

THOSE GOOD OLD DAYS

FAYEKA ZABEEN SIDDIQUA

Let me tell you a few stories from the pre-historic era. Enam Bhai clears his throat sitting in his glass walled cubicle with the fellow photographers working for The Daily Star.

The storyteller here is Sk Enamul Haq, popularly known as Enam Bhai, our chief photographer who has been with The Daily Star from the very beginning. "Pre-historic?" I laugh.

"They took place in a time when there was no eight storied Daily Star Centre in Farmgate. When there was no need for a well-equipped graphics section and no wide range of digital cameras," he continues in a dramatic voice.

"There was, however, one clunky desktop computer, a few 35 mm film cameras, and some large pasting boards to work on the newspaper layout. And there were pitch-black darkrooms, and this is a story about how we got freed from these matchbox sized darkrooms when digital cameras came into our lives," he continues.

Back then, the journey of clicking the right picture to delivering it to the newsroom was quite a long one.

"We started off as a black and white newspaper when we had a team of four photographers- AKM Mohsin, SK Enamul Haque, Shafiuddin Ahmed Ditu and Hiru. After capturing the pictures, we would spend hours in the darkroom, standing in sweat and congestion, in suspense and joy to develop the films into negatives. And then we would put the negatives onto the photosensitive papers that make the final print. After the final washing, once they were dry, we would put a caption on the back of it and turn them in. Such a long process!" Enam Bhai remembers his eyes closed.

"We were the luckiest to have the first air-condition set up in our darkroom in the history of The Daily Star," he adds laughingly.

While these days we take many photographs to get that one perfect shot, back in the days of film photography, there was barely any space for a second chance.

"A typical roll of film would cost 10 taka and used to have only 36 exposures, and on top of that we had to spend those very carefully. Using just your one perfect sense, we were required to capture that one moment with one click," he continues. "In 1991, when Lieutenant General (Retd.) Hussain Muhammad Ershad was given a prison sentence; I was there to take his photograph crowded with many other photographers. My challenge was to take a photo of him in one shot, which I did and later shared with other photographers."

"We had run into hard times a couple of times," Enam Bhai recalls. "Unmindful for a moment, you might end up having an over exposed photograph and uncommon thing to happen."

"You couldn't back up film; if something happened to your rolls between shooting and developing, all your work goes in vain. It happened once to our fellow photographer who went to Mymensingh to photograph the devastating flood and when he came back he discovered that nothing had been captured in his film."

I gasp in wonder, not daring to ask what happened after that.

INAUGURAL ISSUE

The Daily Star

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 Some of the weapons which may be used in a Gulf war could leave doctors surprised to treat wounded troops. Saddam says US troops will swim in blood.
News Briefs
 With a rise in the oil import bill, remittances falling and reports to Kuwait and Iraq that the fragile economy of Bangladesh is facing a harder time should the war break out in the Gulf.
NEWS BRIEFS
 Three VIPs interrogated
 Police interrogates Bangladesh intelligence while the students under an arms case are arrested. Some of the arrested were very important persons were represented by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). Their names cannot be revealed.
 Four Rashid charged
 A corruption case was filed Sunday against former Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his associates. The Anti-Corruption Bureau filed the case with former Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Minister of Education Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Minister of Health Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Minister of Agriculture Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
 Solar eclipse on January 16
 An astrological eclipse of the sun will take place on January 16. It will begin at 02:51 a.m. and end at 08:55 a.m. The duration of the eclipse will be 7 minutes 47.3 seconds. The eclipse will be visible in Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and other parts of the world. "A total eclipse will be visible in the tropical zone," said a local astronomer.

Participation by largest number of parties in 9 years
AL, BNP, 109 others file nominations
 By Staff Correspondent
 Over 2,000 candidates filed nomination papers in 238 constituencies of Bangladesh for the February 27 Parliamentary Elections. Election Commission sources said they were yet to receive nomination papers from the rest of the constituencies.
 Secretary of nomination papers will be done today (Monday). The last date for withdrawal of nomination papers is January 21.
 Election and nomination were held in 111 constituencies and hundreds of candidates have filed nomination papers. The number of parties contesting the polls this time is the highest.
 See Page 10 col. 4

JP's comeback move stalled
 By Masudul Alam and Mainuddin Nasser
 Growing resistance by the ruling coalition, except the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), has stalled the comeback move of the Bangladesh People's Party (BPP).
 The BPP, led by its founder and President M. Ghulam Azam, had announced its intention to contest the February 27 Parliamentary Elections. The party had also announced its intention to contest the February 27 Parliamentary Elections.
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AL to help fair polls: Hasina
 BNP never deviates from ideals: Khaleda
 Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader Khaleda Zia said the party will not deviate from its ideals and principles. She said the party will continue to work for the establishment of a democratic and just government.
 See Page 10 col. 7

Perez leaves Baghdad
Peace chances slim
 UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar (l) is accompanied by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz upon his arrival in Baghdad on January 12 to hold peace talks with Iraq President Saddam Hussein.
 See Page 10 col. 4

8-party talks on sharing seats remain in trouble
 By Chhapal Basak
 The new adjustment talks among components of the eight-party alliance continued to be in trouble to agree on a compromise. The talks are expected to be resumed within a couple of days after leaders return to Dhaka from their respective constituencies.
 See Page 10 col. 1

Ershad files nomination from 5 constituencies
 By Chhapal Basak
 Former Prime Minister Ershad has filed nomination papers for five constituencies. He has filed nomination papers for five constituencies. He has filed nomination papers for five constituencies.
 See Page 10 col. 1

Donors to fix aid strategy after manifestoes
 By Masudul Alam
 Donors are waiting for the major political parties to announce their election manifestoes. They are waiting for the major political parties to announce their election manifestoes. They are waiting for the major political parties to announce their election manifestoes.
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Unproductive spending on UzZs concern donors
 By Khalid Rahman and Shahiduzzaman Khan
 Unproductive spending on UzZs has become a major concern for donors. They are concerned about the spending on UzZs. They are concerned about the spending on UzZs.
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Pro-Moscow group takes over in Lithuania
 MOSCOW, Jan 13 - A pro-Moscow group has taken over in Lithuania. The group has taken over in Lithuania. The group has taken over in Lithuania.
 See Page 10 col. 4

The inaugural issue of The Daily Star published on January 14, 1991.

HERITAGE

INITIATIVE

In the last two and a half decades, The Daily Star not only witnessed and reported the changes around it - it had been an agent of change itself. Throughout a myriad range of its projects, The Daily Star continues to participate and make a difference in society. Here are some of the initiatives the organisation is a part of.

Bangladesh Business Awards

Since the beginning of the 21st century, DHL and The Daily Star have been organising the Bangladesh Business Awards, which aims to give recognition to the extraordinary business leaders and enterprises in the country. Awards are given in 4 categories: Business Person of the Year, Outstanding Woman in Business, Enterprise of the Year and Best Financial Institution of the Year.

With this initiative, The Daily Star encourages the entrepreneurial spirit of the nation, paying tribute to managers, innovators and business leaders. They are, after all, the backbone of the economy.

STAR INITIATIVES

M H HAIDER

PHOTOS: STAR FILE



The Daily Star's O' Level and A' Level Awards

This popular award-giving ceremony first took place in 1999. O' Level graduates who earn at least 6 A's and A' Level graduates who attain a minimum of 3 A's are given out awards for their outstanding academic results. Over the years, students have aspired to get the prestigious award and the annual gala event has been a source of inspiration for many.



Celebrating Life

An endeavour by Standard Chartered Bangladesh and The Daily Star, Celebrating Life - which was born in 2008 - provides a fabulous platform for creative expression. The competition brings out a kaleidoscope of the Bangladeshi life, portraying its various aspects through photography, lyrics and films. Participants can send in their works to participate in the contest.



Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef

The nationwide culinary battle has captured a lot of attention amongst the public. Aired on NTV, the programme is a reality show, where participants - selected through regional rounds - compete against each other in a series of gastronomic challenges. Cooking as a hobby or as a passionate pursuit has been taken up by Bangladeshi people from different walks of life. For them, this venture - which is jointly organised by Rupchanda and The Daily Star, provides a perfect opportunity to show off culinary acumen, win generous cash prizes and get exposure in the culinary industry.

The Daily Star ICT Awards

This is a brand new initiative. In association with Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), The Daily Star ICT Awards aims to give recognition to the outstanding achievements in the information and communications technology sector. Of course, this list of projects is not a comprehensive one. There are many other initiatives that had been taken up by this newspaper, from spelling contest (Spelling Bee) to a campaign of English language learning (English in Schools). Hopefully, in the next 25 years, we will undertake even bigger initiatives that we can proudly boast about on our 50th anniversary!

