

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

Parts of a Photograph



Distracting left edge (left); corrected photograph (right.)

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

When we look at a photograph, our eyes latch on the main subject and zero in. Only then do we understand the photograph and respond to it emotionally.

The photographer sends a message to the viewer: "Look, my cute child!" or, "How beautiful nature is!" But does the viewer clearly and easily understand this message? The viewer's brain analyses the parts making up the picture. These parts must reinforce each other for the photograph to succeed, its message to be delivered.

Take, for example, the photograph's corners and edges. If they are brighter than the central subject then the viewer's eyes will be drawn away from the subject to the bright areas which will fight for the viewer's attention instead of reinforcing the message of the photograph. Above, the photograph on the left has a bright left edge which draws the eye away from the bird.

Therefore, when I start working with a photograph I first darken any unnecessarily bright corner or edge. If there are bright areas near the subject that detract from it, I also darken those. Above, the photograph on the

right has a darker left edge which does not distract the eye.

These are techniques I picked up from years of making black and white prints in the darkroom. Making adjustments and corrections in the darkroom was difficult and expensive, so one quickly learned those with the most impact.

Then there is the matter of the subject and background. The background is almost as important as the subject of the photograph. An unsuitable background destroys a photograph but a suitable one helps. Why then do we see bad backgrounds in so many photographs? When looking through the camera, our brain deemphasizes a distracting background - almost filters it out - as we concentrate on the subject. However, the camera, a machine, cannot distinguish between useful and distracting items in front of it and makes the photograph neutrally. When we see the photograph, the distractions that our brain had told our eye to ignore become painfully obvious.

So we must consciously try to arrange the photograph in the viewfinder so that the subject is free of annoying distractions.

Another part of the photograph is the sharpness of the subject. Our visual perception - our brain's ability to make sense of a scene - relies on the edges (boundaries) in the scene. The brain loves subjects with sharp edges because it can quickly "read" them. A blurry or out of focus picture, on the other hand, presents mushy edges to the brain which must try harder to read it.

Contrast is another important part of the photograph. Low contrast often creates gloom. Higher contrast makes the photograph more energetic and readable. But too high a contrast may be jarring and harsh. Sometimes we take pictures in low light. So we must increase the camera ISO, which in turn increases the graininess of the photograph. It is better to have a grainy but sharp photograph, rather than a blurry but low-grained one.

So the next time you raise your camera, think of all the parts that make up the final picture you have in mind. Making these parts work together will help you create a better photograph.

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

VIOLENCE IN CUMILLA

Vested group's conspiracy against govt: LGRD minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The incident at the Puja Mandap in Cumilla was part of a conspiracy and a vested quarter was involved in it, said Local Government Division Minister Tazul Islam.

"Their target was to foil the politics of Bangladesh and frustrate ongoing development," he said. When vested groups fail, they take various measures to hurt people's religious sentiments to reach their goal, he said at a press briefing yesterday at his official residence in Mintu Road.

When the country is observing unprecedented successes under the leadership of the current government, this group has been hatching plots to take over the state's power, said Tazul.

"As they [vested group] failed to convince people to participate in their movements, they are now trying to cash in on people's religious sentiment and instigate people." "Steps will be taken against them



upon investigation and it will be revealed to the media," he added.

Responding to a question, he said the home minister has assured that action will be taken if any negligence on the part of the police is found in carrying out their duties.

He called upon all local government representatives to remain cautious in their respective areas and stand against the conspiracy hatched to damage religious harmony in the country.

"The government has enough strength to tackle any conspiracies," he said while replying to another question.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said those behind the Cumilla incident will be hunted down and subjected to exemplary punishments to stop the recurrence of such acts of communal violence.

She said necessary action will surely be taken against the culprits, no matter what religion they belong to.

Dengue cases cross 21,000 mark

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of dengue patients has crossed the 21,000 mark in the country yesterday.

At least 106 patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday of which 15 are outside Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the new cases, a total of 2,821 were diagnosed during the running month out of a total 21,018 infected. Of the total infected, 2,879 are from outside Dhaka.

At least 7,841 were diagnosed in September, 7,698 in August, 2,286 were hospitalised in July, 272 in June while 43 were infected in May and rest are from January to April, according to the DGHS.

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Mahanagar Sarbojonin Puja Committee protested the vandalism of mandaps and idols across the country amid the Durga Puja celebrations at Dhakeshwari temple in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

ATTACK, VANDALISM IN BANDARBAN

'Friends became strangers in the blink of an eye'

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

"We have been living together in this area like brothers and friends for 30 long years. We shared our lives - our happiness and sorrows. But within the blink of an eye, these familiar people became strangers," said Madhu Kanti Das, a shopkeeper in Lama Bazar, Bandarban.

Madhu's shop was among 30 Hindu-owned shops that were vandalised and looted on October 14 in Lama upazila. The shops were targeted after several hundred religious extremists attacked the Lama Kendriya Hari Mandir temple on Thursday morning - the ninth day of the Durga Puja festival.

At least 25 people including 10 police personnel were injured in a clash between the mob and law enforcers during the attacks.

"I escaped through the back door of the shop to save my life," said Madhu.

"They smashed three computers, four photocopy machines, two cameras, an IPS of my shop and destroyed almost a truckload of paper," he added.

"How the people with whom we had such close ties suddenly changed

themselves is beyond me," he said.

"About 400 Hindu families live in the Lama Bazar area. After the incident on Thursday, these families are living in fear", said Prashanto Bhattacharya, president of the Lama central Hari Mandir.

"Around 11am, they started attacking our temple after the procession and ransacked it for about three hours," he said.

"They attacked our temple in front of members of the law enforcement agencies and injured our people," Prashant alleged.

Md Mostafa Javed Kaychar, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Lama, told The Daily Star that he gave verbal permission to hold the assembly following "instructions from the higher authorities."

"I was told there would be a protest rally in the presence of about 200 people. But thousands of people gathered there all of a sudden," he added.

The protest started at around 9:30am, and Lama Upazila Awami League general secretary Zahirul Islam also addressed the rally, a police official said.

This correspondent called Zahirul Islam multiple times, but his number was found switched off.

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DORM FEES

Female students of DU demand waiver

DU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall of Dhaka University (DU) have demanded a waiver of their hall fees for the last academic year, as the dorms were closed for 18 months due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Four days ago, they had also submitted an application to hall authorities seeking remission of the installation fees from June, 2020 to June, 2021.

This came after hall authorities on October 20 this year instructed students to renew their identity cards after paying the fees.

In the written letter, students said that it doesn't make sense for them to pay the fees given that they did not get to live in the halls for a substantial period of time in the last two years.

However, they said the authorities still instructed them to pay two years' installation fees, which amounted to Tk 2,450.

They said as many students are faced with financial crises due to the pandemic, they will not be able to pay such a large amount in one go. They have therefore requested the hall authorities to lower the fees down to one year's amount.

Contacted, Prof Shamim Banu, provost of Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall, said she is aware of the students' demands as she has received an application in this regard.

"I have contacted university authorities regarding this issue. They assured the issue will be discussed at the next provost standing committee's meeting, as the issue involves all halls," she said.

WORLD ANAESTHESIA DAY

Account of an anaesthesiologist

MD WAHIDUR RAHMAN

The eight-month-old child was asleep in his mother's lap. As I was going through the medical records of the child, I could sense the ordeal of the child's mother. The baby was suffering from a congenital kidney condition and was scheduled for an imaging test called DTPA Renal Scan. The test would be done at the Nuclear Medicine facility of our hospital, but at first, he needed an IV cannulation. A baby of this age is often difficult to cannulate. That's why the baby was brought to our Anaesthesia department.

While the baby was in his mother's lap, I gently held an anaesthetic mask over his face. An anaesthetic vapour along with oxygen flew through the mask. At first the baby tried to resist but soon went to a state of deep sleep. With our help, the mother put her baby in a bed so we could proceed with the cannulation.

As I monitored his vitals and respiration, another anaesthesiologist colleague of mine tried to spot a vein. There was no visible vein to the naked eye, so she brought on an ultrasound device, which allowed us to spot a vein deep inside the tissue. She successfully

put an IV cannula and secured it.

We were not done yet; I needed to keep the baby asleep while the scan was being done at the nuclear medicine facility which would take 30 to 40 minutes. The patient needed to be very still while the scan was done. To keep a baby still for 30 to 40 minutes, an anaesthesiologist often provides sedation. This is a very delicate procedure as babies are very vulnerable and sensitive to sedative drugs. There is a very narrow margin of safety. A precisely calculated dose of drugs puts a baby in a state of sleep but still allow them to breathe on their own.

Next, we went to the nuclear medicine facility. I had already organised my resuscitation equipment and drugs. I put the baby on the examination table under a gamma camera. I secured an oxygen mask over the baby's face and made sure he was safe and comfortable. There was a probe attached to the baby's finger that gave me a reading of his heart rate and oxygen saturation at every second. I pushed a dose of sedative to put the baby to sleep. Once I was satisfied with the baby's breathing and vitals, I gave a go-ahead signal to the nuclear medicine technician.

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Municipality mayor constructs commercial buildings on govt land

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Without any governmental approval, two multi-storied commercial buildings are being constructed along the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway, occupying government land and canals.

What's more, the establishments are being built by the mayor of Katakhalhi municipality, under Rajshahi's Paba upazila.

Not approved by any government agency, the buildings aren't part of the municipal body's official activities either. Yet, land officials are stopping short of calling them 'illegal'.

"We don't want to call the construction works illegal, as they're being done out of public interest," said Sheikh Ahsan Uddin, Assistant Commissioner (Land) of Paba upazila.

However, replying to another question, the AC Land contradicted himself and said the authority has asked the mayor to stop the works



The mayor said the buildings were built to house traders who were evicted before the 12km canal was dug. The buildings are supposed to house 27 shops, the rent of which will go to the municipality's coffers.

and apply for necessary permissions before resuming the works 'legally'.

Talking to The Daily Star, mayor Abbas Ali claimed he was constructing the buildings with funds from entrepreneurs to arrange a source of income for the municipality, which will come from

shop space rent. He also recounted the story behind the buildings.

In February last year, Barind Development Multipurpose Authority (BMDA) dug a 12-km canal from Harian of Paba upazila to Chhotragachha area of Puthia to alleviate waterlogging in the area.

The project cost was Tk 17 crore.

The canal starts from one side of the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway in Katakhalhi and flows into the other side crossing the Katakhalhi Bridge.

Meanwhile, works on the two buildings on both sides of the canal started last April. On both sides, RCC pillars have been erected.

On the south side of the bridge, a three-story building is constructed over 1,144 sq. ft. area, which will house 21 shop spaces. The other building is being constructed on the north side of the bridge, which will house six more shops.

But before all this, prior to starting works on the canal, BMDA evicted some one hundred traders from both sides of the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway.

Mayor Abbas Ali said the traders revolted and started protesting the eviction, at which point he had to step in and promise them shop spaces after the canal would be finished.

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To keep a baby still for 30-40 minutes, anaesthesiologists often provide sedation. This is a delicate procedure with a narrow margin of safety as babies are vulnerable and sensitive to sedative drugs. A precisely calculated dose can induce a state of sleep in babies, but still allow them to breathe on their own.