



PHOTOS: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

A Wish List for 2015

For many of us, the New Year symbolises a new beginning -- be it of a business idea, a new relationship or just re-building the habit of reading a book a week! There are, however, many stories that hover around, belonging to the people in the streets. The Star People team brings to you a wish list for 2015 from people surviving in the capital, who dare to dream of a better future.



ALL THAT GLITTERS

ANIKA HOSSAIN

The New Year brings with it new hopes and resolutions. For Joy Deb, a Goldsmith, who has set up shop in Taanti Bazaar at Old Town for the past 30 years, the New Year inspires expectation that his business will flourish. The owner of JK Jewellery Workshop says, "The past two years has seen the decrease in the price of gold and this has affected our livelihood. It has become increasingly difficult to support my family," he continues. "The amount of time and effort we put into our craftsmanship does not reap the prices it once used to. This year, I would like to see an improvement in the economy so that people can spend more money on gold."

Joy Deb would also like to see a change in our current political situation. "My strong belief is that our country can be run more smoothly and more peacefully if our leaders were not in constant discord. I hope next year brings harmony to our political climate," he says.

A Team Player

NAZIBA BASHER

With two school-going children, Sri Tapan Chandrashil, is always struggling to earn a little extra. For the year 2015, however, Tapan has high hopes not only for his business but also for his family. Hailing from Chandpur, Tapan runs a small barbershop business, called Tarjoy Haircutting Salon, in the narrow alleys of Tejturi Bazaar, in Farmgate, Dhaka.

"My children are studying in class 8 and 3 respectively," he says. "All I really want is for their education to continue. I want to be able to afford their tuition fees and get them private tutors too, if needed," says Tapan.

Tapan also looks forward to the rate of unemployment decreasing. "I want this year to start a fresh beginning for everyone; jobs to be handed out to the poor, and poverty to decrease," he says. Last but not the least, he also wants the Bangladesh national cricket team to play their best and reach greater heights in the cricketing arena.



FURTHERING SUCCESS

ANIKA HOSSAIN

Haji Biryani has been renowned since its establishment in 1939, at Nazira Bazaar, located in Old Dhaka. It is perhaps the only restaurant in town that serves a single mouth watering item and yet never lacks customers. Shahdat Hossain Jahid, has been a part of the Haji family business since he left school in class 4.

This New Year, he is quite content with the goings on of his life. "Our business is booming as always, we never lack customers. Every evening, we are sold out by 7 pm," he declares proudly. "I have worked for Haji Hassan and Haji Hossain for decades, and I cannot complain about my life. I only hope that this year we can expand our business. We currently have shops in Motijheel and Banshundhara, but we would like to open a few more branches soon."

Jahid also wishes for a peaceful existence with less congestion and fewer hartals next year. "I hope our government realises the plight of our people and fulfils its promise to promote our best interests."

The Book Connection

ELITA KARIM

SAS MD Faisal, the Managing Director of Zeenat Bookstores says that he might want to think of going 'digital' in the year 2015. "There has been a decrease in the number of readers," he says. "One of the major reasons would be the horrendous traffic. People do not have the patience or the energy to sit for hours to buy books. They can very well download what they need online." Asked if he would like to include a digital section in his bookstore, "for now I would probably build an online database and deliver books via courier," he replies.

Established in September 1963 Zeenat Bookstores, located in New Market, has been a popular name in the capital for decades -- amongst readers, book lovers and students of English Literature. "My father established this bookstore and I began to work here as a student in the mid seventies," he says. Over the years, Faisal's bookstore became a meeting point and a hangout-spot for many a book lover. "I love it when a student of medicine voraciously reads books on philosophy or music!" he exclaims. Faisal hopes to connect with many more of such book lovers in the year 2015.



From the Streets

NAZIBA BASHER

In 2015, Hazera Begum wants what she wishes for every year -- peace and happiness. "I want my children to have full bellies at the end of every day and fall asleep with a certainty that tomorrow would be a better day," she says. "That, to me, is peace."

Opposite the Kalabagan Lake Circus field, Hazera sits on the footpath with her equipment. She has been running her own business of making 'peetha' (rice cakes) for the last 14 years.

Hazera also hopes for a better life for her brother, who has been struggling for years to find work to sustain his family and himself. "I can't do anything for him, so all I do is pray that things turn around for him soon," she says.

Lastly, Hazera also wants peace for Bangladesh. "I wish for peace, not only for my family and myself, but also for the nation."



FOR THE SWEET TOOTHED

APURBA JAHANGIR

Over 160 years, the Prince of Wales bakery has been serving mouth-watering pastries and cakes to thousands of customers. In 2015, Nuruddin Ahmed, the owner of the bakery, says that he would want easy access to pure supplies of ingredients to bake cakes. "Even if you spend a lot of money, pure ingredients are very hard to come by," he says.

Located in Lakshmi Bazaar near the famous St. Gregory church, this bakery is claimed to be a pioneer in Bangladesh. It is known for its famous fruit cake, cheese cake, and the popular flavours titled love letters, jam tacks and so much more. The bakery is also one of the firsts to have baked wedding and Christmas cakes in Dhaka.

Established by a British gentleman from Wales, the bakery had been passed down to Sheikh Buddhu Mia. "My Father Sheikh Buddhu Mia used to work for the British gentleman who owned the joint. After he left, my father became the owner," says Nuruddin Ahmed.

Nuruddin also says that he wishes the year 2015 to be peaceful for Bangladesh.