

# WARM WISHES FROM ALL AROUND



**DR KAMAL HOSSAIN**  
EMINENT JURIST

The Daily Star is brave in publishing the truth. It speaks for the people. It was praised for giving directions whenever the nation went through hard times.



**NURUL ISLAM NAHID**  
EDUCATION MINISTER

The Daily Star has always played a role in advancing the spirits of the Liberation War and patriotism, and ensuring welfare of the people and the country.



**MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM**  
BNP ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL

In its 25 years, The Daily Star has worked for giving democracy an institutional shape. It also played a positive role in advancing the country's economy.



**OBAIDUL QUADER**  
ROAD TRANSPORT AND BRIDGES MINISTER

In terms of quality and standard, The Daily Star is the number one English daily in Bangladesh. I wish it all the best.



**BARRISTER M AMIR-UL ISLAM**  
EMINENT JURIST

The Daily Star's impartiality has always been steady and consistent. No one can question its non-partisan role... The paper is respected nationally and internationally for its credibility.



**SULTANA KAMAL**  
RIGHTS ACTIVIST

The Daily Star has been working with great courage and steadfastness to do journalism without fear or favour, which should be the main characteristics of the media.



**ANWAR HOSSAIN MANJU**  
ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

I am very pleased with The Daily Star's performance. I wish it all the best.



**GM QUADER**  
CO-CHAIRMAN OF JATIYA PARTY

The Daily Star knows how to lead from the front in upholding democracy in the country. I hope it will continue to do so in the future.



**SAYEED KHOKON**  
MAYOR, DHAKA SOUTH CITY CORPORATION

The Daily Star has been true to its slogan 'Journalism without Fear or Favour'. I hope it will continue to do so in the future.



**JEWEL AICH**  
MAGICIAN

The Daily Star is the pioneer of modern journalism in this country. From the front page to the back page, The Daily Star seems to be a foreign daily, not a local newspaper.



**BOBITA**  
ACTRESS

The Daily Star is known for its fair reporting. I enjoy its editorial page. My best wishes for the newspaper.



**FARIDUR REZA SAGAR**  
MEDIA PERSONALITY

The Daily Star speaks people's minds. It has an important part to play in the practice of democracy in Bangladesh.



**DR SAMANTA LAL SEN**  
EMINENT PHYSICIAN

The Daily Star speaks boldly. It supported the Burn Unit [of DMCH] in crisis moments including the Nimtoli fire incident. Doctors get encouragement from reading The Daily Star.



**AK AZAD**  
FORMER FBCCI PRESIDENT

The Daily Star publishes news maintaining objectivity. It has a lot of contribution to the country's economic growth. I hope The Daily Star will continue doing this in future as well.

## Glitz, warmth light up Star gala evening

FROM PAGE 1  
"Do the best for your nation in the next 25 years," he said.  
Torben Stephan, director at the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Media Programme Asia, Singapore, suggested that the newspaper should continue with the ethos of democratic values and bring in new generation of journalists committed to truth.  
Veena Sikri, convener of South Asia Women's Network, said not only in Bangladesh, readers outside also read The Daily Star for credible information, something that is worth praising.  
Rokia Afzal Rahman, chairperson of Mediaworld Ltd, the owning company of The Daily Star, said that people and their welfare were at the centre of the newspaper.  
She saluted the role of farmers, migrant workers, women, NGOs and the private sector for their immense contribution to the development of the country, which now stood tall in the international arena.  
Migrant workers contribute to the major share of the country's foreign reserve, while farmers through their hard work have tripled rice production in the last 40 years.  
Women are increasingly getting involved in economic activities on the

one hand and NGOs and the private sector are making laudable contribution to the country's socioeconomic development on the other, she added.  
"Bangladesh is now enjoying demographic dividend. Some 70 percent of our people are aged between 18 and 40. They can turn our economy.  
"Youths are the change-makers. Be bold, courageous and unstoppable," Rokia Afzal said.  
Also, Bangladesh's big strength is its geographical position. Being located by two big economic giants -- India and China -- the country can make the best use of the advantage by providing shipping services across the region, she added.  
She recalled the significant roles of the paper's founding editor SM Ali, founding chairman Azimur Rahman, founding managing director of the Mediaworld AS Mahmud and founding managing editor Taufique Aziz Khan.  
Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, lauded the role of the paper's board of directors, saying it never influenced the editorial policy of the newspaper, a fact that made the daily independent.  
Other members of the board include Shahnaz Rahman, Rouf Chowdhury, Latifur Rahman and Shamsur Rahman.

Addressing the guests, Anam said that in the past newspapers were more of a family business, but The Daily Star was the first paper launched with a corporate structure.  
Professor Dr Muhammad Yunus delivered The Daily Star Silver Jubilee Lecture.  
Among the attendees who came from abroad were: Irene Z Khan, director general of the International Development Law Organisation, Italy, Raj Chengappa, editorial director of India Today Group, Jaideep Bose, editorial director of Times of India, KN Tilak Kumar, editor-in-chief of Deccan Herald in India, Amitabha Datta, director of Calcutta Media Institute, Suthichai Yoon, chief adviser to the Editorial & Management Board of the Nation Multimedia Group of Thailand, Pana Janviroj, president of The Nation in Thailand, Thailand's TV programme producer Jirayut Topiyabutra, Philippines Daily Inquirer Editor-in-Chief John Nery, Myanmar's Eleven Media Group Managing Director Dr Thein Myint, the Kathmandu Post Editor Akhilesh Upadhyay, Nepali Times Editor and Publisher Kunda Dixit and Pakistan's GEO TV Executive Editor Hamid Mir.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Roads and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, Prime Minister's International Affairs Advisor Gowher Rizvi, Economic Adviser Moshir Rahman, Information Adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Forest and Environment Minister Anwar Hossain Manju, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon also graced the occasion.  
Among politicians who attended the Silver Jubilee are Awami League leaders Nooh ul Alam Lenin, Colonel (ret'd) Faruk Khan, Abdur Razzaque, Hasan Mahmood, Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, Captain (ret'd) Tajul Islam, Abdur Rahman, Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon, Jatiya Party leaders HM Ershad, Ruhul Amin Hawlader, Ziauddin Bablu, GM Quader, CPB President Mojahidul Islam Selim, Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain, BNP leaders Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahbubur Rahman, Moeen Khan, Selima Rahman, Asaduzzaman Ripan, Rizvi Ahmed, Zainul Abdin Farroque and Emran Saleh Prince.  
Rights activists Sultana Kamal, Hamida Hossain, Rasheda K

Chowdhury and Sara Hossain, Prothom Alo Editor Matiuur Rahman, Kaler Kantho Editor Imdadul Haque Milon, Bangladesh Protidin Editor Nayem Nizam, Bhorer Kagaj Editor Shaymol Dutt, Dhaka Tribune Editor Zafar Sobhan, media personalities Faridur Reza Sagar, Shykh Seraj, Munni Shah and Mozammel Babu; Dr Samanta Lal Sen, barristers M Amir-ul Islam and Rokanuddin Mahmud, magician Jewel Aitch and actor Hasan Imam were also present.  
Diplomats of foreign missions, including of the US, France, UK, European Union, Russia, and the UN agencies; Leading businessmen AK Azad, Siddiqur Rahman, Abdullah Al Mahmud Mahin, A Gafur, Masud Rahman and Fazlur Rahman and economist Mustafizur Rahman were also there.  
International Crimes Tribunal's prosecutors Rana Dasgupta, Zead Al Malum, Hrishikesh Saha and Sultan Mahmud Simon and tribunal's investigation agency's coordinator Abdul Hannan Khan, Joint Commissioner (crime) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Krishna Pada Roy and Rab's director (legal and media wing) Mufi Mahmud Khan also attended the programme.

## U-19s create

FROM PAGE 1  
stand for the second wicket to calm the nerves. However, a mix-up in the 20th over led to the run-out of Pinak.  
Two wickets followed in close succession. Nazmul Hossain Shanto, their best batsman gifted a wicket to leg-spinner Sandeep Lamichchane, as he got out caught-and-bowled in the 23rd over. Five overs later Joyraz was trapped in front by a quicker delivery.  
Nothing seemed to be going the hosts' way. They would have lost these wickets a lot earlier had the Nepali fielders made the most of Bangladesh's poor running between the wickets.  
In the middle at that crucial juncture was Zakir Hassan and skipper Mehedi Hasan Miraz with the team score at a dangerous 98 for 4 in 29 overs.  
If the top order was a disappointment, then the way these two battled against pressure with a 117-run stand and took the team home was an act that was quite exemplary.  
It was a partnership that saw the teenagers think like seasoned cricketers as they calculated their moves almost flawlessly.  
The boundaries were shelved and all they focused on were singles and doubles. While Zakir was busy cutting and chopping, Mehedi drove down the ground as frequently as possible.  
Mehedi, who seemed a tad nervous received a let-off in the 38th over when he was deceived by the flight. The wicketkeeper though failed to stump him.  
By the time the 40th over arrived, Bangladesh required 68 runs. And once that equation was brought down to 37 off the last six overs, the shots began to flow. Both batsmen were completely set by then and took on the bowling.  
Zakir finished the game in style with a four and a six off the first two balls of the 48th over to finish the game.  
He finished on 75, scored off 77 balls while Miraz remained unbeaten on 55.  
It was a tense finish, but it was something that the Junior Tigers needed in order to get the nervousness out of their system.  
Nepal, on the other hand, will bow out of the competition with plenty of credit. The way they strangled the hosts in their own den for large parts of the game clearly shows the immense potential that lies within the Himalayan nation.

## A Journey with pride

FROM PAGE 1  
About the role The Daily Star plays in connecting Bangladesh with a global audience, he said it "brightened the image of the country by highlighting our successes."  
"Through impartial and investigative reporting and analysis, it carved a special place in the hearts of people both at home and abroad," Hamid observed.  
Besides publishing news and opinions, he said, The Daily Star is very committed to social causes like saving rivers and the environment, protecting the rights of children and women, and promoting various other development issues.  
"As part of what they consider to be their social duty, this newspaper helps create awareness among mass people about various critical issues," he stressed.  
The awardees are Prof Anisuzzaman, Prof Rehman Sobhan, Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, writer Hasan Azizul Haque, Prof AM Harun-ar-Rashid, social worker Dr Angela Gomes, Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Prof Arun Kumar Basak, Prof Dwijen Sarma, theatre personality Ferdousi Majumdar, social worker Jharna Dhara Chowdhury, business personality Mahbubur Rahman, eminent journalist Matiuur Rahman, environmentalist Dr Mohammad Ali Reza Khan, publisher Mohiuddin Ahmed, artists Murtaja Baseer and Mustafa Monwar, Prof Rafiqul Islam, poet Syed Shamsul Haq, social activists Tahrunessa Ahmed Abdullah and Valerie Ann Taylor, and sports personality Bashir Ahmed.  
As an institution, Muktiyuddho Jadughar (Liberation War Museum)

was given the award for its contribution to research on the Liberation War.  
Nineteen visiting editors of some of South and Southeast Asia's most popular newspapers attended the programme that started off with the national anthem. Eminent singers rendered two musical numbers in a jam-packed auditorium.  
Dignitaries from home and abroad commended The Daily Star for its commitment to journalism and the country's development.  
Suthichai Yoon, founder and chief adviser to Nation Multimedia Group of Thailand, said The Daily Star had tried to cover issues that concerned public of this country over the past 25 years.  
Speaking on behalf of Asia News Network, a network of 22 newspapers published from 20 Asian countries, he said that through unbiased and substantive reporting The Daily Star worked towards ensuring human rights, removing gender discrimination, establishing press freedom and ensuring transparency and accountability of various authorities.  
Suthichai stressed that the most important element of journalism is credibility.  
In this massive world of information, credibility was the most important source and that was why traditional media, newspapers and professional journalists would still play the most important part, he said.  
The journalists should serve as the conscience and soul of the society, he said, hoping that The Daily Star would continue to uphold the spirit of journalism without fear or favour.  
Eminent Indian columnist Kuldeep Nayar said he felt privileged to be a part

of the newspaper's silver jubilee celebrations.  
Recalling his meeting with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his early visits to Bangladesh during and immediately after the Liberation War, he said, "Today, coming to Bangladesh on the 25th anniversary of The Daily Star, I find Bangladesh as a mature and developing nation, a nation which has a lot of confidence in itself, a nation which can thwart any kind of danger."  
Praising Bangladesh's secularism, he said The Daily Star helped this country to uphold not only people's right to know, but also the values of secularism and democracy.  
Hailing the newspaper for "protecting independence and professionalism of the press", N Ram, chairman and publisher of The Hindu group of newspapers, said, "The Daily Star is one of the best and most respected newspapers in our part of the world. It has fostered journalistic innovation, ventured into new areas and developed a robust and attractive digital presence."  
"Above all, it has remained true to the core democratic, secular and progressive values it committed itself to when it set out its journey a quarter century ago," he observed.  
He said The Daily Star was nothing if not clear-sighted and outspoken and it "has also contributed substantially to promote ethical business and youth entrepreneurs, and strengthen Bangladesh's bilateral relations with all its South Asian neighbours."  
"Practicing journalism without fear or favour is never easy," he said, adding, "To be able to do this successfully over a sustained period is a rare achievement."

Praising The Daily Star for introducing a healthy trend in journalism, Prof Anisuzzaman, one of the awardees, said the newspaper represented all people irrespective of party affiliations and views.  
"It has embraced truth and proved its courage... The only partiality it has shown is towards the country's Liberation War. So, when recognition comes from an institution like this, it becomes more meaningful," said the emeritus professor of Dhaka University, on behalf of all the awardees.  
In his welcome address, Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said the birth of the newspaper happened at a historic moment as it coincided with the defeat of autocracy and the restoration of democracy.  
"It was born with an unflinching commitment to democracy," he said.  
He said democracy "is the most suitable government" for a country like Bangladesh and this newspaper "has been and will work relentlessly and tirelessly for strengthening democracy."  
An independent voice, the editor said, adds strength to democracy and through ethical and patriotic journalism Bangladesh will prosper and so will journalism in this country.  
Thanking the readers of The Daily Star, he said they helped the newspaper to grow and become stronger.  
"A newspaper's life is credibility and public trust. A newspaper is trusted when it lives up to its ideals of ethical journalism," he said.  
Mahfuz Anam said after many impediments, Bangladesh was coming out of the shackles of underdevelopment, illiteracy and malnutrition and

was ready to make its place in the committee of nations with dignity and pride.  
"And in that journey of dignity and pride, The Daily Star will be an active, energetic, committed and ethical partner," he said.  
The editor thanked the newspaper's board of directors for their support and commitment to press freedom.  
In her vote of thanks, Rokia Afzal Rahman, president of Mediaworld Ltd, the owning company of the newspaper, said editorial independence "lies at the core of The Daily Star's success as a credible newspaper."  
Expressing her gratitude to the board's unwavering support for press freedom, she said, "The board believed that the editorial institution must enjoy unfettered freedom and total independence."  
The Daily Star, despite the limitation of being an English newspaper, "enjoys unprecedented trust of people", she said.  
"Our success puts tremendous responsibility on us," she said, adding that the board would continue to extend its support for better news coverage and investigative journalism.  
Referring to the link between a thriving democracy and freedom of expression, she said that free media "is fundamental to Bangladesh's success."  
**BOOK LAUNCH**  
At the programme, the president unveiled the cover of "Genocide They Wrote", a book on the genocide perpetrated on Bangalis by the Pakistan occupation army during the Liberation War, published by Daily Star Books and written by Inam Ahmed and Shakhawat Liton.

## POWER STRUGGLE IN IS Terror attacks loom large on Southeast Asia

AFP, Jakarta  
A power struggle among three Indonesian-born Islamic State militants in Syria could have a violent ripple effect in Southeast Asia, senior police warn, as a deadly game of one-upmanship threatens to cause more Jakarta-style attacks.