

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

Engineering meets photography in these photobooks.

Engineering a Photobook

For over two decades, I worked as a software engineer in California's Silicon Valley, designing and building software for tech companies. My products ranged from medical ultrasound to videoconferencing to image-editing software. Ten years ago, I left the software profession to pursue my passion for photography and writing. I started making photobooks about Bangladesh using the photographs I take.

Software engineering seems far from making photobooks. But are they really that far? I discovered that several principles of engineering helped me in my new endeavour.

Software engineering requires technical know-how and creativity. For making photobooks, it's the other way around! The end result, in either case, is a product that is, in some way, useful and attractive to the customer.

So, how do engineering activities translate into bookmaking?

Design: For a software product, its appearance and ease-of-use to the customer is crucial for success. Similarly, when I am designing a photobook, I think of the reader's experience, from the time they first lay their eyes on it, open it, read it, buy it, give it or receive it as a gift. Do they want to touch it, open it, look at it, flip its pages? Or does it bore or intimidate them? Do they want to pick it up a second time?

Schedule and budget: In the world of software, the ability to accurately estimate length of work, and deliver accordingly, is a sought-after skill that I had worked hard to learn. I treat bookmaking just like a software

project and make a schedule for each book. Both activities are susceptible to feature-creep, so a non-negotiable deadline is important. Outside one-time expenses, the budget is dominated by the cost of printing the book.

Dependencies: No man is an island; neither is any project. A piece of software usually depends on other pieces done by external people; and so for my books. I must plan and negotiate so that the dependencies are aligned to my schedule.

Review and test: Software must be tested repeatedly to find mistakes as it approaches finish line. Fixing mistakes become costlier and riskier towards the end. What happens if you introduce another mistake while fixing one? In case of my books, I seek help of expert reviewers early on to read and find mistakes before the books are printed in the press. And while I try my utmost to find and correct mistakes, I accept that no book is completely free of errors. My goal is to avoid egregious or embarrassing ones.

Beta-test: Before software is delivered *en-masse*, it is given to selected customers for trial. This process, called beta-testing, incorporates customer feedback for a better product. In the world of books, this is hard to do. I keep trying using different methods such as print-on-demand and making dummy books as prototypes, but am yet to find a satisfactory answer.

And the result? Only the reader can decide!

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'GA' UNIT ADMISSION TEST

Question errors blemish DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

With a lot of mistakes in the question papers, the entrance test of "Ga" unit (business faculty) for the 2016-17 academic session of Dhaka University was held yesterday.

The candidates alleged that they faced problems due to the mistakes.

A set contained 99 questions instead of 100. The university authorities, however, said the admission seekers will be compensated.

The admission seekers said the

candidates brought the incident to the invigilators' attention when they found question no. 7 was missing in a set of "Finance" section as no. 8 came after 6.

In English part of another set of question paper, the aspirants were asked to fill in the blanks from question no. 6 to 12 where they found from no. 6 to 11. Similarly, the use of appropriate prepositions started with no. 12 although it was supposed to begin with no. 13.

When asked, "Ga" unit admission test committee's convener, Prof Shibli Rubaiyat Islam, told reporters that all of the candidates, who faced problems due to such mistakes, would get "extra" marks no matter the answers were right or wrong.

He clarified that the admission seekers, who have either filled the OMR sheets or left those blank against the questions concerned, will be awarded the marks.

DU Proctor Prof M Amzad Ali said
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President Abdul Hamid inspects development work in Mithamoin upazila of Kishoreganj yesterday while traversing the area by boat.

PHOTO: PID

ABM Musa pioneered courageous journalism

Book launch told
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ABM Musa was not merely a courageous and unbending journalist, but a mentor of practical journalism in the country, said speakers.

They said Musa had set an example of objectivity in the history of the country's media that is a guideline for journalists wishing to practice impartiality in their work.

They added that his works made him an institution.

The speakers were addressing a memorial book launching programme on the veteran journalist at the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, organised by the ABM Musa-Sitara Musa Foundation.

In the book, 102 people shared their experiences on Musa, and Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman was the chief of the editorial panel.

The speakers said Musa wanted journalists to be in a common platform, and his departed soul will be pleased if they can purge their community of the existing splits.

In his welcome address, Prof Anisuzzaman said Musa was self-taught in the field of journalism and
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KILLING OF TENANT Wife, daughter of house owner held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested the Dakshin Khan house owner's wife and daughter for allegedly beating and killing their tenant on Thursday.

Saleh Ahmed, 65, his wife Rahima Begum, 55, and daughter Rokeya Akhter, 25, were arrested while police were looking for Saleh Ahmed's son Nur Alam, said Dakshin Khan police.

They were accused in a case filed in connection with the death of their tenant Abdul Malek by Khadiza begum, the victim's wife.

In the case statement,
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Durga Puja security still a concern for Hindus

STAR REPORT

Members of the Hindu community are still concerned over security during the upcoming Durga Puja.

"We are not panicked, but we are not completely free of concern (of any untoward incident) either," said Tapash Kumar Pal, general secretary of Bangladesh Puja Udayan Parishad.

He said this at a views-exchange meeting with journalists at the capital's Dhakeshwari National Temple yesterday, the day Hindu devotees celebrated the Mahalaya, ceremonial invocation of goddess Durga.

Durga Puja, the largest festival of Hindus, will be organised in 29,395 temples this year, 321 more than last year. The five-day puja will begin on October 7.
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"The government and law enforcers have promised to ensure necessary security. We have trust on them. Nevertheless, our concern is still prevalent," said Tapash.

The parishad yesterday placed a five-point demand including a three-day public holiday, decorating important government buildings, distribution of special food at prisons, arranging uninterrupted water and electricity to temples and establishing a Hindu foundation.

Central leaders Nirmal Kumar Chatterjee and Biplab Kumar Dey also attended.

Meanwhile, wearing colourful dresses, hundreds of devotees thronged the temples to celebrate Mahalaya. The auspicious occasion is observed seven days prior to the
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Uncertainty over 4 Bangladeshis' performance in London

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visa complexities have made uncertain the presence of four young Bangladeshi performers at the Nehru Centre and the Brady Arts Centre on October 6 and 9 respectively.

The Press Wing of the Bangladesh High Commission in London was set to present Sharif Md Sojib, AFM Samiul Islam, Hridoy Sharma and Sadat Zaman Chowdhury Nerjher.

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A Hindu priest performs rituals in a Bangla Bazar temple of the capital yesterday on the occasion of Mahalaya, ceremonial invocation of goddess Durga.

PHOTO: STAR

এই উৎসবে পরিবারের সকলের সাথে আনন্দ উপভোগ করুন এবং সকল অভ্যন্তরীণ রুটে বিশেষ রেয়াতী ভাডায় স্বন্দ করুন -

শারদীয় উভেঙ্গ

০১ অক্টোবর থেকে ১৫ অক্টোবর, ২০১৬ পর্যন্ত।

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ঢাকা ⇌ সৈয়দপুর	*২৩০০/=
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প্রদেয় সকল কর সহ
* শর্ত প্রযোজ্য

