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Published by the Editor from
Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon
Industrial Area, Dhaka on
behalf of Mediaworld Ltd.,
52 Motijheel C.A.,
Dhaka-1000.



The harder a man feels compelled to be, the weaker his ego is."

– Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

SNAPSHOT
BY SHAMS PRANTO

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NHRC—just a figurehead

This letter is in reference to the cover story "How independent and effective is the NHRC?" published last week.

The NHRC of Bangladesh is supposed to be an autonomous public body to safeguard against human rights violations and ensure that the overall state of human rights is improved in the country. From the very beginning, the body has failed to play its role of shielding people from human rights violations. As pointed out in the article, the weakness of this body lies in the appointment of its chairman and other members on political consideration

and their loyalty to the government.

While it has sufficient power to exercise, the NHRC is reluctant to employ these. In most cases, it simply tries to maintain check and balance with various government agencies by sending letters. This only works in favour of the government bodies instead of protecting the rights of the public. We expect that the NHRC will take a strong position on each and every human rights violation.

Md. Zillur Rahaman
Gandaria, Dhaka



The secret life of booksellers

Growing up in Bailey Road, Shagor Publishers was the place for me. It was owned by the renowned writer M.R. Akhter Mukul who started the shop as a sort of a glorified book club. He would sit on a stool at the small entrance where he would greet readers. If I inquired of a book that I don't see on the shelves yet, he would smile and say, "Choley ashbey shamner shoptahey!" He thrived on our thirst.

"Pathok Shomabesh" at Shahbagh was another store I loved. Bought my first Kafka from them because I was curious about the fact that they had so many books by

this one particular writer.
Mahjabeen Ahmed-Kamal
Via Facebook

"He just knows he has to pay rent by the 10th of each month and his daughters' school fees by the 9th." Wow, while the rest of the world is in pursuit of chasing that elusive capitalist bliss. Excellent read! I'll visit some of these bookstores soon. Nothing beats the texture and smell of a physical copy.

Tanim Ud Dowlah
Via Facebook

