

Newspaper offices are known for their hectic schedules. People working in one know how everyday assignments and edits can turn work into somewhat of a battle field. As journalists are also considered to be human beings, they sometimes require a certain escape route. A minute's get away from all the tippy-tappy-typing and brain storming. The Daily Star is no different and it has its own little space of stress relief. We call it The DS Café.

Located on the fourth floor of the Daily Star Centre, Ds Café is considered to be one of the major inspiration depots of the office. Nine in the morning is when the café opens up, serving the first meal of the day. The mixed vegetable or *daal* (lentil soup) served with *ruti* and *parata*'s straight out of the stove becomes the perfect uplift to every journalist's day. As the day moves on, the DS Café turns into a place of rendezvous. Rattling sounds of tea cups and saucers fill the room, giving the ideal ambiance to the meet and greet. Shingaras and Samosas can be seen filling up the plates till lunch.

"Lunch hour is by far the busiest hour," says Mamun, employee at the DS Café. Every table gets booked as the cafe serves the most delicious meal they make. Daily Star journalists may or may not take pride in their work, but they sure take pride in DS Café's lunch. From chicken *jhal fry* to beef *bhuna* to fresh fish, most of the time everything is on the menu. "The *bhortas* and dried fish are to die for," says Nilima Jahan, reporter at The Daily Star. "I know it is going to be a good day when I see these items on the menu." Inviting someone to lunch in the DS Café is considered an honour. Not because of the invite but to give them a taste of this amazing food experience.

Other than lunch, another



ENDEAVOUR

# THE BITE BEHIND THE NEWS

APURBA JAHANGIR  
PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

good time to try out the cafe is during the evening. This is the time when DS Café offers some mouth watering snacks. The one thing which is always on the menu and is very popular among the employees is the chicken fry. Another great time to be a part of the DS Café crowd is when a cricket match is going

on. The canteen switches its role into a mini stadium. One can see sports reporters seated in the front row, listening intently and remembering every single detail, while others sit on the edge of their seats to see the winning 6 runs scored by our Tigers. Though it may sound like all fun and games, DS Café is also

known as one of the major places to hold the weekly or daily meetings. "We come up with our best ideas in this place and I think the food has a lot to do with that," says Shah Nawaz Khan Chandan, reporter at the Star Weekend.

The canteen is run by a team of 19. They are considered as

equals or even more essential to the newspapers office. They and the food they deliver is a vital source to Daily Star's news circle. There might be other restaurants coming and going in our city but those who experienced the joy of the DS Café will always have a soft spot for it in their hearts. ■



BOOKS

## FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS AND KNOWLEDGE

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN  
PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Entering into this year's *Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela* will give you an exciting surprise. Just beside the entrance to the historic Suhrawardi Uddyan, this year's venue of the book fair, you will see a very familiar name which actually starts every morning of your life with news and views from all over the world. Yes, you will see the good old name of "The Daily Star" written in classical English text as usual, placed appropriately beside the entrance to the country's largest festival of knowledge, culture and intelligentsia.

This year for the first time The Daily Star has adorned the book fair with its thriving publication house "Daily Star Books" with packs of new publications both in English and Bengali. Launched in 2013, Star Books



created a stir among the national and international readers with its groundbreaking debut publication "Beyond the Lines," the autobiography of the veteran Indian journalist, author and human rights activist Kuldip Nayar. Thanks to Nayar's account and evaluation on the partition of Indian subcontinent, his

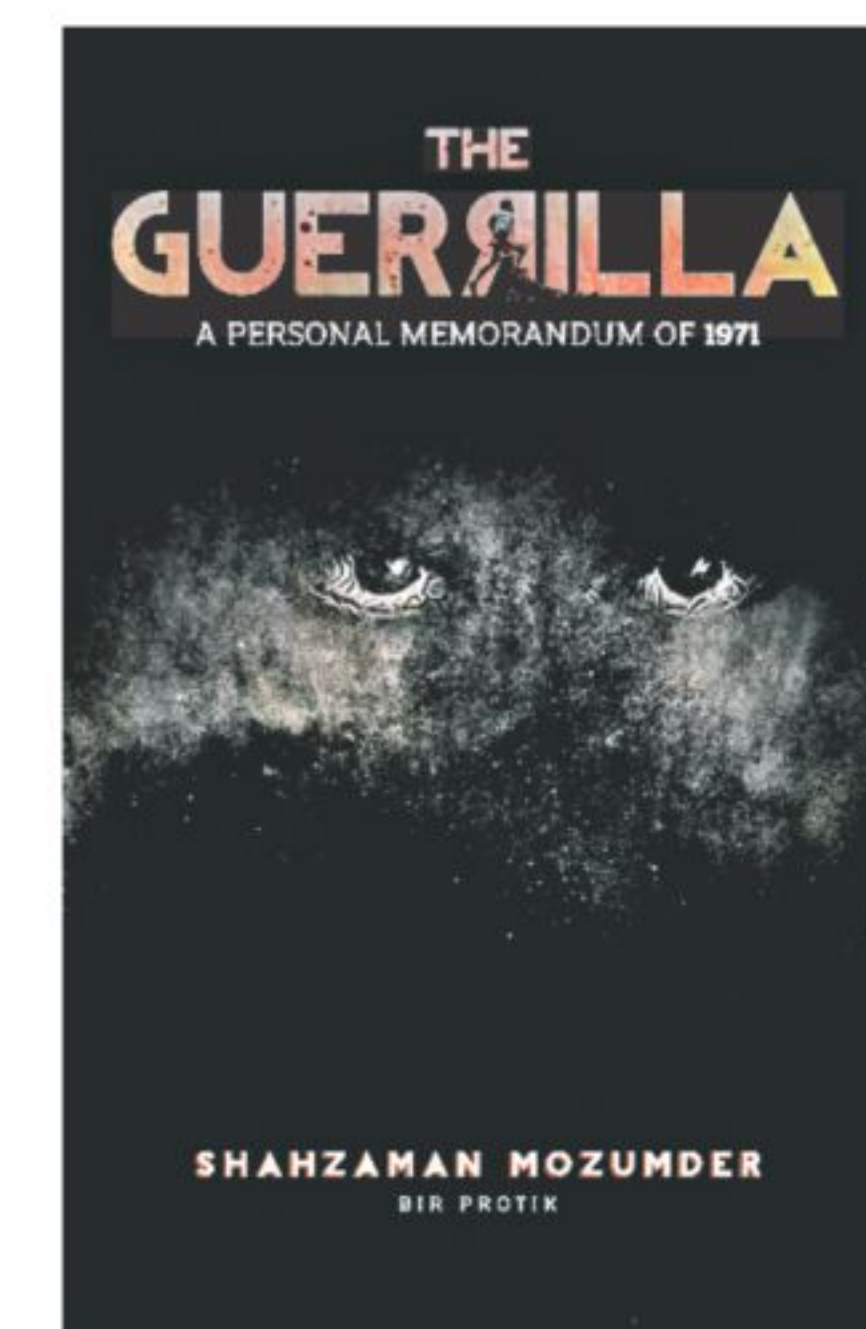
experience with the activities of Indian government high ups during Bangladesh's liberation war and onwards, his account on his momentous career as a journalist, diplomat and rights activist, this priceless publication has been acclaimed all over the world.

After this gracious beginning, Daily Star Books continued to launch quality books and quickly become a reputed publication house in Bangladesh. During the 15th anniversary of The Daily Star, it launched an anthology of English stories written by Bangladeshi writers. This unique initiative opened the door for international readers to taste the literary jewels of Bangladesh.

A comment regarding this publication by Mahfuz Anam, the editor of The Daily Star rightly explains the mission of this creative enterprise, "By encouraging younger Bangladeshis to write in English, by providing them with a forum where they can publish their pieces, by helping to spread the corollary values of literacy, good citizenship, and cosmopolitanism, we help our nation to march forward."

In 2015, Daily Star Books launched an invaluable book titled "From Two Economies to Two Nations: My Journey to Bangladesh" by renowned scholar Rehman Sobhan on his thoughts and experiences regarding the liberation movement of Bangladesh and an anthology of stories and essays by Abul Mansur Ahmad, one of the pioneering leaders of independent Bangladesh.

Its original and extra ordinary publications have unveiled many lost historical truths, given the readers a broader outlook about the nation and inspired a pool of brilliant Bangladeshi writers by creating a strong platform for them. With fiction, travelogues, critical essays, autobiographies of world renowned personalities, pure literature and translations, Star Books has given the readers of Bangladesh a rich collection of excellent books with very affordable and



accessible price without compromising with the global quality.

Ahmede Mainul Hussain, the current head of Daily Star Books says, "We have had a long journey since 2013. In the last years' Dhaka Festival, Daily Star Books was the top selling publisher. It is a remarkable feat as some of the top publishers had also participated in it."

"This year we are going to launch seven new books, four Bengali and three English. Besides these, all of our publications, recent and old, will also be available at our stall in the book fair," he adds.

Visiting Ekushey Book Fair feels like meeting and talking with the literary soul of Bangladesh. However, to make the best of this festival, you must buy some books that can nourish your mind and quench your thirst for knowledge and for this; the stall of Daily Star Books can be the best place for you.

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