

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



A precious stage of life.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

Sustaining Your Hobby

At one time or another, most of us take up a hobby. Hobbies can be anything under the sun, popular ones being collecting stamps and coins, fishing, photography, reading, writing, origami, singing, cooking as well as playing sports. While one can pick up a hobby at any age, the mind is most receptive to new ideas and interests during younger, formative years.

A hobby offers a diversion from the humdrum of daily life, but it usually does not entail an income. For me, a hobby goes beyond the act of simple consumption. Passion and active involvement are required, and usually there is an output. For example, the fisherman or the photographer must be out working with their respective tools to get their "catch."

Once grown up, many people find it difficult to continue with their hobbies, which they likely acquired with much effort and cost. There are pressures of the job and career. Raising a family comes with its own set of demands. Finally, the receptive, open mind of youth becomes jaded and closed after repeated clashes with reality.

But it is precisely in those trying times that a hobby can be most beneficial. It can release the extra stress and recharge the mind for clearer thinking.

The key, then, is to sustain the hobby through this topsy-turvy journey we call life.

But how? When I picked up a camera forty years ago, I did not know how long that hobby would last. But when I started practising it with commitment, I immediately benefitted

from photography in numerous ways. So, over the years, I managed to give it enough time and effort and it stayed with me.

Most people who give up their hobby say they don't have the time. But if one is motivated one can make the time. For example, I started out with street photography, but when our children arrived, between them and my job I had little time to go out for photographs. So I started photographing our children at home. Not only did I hold on to my hobby, but I captured moments of a precious stage of life.

The support one receives from others is important for sustaining one's hobby. It is not automatic, though, and has to be earned. I am blessed that my parents, wife, siblings and children have supported my passion for photography.

Sharing the hobby with others can keep you energized and inspired. A musician may perform for a small group of friends or upload a video of their performance to YouTube; gardeners can share the fruits of their labour. Usually the wider the audience the more mature your skill needs to be.

Another aid to sustaining one's hobby is to have a goal, perhaps an educational milestone or a challenging project. Working towards this goal will give you a reason to engage and bring continuity.

Yes, it takes work and persistence, but if you commit to your hobby for the long haul, it could pay you back many times over.

www.facebook.com/ikabirphotographs or follow ihtishamkabir on Instagram

Don't take our homes away

Mymensingh char people reiterate demand following land acquisition decision

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Hundreds of char people in Mymensingh yesterday reiterated their demand for removal of their homesteads and farmlands from the proposed acquisition list.

At a rally at Char Gobindapur Primary School in Sadar upazila, they termed the acquisition list "motivated and unfair".

People including women and children joined the rally as part of their continuous movement. They have been continuing their movement for nearly two years under "Basatbitha Rokkha Committee".

Blaming the administration for such a list, the speakers said they do not want to be "Rohingyas" in their homeland and they want to live on their century-old ancestral homestead.

The government wants to save farmland for the country's betterment, they said. Then, why is the administration trying to acquire agricultural land for development of Mymensingh as a divisional city? they asked.

They urged the government to revise the plan.

They made an ultimatum to meet the demand within this month. The protesters said they will continue their "logical and non-violent" movement until their demands are met.

They also demanded withdrawal of two cases filed with Kotwali Police Station against their activists accused of assaulting police and obstructing them in discharging their duties in February this year.

They said the administration first prepared a list of 1220-acre of land for the development. But, it was later cancelled and the proposed list of 4366-acre was released mostly belonging to agricultural land round the year.

The proposed acquisition area of 4366-acre includes vast tracts of farmland and households, they said, adding, "The administration should implement the first list to avoid a huge loss."

Char people sources said there are some 60,000 people involving 17,000 families and 28,000 households, 475

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



Mymensingh char people rally at Char Gobindapur Primary School yesterday, demanding removal of their homesteads and farmlands from the proposed acquisition list.

PHOTO: STAR

Talk to people first

Speakers tell govt about fixing natural gas price

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil society representatives yesterday demanded that the government fix the price of natural gas in a fair and rational way through public hearings so that people do not have to suffer.

Criticising the government's recent decision of increasing the price of compressed natural gas (CNG), they said such an increase would raise the transportation cost. It will ultimately add to peoples' living expenses, they said.

They made the remarks at a meeting organised by Nagarik Committee, a

civic platform, at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) in the capital.

Prof Shamsul Alam, energy adviser to Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said the government has recently increased the price of CNG from Tk 40 to Tk 48 per cubic metre for popularising the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

"This price increase is unjust and similar to public repression. Such a move will raise transport cost as 60 percent vehicles use CNG. We protest such an increase and demand its immediate cancellation," he said.

The energy expert recommended separating the gas sector from the ministry of power, energy and mineral resources. He also recommended bringing it under a regularity body to solve the gas crisis and uphold consumers' rights.

In January, the government directed its concerned bodies to fix new price of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in consumer level without going through any public hearing. Prof Shamsul said in a concept paper.

"Prices of all kinds of gas -- LPG,

SEE PAGE 5 COL 7



Int'l seminar on Abul Mansur Ahmad today in Kolkata

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An international seminar on renowned litterateur, journalist and politician of the sub-continent Abul Mansur Ahmad will be held today at Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU) in Kolkata.

The seminar titled, "Abul Mansur Ahmad and Contemporary Bangla: History and Literature", is organised by the university's Centre for Language, Translation and Cultural Studies under School of Humanities and Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad.

Eminent personalities from Bangladesh and India will participate in the seminar. Eminent litterateur Dr Selina Hossain is scheduled to inaugurate it.

Among others, Prof Sadhan Chakraborty, vice

chancellor of Kazi Nazrul University in India, will be present as a special guest.

Subha Sankar Sarkar, vice chancellor of NSOU, will preside over the first session where Prof Dr Md Chenggish Khan of Bangladesh Open University will present an article titled, "Partition, Hindu-Muslim Antipathy

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6



Two gamecocks in the middle of a fight during a Baishkahi Mela (fair) on Altafunnesa playground in Bogra town on Thursday. The cockfight has been a tradition and part of the Bangla New Year celebrations in the area. During the tournament, six gamecocks known as Aseel fought the battle. Parvej Alam, the owner of a cock, said the prices of the cocks range from Tk 5,000 to Tk 20,000.

PHOTO: MOSTOFASABUJ

ASSAULT BY BCL LEADER RONY

Rashed, wife flee home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Uniaid Coaching Centre Director Rashed Miah, who lodged a written complaint against Bangladesh Chhatra League leader Nurul Azim Rony on Thursday after a video clip of the latter assaulting him went viral on social media, has fled home feeling insecure.

Rashed in the general diary filed with Panchlaish Police Station the same day has also sought security as "Rony and his musclemen were threatening him for filing the complaint".

"On Thursday, Rashed filed a general diary seeking security," Mohiuddin Mahmud, officer-in-charge of the police station, told The Daily Star. "We have started our investigation."

Meanwhile, Panchlaish police registered the complaint as a case on Thursday night an hour after Rony was suspended from the post of general secretary of Chittagong city Unit BCL.

Rashed in the complaint mentioned that Rony physically assaulted him and repeatedly slapped him inside the office room of the coaching centre in city's GEC area on February 17 while demanding Tk 20 lakh as extortion money.

Contacted, Deputy Commissioner (North) Md Abdul Warish of Chittagong Metropolitan Police said, "The written complaint was registered as a case and police have launched an investigation..."

"We have also collected the CCTV footage... We are analysing it," he said. "Legal actions would be taken if the allegation turns out to be true."

RASHED FLEES HOME

Feeling insecure, Rashed and his wife have been staying at their relatives' houses.

"Soon after filing the complaint on Thursday noon, Rony and his fellows went to my residence in Sugandha Residential area in the evening..." he told The Daily Star over the phone.

"He even went to my office and later called me a number of times. We are feeling worried..."

Earlier, a video clip went viral on social media where a furious Rony was seen slapping Rashed time and again, grabbing him by the hair.

At one point, the BCL leader goes outside the room and comes back a little later. He then lights a cigarette and talks to someone over phone. Hanging up the phone, he starts slapping Rashed again. In the 6:02-minute clip, Rony was seen slapping Rashed 13 times.

The Daily Star could not independently verify the authenticity of the clip. Rashed claimed he was beaten as he had refused to pay Rony extortion money.

RONY CLAIMS INNOCENCE

Meanwhile, in a Facebook post on Thursday night, Rony posted 10 screenshots of a conversation between him and Rashed. In the post, he said he started the coaching centre along with Rashed after investing his family money.

Apart from that, in a statement issued by Rony right after the incident, he claimed that he gave Tk 9.50 lakh as a loan to Rashed in two phases.

He also said he went to the coaching centre on February 17 to inquire about irregularities at the coaching centre.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

IUBAT – International University of Business Agriculture and Technology

Founded 1991 by Md. Alimullah Miyan

প্রত্যয়ঃ যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন প্রত্যেক ব্যক্তির জন্য উচ্চ শিক্ষার নিশ্চয়তা- প্রয়োজনে মেধাবী তবে অবশ্বহাদের জন্য অর্থায়ন
Theme : Higher Education for Every Qualified Person with Finance for Meritorious but Needy

Admission for MBA Program

Major in:

- Accounting
- Finance & Banking
- Human Resource Management
- Management
- Management Information System
- Marketing Management
- Production and Operation Management

SCHOLARSHIP on Tuition Fees	
CGPA	Rate of Scholarship
3.75 - 4.00	100%
3.51 - 3.74	70%
3.26 - 3.50	60%
3.00 - 3.25	50%
2.50 - 2.99	35%

15% special scholarship for female candidates

Additional fees waiver for recognized sportspersons and artists

FEATURES

- Permanent 17 bigha river-view green and scenic campus
- Free shuttle services for students
- Free Wi-Fi covered campus
- Indoor & outdoor games facilities
- Facilitates realization of career dreams for each student
- Globally recognized with 102 institutional links in 27 countries
- Health insurance for all students

www.iubat.edu

Permanent Campus

4 Embankment Drive Road, Sector -10, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka- 1230, Phone: (88 02) 55091801-5, 01714 014933

Admission : 01534 807 895, 01556 362 190, 01671 117 465
01730 863 978, 01751 790 157, 01756 174 477, 01939 056 290

Friday (Full day) & Saturday (Evening) Classes for MBA