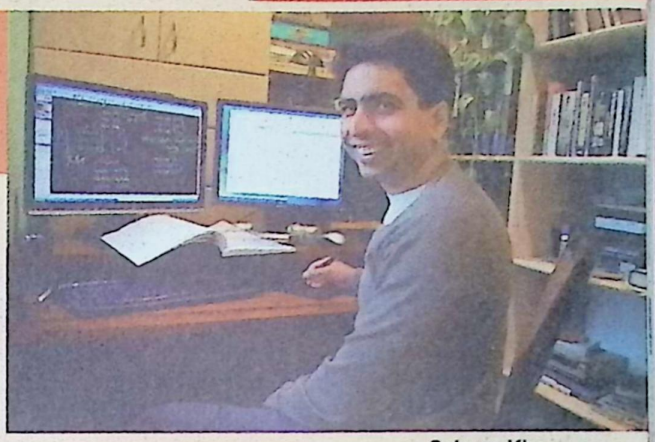
Reinventing Education



Salman Khan

In August 2004, Salman Khan began remotely tutoring his cousin, Nadia, who was struggling with "unit conversion". Since Nadia was in New Orleans and 'Sal' was in Boston working at a hedge fund at that time, Sal started tutoring her via telephone and Yahoo Doodle after work. Eventually, word got around and he was tutoring a handful of his cousins and family members. Sal started recording videos and posting them on YouTube in 2006. More and more people kept watching, and Sal, who has three degrees from MIT and an MBA from Harvard has created nearly 3,000 of them since then. Today his website (www.khanaca-demy.org) covers a staggering array of topics–from basic arithmetic and algebra to the Electoral College and the French Revolution. Over the past two years the free videos have been viewed more than 200 million times. Volunteers have translated Khan's videos into 24 different languages, including Urdu, Swahili and Chinese. Khan's meteoric success has attracted the financial support of a bevy of high-profile, socially responsible backers, including billionaire Ann Doerr, Bill Gates, Netflix CEO Reed Hastings and Google, whose chairman, Eric Schmidt, serves on Khan Academy's board. The company's 37 employees are mostly software developers with stints at places like Google and Facebook. Khan grew up in a suburb of New Orleans, where his Bangladeshi mother raised him on her own by cobbling together a series of jobs and businesses. Khan has given commencement speeches at Ivy League schools like Rice and Yale.

The Don of Narayanganj



PHOTO: STAR FILE

Shamim Osman

In 2013 any news that came from Naryanganj would be incomplete without Shamim Osman in it. Being the most influential member of Awami League backed Osman family, Shamim graced the newspapers with all of his 'talents' to make controversial headlines. He left no stone unturned in making Narayanganj full of hot news, some of which are stained with blood. Extortion from transport owners, terrorising ordinary people and opposition activists, beating up famous footballer Emily, grabbing properties of even a graveyard were some of his regular features. Shamim Osman and his family members' involvement in the murder of Tanvir Muhammad Toki, a brilliant student and son of Ganajagoron Mancho organiser Rafiur Rabbi exceeded all of his previous vicious activities. When the law enforcers discovered Shamim's dungeon with murdered Twaqi's blood stained shirt, it became clear as to how this family has terrorised the inhabitants of Narayanganj. Far from putting him into the trial, the AL has given him nomination for the next general election, perhaps to unleash some more terror.