

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Dreaming.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

Big Dreams, Little Dreams

DREAMING, and chasing dreams into reality, is a central experience of being human. In a sense, our dreams define us: they have made us who we are today. There is no end to our dreaming. Big dreamers and their dreams capture our imagination.

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. dreamed of the day when blacks and whites in America would be equal in all spheres of life. His dream became reality for millions. King, though, paid with his life for dreaming his dream.

When people of Florence, flush with wealth from trading during the Renaissance, wanted a building commensurate with their new stature, the architect Arnolfo di Cambio dreamed up a massive dome. One snag: no one knew how to build such a dome. It took over a century, and the engineering genius of Filippo Brunelleschi, to figure it out. Several more centuries have passed, but this dome still amazes us.

When his beloved wife died at childbirth, Emperor Shah Jahan dreamed of building the ultimate memorial to love. It took twenty two years to build, but four centuries later, the Taj Mahal remains unmatched.

Tim Berners-Lee, a scientist working in Switzerland, dreamed about effortless information exchange among scientists using computers. About the same time, computer scientist James Gosling invented Java. Along came the World Wide Web and changed the way the world works.

In the middle of the desert, the Americans built a glittering city as a

tribute to dreamers: Las Vegas. Millions pay tribute to this dream every year. Some find their dreams, others lose it.

Closer to home, seventy-five million Bengalis attained the homeland of their dreams in 1971, but only after paying a very dear price.

Our dreams have taken us to the top of the highest mountain, the bottom of the deepest sea, and even to the moon.

But what about everyday people and their everyday dreams? Do they count? Take the child in this photo, for example.

Does he dream of finishing school, becoming educated, and living a full and productive life?

Are his dreams about his family? Perhaps seeing them living happily and without worry?

Perhaps he dreams of watching a World Cup cricket game in the stadium? Shaking hands with the stars? Buying a smart new outfit? Living in a big house and driving a fancy car?

Then again, his dream could be similar to the dream of another boy who chatted with me. This boy dreamt about the nasty neighbourhood thug who tormented the kids. In the dream, the thug, in his motorcycle, was chased up and down some hills by good guys in even bigger motorcycles, until he crashed ignominiously. "I woke up laughing," he said, eyes twinkling.

Will we ever be privy to the dreams of this boy, asleep clutching a two-taka note?

I would wager much more than two taka that his dreams would surprise us.

www.facebook.com/tangents.images

Petroleum price hike likely again

UNB, Dhaka

The prices of petroleum products may go up again anytime within months as the government is contemplating an upward price adjustment to minimise huge subsidy, about Tk 8,500 crore during the outgoing financial year.

"We've already received Tk 4,000 crore from the finance ministry for the first three quarters (nine months) up to March as cash support. We need another Tk 4,500 crore for the last quarter (April-June)," a senior official at the energy ministry told the news agency.

"To minimise this huge loss, the government needs an upward price adjustment in the petroleum fuel again," he added.

Last month (May 6) the government raised the prices of all petroleum products by Tk 2 per litre.

The official said the state-owned Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) has been incurring a loss of Tk 1,500 crore per month during the last three months, which has covered by the government subsidy.

"Only in diesel sale, BPC incurs a loss of Tk 30 per litre while in furnace oil the loss is Tk 8-10 per litre," said the official requesting anonymity.

He also explained that the amount of subsidy is relatively higher since last three months compared to previous months for two reasons. Firstly, the sudden rise in the petroleum price in the international market in recent days following a volatile Middle-East political situation that pushed up the import cost.

Secondly, the quantity of petroleum import has increased significantly on account of increased demand driven by liquid fuel-based rental power plants.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presides over Awami League Central Working Committee meeting at Gono Bhaban in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PTI

PADMA BRIDGE PROJECT \$615m deal with ADB on June 6

UNB, Dhaka

The government will sign a credit assistance agreement on Monday (June 6) under which Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide US\$ 615 million for the construction of the Padma Multipurpose Bridge to help accelerate growth and reduce poverty in the country.

ADB is providing over 21 percent of the total investment cost of nearly US\$ 2.92 billion for the bridge across the Padma River linking the country's southwest to the northern and eastern regions.

Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan and ADB Country Director Thevakumar Kandiah will sign the agreement at the NEC-2 in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Tragic!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Three-year-old Rupa Akter was sleeping on the floor of her house while her parents were out of doors yesterday noon.

Two labourers came to the house to bring a paddy-harvesting machine (maraikal) outside. As they were carrying the heavy machine, it suddenly slipped from their hands and fell on the sleeping girl leaving her dead right away.

Rupa was daughter of Dulal Mia of Kamarkanda village in Bhairab.

Shahjahan, OC of Bhairab, said no one came to the police station in this connection.

Garment worker murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A pregnant garment worker was stabbed to death and her body was dumped to a bushy place of the Mirpur Zoo in the city yesterday.

Rekha Akhter, 21, a garment worker of the city's Mirpur, came from Naogaon.

Police said they recovered the body around 9:30am and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Morgue for autopsy.

Morgue sources said her hands were tied behind and she bore five stabs in her abdomen.

Garment sources said she left the garment around 4:00pm on Thursday.



Female programmers at work during National Collegiate Programming Contest-2011, a computer programming competition, at Dhaka University Computer Science and Engineering department yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Programming contest at DU starts

DU CORRESPONDENT

National Collegiate Programming Contest, a computer programming contest, began at Dhaka University (DU) Computer Science and Engineering department yesterday to encourage students to be programmers.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurated the two-day long contest participated by 78 teams of different university students.

The department with the help of the science and ICT ministry organised the contest with The Daily Star as media partner.

Contest for only female programmers, for the first time, was held yesterday with 10 teams, out of 50 from 26 universities, being selected with respect to performance.

Contest for both male and female programmers will be held today.

Chairperson of the department Prof Dr Suraiya Pervin said demand of computer programming is increasing as software engineering greatly depends on it.

Dean of DU engineering and technology faculty Prof Dr Ahmed Ismail Mustafa and President of Bangladesh Women in Technology Luna Shamsuddoha were also present.

NEWS IN brief

Khaleda's budget on June 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the second year in a row, opposition leader Khaleda Zia will make some proposals on the budget at the Winter Garden of Hotel Ruposhi Bangla on June 8.

She is going to make the proposal a day before the finance minister places the next national budget in parliament, says the BNP press wing.

Journalists and civil society members have been invited to the event, it added.

EC talks with media on June 11

DU CORRESPONDENT

Election Commission shifted talks on electoral reforms with media representatives and civil society members to June 11 instead of June 5 due to hartal.

The time schedule and subject will remain unchanged, says a press release.

RMG worth Tk 57 lakh recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Detective Branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police yesterday arrested two persons and recovered ready-made garments (RMG) worth Tk 57 lakh from Boalkhali upazila.

Police detained Nur Nabi Molla, 28, of Lal Mohan in Bhola and Md Rajib, 22, of Tajum Uddin in Bhola and recovered the RMG on their confession.

The garments were recovered from the house of Sikander Mia at Gomdandi under Boalkhali upazila in Chittagong.

Police said the arrestees looted a covered van containing the RMG of Epelon Knitwear Ltd of Mirpur in Dhaka on the way to Chittagong port on May 13.

Paddy price fixation demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers yesterday demanded that the government fix the paddy price at Tk 20 a kg to save the farmers immediately. The human chain was organised by Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL), Karmojibi Nari, and Online Knowledge Centre in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city.

'Finish Udichi murder case trial'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigosthi yesterday demanded immediate competition of the trial of the Jessore Udichi murder case filed over killing of 10 people in 1999.

Its other demands include drop of the phrase "Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim" and repeal of Islam as the state religion from the constitution.

Udichi leaders made the demands at its advisory committee meeting held at city's Mukti Bhaban. Udichi President Golam Mohammad Idu chaired the meeting.

Dhaka University Vice-chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique, journalist Faye Ahmed, Dr Rangalal Sen, and Sammita Sangskritik Jote president Nasir Uddin Yusuf, among others, attended the meeting.



Discussion

Banglavision Foundation will hold a discussion on environment. Time: 3:00pm, Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU).

Human Chain

Bangladesh Juba Union will form a human chain on job creation. Time: 5:00pm, Venue: Jatiya Press club.

Opening

Bangladesh Peace Council will hold the inaugural ceremony of a peace conference. Time: 10:00am, Venue: Osmani Smriti Milanayatan.

Media Trip

UNDP Bangladesh will arrange a media trip on environment. Time: 8:30am, Venue: IDB Bhaban.

Seminar

Daffodil International University will hold a seminar on journalism and ICT. Time: 3:00pm, Venue: Prince Plaza, Sobhanbagh.

Human Chain

Obhibhabak Oikya Forum will form a human chain on trade on education. Time: 10:30am, Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

Ceremony

The Department of CSE, Dhaka University will hold an award distribution ceremony. Time: 6:30pm, Venue: TSC auditorium, DU.

Seminar

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) will organise a seminar on forests. Time: 10:00am, Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU).



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rangpur, Barisal and Khulna divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Mild heat wave is sweeping over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi and Pabna and it may continue.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:43pm and rises tomorrow at 5:11am.

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	34.2	24.6	81	93
Chittagong	33.5	25.5	66	79
Rajshahi	36.2	24.2	84	62
Khulna	35.8	25.8	81	76
Barisal	33.8	24.7	81	91
Sylhet	33.8	24.2	76	73
Cox's Bazar	33.4	26.5	63	73

Instant energy. Instant recharge

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Shamsun Nahar Islam, former headmistress of Dhaka's Quamrunnessa Government Girls' High School, died on Tuesday at the age of 83.

She is survived by one son, three daughters and a host of relatives and well-wishers.

Nahar was the eldest daughter of late Abdul Hamid Bhuiyan of Brahmanbaria. As the first female graduate of Brahmanbaria District, she earned BA degree from Lady Braborn College of Calcutta in 1946 and later BT degree from Dhaka University.

BNP leader killed 2 die in lightning

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A local BNP leader was chopped to death by unknown assailants at Baidanga union in Jhenidah district yesterday.

The dead Shahjahan Seraj, 55, son of Solaiman Hossain of Saganna union of Jhenidah sadar upazila, was a joint secretary of Baidanga BNP unit.

Police said some miscreants called Shahjahan out of his house around 1:30am and hacked him with sharp weapons.

He was admitted with Jhenidah General Hospital around 2:00am and died on way to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Shahjahan, also a former union parishad chairman, might have been killed due to his active support for local BNP candidate Alauddin Al Mamun in the coming UP election, locals alleged.

Feroja Kulum, OC of Jhenidah Police Station, said an autopsy will be conducted. No case was filed till filing of this report last night.

METRO DESK

Two people including a woman were killed in lightning in Lalmonirhat and Kishoreganj yesterday.

Our Lalmonirhat Correspondent reports: A woman was killed by lightning strike at Shimulbari village in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The victim was identified as Helena Begum, 32, wife of Farhad Alam, of Shimulbari village of the upazila.

Police said lightning hit the woman when she went out of her home, leaving her dead on the spot.

Our Kishoreganj correspondent adds: A student was killed on the spot and two others were injured as lightning hit them while they were fishing at Tarail yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Md Shamim, 14, a class eight student of Tarail Jowar High school and son of Abu Taleb, of Dhola village of Tarail. The injured were rushed to local health complex.