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**"To get the full value of joy you must have someone to divide it with."**  
— Mark Twain

**SNAPSHOT**

**EVENT**

**B**angladesh is filled with graduates who have learned from developed countries, who are now assets to the development of our own nation. Recognising and awarding them will only help them take their work further. With such a strong initiative; the American Alumni Association (AAA) of Bangladesh hosted their fourth Awards Night to recognise the Outstanding American Alumni in our country. The ceremony took place on November 20, 2015, at the Grand Ball Room of The Westin, in Gulshan, Dhaka. Commerce Minister, MP Tofail Ahmed graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Distinguished guests, such as Tahsin Aman, President of AAA, Arefeen Syed, Secretary of AAA, Rita Lohani Treasure of AAA, among others were present at the event.

The American Alumni Association is a society of graduates of American colleges and universities who are living in Bangladesh and are currently contributing and serving to the advancement of the nation as active citizens. AAA's objective is to encourage association among American graduates; to aid members to pursue careers that make good use of their

**AAA: AWARDING EXCELLENCE**

**NAZIBA BASHER**

PHOTO: COURTESY

abilities and majors in their academic life, and to preserve a record of skills that can be delivered to domestic and international users. AAA recognises members of noteworthy accomplishments, presents awards and scholarships, assists delegates of American Colleges and universities, and provides assistance to Bangladesh students exploring prospective possibilities for quality education in the United States. AAA also runs Computer-Based Testing (CBT) examinations in Dhaka, such as TIBT, GRE, IIBA and other professional examinations that candidates need in order to be eligible to apply to American universities and other foreign universities, and to serve their professional credentials purposes. AAA also runs a



Learning Centre for GRE and TOEFL exams which prepares potential and interested candidates to take the mentioned exams. The event, after the award ceremony, ended on a beautiful note with the tunes of Pentagon, the band. The awardees for the fourth American Alumni Association Award were: In the field of Entrepreneurship and Innovation- Abdul

Muktadir, in the field of Business and Industry- Syed Nasim Manzur, in the field of Education- Professor A Mannan, in the field of Public Affairs- Ejaj Ahmad, in the field of Science and Technology- Dr Abed Chaudhury, in the fields of Arts and Culture- Ibrahim Kamal Ahmed and lastly, in the field of sports- recently titled adventurer of the year, mountaineer Wasfia Nazreen.

**MAILBOX**

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PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

**The Gathering of Literary Minds**

I expected that the *Star Weekend* would publish an excellent feature article on the Dhaka Lit Fest and my expectation came into reality. Like me those who could not go to that festival of humanity and intellect, due to the life decaying, tight working schedule even in the weekend, that well written spotlight article (published on November 27, 2015) has given a resourceful insight. It is really praiseworthy that amidst such high level security alert and recent attacks on the writers, the organisers managed to launch the festival successfully. Hopefully, Dhaka Lit Fest will come next year with more innovative and resourceful features.

Nirjhor Hasan  
Uttara, Dhaka

**An Artist with a Difference**

To do something different one's inner motivation is vital. For instance, chicken sees the light of this world by breaking the egg shell apart with a force which comes from its inner self. In the last issue, the interview of Chanchal Chowdhury (published on November 27, 2015) touched my mind. As Chanchal was motivated to the art of acting from his soul, from his internal being, he has become a successful and true artist. Nowadays acting has become a means of popularity. But artists like Chanchal can be an example of how actors can create a difference by focusing on the art rather than emphasising on gaining impermanent, cheap popularity.

S M Jobyer  
University of Dhaka

**Woe of Homelessness**

Transgender people in our society are still neglected although now they have been recognised as the 'third gender' by the state. However, it is our attitudes, comments and stereotypical idea which have excluded them from our society. We all should try our best to treat them equally. If they get proper facilities like us, there is no doubt that they will be able to play significant role for the development of our society. However, it is our duty to give them a platform of equal opportunity. We should remember that they are also the creations of Allah and for such discrimination we shall be held responsible to Him. However I would like to thank the *Star Weekend* for publishing such a pragmatic article (published on November 27, 2015) about this humanitarian issue.

Rabiul Hassan Ripon  
Badda, Dhaka



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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

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