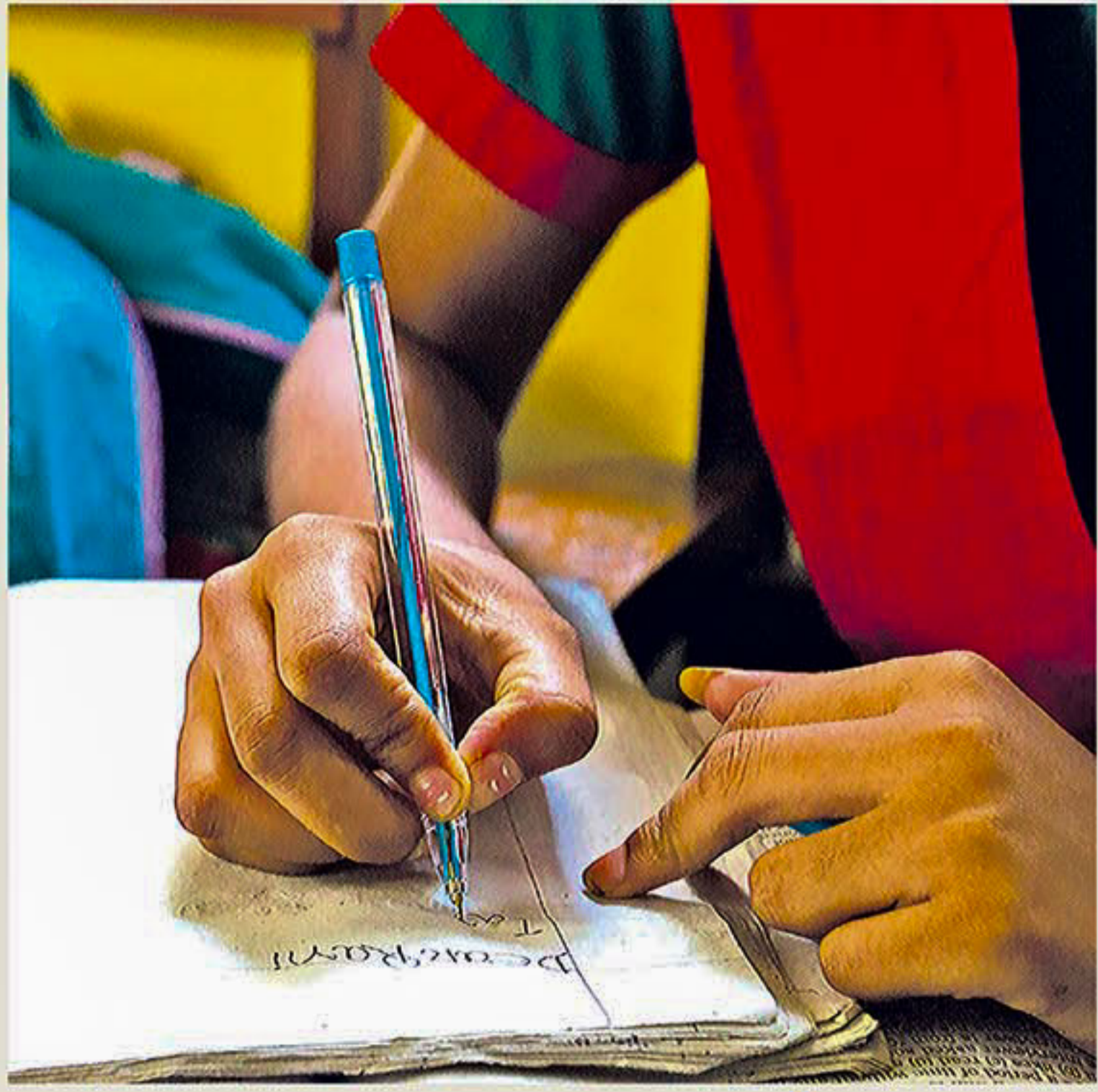


TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

Writing Well



Writing is a craft.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

My thoughts about good writing spring from writing non-fiction, where my goal is to communicate, inform, and perhaps persuade the reader.

To start, know why you write and who you write for. Use this knowledge to sharpen and target your piece.

Most of us write because we have something to say. The first and foremost goal for the writer is to say it clearly.

The first goal, clear writing, requires clear thoughts. If your thoughts are muddled or confused, your words will reflect that.

Try to sort out your confusions about your subject before you start writing. Avoid florid language, unclear thoughts and bombastic words.

Instead of making big leaps from paragraph to paragraph, divide your thoughts into smaller pieces so the reader can connect the dots.

The second challenge is to maintain continuity and build up your narrative. I try to grab the reader's attention with my first words and never let go.

Once you start writing, it helps to remember that the sentence is the basic unit of written thought. When constructing sentences, I often visualize a metaphor.

That's right, your writing must have value to the reader. My obligation to the reader, in exchange for the time they spend to read my words, is to make that time worthwhile.

People from all spheres end up writing words we have to read, hear or watch. Books, of course, but business proposals, research publications, annual reports, government rules, editorials, press releases, screenplays and speeches

are often written by people who are clueless about clarity, let alone reader interest.

For them, as well as for anyone else who wants to become an effective writer, I quote the immortal words of Strunk and White from the much-loved guide to writing, The Elements of Style.

Incidentally, this rule has become even more important over the last decade or two with verbal minimalism popularized by Twitter, Facebook, and SMS messages.

www.facebook.com/tangents. ikabir or follow "ihtishamkabir" on Instagram.

Adequate security measures taken for Eid

Says Rab DG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has taken adequate security measures ahead of Eid-ul-Azha at various points, including cattle markets, bus terminals, and railway stations.

Besides, Rab has beefed up surveillance to quell muggers and fake currency rackets. The elite force has also taken measures at Eid grounds all over the country.

Rab has been coordinating with different intelligence agencies over security issues, the Rab DG said, adding that they have also taken measures for National Mourning Day and Janmashtami.

He urged city dwellers to slaughter their sacrificial animals at dedicated places to avert health hazards.

Expressing worries over SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Price of spices shoots up ahead of Eid

Consumers allege 'robbery in broad daylight', traders claim prices 'stable'

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN and DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Cashing in on the growing demand for spices ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, the second largest religious festival of the country, traders have increased prices of spices to earn some extra buck.

Prices of each kg of cardamom, cinnamon, clove, raisin and black pepper have soared by Tk 20-250 in a week.

The Daily Star on Thursday visited several retail and wholesale markets in the capital, including Karwan Bazar, Moghbazar and Jatrabari, and found a significant gap between wholesale and retail prices.

Garlic (Chinese) was selling at Karwan Bazar wholesale market at Tk 140 per kg, but retailers were selling it at Tk 180 to buyers.

Middle and low income groups are bearing the brunt of this spike in prices. Mizanur Rahman asked for 100gm of cardamom at Yusuf General Store in Karwan Bazar.

Surprised, Mizan asked the retailer Md Yusuf about the price of cardamom. "Tk 2,700 per kg," Yusuf curtly replied.

Talking to this correspondent Mizan said, "It's robbery in broad daylight."

"Now, I'll have to skip buying one or two items," he added.

Wishing to remain unnamed, a retailer at Jatrabari kitchen market said most of the spices are dry products.

Due to flood, prices of vegetables shot up last month. Things started getting back to normal last week.

However, green chili is still being sold at over Tk 100. A kg of green chili was sold at Tk 50 last month. It is now being sold at Tk 120.

Abdul Wahab, a wholesaler at Malibagh kitchen market, said because of rain the price of green chili is high.

Contacted, Md Enayet Ullah, president of Bangladesh Paikari Garam Masala Baboshayi Samity, claimed that prices of spices, except cardamom and cinnamon, are stable.

"We import cardamom from India and there is a shortage of it in the Indian market. Price of cardamom will go up further after Eid if this scarcity continues," he said.

"We import cinnamon from China but heavy rain there has created a crisis," he added.

Enayet claimed such fluctuation in prices happens throughout the year.

"Media gives special focus on this ahead of Eid, that's why it seems unusual," he said.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

DHAKA TODAY

- CAMPAIGN: Creating awareness on dengue. Organiser: Left Democratic Alliance. Venue: Bahadur Shah Park. Time: 4:30pm. WORKSHOP: Script Writing (Visual Medium). Venue: Prachyanat, Elephant Road. Time: 5pm. LECTURE: On Reading Art. Venue: Sunno Art Space, Lalmeta. Time: 3pm. WORKSHOP: Learning LaTeX. Venue: Rupali Bank Building, West Shewrapara. Time: 9:30am. BOOK FAIR: Up to 35 percent discount on books. Venue: Concord Market, Kataban. Time: 11am. FAIR: Bangabandhu Book Fair. Organiser: Pathak Shamabesh. Venue: Pathak Shamabesh Center. Time: 10am.

Brac allocates Tk 3.5cr more for flood relief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brac has allocated Tk 3.5 crore to fund its post-flood relief and rehabilitation efforts in addition to its prior (July) allocation of Tk 50 lakh.

The latest allocation comprises a grant of USD 300,000 (roughly equal to BDT 2.5 crore) from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation while the remaining one crore is from Brac's internal sources, according to a press release.

The fund is being spent to provide multi-purpose cash transfers of Tk 4,500 per household and distributing hygiene kits to help more than 6,000 flood-affected households in four of the worst affected upazilas: Dewanganj in Jamalpur district, Chowhali in Sirajganj, Sadar upazila in Gaibandha and Chilmari in Kurigram.

Brac is spending one part of the allocation to repair school buildings, donate boats to school children, and deploy teams of health workers in some of the remote areas.

"We are providing this emergency grant to bolster recovery efforts, such as helping to prevent the outbreak of water-borne diseases and other severe health risks associated with flooding," said Mark Suzman, chief strategy officer and president, Global Policy and Advocacy, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Brac has deployed more than a thousand of its relief workers with initial efforts reaching over 14,000 households in 36 of the most impacted upazilas under 13 districts till August 8.

"As this year's flood is already labelled as one of the SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Md Mokhlusur Rahman, a master's student at Tejgaon College, has been taking a stand on many issues since 2013 -- all by himself. This time he's on a mission to fight the dengue outbreak by generating awareness among people. The photo was taken in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Advertisement for Fantasy Kingdom Theme Park. Includes text: 'Dance with DJ', 'Water Kingdom Concord', 'Fantasy Kingdom Theme Park', 'Xtreme Racing Concord', 'Entry Ticket Tk. 850 (with Fantasy Kingdom entry & Pepsi/Ice-cream Free!)', 'Entry Ticket - Tk. 500 (with 3 Rides and Pepsi/Ice-cream Free!)', 'Phone: 8833786, 01404083821, 01913531388', 'www.fantasy-kingdom.net.bd', 'Fantasy Kingdom Complex', 'IAAPA MEMBER 2019', 'CONCORD'.

Advertisement for Xiaomi Redmi K20 Pro. Includes text: 'Redmi K20 Pro The Alpha Flagship', '8GB+256GB', 'Qualcomm® Snapdragon™ 855 | 48MP + 13MP + 8MP AI triple camera', 'Horizon AMOLED display with In-display fingerprint sensor | 20MP Pop-up selfie Camera', 'To verify authorized Xiaomi phone, type Mi <Space> IMEI & Send to 26969', 'mi.com/bd | Mi Bangladesh | +88 09612 - 942664'.