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Editor (Star Weekend)

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PHOTO: SAURAV DEY

“Victorious warriors win first and then go to war, while defeated warriors go to war first and then seek to win.” -- Sun Tzu, Chinese military general, strategist, and philosopher.

SNAPSHOT

VICTORY ON THE STREETS

M H HAIDER

PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO



various events held across Dhaka to mark the occasion, the very spirit of victory was to be found everywhere - omnipresent. As the roads of my neighbourhood were relatively empty, they served as cricket pitches and badminton courts. Shouts and cheers were all around.

Signs of festivity were everywhere I looked. As I sped through alleys and got onto the main road, my radio was subdued with loud speakers playing songs of the liberation war. These songs had an immense influence on the valiant freedom fighters; when the going got tough, the powerful lyrics helped them carry forward towards

victory. Till today, they don't fail to uplift your mood or motivate you. They are, therefore, timeless. The main roads were not as empty as I thought they would be, though. Everybody was out, it seemed; and everybody, unlike me, had somewhere to go! I, the other hand, made no plans, except for being the silent spectator of things around me.

Reds and greens were all over the place. The splash of colours, borrowed from our flag, was on the attires of men and women, from tops to saris to the 'teep' on the forehead. Many were also wearing jerseys.

And there were the flags themselves. Street vendors walked around carrying flags of all sizes, displaying them in a long bamboo.

It reminded me of my childhood days in Old Dhaka, where, I remember, the streets were decorated with countless small paper flags glued on strings which were tied on series of opposite houses on either side of the alleys. Entire roads, therefore, became a carnival of flags.

People celebrate occasions like Independence Day and Victory Day in their own, unique ways. No matter how a person celebrates, joys and cheers and laughs are ubiquitous - after all, isn't that how victorious and independent people are supposed to be? Celebration, in some form or other - from cricket matches on neighbourhoods to concerts on fields to the attires worn - runs far and wide.

There are a hundred different ways you could have fun on Victory Day. Simply driving through the streets of Dhaka, for me, happens to be one of them.

A government holiday in the middle of the week is, I believe, a gift from the heavens! It gives us the rare opportunity to be lazy and enjoy an extra (and much-needed) day of downtime. It also provides the even rarer opportunity of driving through the streets of Dhaka without irritably fighting through the maddening traffic.

So, on this Victory Day, I thought about going for a drive.

As soon as I fired up the car, the radio started playing patriotic songs. It was perhaps the best prelude to my journey I could wish for, as it perfectly set the mood for the experience I was about to have.

I say this because the aura of victory was in the air. Apart from the

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Say Yes to Social Media

At first I would like to thank the *Star Weekend* for bringing to light the burning issue of social media ban through its article titled "The Power of Social Media" (published on December 4, 2015). In this article the writer has rightly shown the real power of social media like Facebook, Whatsapp and Viber. The writer has given a numbers of examples how Facebook helps to identify and arrest the culprits and draw the attention of the authority. We must agree that every invention involves use and abuse, Facebook is not an exception to it. But it totally depends on the users. To ban on Facebook is like 'For remedy of headache, cut the head off.' So, wise and pragmatic decisions are expected from the authority. We, the whole nation, are expecting to lift the ban on other social media platforms like Viber and Whatsapp which was imposed almost a month ago.
Shah Alam Rajin
Department of English, Narsingdi Government College

Face to Face with Wasfia Nazreen

Last week's *Star Weekend* was a pleasant read as there was an intriguing story about Wasfia Nazreen's conquest of the summit of Carstensz pyramid. Kudos to Wasfia, she is the first Bangladeshi woman who reached the top seven points of seven mountains from the seven continents. It is a great achievement for the nation indeed. She is an inspiration for all the Bangladeshi women who want to break the social barriers and taboos. She has set up a milestone by continuing her project "BDon7summits" despite facing a lot of ordeals and hassles. Best wish goes out to her as she wants to open up a school for adolescents girls who would like to learn from adventure and nature. Finally, a big round of appreciation for the *Star Weekend* for covering this celebrated woman once again.
Samiul Rajjul
NSU, Dhaka



PHOTO: JOSHUA NOYA

All We Need is Pateince

The *star weekend's* article titled "Say yes to social media" (published on December 4, 2015) touched my mind as it showed me several pragmatic examples of how Facebook has become a part and parcel of our lives. People from all walks of life especially the students were making variety of comments about the ban on Facebook. Most of these comments were pejorative as they failed to get access to Facebook. Even the political leaders who banned Facebook for the public could not keep themselves from using it. However, we should keep in mind that whatever our country has done is for our own welfare. A country never wants to endanger its own citizens. If security is the concern, then we should sacrifice our simple temptation of using Facebook. To establish a welfare state, citizens must be patient and show respect to the decisions of the government.
Md Zahirul Islam Shawon
BBA, University of Rajshahi

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

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