October 23, 2015

The Daily Star

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

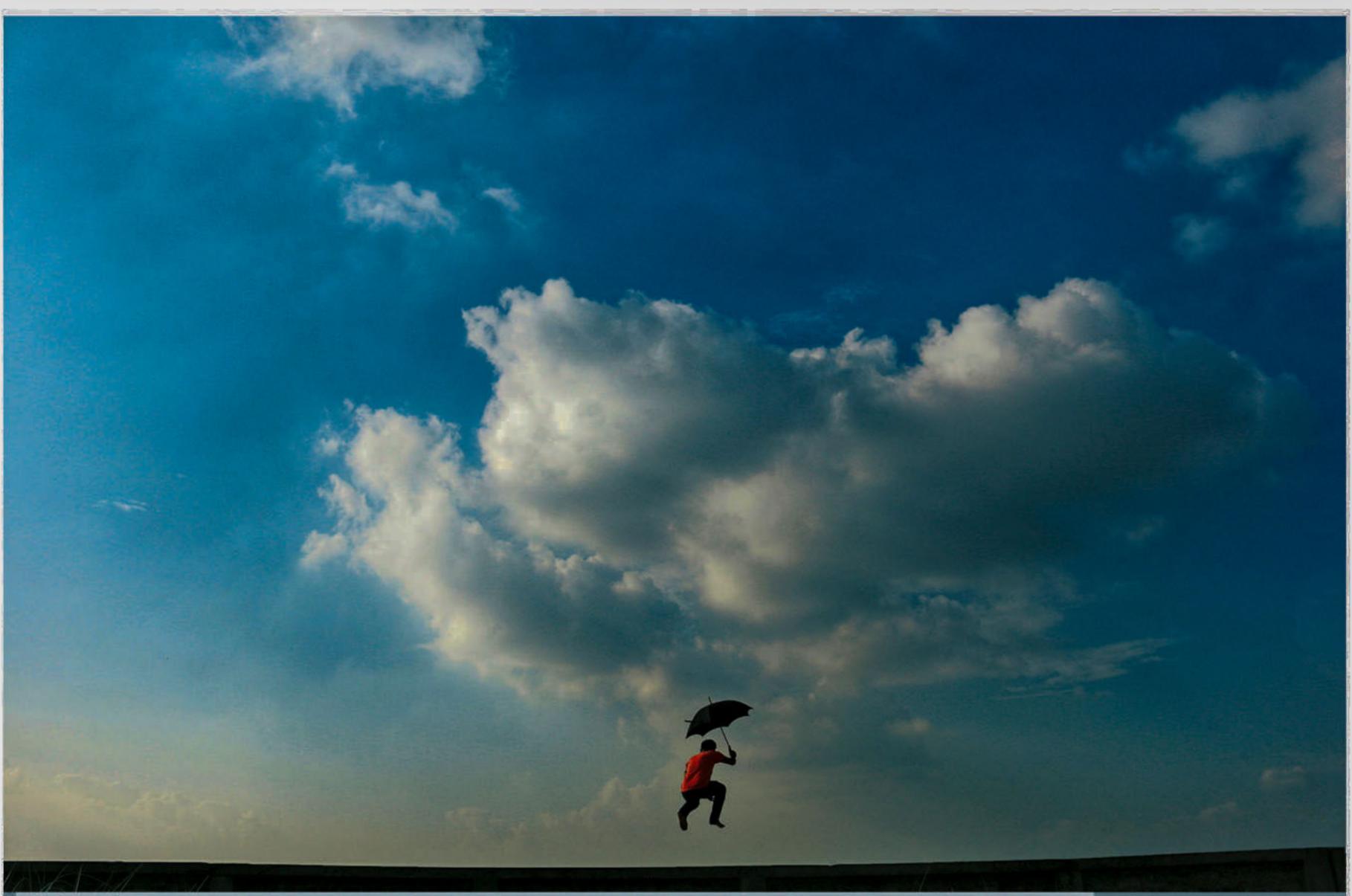


PHOTO: FAISAL ZAMAN

"When in doubt, make a fool of yourself. There is a microscopically thin line between being brilliantly creative and acting like the most gigantic idiot on earth.

So what the hell, leap." ~Cynthia Heimel, "Lower Manhattan Survival Tactics"

SNAPSHOT

## MAILBOX

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PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

In the Realm of History

I would like to thank the Star Weekend for bringing such an awe-inspiring personality to light through this week's spotlight (published on October 16, 2015). It was wonderful to know that someone from our country has been collecting historical records with so much care and dedication. His passion for archiving history has made him one of the most valuable personalities of our time. His youthful mind, passion for knowledge and enthusiastic spirit to change the society is really remarkable. He is an inspiration for the youngsters like us. I would like to give him respect from my heart, as he showed what could be achieved through hard work, passion and dedication.

Ashraful Islam

Kawran Bazaar, Dhaka

## The Sparkling Star Mosque The Star mosque is one of the most beautiful

mosques of Bangladesh. Thanks a ton, Star Weekend, for publishing an article (published on October 16, 2015) about it. am really amazed to learn about the awesome contribution of a generous local merchant named Ali Jaan Bepari to preserve this historic site. He not only refurbished i but also increased its beauty by inserting some of the most precious and rare architectural decoration while maintaining the mosque's original structure with calculated precision. When most of our people are busy in destroying valuable archaeological sites, this merchant is an nspiring example of how we should protec our heritage sites with our own initiative. Kamran Jawad Dhanmondi, Dhaka

## Learning from the Periphery

The article titled 'Learning from the Periphery'(published on October 16, 2015) depicted one of the most remarkable aspects of Dhaka. In this city, no matter how unfriendly to the women it is, tens of thousands of young women from many remote. corners of Bangladesh are living independently to study and to earn a better living. Leaving their homes far behind, these courageous young women are passing their days in congested hostels overcoming many challenges. The article was also a pleasant read as the writer revealed some of the interesting titbits of hostel life in a very charming way. Zara Khan Lalbagh, Dhaka



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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

REMEMBRANCE

## APURBAJAHANGIR

e was considered one of the key figures of modern Bengali literature. His writings on humanism, human relations and romanticised rebellion of the youth have touched millions of hearts. Poems such as *Asader Shirt* and *Shadhinota Tumi* still provoke chills when perused, and will always be considered great contributions to Bangla Litrature. Though it has been around nine years since his soul left this world, Shamsur Rahman's legacy will forever be ingrained in the Bangla culture.



PHOTO: INTERNET

Shamsur Rahman

Even though he is more known as a poet, Shamsur Rahman spent a lot of his time in the world of journalism. After his life as a student, Rahman started his career as a programme producer in Radio Pakistan Dhaka Kendra, and later switched to the daily newspaper Morning News and then Jihad. Shamsur Rahman's major contribution in journalism was while he was in *Dainik Pakistan* (renamed Dainik Bangla after independence). He was first appointed as the assistant editor and was later promoted to the editor of *Dainik Bangla* and *Bichitra*.

Throughout his career in *Dainik Bangla*, Shamsur Rahman wrote columns which were very popular among readers. His famous columns went by the title *Prashangata Ullekhjoggo, Janantik* e and *Moinr Dinlipi*. Most of the columns were about art, culture, books and cinema. One of the reasons his narratives were so popular was because they were written in the format of diary entries, and included a lot of his inspiring personal thoughts in them. Most of them were written with a pseudonym as the by-line, and were later published as books. In 1987, after the government bestowed excessive control over *Dainik Bangla* and *Bichitra*. Shamsur Rahman, in protest, resigned from his post as the editor.

His writings were undoubtedly unparalleled and were praised by readers in the country and abroad. Famous journalist and former editor of *Dainik Shongbad*, Johur Hossain Chowdhury once said that if his columns were compared to a desert, Shamsur Rahman's column is the garden we search for in the wasteland. Former colleague and media analyst Muhammad Jahangir says, "At that time, we all used to wait for Shamsur Rahman's column. I think most of the country's people who were involved in the arts and culture anxiously waited for his writings." "The level of his writings are incomparable and such writings are not to be found in newspapers these days."

