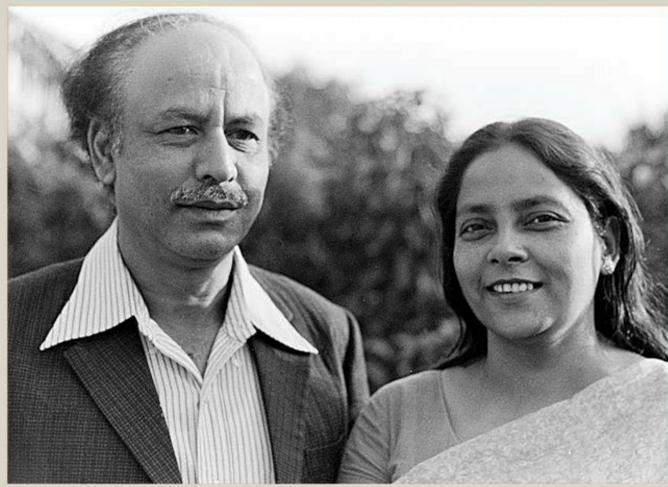


**TANGENTS**

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



My late parents, 1981.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

**The Orange Room**

The acrid odour hit my nostrils as I entered the dimly lit room bathed in orange light. The odour came from three rectangular liquid-filled trays that were lined on a counter against the wall. In another corner was a large contraption – an enlarger – sitting on a table. I took a seat next to it and started my work. Minutes later, I dipped an 8"x10" sheet of photographic paper into the chemical in the first tray. As I gently rocked the tray and tapped on the paper with a pair of tongs, a faint outline appeared on the paper's surface. The darker parts first, eyes and hair, then the nose, face, chin. Another two minutes and the outline had intensified into a clear image: my parents posing for my camera.

For those who know only digital photography, the excitement of those few moments would be beyond comprehension. It was sheer magic: capturing a moment in time and fixing it forever on a piece of paper coated with silver compounds, also known as a photograph.

How did I get there? The year was 1980. Hollywood actor Ronald Reagan was running a presidential campaign against Jimmy Carter. I was a third-year student in a gruelling academic program: the School of Electrical Engineering at Cornell University. Between grinding through never-ending homework sets, fiddling all day with oscilloscopes and curve-tracers in the lab, and preparing for tough examinations, I yearned for a break. One day, the break arrived as a black-and-white photography exhibition at the University's museum. It was by master photographer Ansel Adams. The subject was the majestic landscape of the western United States. I still recall the astonishing clarity and lyrical beauty of the photographs, their fine details rendered true with startling

sharpness. Surely that was when I got hooked on photography. I plunged headlong into this new world and spent every minute I could spare from my studies on learning this craft of "fixing shadows."

I quickly learned to make black and white photographic prints in the darkroom, known as "gelatine silver print" in artsy parlance. It was a two-step process. The first step was to develop the film to make negatives. In the second step, you made a print from the negative using an enlarger.

And so after clicking away you went into a pitch-dark room where you took out the film from its canister and rolled it into a developing reel using only your fingers to guide you. But this was the boring part because the negative that you produced was hard to read. The fun part came next. You placed your negative in the enlarger (to magnify it) and exposed a sheet of photographic paper. You took the paper through the three trays and then you took the picture outside, dripping wet, and looked at it in bright light. Was it sharp? Too dark? Too light? Did the negative have a technical flaw? There were so many ways that things could go wrong.

But when you got it right, it was magic. For few things are as beautiful as a well-made black and white print with rich blacks, sparkling whites, and silver shades in between. Plucking a moment from the jaws of time, the combination of optics and chemistry fixed it forever.

For the next twenty years, I made countless black and white prints. Around 2002, I switched to digital photography.

But I still miss the silver magic of black and white photography and working in that orange room.

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**25 injured as JCD men clash with cops in Netrakona**

UNB, Netrakona

At least 25 people, including 13 policemen, were injured in a clash between police and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) men in Kendua upazila headquarters yesterday noon.

OC M Sirajul Islam of Kendua Police Station said upazila unit of JCD arranged a rally on the Alipur Government Primary School ground at noon without taking permission from the administration.

Witnesses said police charged baton on the JCD leaders and activists to disperse them, leaving at least 12, including a central JCD leader, injured.

Enraged by the police action, the JCD men swooped on the law enforcers that left 13 police personnel -- sub-inspectors Sanjay Sarkar, Al-Amin, Abdul Quader, Samedul Hoque, Abul Bashar and Helal Ahmed, constables Suman Miah, Mizanur Rahman, M Jakir Hossain, Sohail Rana, Abul Khayer, M Rakibul Islam and Abdul Kuddus -- injured.

The injured policemen were taken to Netrakona Modern Sadar Hospital, the OC said.

**Man sues five youths over rape of his two daughters**

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

A man on Thursday sued five youths for allegedly raping his two teenage daughters and recording the incident on a mobile phone in Jessore on February 12.

The accused are Yakub, 20, Esrafil, 17, Alamin, 18, Alamgir, 17, and Emon Sheikh, 20, of Monirampur upazila.

The case was filed with Monirampur Police Station, said Officer-in-Charge of the station Biplab Kumar Nath.

According to the case statement, the youths forcibly took the girls, including an SSC examinee, to an orchard while they were returning home and raped them. They also recorded the incident on their cellphone.

**Students vow to build humane society**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several thousands of school students at a festival yesterday pledged to build a secular and humane society to ensure peace and prosperity in the country.

They also became committed to following the spirit of the 1971 Liberation War and upholding sacrifices of the freedom fighters.

The students were celebrating the 16th Mukti Utsob, a cultural festival of the Liberation War Museum to develop the spirit of the Liberation War among students, on the Dhaka University playground.

The museum authorities organised different cultural programmes, including music, dance and poetry recitation. The students celebrated the programmes with lots of enthusiasm and festivity, and many of them also performed.

Addressing the festival, noted writer and educationist Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal said the new generation will have to take the leadership to make the country prosperous. "No one will be able to resist our development, if our youths stay on the right track and concentrate on their study."

The museum trustees Mofidul Hoque, Akku Chowdhury, and Ziauddin Tariq Ali, freedom fighter Capt Akram Ahmed (Bir Uttam), the first Bangladeshi woman to conquer Mount Everest Nishat Majumder, and noted singer Ferdous Ara, were also present.



Students cheer as popular folk band Joler Gaan performs at the gymnasium ground of Dhaka University yesterday during the Mukti Utsab 2017 (festival of freedom), with the theme, "We are committed to building a secular, humane society".

**Hefajat reiterates demand for removal of sculpture from SC**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hefajat-e Islam yesterday reiterated its demand for immediate removal of a sculpture of what it claimed to be a "Greek idol" installed in front of the Supreme Court.

At a rally in Chittagong, Hefajat threatened to lay siege to Dhaka along with thousands of people if its demand for protecting "belief and heritage" is not met immediately.

It also announced rallying in all the metropolitan cities and district towns on March 10 to press home the demand.

The Chittagong city unit of the Qawmi madrasa-based Islamist organisation staged the rally after Juma prayers at the north gate of Chittagong's Andarkillah

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**Biographies inspire booklovers**

MAHDI AL MUHTASIM

There is an old saying, every life is a story and every story is a lesson.

A decision that changed everything, a chance encounter, agonising failure, and finally, rising above challenges despite limited opportunities -- we all love to be inspired by these journeys.

And, the best sources of which are biographies and autobiographies of people who have overcome odds and made history.

At the Ekushey book fair, many booklovers are visiting stalls in search of



these books of icons.

Yesterday being the last Friday of the month-long fair, enthusiastic visitors thronged the Suhrawardy Udyan and Bangla Academy premises with their families to join the literary fiesta.

"I'm very much interested to learn about world leaders and how they coped with adversities," said Amit Banerjee, a doctor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital.

He bought "Narendra Modi: A Political Biography" by Andy Marino from Ankur Prokashani.

Biographies and autobiographies, all translated in Bangla, of Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Mahathir Mohamad, Malala Yousafzai, Vladimir Putin and APJ Abdul Kalam, among others, drew readers' attention.

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**Archaeologist Zakaria's works need to be preserved**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commemorative discussion at DU told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The works of noted scholar and archaeologist Abdul Kalam Mohammad Zakaria need to be preserved, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

His works are immensely important to gather knowledge about the country's medieval history. The younger generation should be apprised of his contributions, they said.

The editorial board of a committee to publish

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

**Use Bangla at all levels**

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigosthi rally told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Language Movement veteran Kamal Lohani yesterday lamented the "overuse" of other languages for official and business purposes instead of Bangla in the country.

He said, "At the end of February, we will stop showing our love to Bangla." He also termed the behaviour "shameful".

The noted cultural personality was addressing a rally on "Language Marches", demanding introduction of Bangla in every sphere, in the capital's Shabbagh Projonmo Chattar, organised by Bangladesh Udichi

Shilpigosthi.

Even after 65 years of the Language Movement and the 46 years of Liberation War, the demand has to be raised, which diminishes the nation's dignity, he added.

Expressing frustrations over the students' organisations for lack of affection to work for Bangla, Kamal Lohani said there is no scope of being overjoyed with the recognition of International Mother Language Day while the nation has remained unaware of the gradual disgrace of Bangla.

Lambasting the government for radicalising

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"Introduce Bangla at all levels"--with this call, Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigosthi organises a procession titled "Bhasa Ovijatra" (Language march) at the capital's Shabbagh yesterday. The cultural activists also demand conservation of languages of all ethnicities, and prevention of distortion and incorrect use of Bangla.

PHOTO: STAR



Mirza Salman Ispahani

**Correction**

A photo accompanying the story, "Mirza Salman new chairman of Ispahani eye hospital", published yesterday, was of Mirza Ali Behrouze Ispahani, the deceased elder brother of Mirza Salman Ispahani.

The published photo along with the story was sent to The Daily Star. We publish Mirza Salman Ispahani's photo today. Mirza Salman was elected chairman of Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital Society on February 18,

according to the release.

**Ahmed Sharif's writings an inspiration for youths**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Ahmed Sharif was a rare intellectual of the subcontinent who worked tirelessly for the society's development, speakers told a commemorative programme yesterday.

They said the nation has been feeling his absence deeply as he always played a significant role in indicating the social crisis.

They were speaking at the programme at Dhaka University held in observance of the renowned scholar's 18th death anniversary, organised by Swadesh Chinta Sangha.

Prabir Ghose, founder of the Indian Science and Rationalist Association, gave a commemorative speech on Prof Sharif while the Sangha awarded politician Mujahidul Islam Selim and Prof Anu Muhammad for their contributions to the society.

Selim, also president of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, said Prof Sharif inspired the democratic movement and fought for the rights of Bangladeshis. The youths should follow his ideology.

Prof Anu said after the Liberation War, Sharif's writings were an inspiration for youths.

Prabir Ghose said writings of Prof Sharif are a valuable asset for the country's people.

Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque, president of the Sangha, and Hasan Fakri, its general secretary, also spoke.



Ashutosh Azizul

Ashutosh president, Azizul GS of Law Reporters Forum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ashutosh Sarkar, a senior reporter of The Daily Star, was re-elected president of the Law Reporters Forum yesterday for 2017-18.

Azizul Islam Pannu of Boishakhi Television was elected general secretary while Mashudul Haque of ATN News vice president.

Other office bearers -- Kabir Hossain of the daily Jugantor (joint secretary), Saidul Islam of Gazi TV (organising secretary), Ahmed Sarwar Bhuiyan of Banglavision (treasurer), Alamgir Hossain of purboposchim.com (publicity and publication secretary), and Aminul Islam Mallik of Radio Dhoni (office secretary).

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