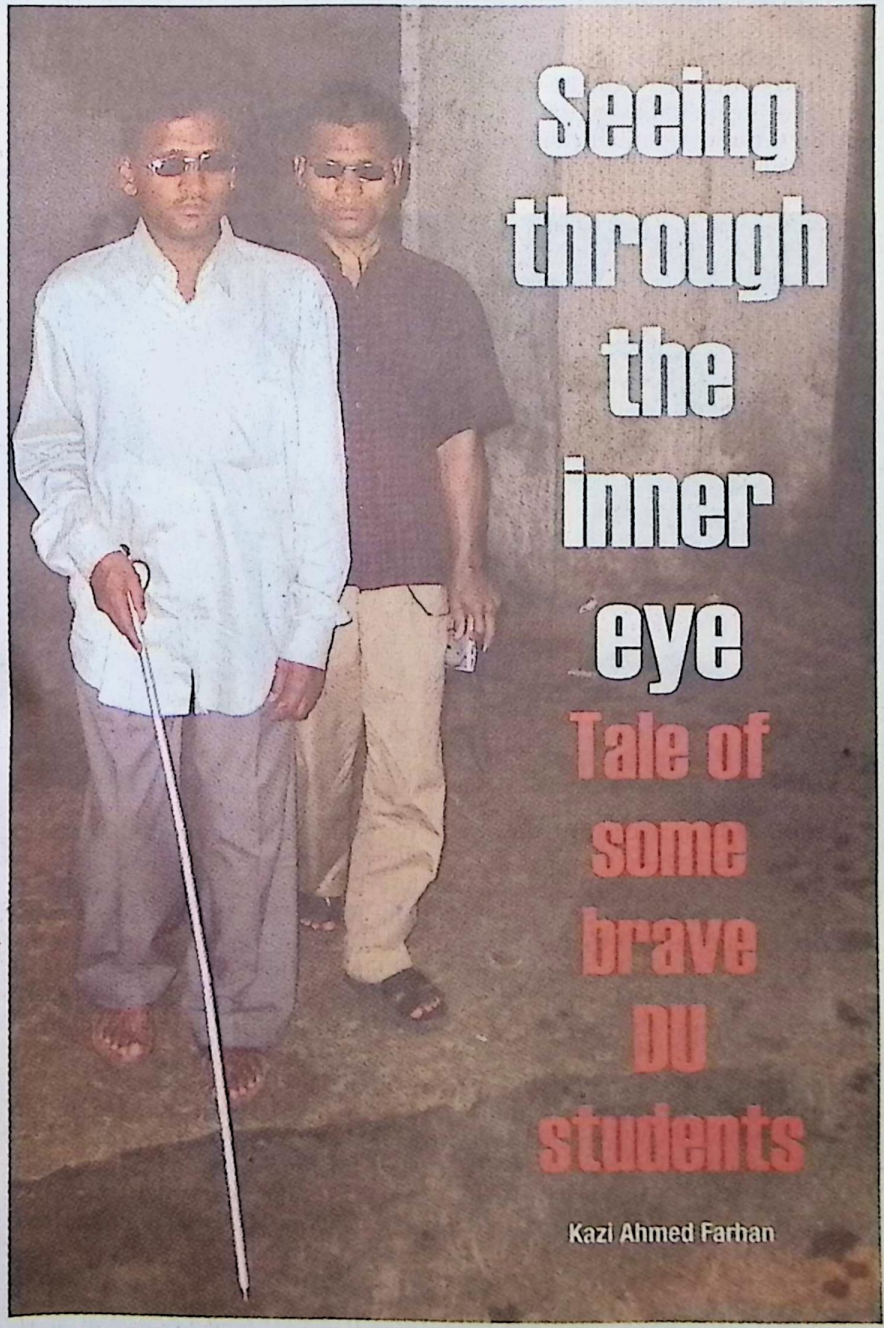


Seeing through the inner eye

Tale of some brave DU students

Kazi Ahmed Farhan

"I was very glad to be a part of University of Dhaka. Now I have already completed my journey from Honours to Masters programme", said Palash Marak, a visually impaired student of the Department of History, University of Dhaka.

This is how he narrated his life experience. He described several ups and downs in his life. These students are not like others. They are different. They are the physically handicapped students studying in the different departments of University of Dhaka. Why are they different? Because, for their impairment they have to fight for almost everything in their life.

I went to several boys' halls to know about their lifestyle, happiness and jot, sorrows and agonies in order to write this story. This is how they evaluated their life, the society, the role of family and even strangers. The road they walked was full of thorns. It was their strong determination, which drives them to be educated in the University of Dhaka and they had to cross several hurdles to make this journey.

Primarily, there are two types of physical impairment that is commonly called a handicap. One is visually impaired and another is physically impaired. Visually impaired are those who have problems in having a proper eyesight and the physically impaired are those who are deaf and dumb, without two hands or some portion of legs, crippled or defective hands or legs and so on. Inspite of these physical problems, they carry on living their lives as normal students.

All students having no impairment can enjoy their lives as they want to. But the handicapped cannot. They have to face many obstacles in each and every aspect of their lives. The way they survive and lead their day to day life is certainly very interesting. They have many shortcomings, and yet they know how to remove those and turn those into their strengths.

They are in competition with all the other students. Their biggest achievement is that they not only took admission in DU but also have survived by competing with other normal students. This was surely due to their patience, courage and intention to do well in life. They have suffered, got knocked around and were overlooked, but they never gave up the intention, courage and passion to be able to do at least something which will be useful to mankind. For them the disability is not an obstacle any more, rather they want to capitalise on it for the betterment of the handicapped students.

They do the same thing as the other students do. They do attend classes regularly, take lecture notes, do class presentations, and prepare themselves for the examinations.

Photo by Kazi Ahmed Farhan