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“One day your life will flash before your eyes. Make sure it's worth watching”

— Gerard Way

SNAPSHOT

INTERVIEW

CHAMPIONING THE NEW WAVE

A BANGLADESHI JOURNALIST LEADS INFLUENTIAL MEDIA INTO A NEW ERA

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Sabir Mustafa

Launched on October 11, 1941 with only a 15 minutes programme in Bengali, BBC Bangla, the Bengali language service of BBC Worldwide has now become one of the most heard radio stations among Bengali-speaking people of the world. Headed by renowned Bangladeshi journalist Sabir Mustafa, BBC Bangla has recently stepped into a new era by launching its weekly TV current affairs show called BBC Probaho which will be aired by one of Bangladesh's leading satellite TV stations, 'Channel-I'.

Sabir Mustafa, son of one of Bangladesh's pioneer journalists and language activists, K G Mustafa, instinctively took journalism as his career. “I used to listen to all the political discussions at my home. As my father was a progressive political activist and journalist, I literally grew up in a culture of newspaper and politics. So I did not have to spend much time to choose journalism as my career.”

After completing graduation in International Relations, Sabir stepped into the mainstream media by joining The Daily Star as its assistant editor. In 1999 Sabir's journey with BBC Worldwide began after working for several other newspapers and after concluding a brief comeback to his first mainstream workstation, The Daily Star.

“When I first joined BBC I faced different kinds of challenges as the task in this type of electronic media is totally different. However, I could cope quickly as I had the journalistic knowledge and this is what is very important to work for any kind of news media,” says Sabir.

From 2005 Sabir has been working as the Editor of BBC Bengali service. During his 15-year-long career as the head of BBC Bangla, he has come up with a wide range of popular programmes such as BBC Sanglap. Though Sabir's audiences cover the entire world of Bengali-speaking people, he always gives special attention to the Bangladeshi audiences which constitutes the major bulk of Bengali-speaking population.

As part of his effort to provide this wide range of audiences, with more resourceful programmes, Sabir and his team in BBC Bangla took the initiative to launch weekly TV programme Probaho. Sabir says, “In the newspaper we usually get sensational news about politics, incidents and accidents and in most of the cases these are negative ones. However, I think the actual significant news is how our resilient people are struggling and thriving with their livelihood in the midst of all

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odds. These are the stories behind the news that have been developed gradually and thus, remained behind the limelight.”

The goal of BBC Probaho is actually to reveal these stories behind the news in a very informative and entertaining way. For example, in the first session of BBC

Probaho, a very informative and enlightening story about the political struggle in Kashmir and the effect of multi-million Bollywood industry on the struggle has been broadcasted in a very interesting way.

Sabir says that in the future BBC,

Probaho will continuously be providing such exciting stories from all over the world. “We have seen in our survey that most of our audiences are between 18 to 35 years of age. To engage this youth population we will diversify our programme with a lot of engaging content in coming days.”

BBC Bangla, as a reliable news outlet, has always secured a special space in our hearts especially for its role during the crisis periods of our country. We expect that with its new TV programme, it will continuously give us some entertaining as well as educative moments in our life. ■

MAILBOX

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PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

“In With the New”

The Star Weekend's initiative to promote the emerging politicians is appreciable. I liked the positive stories of our new generation politicians published in this issue (published in June 12, 2015) of the Star Weekend. However, I think the Star Weekend team could include some more faces. It has missed some aspiring young political leaders who are no less resourceful than the covered ones. My suggestion is we should put more emphasis on the social leaders than the political ones. I think the contribution of social leaders to Bangladesh's development is far more significant than the politicians.

*Abraar Sakib
Uttara, Dhaka*

Go Ahead, Team Bangladesh!

Bangladesh is now one of the well-known countries in the cricketing world. The tigers are playing excellent cricket consistently, have been since the world cup. In the world cup, we defeated England to reach the dreamy quarter finals. After the World Cup, we whitewashed Pakistan impressively. Now the team spirit among the tigers is extremely high. Our team is now full of talented and experienced batsmen and bowlers. They are some of the heroic sons of our country who strive to keep our nation's stature upright. We expect that our team will show their outstanding performance against India. Team Bangladesh, go ahead, you are the bearers of hopes and dreams of 16 crore people of our country.

*Shayek Ahmed Sajib
Department of English, University of Rajshahi*

“Preparing for the Blessed Month”

Last week's article published in the health page of the Star Weekend was really resourceful and also very topical. Most of us don't take any preparation before the holy month of Ramadan. We often pass it like we pass the other eleven months of the year. Many of us fast throughout the month but without taking any care of our body and soul. Unlike regular health tips, the article not only includes some important health issues but it also shows me the way to heal my soul during this holy month. I would like to thank the writer for her effort in this regard.

*Sarawat Alam
Kalyanpur, Dhaka*



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

The opinions expressed in these letters do not necessarily represent the views of the Star Weekend.



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