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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

"The most important thing of our life is to have a celebration and then with determination move into our common, shared and different future."
Michael D. Higgins, Ninth and current President of Ireland

SNAPSHOT

ENDEAVOUR

It is 5 o'clock in the morning. The first light of dawn is still far from the Dhaka sky. Defying the dense fog and a chilly 10 degrees centigrade temperature, some shadowy figures mounted on bicycles start to appear in one of the alleys of Dhaka city. Their bicycles, loaded with piles of packages neatly covered with plastic sheets, will raise the curiosity of many if anyone is left to see them at this hour in such harsh weather.

Their cargo, which they have carried with so much care and caution, are thousands of copies of newspapers, to be specific, The Daily Star, the most widely-circulated English newspaper in Bangladesh. Every day, thousands of workers with their bicycles spread out all over the country with copies of The Daily Star confronting unfavourable weather, taking extreme security risks and sacrificing time with their families.

Md Suruj Mia, a young man of 23 years says, "In the Elephant road area of Dhaka, we, a team of twenty hawkers, are assigned to provide newspapers to hundreds of homes and offices. We collect the newspapers from the distributor everyday at 5 am, one amongst the eighty-five centres for newspaper collection in Dhaka city alone."

Thanks to these dedicated workers, everyday more than sixty five thousand readers all over the country get their copy of The Daily Star on time. Masud Bulbul, the circulation manager of The Daily Star says, "The circulation team ensures that all the newspapers will be reached to these hawkers working in all the districts and Upazilas of Bangladesh with full punctuality."

"Under any circumstance, whether political unrest or natural calamities, our vehicles reach every district from Teknaf to

Tetulia and provide the hawkers with the newspapers before sunrise so that they can reach the readers on time," he adds.

However, before taking the newspapers to this massive chain of distribution, there is another mammoth task. It is the printing of hundreds and thousands of copies of The Daily Star which also happens behind the curtains, hidden from the outside world.

The process starts by sending all the content of the next day's newspaper to the "Computer to Press (CTP) Section" located at the printing house. In this section, a team of skilled technicians produce "plates" with the help of a CTP machine which is actually imprinting the content on aluminium plates with accurate design and colour tone.

"Although this machine has made the task easier, we must still be very careful about colour correction," says Md.

content of those plates to the newsprint papers and produce around one hundred thousand copies of The Daily Star every day. A team of two hundred skilled workers remain constantly alert to register the perfect colour-setting of the machine, to ensure constant supply of paper, ink and other material.

Selim S H Chowdhury, Manager, Production and Events, The Daily Star says, "The printing of the next day's newspaper starts from 11 pm, the previous night, and continues till 5 am in the morning. All the workers of the press spend sleepless nights to ensure flawless and high quality publication for our readers.

"Without their dedication and skills, it would be impossible for us to maintain such perfection in quality for all these years", he adds."

When we open up the pages of our

THE UNSUNG HEROES

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN
PHOTOS: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

Nazimuddin, a technician who has been in this profession for 17 years.

These plates are finally transferred to the printing section for final publication. Seven huge Web printing machines, drinking up tons of blue, black, yellow and magenta (CMYK) inks, transfer the

favourite newspaper and read reports with by-lines of the renowned reporters, none of us can feel the sacrifice and struggle of these workers behind the scene who spend sleepless nights with gigantic machines and chemicals to publish the newspapers and who risk their lives to



MAILBOX

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Police Brutality on the Loose

I liked the article of the above caption that appeared on 22nd January 2016 in the *Star Weekend*, and at the same time I was sad to know of the scattered stories of police's unspeakable brutality that happen now and then. Certainly the inter-alia of the write-up is a sort of strong message for the police high-ups to essentially take note of such horrifying activities being carried out in harassing the innocent people and general mass as a whole, and behaving with them like hoards of beasts. It is a grave situation and timely intervention is a must to stop further escalation. It rightly and appropriately pictured the so-called law enforcing agency as- "Macher raja Elish, Desher raja Police" and the citizens are just preys for them. Cannot we expect better policing from our national police force where we would like them to treat the citizens with respect and in a friendly manner? Human-beings must be treated with compassion, love and dignity. Mashudul Haque
Central Road, Dhaka

A Note of Thanks

I have just finished reading the article titled "A Fight For Land and Livelihood" by Ahmad Ibrahim published last week (January 22, 2016). I would like to tell him how much I appreciated his clearly written and excellently informative article. While much has been written on this topic, his article expresses both the positive and negative aspects of this significant movement by the tea workers of Chunarughat, without taking an emotional stance on either side of the issue. Lots of thanks to him for his constructive and unbiased writing.

S A Murad Sarkar
Chunarughat, Habiganj



PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

A Fight for Land and Livelihood

The article entitled "A Fight for Land and Livelihood" published last week (January 22, 2016) was an articulate piece that reminds me about the great man Dr. Martin Luther King and his words "I just want to do God's will. And he's allowed me to go to the mountain. And I've looked over, and I've seen the Promised Land! I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the Promised Land." The tea workers are some of the most oppressed and exploited people of our country. With meager income from the tea companies, they cannot sustain their lives. This piece of land is their actual source of sustenance which they are now about to lose. The most unfortunate thing is they didn't even know that their land was earmarked by the government to establish this special economic zone. Before taking possession of this land, the government must sit with the tea workers and compensate them with more advantages otherwise their land, livelihood and freedom will be vanquished.

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



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