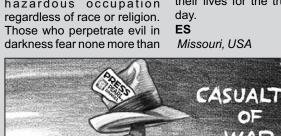
EDITOR

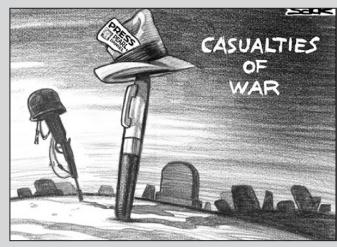
A martyr to freedom

This going week marks the the pen of light. Some years first death anniversary of the latest martyr of the noble profession-- journalism. A year ago, as punishment for seeking the truth and reporting it, a young man by the name of Daniel Pearl was murdered by those who fear

Bangladesh know from everyday life, ethical journalism is a hazardous occupation

freedom. Yet, as many pressmen in





The cricket team, again Our cricket team is so amazingly, awfully

bad, it's not even funny anymore. We should just drop the sport and concentrate on something else

AH, Wisconsin, Dhaka

Before taking a swipe at the players, it is the management, which deserves the criticism. Let it be cricket, football, or any other sport, the governing body behind it is causing the problems. For instance the dismal performance in the Asian Games Football competition. How could BFF ever think of sending the footballers without a day of training?

The cricket is dying at the moment some people say it will take time. I don't see anyone learning anything, getting out in the same way so many times. The only two coaches that were in some way successful with the team are Gordon Greenidge and Eddie Barlow. But unfortunately none of them could continue for a long stint. Our most successful coach was axed because he was thinking the right way, we don't need the Test status now. His words must have fallen on deaf ears. Since then BCB has either hired fielding coaches of other countries, or never heard of people. Why don't they get someone good? A John Wright or Geoff Marsh, or a John Buchanan is what we need, not people that our national team players have never heard of.

Every sport in the country is suffering from the same malady. Every time our sports is hitting a new low, and the bright stars coming up now and then are being ruined by the boards (Mashrafee Bin Murtoza was forced to play). I urge the PM, to look seriously into the matter, and put some people who know about sports in charge, and save us from this igno-

Dhaka

BCB should be reshuffled. Most of the previous members should replace the present. The committee members should be fully committed and devoted to their task. The coach should be changed. We

need to appoint a very good and experienced coach at least for two years. A special programme should be

taken for regular training on facing fast and technical bowling BCB can hire top ranking fast and technical bowler of other Test playing nations to train our players.

Status is an achievement but the success is a commitment. Test status is not an easy one to achieve. It is not like, we give it back to ICC and get it back after two years.

We don't need to win a Test match, but we indeed need to draw one or two. We have young promising cricketers challenges. All we need is to give them maximum training

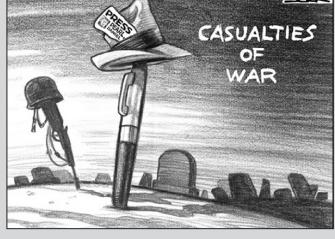
Shafigul Alam

Shahid Minar -our national spirit

ago Tipu Sultan paid a price for being that pen; a few days ago it was Simon Dring.

Journalism, in its purest form, is the conscience of a free society. It is annoying, painful, and the most powerful tool of a society's selfcorrection.

May God bless Danny Pearl and all those who risk their lives for the truth every



Shahid Minar has always been a barrier to preach fundamentalist ideas. Now we see a section of people trying to start a debate on "Shahid Minar". Some even have the audacity to suggest shifting of

Shahid Minar. But in order to move the Shahid Minar we need another Language Movement. We need the Pakistani regime to come back. Kill some of our people while trying to impose Urdu as our national language. Only this time they should make sure that the killing takes place at the outskirts of the city And only then Shahid Minar could be

NL, Toronto, Canada

Burning of a temple

I have read with great sadness the news of burning of a temple and damaging statues of Durga Devi in Bangladesh. What image of Bangladesh does it

R. Kalita Vancouver, Canada

Bush's war on terror

I don't understand why so much humdrum about removing Saddam? Does it really need a mighty war from a superpower like the USA to topple him, which will take so many innocent lives and destroy the country's infrastructure (another ploy to "help" poor devastated country afterwards)?

If Saddam has to go then why not do it quietly as the CIA has done so many times in the past. This could have been done by "Senior Bush" long ago, but he didn't. Does anybody know why?

Dr. Rashid Hyder Baridhara, Dhaka

Immediately after September 11 attack, President Bush declared war on terror by adopting words of retributive justice Sure, that language was right to rouse the American people. As time passed that war is now appearing less against perpetrators of September 11 terror but more against regimes the US does not approve or wishes to remove.

It must not be forgotten that the aggrieved rebels or die-hard tribal antimoderns are not the same genre; the real battle for democracy against theocracy or tribalist orthodoxy is to distribute democratic values, nurture democratic institutions, and common civic principles through globalisation And not by retributive punishment of fugitives with bigotry and exceptional zeal. Unfortunately though, globalisation currently sweeping throughout the world is "undemocratic" "insensitive", and "non-distributive". The global financial (read IMF), development (read World Bank) and trade (read WTO) institutions are all more or less

characterised by the above three attributes. There is asynchrony, asymmetry and potential chaos that no amount of glossing over will conceal or quieten Private vices and truancy far exceeds public goods. People have virtually disappeared in the equation, displaced by numbers and graphs of growth inflation, and other macroeconomic jargon. The commercial homogeneity

fuelled by consumerist paganism has bred such despair and rage among the marginalised many that also offered an eminently convenient cause to the terrorists. There are asymmetry -some times too much asymmetry- and getting worse. Egregious globalisation is manifest in massive exploitation that not only impoverish but also deprave people. On a global dimension, all these are a much more lethal prescription for a world in turmoil than individual acts of terrorism will ever be. Thus, if there is to be a war (in the absence of a better phrase), it should have been more

Dr. Zakir Husain

"Saddam tried to kill my dad: Bush"

This is in reference to The Daily Star news item "Saddam tried to kill my dad: Bush" (September 18). So the Bush junior has finally spoken. His rage against Iraq is not national, neither is it litical, as accused by the Democrats, but his personal issue.

However, Saddam didn't try to kill Bush Senior, but Bush Senior killed himself! It was reflected in the 1992 US Presidential Elections, with his big defeat. This is merely a repetition of daddy's regime with the similar (if not same) folks in the cabinet with a war in mind. So it turns out, this is not a war against terrorism, but a war of personal rage against Saddam Hussein

It seems like Bush Junior is only following Bush Senior's footsteps. Well, the 2004 elections are not too far way.

Rezwan Rashid Dallas, Texas, USA

Attack on Iraq

I have been following the letters regarding the possible US attack on Iraq, the American way of life, 9/11 and afterwards etc. And I would like to express my solidarity, with all those writers who have denounced the possible US attack on Iraq. There is no ambiguity that the war on terror launched by U.S.A is unduly biased. Hundreds of people were killed in Afghanistan by the U.S and British forces in the name of fighting rorism. What an irony!

The US was silent about the Gujarat carnage, Jenin massacre etc. But every time, there were any suicide bombings committed by the freedom aspiring Palestinians, U.S.A did not hesitate to condemn such actions. And now they are planning to attack Iraq on the context that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction and not complying with the U.N resolutions!

But U.S.A itself posses weapons of mass destruction and helped Israel to become a military super power. And Israel has been defying a number of U.N resolutions, ever since it's birth. Why isn't Bush giving an ultimatum to the Israel government? It's time for all including the Muslim world to come forward and protest this US double standards and help restore peace in the world

Sameer Ahmed Khan Mojlish Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Zionism in America

Jews in America may be somewhat influential and successful in various fields but they still are nothing else but another minority trying to rise above the majority Caucasians. Very often they have to confront hatred of a section of the common people, not because they have done anything wrong but because they are generally successful, have a very close and helpful community and works for an overall betterment of their people - a dream come true for any

To abhor that is to destroy all hopes of around the world. The support and aid Israel enjoys from America is by no means due to the support of common Americans but because Israel as a country has offered much more political gains than the Middle Eastern Arab countries have. Problem between Israel and Palestine by every means is a political one and need a political solution. Muslims in America were working toward a political strengthening which in the long run would have given them more political power and influence in the policy makers' minds.

The terribly misjudged actions of a certain circle has only delayed if not totally destroyed the ultimate success of our pledge for freedom for our fellow

Shuja

TV-VCR license fee and quest control order

Why should we pay TV and VCR fee? Almost all colour TV owners are subscribing cable TV @ Tk. 300-400/- per month. The government is realising a heavy amount in VAT and supplemen-

tary duty from the cable TV operators. Many cable TV operators retransmit BTV programmes to their subscribers. Is it then fair to charge Tk. 400/- per year

as TV License fee? People with very low income are the owners of BW TV - isn't it rather cruel to charge Tk. 200/- or so per year from these people? How does a VCR qualify for a license fee? The method of paying this fee is very troublesome. First you go to a branch of Janata Bank, deposit the prescribed fee and go again after 3/4 months to take delivery of the license. If you cannot stop this fee at least try to give us a hassle-free renewal system. Why not a kind of stamp like court fee?

Under guest control order the host has to pay Tk 25/- for every guest over 100 persons. The community centres where receptions are held pay vat and the decorators pay vats. Then what is the point in charging Tk. 25/- per guest over 100? In case of Dhaka City one has to go to DC office in old Dhaka - a big punishment in itself to deposit the money. The govt will do well to discontinue this payment.

QSAhmed

A million taka question

In almost every area Bangladesh is

limping behind rest of the world There are no rules or safety regulations in Bangladesh to protect passen-gers and even if there was, nobody is in any hurry to implement those. Public transports in Bangladesh are always overloaded with passengers. Why?

Almost every week, some Bangladeshis are killed or abducted by BSF. What exactly is our government doing to protect our land and our peo-

Both BNP and AL are using students and academics to play their political games and in the process, they have destroyed the country's education. Students, who genuinely want to study, can't do so and their parents' hardearned money is simply being wasted because of 'student politics'!

Hartal is a disease. It is used as an excuse to loot and damage properties. Politicians use it to punish us. Corruption is mixed in our blood

Many readers may be infuriated by this comment, but it is indeed true. Bangladesh doesn't belong to BNP

or Awami League, it belongs to us! Our leaders will not change their policies simply because some "insignificant" people like me is writing letters to newspapers or because some newspapers demand -as The Daily Star occasionally does- that they do something. That is why we need a solution not just for corruption, but for every problem.

The million taka question is: how can Bangladesh get itself out of this vicious

Azad Miah

Home alone

There is a growing concern in the industrial world as the number of people living alone at home is rising rapidly. This is a socio-economic problem, which is soon going to invade the underdeveloped nations as well. The material affluence for which everyone is ready to sacrifice so many things doesn't always bear fruitful result. The psychological impact of wealth tends to make people so self-centred that they hardly get enough time to spend with family mem-

This trend was once noticed by late Mother Teresa and she commented that the hunger in the western world is not for food but for love. There are so many people out in the society whose days are too short and the nights are too long. This sense of isolation is so dangerous that this creates a mood of instant violence and repugnance about anything regarding values and tradition. This is a very serious social illness, which needs to be treated urgently. In another word if this situation continues then soon a time will come when the existing social system will cease to exist anymore. The developing world must take notice of this trend and try to take remedial measures regarding it.

Akbar Hussain Toronto, Canada

Encourage investment understand Bangladesh's feelings

owards foreign investment such as gas development linked with gas export or the private port in Chittagong. While I was in the USA in 1987-1990, I watched Japanese investment buy up most buildings and golf courses in Atlanta Georgia USA where I was completing my degree. Most Americans were a bit concerned. However, the Japanese bought these things with capital they had secured from their own successful stock exchange and infused it into our own USA economy that at that time was suffering. The infusion ultimately saved

our economy at that time. Similarly, many foreigners are interested in investing in Bangladesh for Bangladesh's future, such as gas exploration based on a 'regional' demand that is more short-term than the investment based on only domestic consumption. Similarly, the private port in Chittagong, which has been neutrally

"Fuel-less electricity generator" K. Rahman, former Professor of BUET, has explained in his letter

(October 12), that a fuel-less electricity generator is a scientific impossibility. I appreciate his efforts to educate the readers about the scientific basis of electricity generation.

However, I find that the simplified explanation he gave in his letter may create wrong impression in the minds of some readers, particularly young students of science. His statement of the second law of thermodynamics "output is less than input" should be qualified; it should not be generalised. It applies only when heat is the input, and this is because of the basic nature of heat. Heat is random motion of the particles in matter, whereas mechanical energy is organised motion of the particles. Organised motion can be converted to random motion with 100% efficiency, but the reverse cannot be done. This is the second law of thermodynamics. You can convert electricity to heat with 100%

Thermal power plants convert heat into electricity, and the efficiency is limited by the basic nature of heat, in addition to technical factors. Further, Professor Rahman's statement that devices for generating power without using fuel never worked simply because they violate the "second law" of thermodynamics, is also misleading. What is violated is the first law, which says that energy cannot be created or destroyed.

M.M. Rahman, Professor of Chemistry, DU

From the letter of Professor K. Rahman we could well understand why such type of machines (fuel-less electricity generator) are impossible to build. Every body can understand his nice and simple explanation.

Now my question is why Mr. Nazmul Huda is trying to attract the attention of the concerned through various means (press conference, advertisement in newspapers, etc.)?

In a local English daily (The Daily Independent, August 24), it has been mentioned "... Nazmul Huda ... the 53-year-old former BUET teacher". I'm confused. Was Mr. Huda really a BUET-

M. Mushtaque, Mirpur, Dhaka

Understandably, there has been considerable interest among the public on the matter of "Fuel-less electricity generator"

It reminds me of the incident when the statue of the Hindu deity Lord Ganesh started "drinking" milk in various Hindu temples all over the world. Even the BBC started airing this "news". Of interest, the statues of Ganesh at Dhaka were reportedly not "drinking" even after many attempts on the part of the devotees. After a while, the entire matter was proven to be a hoax.

When something appears to be too good to be true (not to mention mechanically/ physically impossible - except possibly by Divine intervention), it usually is.

Ashraf, Sydney, Australia

From ancient times many had tried to invent such type of machines which can generate electricity out of nothing. These type of machines are more commonly termed as "Perpetual Machines"

May be Nazmul Huda is the first person in Bangladesh who invented such a machine, so he could stir up many to be attracted to his project. In fact these types of machines are not workable, previously famous professor Richard Feynman (USA) explained in several of his famous lectures why these are not

Here I list some home pages, who has internet access can browse these and can find so many ideas of such type of machines and explanations why these should not work.

1. The Museum of Unworkable Devices.

http://www.lhup.edu/~dsimanek/museum/unwork.htm 2. How to make a living pitching free energy machines http://www.phact.org/e/con_man.htm

3. Professor Feynman machine http://manor.york.ac.uk/htdocs/perpetual/perpetual.html

Nurul Islam Talukder

deemed a 'good investment' for Bangladesh's future by many is a potential investment ready to be made by a USA

Please, let us go beyond the politics of the day and go for the future for Bangladesh for tomorrow. Investment in Bangladesh during the past year has dwindled due to the poor image of the country, the insecurity of such foreign investments and some evidence of poor governance among many reasons. Despite the constraints of Bangla-

desh, it is clear that if allowed for freer investment, many persons within and outside of Bangladesh could be a part of future development through their

Craig A Meisner, Gulshan, Dhaka

Future of Bangladesh

I do not see any bright future of Bangladesh unless our political leaders change their views and as a nation we change our mindset. We need to acknowledge that we are nothing but a poor country and right or wrong we cant argue with

Our future totally depend on their cooperation plus our hard work, education, respect for law or orders and elimination of corruption. Unless we start caring about our problems, unless

of the opposition is crucial and vital.

performance has left us in despair!

Nasir, Dhaka

we accept the harsh reality of supporting other so-called Islamic country will harm us more than it benefit us, we have no hope. The strong, rich and powerful always going to dominate the world, so it's our choice to be friendly with them and benefit ourselves. or else as a nation we will suffer for years to come.

Let's stop all the cheap talks, let's do what's hest for our nation, let's work with the rich and powerful nations regardless of their foreign policy. A Bangladeshi, USA

How accountable is

Chittagong custom

authority? The incumbent Finance Minister has

taken many bold and courageous steps to enhance revenue collection and thereby he has added many new taxes and supplementary duties. But he also took steps to mitigate sufferings of the importers and exporters. We welcomed his honest desire and are ready to pay all such new taxes, but at the same time the custom should also be equally supportive to accomplish the new policy

The main difficulty remains with the attitude of customs authority including the commissioner himself. They don't

care at all that time is the most important name of inspection of goods, orders are given for 100% verification of the custom inspector takes months for the custom officials also many a times do not agree with the PSI certification PSI charges. There are many such contradictory procedures, which are society.

b) PSI declaration if wrong and custom do not agree, a penalty be imposed to PSI company for their negligence or a choice be given to the importer to choose his PSI company This is essential as many a times custom re-fix the C& F cost without any

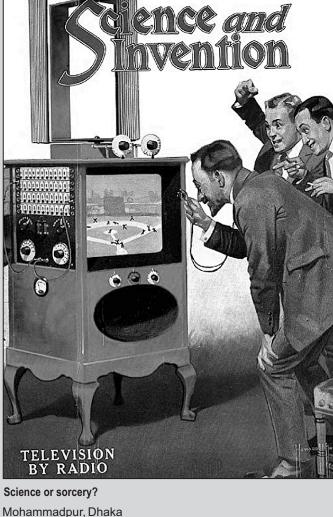
Emdad UI Hag New Bailv Road. Dhaka

Do I really miss home?

It is two o'clock in the morning and I was news about rape, murder and other

crimes. Come to think of it, if I was coming home at this time of the night in Dhaka. would be probably lying somewhere, raped and murdered right now. These are the things that make me wonder whether I really miss home! I mean, am I really missing out on anything good by leaving Dhaka?

In Bangladesh, the politics of rhetoric and politics of nomenclature go hand in



After reading the letter of Prof. K.S. Rabbani, I got an idea of the machine invented by Mr Nazmul Huda. It is a kind of impossible dream machine. A rotating wheel will remain rotating only in space where no friction can impede its motion. On earth simply the friction of air is sufficient to halt its motion.

In fact, the concept of such type of 'Perpetual Machines' and their practical limitations are found in many popular science books. I would like to inform the "science student" who mentioned that the "old theories should be thrown into trash" that it is a nonsense comment indeed. An undergraduate physics student knows that the laws of classical mechanics invented by Newton and contemporary physicists are still valid, as long as the speed of an object is much less than the speed of light, and its mass is much larger compared to atomic particles. When an object's speed approaches the speed of light, laws of relativistic mechanics (invented by Einstein) should be used to define its motion, and for defining the motion of an atomic particle, quantum mechanics (invented by, Max Planck, Erwin Schrodinger, Warner Heisenberg and others) is used.

To predict the motion of a modern ballistic missiles, still the old theories of classical mechanics are used as the present day missile's speed is much less than the speed of light. From the period of Newton and Galleleo, the study of natural phenomenon had to go through the well-known "Scientific Method" (1. Observational stage 2. Experimental stage 3. Theoretical and Mathematical stage).

"A positive Bangladeshi" concluded his/her letter by asking us to read the books of H.G. Wells. I do not understand why he mentioned the books of H. G. Wells. The accuracy of the "science" in Wells's work has often been called into question. Science fictions written by H.G Wells and Jules Verne are based on the scientific invention of late 19th and early 20th century. Many of the science fictions of that period remain fictions indeed.

Dilip Kumar, UK

essence at this information age. In the imported consignments, and then the physical inspection. Thus the importers have to pay demurrage charge due to delay in release of goods, besides the importers have to pay additional bank interest and other consequences. The although the importers are forced to pay absolutely against the rights of civilised

As a sufferer, my humble suggestion to the Ministry of Finance and NBR that a) Custom must complete their inspection of the goods within a fixed time of arrival of imported goods and no demurrage be levied for any delay caused due to the delay of custom

have just walked home alone after a never-ending study session in the library. On my way back I was thinking about how much I miss home. Besides all the good things Dhaka has to offer, I even missed the heat, the pollution, the traffic jams, the hawkers and the noise That's why I was checking The Daily Star website to catch up with what was going on back home. All it had to offer

We always complain about the braindrain etc. but given the choice, what ncentive do we really have to be back home and settle there? The promise for an insecure life? One of the main agendas that our politicians and law enforcers should concentrate on is to improve the quality of life our country has to offer Otherwise, we will lose many more bright and talented professionals. Somaiya Shameem

Politics of nomencla-

Recently, the government has re-

named the Abdul Hannan International Airport in Chittagong as Shah Amanat international Airport. This measure of rechristening the airport could not be seen as an innocent mark of showing respec to the religious leader only; an insight into the whole paraphernalia reveals a design to score political advantage.

And in this political dribbling, the name of the religious celebrity like Hazrat Shah Amanat has been used with a view to attaining more than one purpose-- first to exploit people's religious sentiment that nobody would dare protest this kind of re-naming and then to score by downgrading the political rivals. The same paradigm figured glaringly in re-naming the Syed Nazrul Íslam Bridge at Bhairab Bazar as Bangladesh UK Friendship bridge. This time the scapegoat is the friendship of Bangladesh with the United Kingdom.

All of these religious deities in heaven must be looking upon us with disdain and laugh at the way they are being made pawns of dirty political

games in Bangladesh. Dibash Ahmed Bandar, Chittagong

Don't lie

At the end of each bargain the salesman says that the price offered by the buver is even lower than the cost. At that point both the salesman and the buyer know that the statement is an utter lie Why telling a lie when the buyer always knows that as a lie? Come on Mr salesmen, no one even asked you the cost

This attitude prevails almost everywhere in our society. Are we, as a nation growing a habit of telling lies and pecoming immune to it?

Two more lies we are habituated of . "Please pray for me." "Sure. I alwavs do.' Do we really pray for the person?

How many times do I pray for someone else other than myself?

2. "Please visit my house." "Sure I will " Do I really plan to visit his/her house

The list may be longer, but let's try to truncate it. Let not lying become a part of our culture Shaer Shantinagar, Dhaka

knowing their back ground.

Hasanat M Alamgir

when I am promising to do so?

Who's responsible?

We should not blame only the politicians for the current lawlessness in the country. Who elected them? We cannot expect to have rule of law after voting for them. We have had three very fair elections in the country and people consistently voted for these candidates

Vancouver

The BNP led coalition government has crossed its first year. And the government chalked out various programs to celebrate the day in a befitting manner. But have they lived up to our expectations? Let's review their performance.

Assessment of the alliance

Happy Anniversary

There are some fields in which the government can claim its success such as increased revenue earning, banning of polythene and 2-stroke three wheelers, initiative to control mass copying in public examinations, allocation of retirement benefits for the nongovernment teachers and closing down Adamjee Jute Mill etc.

However, they couldn't achieve success in many fields. We may recall some of their election pledges, which they have failed

- 1. A 500 (five) hundred seat of strong parliament and increased
- 2. Creation of three new ministries for freedom fighters, expatriates and garments sector. Establishment of special court in every district for speedy trial.

Independent anti-corruption commission with neutral mem-

bers. Public disclosure of wealth of PM, Ministers and MPs.

Separation of judiciary from the executive.

Full autonomy of the state run media.

Permanent pay commission for government employees. State patronisation for making local industries profitable 10. Nationalisation of all non-government primary school.

11. Installation of IT villages etc. Many of their successes have been blurred due to continuing deterioration of law and order situation. It has been revealed by the police that about 10 persons have been killed on average

(daily) in the last one year. It is experienced that once voted to power, the ruling party tends to forget their election pledges. We hope that the BNP led 4-party alliance would prove it the otherwise in the coming years.

On the eve of the coalition government's 1st anniversary, PM Khaleda Zia addressed the nation narrating the success and failures of her regime. She spoke very tactfully and in a mild way. However in reality, her government of 4-party alliance could

not improve the law and order situation of the country. She has

But we must appreciate one thing. The PM has not yet spent a single farthing for obtaining foreign degree at the cost of our hard earned money, like that of former PM Sheikh Hasina. We must also congratulate Khaleda Zia for not occupying the

Gonobhaban as her paternal asset and property like that of

also not been able to curtail her long legend of ministers, which

we may hope to be done within a couple of days.

Peerzada S. R. Hussain, Gulshan, Dhaka We welcome your idea of inviting comments and devoting a fullpage on the performance of the present government. But I

would've really been thankful if you invited comments/writings on

the opposition's performance as well. In any democracy the role

We the common people have voted the BNP led 4-party alliance to power with a lot of hope and aspiration. But their first year's

If morning shows the day then it is indeed a dark, gloomy and hapless morning which show nothing but a hollow future. But I believe and hope that still there is time and if the government take lesson from others and learn from their past mistakes they surely can bring a change.

But unfortunately our people in power don't learn from history!

Mohammed Sohel Hara, Dhaka shoulder to shoulder.