

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Barry Braverman makes a point about lighting.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

Telling Visual Stories

In this column, I try to tell stories with a visual theme. Pictures and words can often complement each other in a story. That, however, is not the only way to tell stories. Barry Braverman has made a career out of telling visual stories. He is a cinematographer - a "cameraman" for the movies. He has spent over thirty years shooting films, including feature films and twenty-five National Geographic documentaries. He has also taught film-making workshops worldwide, including Egypt, India, Czech Republic and Uganda.

Barry is visiting Bangladesh for three weeks, his first time here. I meet him at BRAC University, where the Film Club (BUFC) is hosting his Visual Storytelling workshop.

I ask Barry about memorable experiences in Bangladesh.

"I have had many," he says. "For example, we were returning from Cox's Bazar by night bus. The driver's two sons were working as spotters, looking out from either side of the bus, checking traffic, helping to navigate. I have never seen that before."

How does he find Dhaka? "It is a telephoto-lens city to me. Everything seems compressed - for example, many rickshaws lined up against one another. A telephoto lens shows this well."

We compare photographers and filmmakers.

"Isn't it easier for filmmakers to narrate a story because the motion of the movie pulls the viewer?" I ask. "Yes, but a photographer fits a story inside the frames of one picture which gets undivided attention," he says.

In the workshop, while sharing advice and technique distilled from his decades of experience, Barry emphasises that the filmmaker must guide the audience and retain control of their viewing experience. For example, the lighting should inform the viewer whether the film is a comedy, a drama or a horror movie. Every technical decision serves the purpose of telling the story.

A successful movie must have a "compelling premise." The story must hold the attention of the viewer until the end.

On clarity, he says: "Your main idea should be expressible in one sentence."

He shows examples of incorrect film-making. In one scene, an actress sits with a candle in front. But the light falling on her face is coming from the side, probably a window.

This type of inconsistency can disturb a viewer.

Barry says that the dearth of cutting-edge filmmaking equipment in Bangladesh should not hinder. He mentions Oscar-winning cinematographer Nestor Almendros, who used only one light and one mirror to light many classic scenes.

His presentation is dynamic and compelling: a maestro in his prime.

During break, we watch "Before Sunrise," a film made by BUFC. The fifteen-minute movie shows six months in a young man's life. He comes of age while exposed to mounting external pressures and expectations. His angst takes its toll before the climactic surprise ending. The musical soundtrack, composed by BUFC members, nicely complements the film.

From the enthusiastic clapping, I can tell it is well-received.

I leave the workshop feeling richer and hoping that Barry continues exploring Bangladesh and expands his teaching here.

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Strength of Rajuk insufficient to stop unplanned dev

Says study

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka city has developed in a chaotic fashion as Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) is not sufficiently equipped to foresee the consequences of unplanned development, says a study.

"Before giving building permission, Rajuk hardly considers the long-term consequences of that construction. Corruption also has resulted in the issuance of inappropriate land use clearance and building permits," says the study.

The study titled "Mismanagement of Growth and Planned Development of Dhaka city: The Necessity of Proper Enforcement of Planning Standards" was conducted by Md Akter Mahmud, a teacher at the Department of Urban and Regional Planning of Jahangirnagar University.

It says now Rajuk has a few legal tools, including the town improvement act and the building construction rules, but these rules were never used adequately to control and manage the development of the city; instead

the development deviated from the master plan in many cases.

According to the study, development control in Dhaka city is largely hampered for various reasons. The reasons include not exercising the existing planning rules properly, lack of regular supervision by officials concerned, inadequate building inspectors, absence of database management system and lack of practice of new technology.

The study says the land use of metropolitan Dhaka should follow the provision of its master plan. "Housing commercial and industrial project buildings need land use clearance and building permits in conformity with the land use provisions of the master plan."

Another study titled 'The Urban Frontiers of Dhaka: Creating Space Above The Water' says Rajuk, as the city development agency, has geared all of its activities to serve the affluent section of society. "It has not made any significant contributions towards providing land or housing to the urban poor of Dhaka."

8 killed, 34 hurt in road crashes

METRO DESK

Eight people were killed and 34 others injured in separate road accidents in Rangamati, Jhenidah and Tangail early Thursday and yesterday.

Our Rangamati correspondent reports: At least five people were killed and 30 others injured when a Rangamati-bound passenger bus from Chittagong plunged into a 150-feet roadside ditch as the driver lost control over the steering in Radio Station area of the town on Thursday evening.

Four of the dead are Md Abdul Mannan, 25, Abdul Kayumm, 40, Shahidul Islam, 40, and Koruna Chakma, 30, wife of Sukumar Chakma.

Eighteen of the injured were undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital while the rest twelve at Rangamati Sadar Hospital.

The bus which was almost smashed was recovered yesterday.

In Jhenidah, motorcyclist Nazrul Islam, 42, a Jubo League leader of Kaliganj upazila, died as his bike hit a standing truck at Baishakhi Fuel Station in the upazila yesterday noon.

In another incident, a three-wheeler driver Karom Ali, 25, son of Mohsin Ali, died instantly when the vehicle turned turtle at Vaina in Harinakundu upazila yesterday morning.

In Tangail, a microbus hit a standing truck on Dhaka-Tangail highway at Dulla Mansur in Mirzapur upazila yesterday noon, killing Mazharul Haque, 56, of Natore on the spot and injuring four others.

The injured were rushed to Kumudini Hospital.

NEWS IN *brief*

40 shops gutted in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A fire destroyed a market in Bera CNB Bazar area near the Dhaka-Pabna highway in Bera upazila under the district early yesterday.

The fire, originating from a short circuit, gutted at least 40 shops of the market and destroyed Tk 2 crore worth of goods, sources said.

IUB awards 422 students

METRO DESK

The Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) gave academic awards to 422 meritorious students for the academic year of 2011.

IUB Vice Chancellor Prof M Omar Rahman handed over the awards at a ceremony at the university's Bashundhara permanent campus in the capital on Thursday, said a press release.

Nominations for Nawab Ali Chowdhury award invited

METRO DESK

Nawab Ali Hasan Ali Smriti Sangsad has invited nominations for the prestigious Nawab Ali Chowdhury National Awards 2012 in the fields of banking or finance, journalism, education, sports, poverty alleviation, gender empowerment, freedom fighter and ICT, says a press release.

The awards will be distributed on April 21 at 4:00pm on the occasion of the 83rd death anniversary of the co-founder of Dhaka University, Nabab Bahadur Syed Nawab Ali Chowdhury, at the university's Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhavan.



Rain or thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Day temperature may rise by 1-3 degree Celsius and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:17pm and rises tomorrow at 5:44am.

Country's highest temperature 33.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 19.3 degrees at Sylhet.

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	26.0	21.2	88	70
Chittagong	30.0	25.0	71	65
Rajshahi	29.5	20.0	89	75
Rangpur	27.4	20.0	65	71
Khulna	27.0	22.0	84	74
Barisal	28.0	25.4	78	77
Sylhet	26.0	19.3	81	86



Local people increase fishing activities in rivers and water bodies in Rajshahi region as they start drying up due to drought and impacts of India's Farakka barrage. The photo was taken on the Mahananda River in Chapainawabganj Thursday.

PHOTO: STAR



Human chain

Paribesh Bachao Andolon will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Discussion

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will hold a discussion; Venue: Mukti Bhaban, Purana Paltan; Time: 10:30am.

Rally

Janoswastha Sangram Parishad will arrange a rally; Venue: National Museum; Time: 11:00am.

Human chain

Campaign for Good Governance will form a human chain; Venue: National Museum; Time:

10 parties pick DCCs' mayoral candidates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten left-leaning political parties yesterday announced their formal support to two candidates-- M Enamul Haque and Abdullah Al Kafi Ratan-- for the mayoral run in the Dhaka South and Dhaka North city corporation polls respectively.

Leaders of the parties also agreed to create alternative left democratic alliance against the four-party coalition and grand alliance.

The decision came at a meeting among leaders of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and Ganotantrik Bam Morcha, a coalition of nine left-leaning political parties, said a press release.

Leaders at the meeting criticised government's recent drive to evict Karail slum dwellers. The leaders called for their rehabilitation.

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