a land that is also claimed by his cousin Inul. Both groups attacked each other with lethal weapons leaving nine people including the elderly woman seriously injured, said police.

25 hurt in clash over Barapukuria compensation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

At least 25 people were injured in clashes between two groups of villagers of Barapukuria Bazar at Parbatipur upazila yesterday over compensation for land subsidence caused by coal mine activities.

Eight of them were admitted to Phulbari Health Complex in critical condition.

Some persons set fire to different shops at the bazar soon after the incident. Fire fighters later doused the blaze.

Residents of villages affected by land subsidence resulted from mining activities of Barapukuria Coal Mine Company split have into two groups over the government announced Tk 191 crore compensation package.

Jibon O Sampad Rokkha Committee that accepted the package brought out a procession at the bazar last evening supporting the government's decision.

Witnesses said a clash ensued when a breakaway faction of the committee hurled comments against the package. The fighting villagers used sharp weapons and wooden sticks. Police later brought the situation under control.

DHAKA TODAY

**Roundtable** 11:00am. Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad will arrange a roundtable. Venue: Cirdap auditorium, Time: 12:30pm.

**Forum** ADB and Impact Investment Exchange Asia will jointly organise a forum. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel, Time: 8:30pm.

**Publication ceremony** ASK will arrange a publication ceremony. Venue: DRU, Time:

**Rally** Bulbul Academy will organise a rally. Venue: Wise Ghat area, Time: 9:00am.

**Conference** Weed Science Society of Bangladesh will organise a conference. Venue: Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University, Time: 10:00am.

**Meeting** Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will

WEATHER TODAY

Night temperature likely to rise

UNB, Dhaka  
Light rain is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during midnight till morning.

Night temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:22pm and rises tomorrow at 6:41am.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	26.5	13.8	74	67
Chittagong	26.4	13.8	84	78
Rajshahi	25.6	10.8	97	79