

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

Running in the Rain

The sky was grey and the world barely lit when I opened my eyes. I lingered in bed for a few minutes. By then a light drizzle had started. It was time for my morning run, but the rain made me hesitant. I started stretching exercises while keeping an eye on the sky. I bet that the rain would stop soon went outside for my run; however, I hedged my bet by leaving my mobile behind.

After a few minutes my prediction proved wrong as dark clouds rolled in from the southwest. I was under some tall eucalyptus trees in the park, running on a path along the lake. The drops of the drizzle were creating a pattern of tiny splashes on the lake's surface, but as the rain gained strength the splashes enlarged and then dissolved into a mist over the water. In just a few seconds, the soft sound of the drizzle became a steady roar. Emerging from the trees into the open I faced the sting of the drops.

Others walking in the park were better prepared than I was. Some brought out their umbrellas. A group of three men kept walking while chatting away, ignoring the rain. One took shelter under a thick canopy of trees, close to the lake's edge, while another tied a handkerchief around his head in a futile attempt. A woman walking by herself quickened her pace, unfazed by the rain.

I thought of taking shelter under the trees but realized it would be hopeless. By then I had overcome my fear of catching a cold. Letting go, I allowed the rain to drench me.

I remembered the reason children love getting caught in the rain. It is an exhilarating, liberating experience.

With no worries about spoiling nice clothes or shorting out the mobile, I surrendered to the downpour. My head was thoroughly wet before other parts of my body. Soon the water sloshed out of my shoes with every step. The brick pavement, which I thought would become slippery, offered enough friction for my shoes. As the wind picked up the drops stung my face horizontally.

I thought about all those times in the past when I had received a good drenching. Some years ago I had gone bicycling with a friend to Amudia, a small island to the east of Badda. On our way back, the rain had started just as we disembarked from the boat. Bicycling through the muddy fields east of Bashundhara, my clothes and shoes were coated in a fine red mud. The mud had been washed from the clothes a long time ago, but the memory has remained.

Years ago, I was hiking for several days with a group in backcountry Yosemite in northern California. A fine summer day turned nasty late one night. The freezing rain - which can lead to hypothermia - pelted my tent and woke me, but luckily the extra sealants I had applied earlier to the tent seams held up and I remained dry. My companions were less fortunate with flooded tents and wet belongings. The next day was spent drying their belongings.

Fortunately there is no fear of hypothermia from warm Dhaka rain. So I enjoyed my run. Moreover, luck favoured me afterward: I did not catch a cold!

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Work for 695km border road to start soon

Says Obaidul Quader
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the government would start the construction of a 695km road soon along the country's border.

The minister made the comment at the inaugural ceremony for two bridges across Inani Borokhal and Chhotokhal on Marine Drive in Ukhia upazila of Cox's Bazar.

Quader said the border road would help Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) play an important role in stopping arms and drugs

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Temple vandalised in Natore

Six idols desecrated; three arrested; agitators block road for 4hrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Masked miscreants attacked a temple and vandalised at least six idols in Gurudashpur upazila of Natore early yesterday.

At least eight attackers stormed into the temple at Chachkoir village around 4:30am, said Madhab Chandra Steel, president of the area's puja celebration committee.

"After performing prayers people left the temple around 4:00am with two Ansar men guarding it," he said.

On information of the vandalism, agitating Hindu people beat up one of the Ansar men, Rajib Uddin, while the other man who was "asleep" during the attack was taken into police custody for interrogation, said local residents.

Rajib was undergoing treatment at Gurudashpur Upazila Health Complex.

The agitated people also blockaded the Natore-Gurudashpur road for four hours demanding the culprits' arrest.

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Boy beaten mercilessly

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Despite a huge public outcry, the number of children tormented and killed is getting bigger with nine-year-old Habibur Rahman of Moulvibazar becoming the latest victim.

The boy was tied to a pillar and beaten up because he "stole" a bamboo from the garden of neighbour Al-Amin, 45, in Nityanandapur village of Kamalganj upazila on October 16.

Al Amin, who is now in hiding, said the boy "stole" the bamboo to make a fishing rod.

He admitted tying him to the pillar

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A large number of law enforcers escort a procession of Hindus headed from the capital's Dhakeshwari National Temple for immersion of the idol of Goddess Durga yesterday. The photo was taken in front of Central Shaheed Minar.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Hold fair local polls to remove past 'stigma'

Ershad urges govt
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Special Envoy to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina HM Ershad yesterday suggested the ruling Awami League (AL) to hold the upcoming local body polls in a free and fair manner if it wants to remove all past "stigma".

"I told them that the upcoming local body polls is an acid test for them; if free and fair, people will forget all past misdeeds of the government. But I doubt whether credible polls will be held," said the former military dictator.

The Jatiya Party chairman was addressing a rally the party organised at its headquarters in the capital's Kakrail marking the anniversary of the launch of the upazila system in 1984.

Though people's alertness

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WITHDRAWAL FROM POWER PROJECT OVER SECURITY CONCERN

Firm faces penalty if Spanish nationals don't rejoin work

Warns State Minister Nasrul Hamid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

If the 43 Spanish nationals do not rejoin construction work of the 335MW power plant in Siddhirganj by November 5, the company concerned would be penalised, said State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid Bipu yesterday.

On October 7, the Spanish nationals working for power plant construction company Isolux were withdrawn from the project on security grounds following the murders of two foreigners in the country.

This halted construction work.

"Nothing happened in the country for which the foreigners have to leave for security reasons," Bipu said, adding that some local political parties and some other countries were plotting to hinder the development of Bangladesh.

At a programme organised to set the foundation stone for the Zonal Office of

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LOCAL GOVT POLLS BNP won't let AL score in empty field

Says Prof Emajuddin
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though BNP opposes the local government polls under the political banner, it will finally participate in the election to stop the ruling party from scoring in an empty field, Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, convener of pro-BNP Adarsha Dhaka Andolon, said yesterday.

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Road crashes kill 8

CITY DESK

Eight people were killed in separate road accidents in three districts yesterday.

Our Gazipur correspondent reports, Akkas Ali, 60, and his grandson Hridoy Hossain Lokman, 17, were killed when their motorbike collided head-on with a covered van of Shah Cement at Torgaon village in Kapasia upazila.

Locals handed over the driver to police and blocked Dhaka-Kishoreganj highway for almost two hours demanding regular police patrol in the area.

In another accident, garment worker Fahima Akhter, 16, wife of Sohel Rana of

Netrokona, died when an unidentified vehicle hit her before Columbia Sweaters Ltd factory while she was crossing Dhaka-Mymensingh highway.

The body was sent to Gazipur Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, Faizuddin Forazi, 55, died when his bicycle hit an oncoming human hauler near Kornopur Bazar in Sreepur upazila.

Our Gaibandha correspondent adds, Abdullah-Al-Roman, 7, son of Abdul Wahab, died when a sand-laden power tiller

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আমার সন্তানতো আমারই

বিশ্বজয়ের মিশনে আমিও আছি ওর পাশে

একশ শতকের চ্যালেঞ্জ মোকাবেলায় সন্তানকে তৈরি করতে অভিভাবককেও জানতে হয় অনেক কিছু। একটি জ্ঞান সমৃদ্ধ পরিবারই সন্তানের এগিয়ে চলাকে সহজ করে তুলতে পারে। Champs21 আপনার স্কুল পড়ুয়া সন্তান ও আপনার জন্য পাঠ্যপুস্তক এবং পাঠ্যবিষয়ের বাইরের কন্টেন্ট চমৎকারভাবে উপস্থাপন করে।

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