

Editor (The Daily Star)
Mahfuz Anam
Editor (The Star)
(Dilshad) Elita Karim
Staff Writers
Anika Hossain (Sub-editor)
Ananta Yusuf
Md Shahnawaz Khan Chandan
Fayeka Zabeen Siddiqua
Naziba Basher
Apurba Jahangir
Regular Contributors
Farah Ghuznavi
Sharbari Ahmed
Nadia Kabir Barb
Andrew Eagle
Staff Photographers
Prabir Das
Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo
Graphics & Illustrations
Manan Morshed
Make-up
Md Saiful Islam
General Manager, Production
Selim S H Chowdhury

Published by the Editor from
Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon
Industrial Area, Dhaka on behalf
of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel
C.A., Dhaka-1000.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Though the streets of Chalan Beel flood during the rainy season; the locals take on the part of dare-devils and cross the mighty course on their motor bikes.

SNAPSHOT

MAILBOX
thestarmagazine@gmail.com



The Star's Re-vamp

I must admit that I had a shock last Friday when the magazine came to me in a different format! I must have missed the announcement somewhere.

But I must say that I was thoroughly impressed. I loved the vibrancy, the colours and also the articles. Good luck to the new team!

Arham M Hossain
Dhanmondi
Dhaka



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Women of the World

I would like to thank *the Star* team for the issue on International Women's Day. The stories of women entrepreneurs, leaders and professionals were highly encouraging. It's very inspiring to read those success stories of how these women have overcome a lot of barriers created by our society. As a reader I would like to read more positive and inspirational stories like this.

Tasmia Zaman
Khilgaon, Dhaka



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

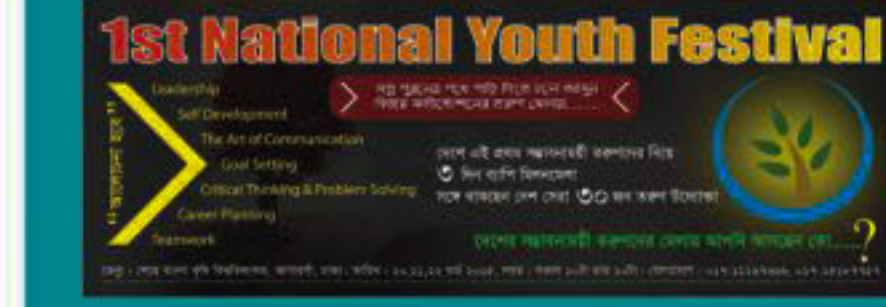
The Growth of the Soil

Shykh Seraj, an agricultural development activist is my inspiration. His relentless attempts to improve agriculture and farmers are praiseworthy. By turning media's focus to our tradition, he provided us valuable information on agriculture in a pleasurable manner. His programmes 'Mati O Manush', 'Krishoker Eid Ananda', 'Fere Cholo Matir Tane' and etc are very inspiring. Our young generation should give priority to agriculture and come forward with entrepreneurial thoughts. After all, we want many more personalities like Shykh Seraj in our country.

Md Noman Hossan Khandker
Shahjalal University of Science & Technology
Sylhet

The opinions expressed in these letters do not necessarily represent the views held by *the Star*.

ABOUT TOWN



First National Youth Festival

At Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University from March 20 to March 22



Keep The Blue Safe

A photography exhibition on rivers of Bangladesh
At Drik Gallery from March 12 to March 14



Dhaka Comic Festival 2015

At Baridhara DOHS Convention Centre on March 20



The Who Presents Football against Tobacco

At Dhaka University Central Play Ground on March 20

SATIRE

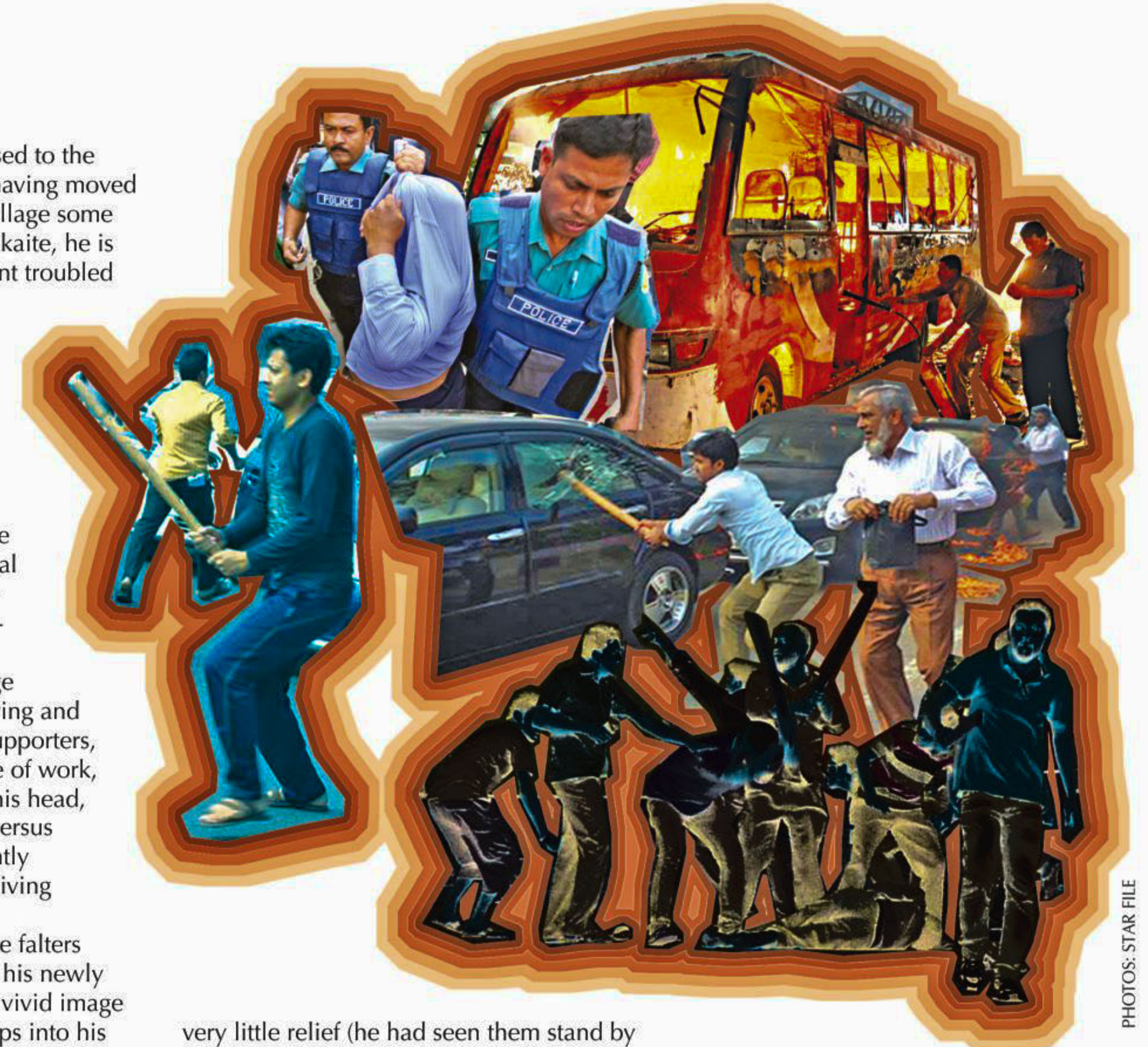
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DHAKAITE

ANIKA HOSSAIN

Mr Aayem Jonota is used to the Dhaka way of life, having moved here from his tiny village some thirty years ago. Like any Dhakaite, he is resilient, so although the recent troubled times have caused him some discomfort, life must go on, therefore his average, middleclass life has, for the most part been unaffected. Like all other Dhakaite, he has resolutely ignored the never-ending hartals. Who has time to waste at home? He wakes up as usual bright an early and gets ready for work, looks forward to it - really. As he watches the morning news featuring a huge mob consisting of brick throwing and cocktail bearing opposition supporters, heading straight past his place of work, a stray thought wanders into his head, about the importance of job versus life, which of course he instantly dismisses. One has to earn a living afterall.

As he heads out for work he falters momentarily near the door of his newly purchased Toyota Corolla as a vivid image of a wayward petrol bomb pops into his head. He shakes it off however as he recalls the bus he saw burning at the Kakoli intersection two nights ago-he had taken a photo of it and shared it on facebook. Car it is! As he drives into the street he looks cautiously around- could this be the day he finally runs out of luck? It is luck afterall that has spared him and his family from the mayhem on the streets. Thank God the schools are closed, he thinks to himself, instantly feeling a twinge of worry about his children's education. Safety first though, he comforts himself.

As he steers into work having avoided all the "high risk" areas and taking all the main roads- the sight of armed, seemingly vigilant policemen meets his eye, affording



PHOTOS: STAR FILE

very little relief (he had seen them stand by idly, as a CNG was smashed last week). Work is as dull as usual, with unsettling news coming in from different quarters. "Arrest warrant out for opposition leader," "16 people were killed in this district, 20 in that etc," such is the drift of conversation during tea breaks. Thank goodness it wasn't anyone I know, he thinks to himself (albeit a little guiltily) but what can he do? He is just an ordinary citizen. Powerless and at the mercy of they who rule the country.

As office hours come to a close, a familiar trepidation overcomes him, as he thinks about the journey home. He repeatedly checks the news online, makes a few calls to inquire about the "street

situation." Two buses were burned in Mirpur, someone was shot, but that was in Motijheel, and oh yes a picketer was caught and beaten up by civilians a few hours ago, his wife informs him. With this knowledge he sets off into the vast concrete jungle once again, feeling vulnerable, a prayer on his lips. A large crowd of people are standing at the corner of his street, he holds his breath till he passes them and breathes a sigh of relief as he enters his gates. He dreads tomorrow when it'll all start again, but for now, he is safe. ■

BSRM the ultimate steel

www.bsrm.com

BSRM Xtreme
Feel safe with Xtreme inside

SAFETY'S 10 MEASURES

- Chemical Test
- Yield Strength Test
- Elongation
- Diameter
- Ultimate Strength Test
- Fatigue Test
- Surface Geometry Test
- Re-bend Test
- Bend Test
- Elongation at Maximum Force