



KNOWLEDGE CORNER

CHAMPS21

CREATION OF MANKIND

In the beginning there was only chaos. Then out of the void appeared Erebus, the unknowable place where death dwells, and Night. All else was empty, silent, endless, darkness. Then somehow Love was born, bringing a start of order. From Love came Light and Day. Once there was Light and Day, Gaea, the earth appeared. Gaea alone gave birth to Uranus, the heavens. Together they produced the three Cyclopes and twelve Titans. However, Uranus was a bad father. Eventually his son, the youngest Titan, Cronus, set up an ambush and overthrew Uranus. Cronus became the next ruler and married Rhea. Gaea and Uranus both had prophesied that he would be overthrown by a son. To avoid this Cronus swallowed each of his children as they were born. Rhea was angry at the treatment of the children and plotted against Cronus. When it came time to give birth to her sixth child, Rhea hid herself, and then she left the child to be raised by nymphs. This child was Zeus. He grew into a handsome youth on Crete. Then eventually Rhea convinced Cronus to accept his son and Zeus was allowed to return to Mount Olympus. This gave Zeus the opportunity to slip Cronus a specially prepared drink designed by Metis that made Cronus vomit up the other children. The brothers of Zeus made him their leader. But Cronus was yet to be defeated. He and the Titans, except Prometheus, Epimetheus, and Oceanus, fought to retain their power. Atlas became their leader in battle and it looked for some time as though they would win. However, Zeus was cunning. He went down to Tartarus and freed the Cyclopes who gave him Thunderbolts for weapons. With the new weapons Zeus won the battle. He exiled the Titans who had fought against him into Tartarus. Prometheus and Epimetheus were spared imprisonment in Tartarus because they had not fought with their fellow Titans during the war with the Olympians. They were given the task of creating man. Prometheus shaped man out of mud, and Athena breathed life into his clay figure. Epimetheus's task was to give the creatures of the earth their various qualities. By the time he got to man Epimetheus had given all the good qualities out and there were none left for man. So Prometheus decided to give them fire. But Zeus took fire away from man. However, Prometheus lit a torch from the sun and brought it back again to man. Zeus was enraged that man again had fire. He decided to inflict a terrible punishment on both man and Prometheus. To punish Prometheus, Zeus took him to the Caucasus

Mountains, and chained him to a rock with unbreakable adamantine chain where he was tormented day and night by a giant eagle tearing at his liver. To punish man, Zeus and Hephaestus with the help of Hermes, created a mortal of stunning beauty, with a deceptive heart and a lying tongue....Pandora, the first woman.

WORLD MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Media is the carrier of mass communication. This communication began with the invention of newspapers and got established as a widely known term in the late 1920s. Media has numerous branches: news media, movies, music, daily soaps, sports entertainment, etc. All of them reach people via TV, radio or internet.

News media is the most influential branch of world media. It was confined to newspapers in the early years. Gradually the role of newspapers was pushed to the second position by the news-channels offering oven-fresh news 24/7. BBC, the leading news broadcaster of all time was founded in the year 1922.

Recently, internet based Wiki Leaks has been making waves all around the world.

Cinema is the most popular medium of entertainment today. Hollywood has blessed the earth-dwellers with romantic epics like 'Gone with the Wind', war pieces like 'Patton', thrillers like 'Psycho' and also musicals like 'West Side Story'. The British film industry has also been a symbol of a success. 'Gandhi' is an example of British classics. Indian films are also very popular all around the world. Though contemporary Bangla movies are way behind in the international race, the old ones like 'Pather Panchali' by Satyajit Ray, 'Meghe Dhaka Tara' by Ritwik Ghatak have charmed the audience to the full.

Music is the most versatile medium of entertainment. Mozart, Salieri and Beethoven ruled the early music eras.

In the mid-twentieth century, band music became the passion of youth. The Beatles are considered as the most popular band of all time. Apart from rock bands, solo artists like Michael Jackson blended performance with music and initiated a new era in the music industry. Ravi Shankar's sitar will be listened to for decades...

Sports are now a source of immense entertainment. Beijing Olympics in 2008 was watched by more than a billion people all over the world.

The development of world media has also led to speculative yellow journalism, blue films, use of narcotics etc. Keeping the dark side away, the media has been one of the best gifts mankind

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Initiative of The Daily Star &

Stalker jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Chapainawabganj

A mobile court awarded one month's jail term to a young man for stalking a schoolgirl at Rohonpur in Gomostapur upazila on Thursday night.

Tajul, 18, of the area, used to stalk a class six student of Prasaddpur Girls High School, on her way to school off and on. Following a complaint by her father, the court led-by Rabiul Faisal, executive magistrate and acting UNO, sentenced Tajul and sent him to jail.

DHAKA TODAY

Int'l conference

Organiser: Independent University, Bangladesh, Venue: IUB campus, Time: 9:00am.

Meeting

Organiser: Rotary Club of Dhaka Central, Venue: Dhaka Club, Time: 1:30pm.

Human chain

Organiser: Equity BD, Venue: In front of National Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Organiser: Government Teachers Training College, Dhaka, Venue: Teachers Training College, Time:

CRICKET WORLD CUP 2011 OPENING

Int'l media see new Bangladesh

Praise efficient management

UNB, Dhaka

International media eulogized Bangladesh's skill and efficiency of management to host Thursday's sizzling opening ceremony of ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 at Bangabandhu National Stadium.

British Daily Mail wrote "Bangladesh stages glitzy opening ceremony to kick off cricket world cup."

Bangladesh hosted the party of its life to welcome the start of the cricket World Cup. The world's leading team captains were ferried into Bangabandhu National Stadium in a fleet of bicycle rickshaws to kick off the evening event."

BBC said, "The 10th Cricket World Cup has been launched following a \$30m (£18.6m) opening ceremony in Bangladesh."

"The often chaotic roads in Dhaka witnessed relatively light traffic on Thursday with the government declaring a half-day public holiday so its people could return home in good time to view the opening ceremony on television."

Praising innovation in the opening function, BBC said all 14 captains were paraded in rickshaws around Bangabandhu Stadium as 3,500 performers demonstrated local cultures.

India Today quoted ICC President Sharad Pawar of acknowledging the contribution and support of Bangladesh government and, in particular, of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Asian Age wrote, "Dhaka has been spruced up for the World Cup as it seeks to take advantage of a prime opportunity to re-brand a country often known only for devastating floods and cyclones."

Hindustan Times wrote that rock star Bryan Adams provided the sparks to a dazzling opening ceremony, showcasing a vibrant blend of sub-continental traditions and modernity.

The Hindustan Times observed that it was a giant leap for Bangladesh which hosted perhaps the biggest sporting show so far in its history.



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NEWS IN brief

Miscreants stab man to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Miscreants stabbed a man to death in the outskirts of city's Tongi area last night.

Deceased Ashiqul Islam, 26, resident of Ershadnagar in Tongi, was sitting in a rickshaw garage when a group of criminals attacked, stabbing him indiscriminately and leaving him severely injured.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Ashiqul's wife Ruma Begum claimed that her husband was a source of police and Rapid Action Battalion.

Officer-in-Charge of Tongi Police Station Gazi Ruhul Iman said Ashiqul used to extort money by imposing as a police informer.

Weeklong art exhibition on BDR carnage from Feb 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To commemorate the slain army officials in BDR carnage on February 25 and 26 in 2009, a weeklong art exhibition 'Buk Tar Bangladesher Hridoy' begins at the Dhaka Art Centre from February 25. On the occasion, over 30 leading painters of the country participated in a camp at Gallery Chitrak in the city yesterday to deliver the message. Colonel Mojib Trust, Gallery Chitrak and Dhaka Art Centre are jointly organising the programme, says a press release.

'Free Amar Desh acting editor'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some pro-BNP academicians and journalists yesterday strongly criticised the government for imprisoning Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of the daily Amar Desh, and demanded his immediate release. They placed the demand at a roundtable at the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday.

Former vice chancellor (VC) of Dhaka University (DU) Moniruzzaman Miah, DU's ex-VC Emazuddin Ahmed, JPC president Kamaluddin Sabuj, former VC of Jahangirnagar University Khandakar Mustahidur Rahman, and BFUJ President Ruhul Amin Gazi and secretary general MA Aziz among others spoke. Mahmudur Rahman was arrested on June 2 last year in a criminal case.

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

A Slippery Remedy

LEGEND says that Alexander the Great treated his wounded soldiers with it, ancient Egyptian queens used it for beauty and Mahatma Gandhi drank it for strength when fasting. It calms the stomach and soothes minor burns. Its name is featured on numerous skin-care products worldwide. For ten Taka, you too can have a large glass of this stuff of legends from local street vendors.

It is Aloe Vera, known locally as *Ghrito Kanchon*.

One morning, I find one such vendor, Mr. Ibrahim Howladar, near Mirpur 1. He has set up shop facing the stream of people heading to work and school.

To make his concoction, he picks one of the long green leaves that are displayed prominently. The Aloe Vera is sandwiched in a layer between the skins of the leaf. He slices off the top skin with a knife, exposing the gelatinous substance which he scrapes into a container using a comb-like tool.

He mixes in several other ingredients to make his sherbet. These include *kali jira*, crushed seeds of *jaam* and mango, crushed bark of *arjun* trees, root of *shimul* tree, and *ishobguler bhushi*. Stirring everything together, he passes the mixture through a strainer. The result: a glass of murky brown liquid that customers gulp down a bit too quickly.

I asked Ibrahim about its benefits. "Some drink it as a laxative and some as a tonic to feel better," he says. He also mentions its diuretic effect.

"I sell anywhere from 50-100 glasses a day, mostly to men. They come from all walks of life," he says. Indeed, as I watch, several office workers, a student and a rickshaw-wallah stop by for their morning glassful.

The customers have varied taste. One prefers sweet, another salty, and a third picks his own ingredients. Ibrahim obliges everyone, adding *gur* (molasses) or salt as needed.

He tells me his leaves come from plants in Rajshahi or Natore. The

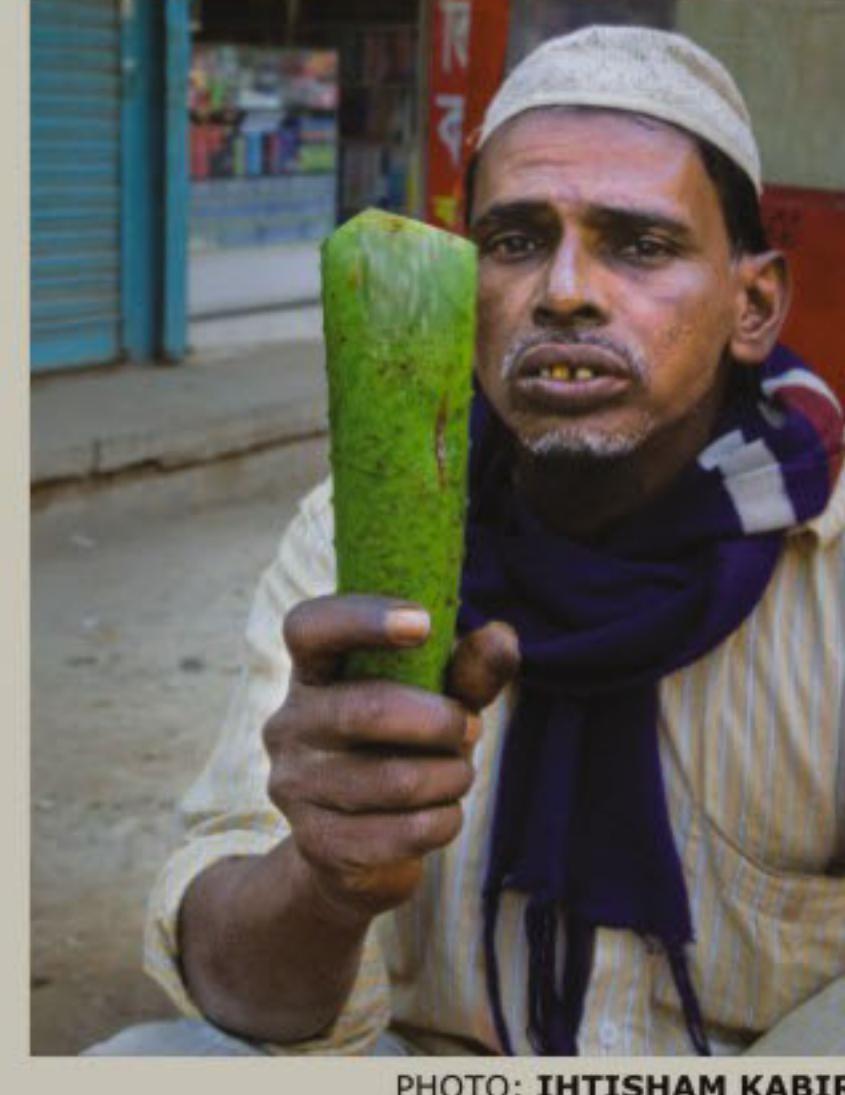


PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

product is available year-round and grown all over Bangladesh. Once leaves are harvested, new leaves grow from the same root.

"I sell from six to ten in the morning, then again from four in the afternoon," he says. The middle of the day is spent buying ingredients.

Ibrahim hails from Barisal and has two sons and two daughters. One son is disabled, having lost his speech to typhoid as a child. He has two grandchildren by his daughters.

I ask him his age. He is taken aback and frowns, trying to calculate. Then he smiles. "I know, I was thirteen during the *Muktijuddho* (1971)," he says.

I wander away for an hour chasing photos. When I return, his setup is still there, but Ibrahim has disappeared. He returns presently, cheeks bulging with a fresh *khilli of paan*. After buying a large leaf of Aloe Vera, I bid goodbye. At home I find the gelatine to be thoroughly bland. Now I know why people spice up this slippery remedy before consuming it!

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