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# Admission crisis

The acute shortage of schools and colleges in our country is a burgeoning crisis. However, this situation in the schools in the port city of Chittagong demands a serious attention from the authorities concerned as well as the guardians.

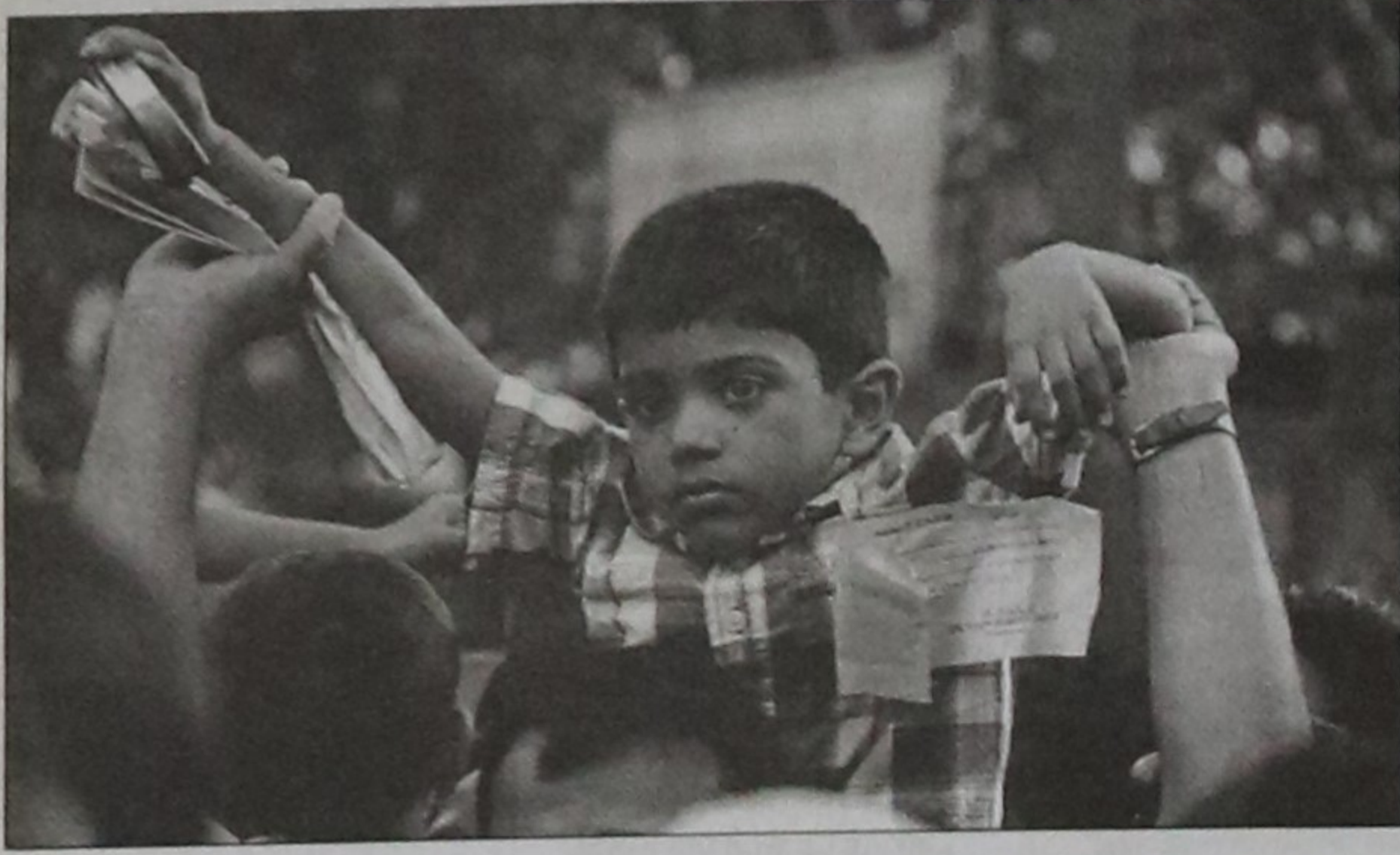
The prevalent crises are manifold: i) shortage of schools government and the private ones, ii) prevalence of corruption it is almost an open phenomenon known to all that there are some evil forces at work at almost all the good schools both government run and the private ones that arrange some admissions illegally in exchange of money.

These evil forces work in a syndicate like a cobweb -- in all these institutions.

One becomes hopeless when one happens to confront these anomalies at such places. Budding learners, as a result, get a wrong impression of things at their tender age.

Under such circumstances, we urge the ministry of education and other relevant authorities to look into the facts and come hard on the criminals without delay and thereby salvage the holy places of learning as well as the learners.

**Rafiqul Islam Rime**  
Agrabad, Chittagong



RAJ ANIKAT/OPINIONS

## Digital Bangladesh

E-Exclusion (also known as digital divide) - where certain people and social groups risk being excluded from the Information Age. [Online Glossary of the British Institute for Learning & Development]. And, on the flip side, E-Inclusion is overcoming the digital divide using systems developed to lessen the risk of 'e-exclusion'.

The role of infrastructure and communication in development of a society or civilization per se cannot be over-emphasised. Since time immemorial, be it the invention of wheel, charting of trade routes to the Indian sub-continent, or invention of television 'there were singularities, each dictating the course of history and spelling rise and fall of great civilizations. In their footsteps has come another technology that goes by the name 'Internet'. In its wake - the world has become a virtual workplace; communication has become effortless, real time and almost without cost; and all sorts of e-business and e-activities have flourished opening new horizons and new possibilities. Now the big question is, who will benefit from this technology, and who will lag behind and miss out on the road toward development and prosperity? Because, one thing is for sure - like its great predecessors, this phenomenon is bound to re-draw the demography of the world and thus spell out the identities of new rich and the new pariahs.

Now, where do we stand as a nation in terms of our readiness to book our place on this great boat? Well, during the last decade or so, we have seen a tremendous growth in mobile communication, prompting the economy to grow at a steady (though not spectacular) rate of average 5 percentage points. Unprecedented number of people have accessed internet for the first time through these mobile devices (this number is thought to be around 3 to 5 million as opposed to 1-2 million who access fixed line internet). Women are increas-

ingly coming out and becoming part of the working force like never before. But, on the hindsight, much of the economic prosperity is lost due to corruption and mismanagement; IT and education are still not integrated; and, most importantly, leaders and policy makers seem to be unaware of the consequence of missing out on this e-train.

Nations around the world, even the rich ones are adopting rigorous and innovative measures to ensure e-inclusion for all of their population groups. Analysing their initiatives, following 4 strategies emerge which we can also consider for our nation: Public-private partnership will be the key; Policy of tax rebate (in VAT and corporate tax) for corporations who are participating in increasing IT literacy among disadvantaged groups in France.

No alternative of innovative solutions: In Portugal, they are using the money received from operators by selling Wi-max and 3G licences in promoting e-inclusion. Youths have to be core to any strategy: 'Education and e-inclusion' feeds on each other. About, one thing we have to be really focused, we must not think of internet and IT as a successor or secondary to education and social uplift; rather IT should be the tool for achieving those goals. Things have become integrated and any plans for future should also be integrated. **Md. Ahsanul Abid**  
Dhaka

## Broken promises

Last general election of Bangladesh was really an exciting experience for me. I was able to vote for the first time. That is why I made sure I did not vote for the wrong party or candidate. I searched for my answer in the past records of our country. Both the leaders of the most powerful parties have been involved in corruption. So choosing between two was a dilemma for me. It was as if I had to choose between a snake and a crocodile as a pet. That is why

I went for the so called "NO VOTE" option. I urged my friends to do so. Literally, I ran a mini campaign for this option. Despite my decision I had sub-consciously hoped that if Awami League came to power, things might change. People change and learn from their mistakes. But now I think that I was right all along. As soon as they came to power JCL, the student wing of the ruling party, took over the Chittagong University as if it was some kind of a business. Awami League must be forgetting the promises they had made before the election. They are underestimating the power of the general public. I guess just like BNP next election will mean end for Awami League as well. **AKM Saaduzzaman**  
Chittagong

## Digital bus ticketing

I have just come across a news item published in your esteemed daily on 28 Jan 09 titled "Six bus operators eye Digital Ticketing" seek govt spaces for stations".

I am not very surprised at their motive, which appears to me as 'shifting the buck on to the govt' to grab some land. Digital ticketing as explained in the news item is nothing new in the world. Many developed and developing countries are already successfully using such systems for realising bus fares. But I wonder why our bus companies are asking for land to set up stations. I have seen the system at work in Turkey for more than one year. They did not set up stations for boarding the bus. Rather, machines were built inside the buses, which eliminated the requirement of the bus-conductors altogether. There, only the bus driver was responsible for all affairs in the bus as the lone company man. They have set up machines at the major bus terminals to sell tickets and to refill it when necessary. **ML Ali**  
Akhoy Das Lane  
Gandaria  
Dhaka

## Student politics

I would like to draw the attention of the prime minister of Bangladesh to the fact that there are two immediate apparent reasons that student politics should be banned in our country.

Firstly, the prime duty of a student is to study hard to build his or her carrier so that they can serve the nation professionally and this should not be compromised at any cost. Secondly, politics of our country itself is not constructive enough to support student politics constructively.

Therefore, once again, student politics is not going to give us anything apart from violence.

**Abu Naser**  
School of EPS - Chemistry  
Heriot-Watt University  
Edinburgh, UK

## Empowerment of Women With Disabilities

Bangladesh is a developing country in the world where the majority of people live in the villages in poverty. The population stands at 5 million people. According to a data of World Health Organization (WHO), 10% of the people are with some types of disabilities in Bangladesh. Of this disabled people, 50% are disabled women.

They are traditionally neglected and discriminated in family and society. Women with disabilities (WWDs) are neglected both by the government and the NGOs though our government is signatory to instruments that promise development of women with disabilities.

The Ministry of Social Welfare is responsible for developing women with disabilities instead of Women and Children Affairs Ministry in our country. There are many highly qualified women with disabilities but they do not get jobs for the lack of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

In the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities the rights of disabled women are clearly mentioned:

Article-6 (1). State Parties recognize that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple discrimination and in this regard shall take measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by them of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Article-6 (2). State Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the full development, advancement and empowerment of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the present Convention.

Most of the Women with Disabilities (WWDs) is not educated. They are burdens on their family, society and state for the lack of opportunity and co-operation.

If they get opportunities for training on income generating activities (IGA), they will be able to earn a living and be productive in society.

**Azmal Hosen Mamun**  
Bangladesh Protibandhi  
Kallyan Somity (BPKS)  
Dakkhinkhan  
Uttara, Dhaka

## Doctors' responsibilities and negligence

When people fall ill or meet with an accident a doctor's helping hand is just like a lamp in a dark tunnel. People throughout the world respect the physicians from their core of heart for their services. But these days we see that doctors in our country are only running after money and service is not the first priority to them.

Failing to get proper treatment in our country a good number of people are crossing borders in the hope for better medical service. Many people even go abroad selling their land or other valuable properties.

Such doctors can be seen are running from one hospital to another hospital/clinic. They attend hundreds of patients a day. So, how do they treat patients properly?

My father died of throat cancer. He had gone to a famous doctor at his chamber at Green Road, Dhaka before knowing his disease. Within a minute the doctor was correctly able to diagnose his disease and referred him to Cancer Institute, Mohakhali. But when my father wished to ask some questions/ information, the doctor rebuked him rudely as well as loudly and my father came out of the room with a heavy heart. Actually, there were about 40-50 patients in the chamber and the doctor could not spend more than a minute for a single patient.

The relatives of Film Star Manna have filed a case of negligence against doctors of a renowned hospital. As the case is under trial, we will not comment on it but it is true that the negligence on the part of the doctors is very common. Poor and general people do not venture to lodge a case against doctors' negligence or wrong treatment.

We know that the doctors are able to earn well enough but isn't it unethical to earn money anyhow and become a "Bill Gates" within a very few years? This profession is not like other trading houses. It has certain ethics and all doctors have to take the oath for the care of sick people. The oath was written by Hippocrates (469-377 BC), the Father of Medicine and if a disciple of Hippocrates breaches his/her oath, he must be awarded penalty for the offence.

**Harun-or-Rashid**  
Sobhanbag, Dhaka

## War criminals and the trial

Top of the news of this week is the trial of the war criminals of 1971. Undoubtedly, it is a great decision of the government. We the Bangladeshi people have been waiting for the day for 38 years. This process was strongly supported by the CTG, and for this reason I want to give heartfelt thanks to the CTG. We know that most of the senior Jamaat leaders are blamed for this war crime. How the trial will be directed? My question is, if an AL leader is found involved in this incidence then whether the trial would be fair or not? According to "SUJON" an AL leader was also involved in the crime.

We hope AL will not take it only as a political issue against the Jamaat-e-Islami. **Md. Ashraf Alam**  
Student of MSS  
Department of Economics  
University of Rajshahi



KALIM SHANTU / DRIVENews

# Bishwa Ijtema

It is a matter of pride for us that the second highest council of Muslims takes place in Bangladesh. The Daily Star reported that more than three million Muslims, including nearly 7,000 foreign devotees with larger participation from China, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Japan, Singapore, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait joined the Ijtema.

Obviously it is a great opportunity for us to present our country to the foreigners. If we can encourage them to visit our country, it will help to increase national image as well as revenue.

I personally feel that a strong combination of ministries like Ministry of Information, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Home Ministry, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Ministry of Cultural Affairs etc. is highly required to make this council a success every year.

Planned tours and shopping scopes before and after the Ijtema can be very positive and our country can earn a lot of money through this. We

expect more attention from the government and the organizations concerned in this regard.

**Md. Abdul Hamid**  
Assistant Professor  
Dept. of Business Administration  
Shahjalal University, Sylhet

Bishwa Ijtema, the second largest annual congregation of Muslims worldwide after the Hajj, just concluded. At least 65 lakh devotees from every corner of the world participated in the closing prayers for seeking divine blessings from Allah. As a matter of fact, this congregation has enlightened the image of Bangladesh in the whole world as a peaceful country.

I went there and asked some questions to the foreigners about our country. They told me that Bangladesh is a spectacular country. This comment gave me a great pleasure. I am also proud of being a citizen of Bangladesh. I urge the government to provide facilities for smooth holding of the congregation.

**AKM Anisul Haque**  
Department of English  
Metropolitan University, Sylhet

## Law and order

Suddenly there has been a change in the law and order situation in the country.

Immediately after inauguration of the new government there has been some incidents of campus violence, pre-and-post Upazila election killings, street battles on the campus of Jagannath University. Apart from these incidents, suddenly incidents of extortions, theft and dacoity and toll collections at bus stands and other public places have increased. The people of Bangladesh have already started fearing about the possible return of pre-one-eleven time. Although, it is too early to blame the present government for this change in law and order situation, the government itself should not take it lightly and allow the trend to aggravate further.

We remember the pre-1975 August period. To create an opportunity to kill the father of the nation, his enemies created a law and order situation in the new Bangladesh. The anti-liberation forces who had still not surrendered arms, created such a situation in the country where people began to worry about their security.

The jute mills were being torched every day, students were asking for auto-promotion, government officials were fighting for undue promotions, officials

were stealing ration goods and the common people lost hope. Thus the field was created and he was killed. We know what happened after his death all these years.

The demand for trial of war criminals is gaining momentum. The people have rejected the 4-party alliance government and given the responsibility to Mohajote led by AL.

So, this government has no other alternative but to ensure security of life of the people.

It will have to contain the criminals wherever they are and at any cost. No matter who is what, a person found guilty must be punished. First come first serve, first the security and then price, health care, education, digital Bangladesh and other basic needs of the people. **Shafiqul Islam, NY**

## Load shedding

It is bad news for us, that though it is winter season we face load shedding. Not only in the villages, but also in the cities we see this problem. Load shedding is a national problem. At the time of the caretaker government this problem was acute. They could not ensure electricity. Now a new govt. is in power. They promised to solve electricity problem.

But it needs a permanent solution. So we request the govt. to set up new plants to provide electricity and gas. **Mahfuzur Rahman Manik**  
IER, University of Dhaka

## Baitul Mukarram Mosque

The problem at Baitul Mukarram remains unresolved. The Khatib was appointed by the outgoing caretaker government. We do not know on what basis a Khatib is appointed and by whom? Why was it not possible for the CTG to confirm the acting Khatib? I think the shadow of deliberate misrule (?) of the CTG is still haunting our society and might eventually spread all over. The activities of the then law and religious ministry needs to be reviewed and made public.

The present government has failed to handle the issue in its right perspective. The police is always a factor of provocation and not a solution to what has happened in the mosque. As usual, the

issue has been taken outside the mosque. A number of political parties including a few of the mainstream religion-based parties and alliances would extend their open and hidden hands to flare up the flame in the name of Islam. I think the government should take more prudent approach to resolve the issue, and keep full transparency so that the ordinary citizens are informed about the real problem and possible solution. **A reader**  
On e-mail

## Ban student politics

After the national election of December 29, most of the campuses of the public universities of Bangladesh have become very turbulent. The rank and file of BCL have become desperate to establish their supremacy. The tug of war has destabilized the congenial atmosphere of the prominent educational institutions of our country. Actually, student politics is a great setback to the educational progress in our country. The general students cannot carry on with their studies smoothly due to nefarious student politics.

The recent happenings on DU, JU and JNU campuses prove that the student leaders are supported by the high-ups in the government. And shockingly, our PM has expressed her reluctance to ban student politics lately. But to me, student politics is not only worthless but also destructive. Realistically speaking, those who are actively involved in student politics are not students at all. The so-called students pursue politics for their personal gains.

They lack etiquette and they do not bother about social norms and values. They are ready to serve the party interest only. We have nothing to get from these people. So, I earnestly entreat our Honourable PM to be bold and proactive to ban student politics for the sake of the betterment of the country. The countrymen will be thankful to you for your auspicious endeavour, if student politics is banned. **Molla Mohammad Shaheen**  
Lecturer of English  
Leading University, Sylhet

# JU female student harassment

As a former student of JU, I am quite disappointed to see the outcome of the movement against sexual harassment in the campus. The students of Jahangirnagar University always had the spirit to fight against any kind of oppression they faced. We fought and we won in some ways in the past.

Last year some students of a particular department accused a teacher of their department of committing sexual harassment. The general students of JU started a movement against such behaviour and they demanded the teacher's immediate expulsion from the university.

But the syndicate exempted him from the accusation. After that, the students organised a solidarity meet-

ing in Dhaka where eminent personalities like Sultana Kamal were present and gave their speech against such type of behaviour of a teacher and urged the university authorities to take punitive actions against him. But what's the result?

We, the ex-students of JU urge the newly elected government to take urgent steps so that the university reinvestigates the charges against the perpetrator and punishes him accordingly. We also demand to the authorities to formulate a policy against sexual harassment.

**Tamanna Rahman**  
Ex-student of JU

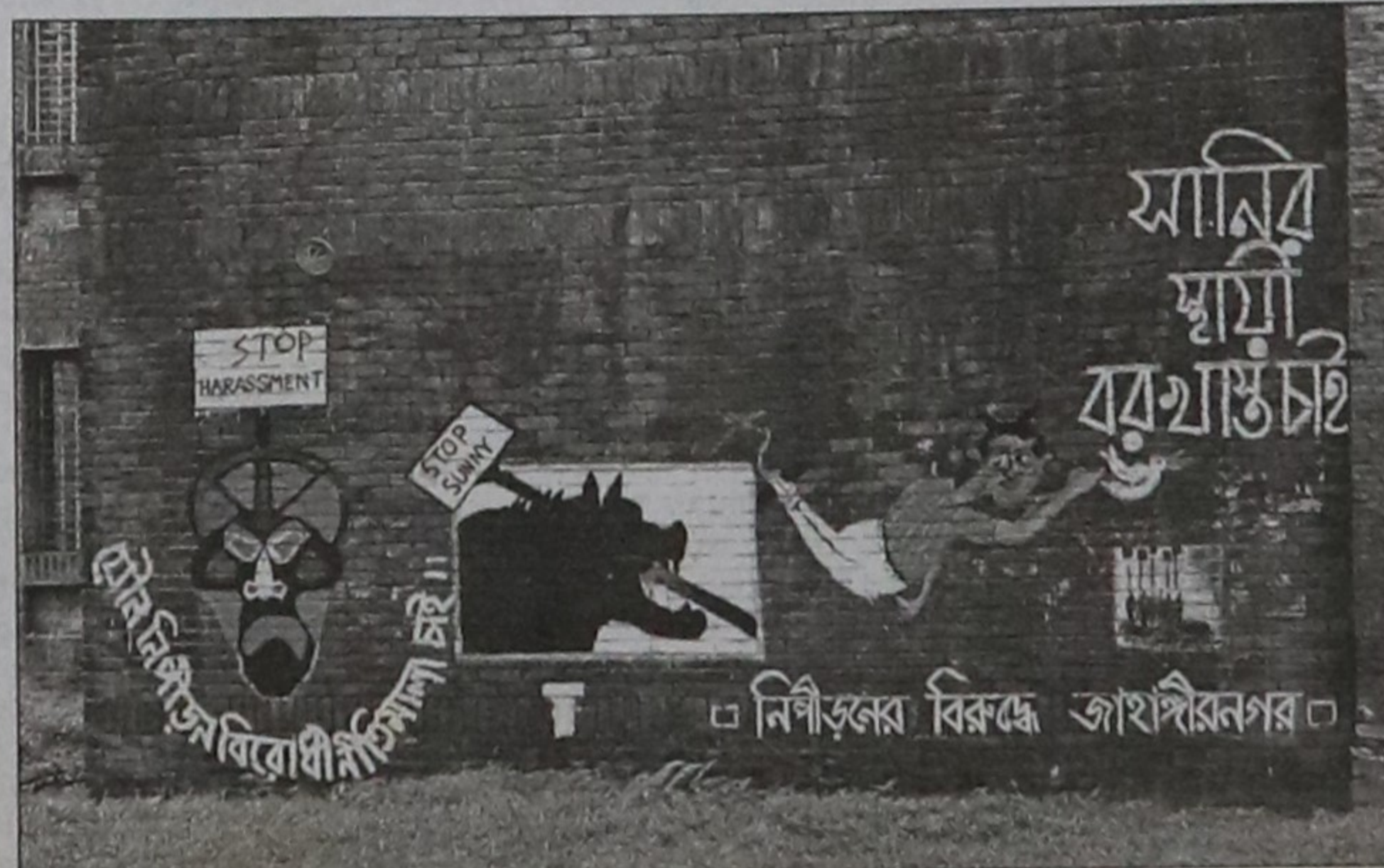


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