

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Tanguar Haor. PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

Landscape Photography

The great photographer Ansel Adams once said that "landscape photography is the supreme test of the photographer and often the supreme disappointment."

Adams was, I believe, talking about the difference between the experience of being outdoors and taking a picture of the outdoors. How can a photograph capture that experience and everything it entails: the view, sounds and smells, freedom of space, colours, flora and fauna, and so on?

Yet, people have tried to do just that for centuries, first with paintings, then with photographs. The earliest photographs made in 1859 by Henry Fox Talbot, inventor of photography, were of the landscape around his home in rural England.

But the "supreme disappointment" plagues us all. Rarely do our landscape pictures evoke the same feelings as "being there."

When we enjoy a beautiful scene, our brain automatically makes some adjustments. For example, if a tree branch partially obscures the view of a distant mountain, our brain ignores the branch and lets us enjoy the mountain view. However, when we take a picture of this scene, the camera, an inert mechanical device, dutifully records everything in front of it. So the same branch that we had ignored while watching the mountain becomes an ugly obstruction that destroys the photograph. Our eyes filter out things we do not want to see, but the camera does not. We must keep this in mind for better results.

How can one take good landscape photographs? Here are some tips.

1. Find a point of focus. For example, if you include a person, a house or a boat in the photograph, it will bring a sense of scale to your photograph. It also becomes a point for the eye to anchor.
2. Try to keep the foreground and background separate. This will create a sense of three-dimensional depth in the photograph, so important in landscapes. If the background and foreground interfere – for example, leaves from a nearby branch intrude into the faraway river – our sense of depth becomes confused.
3. Take the picture when the light is soft rather than contrasty. Early morning and evening light is usually better than midday; cloudy days are preferable over sunny ones.
4. Vary the vantage point. Sometimes climbing just one or two feet yields a better photograph in our flat land. Some photographers, however, like shooting from a lower vantage point.
5. Take your time. The best way to slow down is to use a tripod, but if that is unrealistic, try looking at the scene from several points. Good landscape photography requires contemplation. The landscape photographer, Michael Kenna, spends much time at a place before photographing it. He goes so far as to have conversations with the trees he is about to photograph.
6. Colour plays an important role because we have certain innate responses to colour: blue, for example, denotes freedom; green is life. When taking a landscape photograph, pay attention to how the colour factors in.
7. A wide angle lens is helpful in photographing landscapes. Use a small aperture to maximize depth of field. Be careful to eliminate tilt of the camera, so the horizon remains horizontal in the photograph.
8. Be prepared for supreme disappointments, but working patiently you might catch a supreme delight!

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Hasina urges youths to avoid drugs

UNB, Dhaka

Urging the youths to stay away from the destructive path of drug addiction, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday hoped that they would devote themselves to nation building upholding the ideals of morality, honesty, patriotism and humanity.

In this regard, the premier recalled the contributions of the youths to various movements, including the country's Liberation War, and said the nation would never forget their sacrifices.

The youths with their intense willpower and uncontrollable mental force can bring forth massive socio-economic and political changes, she said, addressing a function on the occasion of National Youth Day in the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

Calling upon them to stand on their own feet and not rely on others, the premier noted that the youths were the main driving force of the country and they would lead the nation in the future. "All have to remain alert so that they (youths) don't go to the wrong path."

She went on saying, "Our youths are



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with 15 successful youths, who were awarded for creating employment for themselves as well as others, in the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium yesterday on the occasion of National Youth Day. PHOTO: PMO

FEARING 'RE-ELECTION' OF AL Khaleda out to foil polls: Matia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury yesterday said the opposition leader was trying to foil the forthcoming election, fearing that the people would vote the Awami League to power again for its large scale development activities.

"She (Khaleda) is trying to thwart the election using the terrorists of Jamaat and Shibir," Matia told a rally, organised by the AL-led 14-party alliance at Purabi Chatter in the capital's Pallabi as part of its countrywide programmes to protest the opposition alliance's violence during the 60-hour hartal.

The AL presidium member asserted that the election would be held in accordance with the constitutional provision.

She also criticised the opposition leader for enforcing hartal during examinations, saying Khaleda did not want an educated nation. Instead, she wants to create "terrorists and militants", Local AL lawmaker Ilias Uddin Mollah presided over the rally while 14-party leaders Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, Fazilatunessa Indira, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Habibur Rahman Seraj, Anisur Rahman Mallik, Dr Wazedul Islam Khan, and Iqbal Hossain Khan, among others spoke.

POLITICAL CRISIS

Bangladeshis themselves to find solution

Acting Indian high commissioner tells Bijoya Sommelon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Stating that no challenge is insurmountable for a country which achieved independence after a nine-month-long war, Acting Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sandeep Chakravorty yesterday said Bangladeshis would find the solution to its current political crisis.

"We are going through a situation...There is no need of outsiders for this. The situation will be solved peacefully," he told Bijoya Sommelon 2013, a

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Admission aspirants with family members and relatives crowd the premises of the capital's Engineering University School where the entrance exam under "Gha" unit of Jagannath University was held at 3:00pm yesterday. The photo was taken around 2:00pm. Earlier in the day, a one-hour admission test under "Gha" unit of Dhaka University took place at 10:00am. PHOTO: STAR

Trespassing Pajeros seized

3 Bangladesh-born British citizens yet to be held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police yesterday seized the two Mitsubishi Pajeros in which three Bangladesh-born British nationals trespassed into Bangladesh through Sutarkandi Land Customs Station, bordering India, in Sylhet's Beanibazar upazila on Thursday morning dodging immigration and customs officials.

Of the vehicles, apparently registered with the UK, the silver coloured one was found abandoned in Block E of Shahjalal Uposahar area and the black one was left in a garage, "Jalalabad Auto Care", in Kumarpara in the city.

Police are still looking for the three -- Kabul Mia, Askar Uddin and Antar Ali. BGB Sector Commander (Srimangal) Colonel Saleh earlier told The Daily Star that, as per India's Border Security Force, the three had arrived from London by road.

Police filed a case over the trespassing yesterday.

Police said allegations of local newspapers that BNP leader Harris Chowdhury and missing BNP leader Ilias Ali were on the vehicles were just "rumours."

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

The newly drilled 20th well of Titas Gas Field in Brahmanbaria started supplying 10 million cubic feet of gas per day (mmcf) experimentally to the national grid on Wednesday.

The well, which has been drilled for the last nine months at the field in Brahmanbaria municipality, will go in full production at 12mmcf within a week, said Acting Project Director Azmal Haque of Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd (BGFCL).

With this one, BGFL will operate 35 wells in its six fields--Titas, Habiganj, Bakhrabad, Narsingdi, Meghna and Kamta--which will provide 801mmcf to the national grid or more than 37 percent of the total gas supply in the country.

Bangladesh currently produces about 2,000mmcf on average against a demand of 2,700mmcf.

Officials said BGFL would drill four more wells soon. Meanwhile, the six BGFL gas fields are also producing 465 barrels of condensed oil to meet the country's fuel need partly.

THE DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Consumers Association of Bangladesh will organise a discussion on "Possibilities and expectations of the Rampal power plant project: Review"; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 10:00am.

Rally

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote will hold a protest rally demanding banning Jamaat-e-Islami; Venue: Central Shaheed Minar premises; Time: 3:00pm.

Earthquake drill

Japan International Cooperation Agency will organise a drill on raising awareness on earthquakes; Venue: Motijheel Colony; Time: 11:00am.

তুমি জাগলেই...

Execution of some verdicts within this govt's tenure

Hanif says on war crimes trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With less than three months left of the incumbent government's tenure, Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif yesterday said verdicts on some war criminals will be executed during the government's tenure.

"Restoration of caretaker government system is not BNP's main agenda. Rather, the party wants to save war criminals.... The trial of some war criminals has already been completed and some of the verdicts will be executed during the present government's tenure," he mentioned.

The AL leader was speaking at an extended meeting of the Dhaka city unit AL at the party's Bangabandhu Avenue central office in the capital.

The killers of 1971 and 1975 want to create an unstable situation in the county, complained Hanif.

Regarding BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir's statement that the government was "staging a drama" in the name of dialogue, the AL leader said, "How are we staging a drama? There is no drama in our offer."

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NEWSIN brief

2 die from septic tank gas inhalation

A CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A man and his nephew died from toxic gas inhalation after falling in a septic tank at Kamarpur village in Kaliganj upazila on Thursday.

The deceased were Liakat Ali, 46, and his nephew Ershad Ali, 29. Sirajul Islam, member of Bishnupur Union Parishad, said Liakat accidentally fell into the septic tank of his toilet while cleaning it around 10:00am. Later, Ershad climbed down into the tank in a bid to rescue his uncle but both died inhaling trapped toxic gas.

Woman dies as train runs her over

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman died on the spot after being run over by a train while she was walking on the rail tracks near Kuril Biswa Road in the capital yesterday.

The deceased, Mili Begum, 48, was wife of late Alamgir Hossain of Raipura in Narsingdi.

She landed at Airport Railway Station around 3:45pm from Narsingdi and was headed for her relative's house at Bhatara, said railway police.

IUB organises Google Map Up session

CITY DESK

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) at its campus in the capital's Bashundhara yesterday organised a Google Map Up session using Google Map Maker.

Mapping Bangladesh Community and Google Developers Group (GDG), Dhaka organised the event.

The event gave interested students an opportunity in mapping and sharing the places they know through Google Map Maker. Dr Ali Shihab Sabbir, dean of School of Engineering and Computer Science, IUB, distributed certificates among the participants.

31 detained while entering India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

The Border Guard Bangladesh detained 31 people, including four children and 13 women, while they were illegally entering India through Putkhali border Thursday night.

Lt Col Tayeful Haque, commanding officer of 23 BGB Battalion, said they were arrested in Putkhali Charer Math area. The arrestees from Barisal, Pirojpur and Narail were handed over to Benapole Port police.

