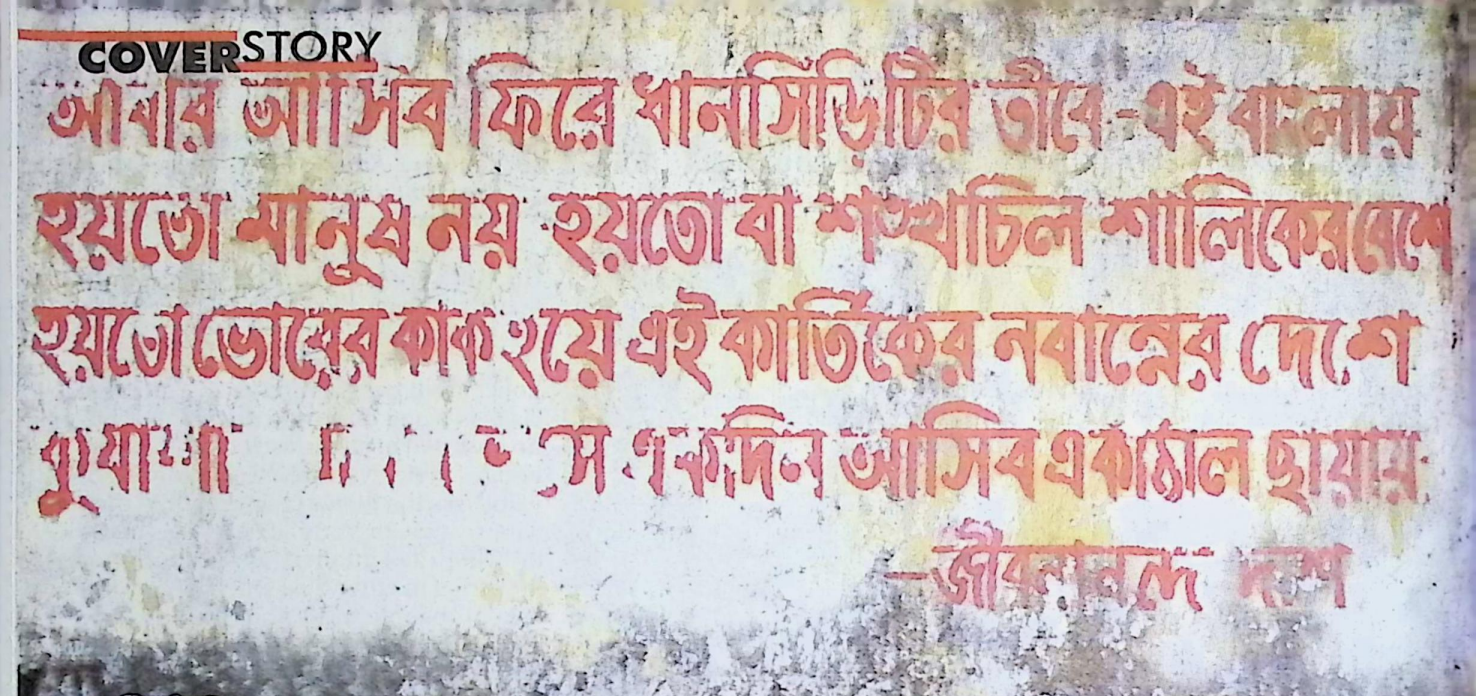


Preserving Purity

KAJALIE SHEHREEN ISLAM

A father complains that no matter how many times he asks his daughter to say "kheyechhi" after she has eaten something, she insists on saying "khaisi". A grandmother is appalled when the grandchild she has been teaching to speak in formal Bangla suddenly says the word "jibla" to indicate the tongue. A teacher is shocked to hear one of his students describe her holiday as "fatafati" and "jhakanaka". Listeners shake their heads and cluck their tongues at the reporter saying "satrosatri" on television. A school-going girl wonders where her friend has picked up a foreign accent of Bangla when the friend has never been abroad for longer than a one-week vacation.