

| SHUTTERSTORIES |



PLACE THAT NEVER SLEEPS

PHOTOS: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO
TEXT: MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN



These are some of the photos that do not usually reach the millions of readers of the newspaper. These gigantic machines, these hardworking people are the strength behind the publication of Bangladesh's two most circulated and most popular newspapers, The Daily Star and Prothom Alo. These assiduous workers spend sleepless nights regularly with these huge rumbling machines devouring tons of papers, ink and colours to produce half a million copies of these newspapers every night. On the occasion of The Daily Star's 25th anniversary we would like to convey our respect and gratitude to these diligent, devoted but silent warriors of journalism without fear and favour. ■



| STRIKING A CHORD |



The Daily Star
Celebrating
25
Years of
Journalism without
Fear or Favour

25 is a big number, especially for a newspaper that has been successfully delivering to the people of Bangladesh for a quarter of a century. Not only has The Daily Star managed to build generations of confident writers, speakers and entrepreneurs, the paper has also represented the true picture of Bangladesh to the world outside. We went beyond the depressing images of floods and people trying to survive natural calamities to a Nobel Peace prize, youth activists working for street children, climbing the 7 summits and so much more.

Of course there are certain elements that I have noticed in the last 13 years (shy of a few weeks) — which would identify one as a journalist. They are way beyond the way a journalist dresses or speaks.

One of the shocking truths that I came across in the last decade is that journalism is so much more than jumping into

GIBBERISH- THE JOURNAL

ELITA KARIM

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

burning buildings, surviving with the uniforms at a war ridden state or even running with a camera strapped to your body, photographing the strikes, country wide shut downs, *michils* and burning buses. Yes, all this definitely are part and parcel of being a journalist — but it is dangerous work, and probably roughly 30-40 percent of the work. The rest of the 60-70 percent is writing the article, re-writing it, editing, justifying points of significance to the editor and then finally going for the layouts. Its funny how ad-films and films

fail to highlight the writing and editing parts while showcasing lives of journalists! Some adverts have even gone to the length of showcasing female journalists still managing to keep their skin 'white' and fresh, attending evening parties and attracting the 'right men', even after being the 'super-women' that they are.

But despite going through the gruelling tasks of writing and re writing, a journalist still tries to make time to think — for people, neighbourhoods, the road and transport system, the government, music,

art, cinema, children and development in general. They go through sleepless nights to promote a positive Bangladesh to the world. All he or she needs is some tea! The journalist — a super-being, someone who does not need sleep and is forever prepared to fight the villain, to voice out against the corporations and change worlds if necessary runs on plain old Bangali *dudh cha* (milk tea) and that too several cups at a time — to think, to decide and of course for some *adda*.

The messy table - yet another trait of an 'efficient' journalist! The table with a computer will comprise of books which he or she will need read, mountains of contributions from the general public waiting to be read, edited, accepted or rejected; receipts from the last tea break, pins, staplers, Filmfare magazines and diaries from 1991.

Here's wishing The Daily Star happy 25th birthday! ■

PEARLS OF WISDOM

"A FREE PRESS CAN, OF COURSE, BE GOOD OR BAD, BUT, MOST CERTAINLY WITHOUT FREEDOM, THE PRESS WILL NEVER BE ANYTHING BUT BAD."

ALBERT CAMUS
French philosopher, author and journalist



"A FREE PRESS NEEDS TO BE A RESPECTED PRESS."

TOM STOPPARD
British playwright and screenwriter



"I TELL YOU, IN MY OPINION, THE CORNERSTONE OF DEMOCRACY IS FREE PRESS - THAT'S THE CORNERSTONE."

MILOS FORMAN
Czech professor and film director

