



BEGUM: HOW ONE MAGAZINE BEGAN A REVOLUTION

On May 20, 2016, Naziba Basher wrote about the magazine – Begum – which had created history and a revolution amongst the women of Bengal, right from the 40s to date. The magazine would feature writers, thinkers and women rights activists. All in all, the magazine reached many and broke barriers in the conservative Bengali society. Surely, Nurjahan Begum's (Editor of Begum) contribution to the society was commendable. She died just three days after the publication of this story.

Visit: <http://www.thedailystar.net/star-weekend/spotlight/begum-how-one-magazine-began-revolution-1226470>



THE GIRL WITH A ROLLEICORD

On June 3, 2016, Fayeka Zabeen Siddiqua wrote about 79-year-old Sayeda Khanam, the first Bangladeshi woman professional photographer. She showcased courage to chart her own path and eventually became an inspiration for many. She has been a beacon of hope for thousands of women who took courage from her story to break the shackles of society and follow their dreams.

Visit: <http://www.thedailystar.net/star-weekend/spotlight/the-girl-rolleicord-1233439>



'SHUTTERING' STEREOTYPES

SALUTING THE PIONEERS

On the same day (June 03, 2016), Md Shahnawaz Khan Chandan and photographer Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo covered the hard work of the female traffic officials, who are spread out all over the capital. For the first time, the Bangladesh Police had recruited 28 women to do the difficult job of managing urban transport. Defying the scorching sun, monsoon shower, irritating comments from unruly drivers, these brave women have been doing their round-the-clock duty diligently alongside their male colleagues, perhaps, better than them in many cases, and they still continue to do so. The video where these officials are seen working and managing the traffic has had thousands of shares and likes, on the Daily Star YouTube page.

Visit: <http://www.thedailystar.net/star-weekend/watch-saluting-the-pioneers-1233460>



WALKING ON ROAD 79

The Holey Artisan massacre that took place on July 1 has shattered us all and even today, we get shivers within when we talk about it, or even think about the incident, where loved ones were lost forever. Right after the massacre took place, I would spend days walking on the road where Holey Artisan stands, even today. I would talk to the residents, random mothers and family members placing flowers on the make-shift memorial and try to my best to figure out why the massacre had happened in the first place. Along with photographer Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo, on July 15, 2016, we featured Road 79, the people around and the children with their little notes left with the flowers by the memorial.

Visit: <http://www.thedailystar.net/star-weekend/spotlight/walking-road-79-1253638>



ROAD 79



SPOTLIGHT



SANKAR DHAR A PHENOMENAL SCULPTOR

NILIMA JAHAN
PHOTO: KAZI TAHIN AGAZ APURBO

Sankar applies to the talents after 100+ masters are impresses and promising. Sankar Dhar made headlines in 1974 in the Daily Star, when he was the student of class 10 at Pogon High School, now in Dhaka. He was the first to make a sculpture of the Goddess Durga. His absence purchased leg was affected by financial instability and social barriers could not resolve him from his firm determination to become a sculptor. His sculptures, made of terracotta, metalic, ceramic and woodens, brought him wide recognition. To know about Sankar Dhar, turn to pages 7-9.

A KING WITHOUT A CROWN

Despite the many losses experienced, life was moving along regularly. On October 07, 2016, Nilima Jahan wrote about Sankar Dhar, an artist, famous for sculpting Goddesses on Durga Puja and Kali Puja. Ever visited the narrow zigzag streets of Tanti Bazaar in the old part of Dhaka? One such narrow lane is called 'Pannitol', where once lived the legends- Subhash Dutta, Nitun Kundu, Jhantu Das and many more. Sankar Dhar as a teenager was influenced by them, as he lived and still resides on the same lane for four generations.

Visit: <http://www.thedailystar.net/star-weekend/spotlight/king-without-crown-1295212>



BAPTISED WITH FIRE: FIRST TO ARRIVE, LAST TO LEAVE



STAR WEEKEND

in other news...

DREAMING BIGGER, DREAMING BETTER

APURBA JAHANGIR
PHOTO: HABIBUL BIRSHA

On April 26, 2013, a disaster struck the whole nation when the Rana Plaza building, an eight-storey factory complex, collapsed due to its beyond liability, collapse to its roof. The harsh reality behind the clothes sold in the Rana Plaza in the West was shown to the world. After three years, as experts meant about how the government, retailers, factory owners and consumers have done in the aftermath of the accident. After three years, a remarkable came out from the tragedy and is working hard in the Southeastern corner of the country. Replacing factory, stores with modern garment units, garment workers have stepped out of the factory to pursue an undergraduate degree in a first-of-its-kind course at the Asian University for Women (AUW). Read more on our Spotlight on pages 7, 8 and 9.

THE WORKERS' REVOLUTION

Good things happen in Bangladesh all the time and not necessarily only in Dhaka! On November 4, 2016, Apurba Jahangir wrote a special education story for the Star Weekend, which was also published on the front page of the Daily Star. The Asian University for Women, located in Chittagong, established in 2008 – the first regional university to adopt a liberal arts curriculum – enrolled more than thirty RMG workers in their new programme 'Promise'. The programme identifies talented young women among Bangladeshi garments factory workers and provides them with the academic, professional, and financial support required to earn their Bachelor's degrees and take leadership positions in their chosen fields.

Visit: <http://www.thedailystar.net/star-weekend/spotlight/the-workers-revolution-1308979>



10 SONGS THAT INSPIRE

As we celebrated the 45th Victory Day of Bangladesh this year, I decided to share 10 songs that inspire Bangladeshis living all over the world. On December 16, 2016, I listed 10 songs that spoke of tales of victory. Many of these stories were written down in the form of songs – the desires of the people, words of encouragement and the sheer beauty of Bangladesh.

Visit: <http://www.thedailystar.net/star-weekend/spotlight/10-songs-inspire-1330387>



If you would like to go back and read these stories (and more) online, visit <http://www.thedailystar.net/star-weekend> and do give us your feedback! Here's wishing you a very happy new 2017!