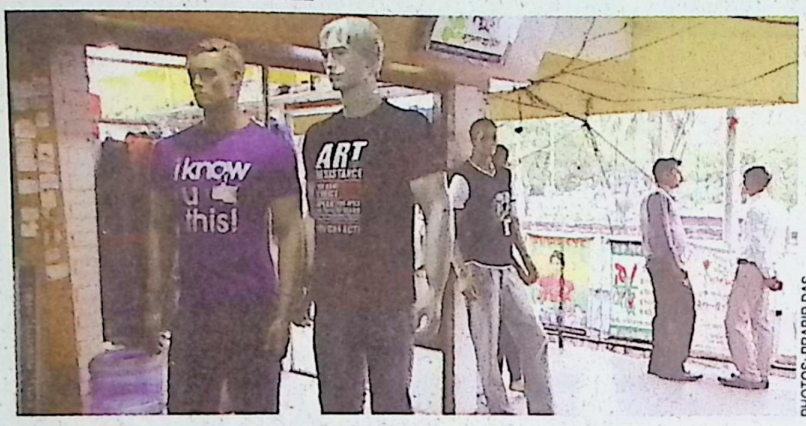
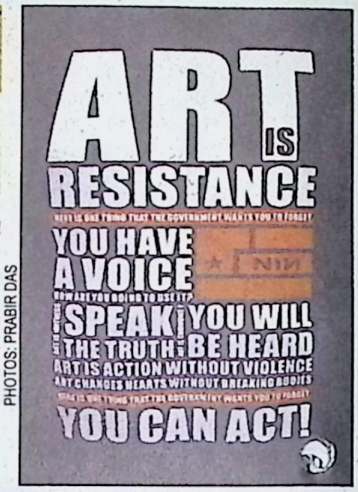




PHOTOS: PRABIR DAS

Marketing the Patriotic Spirit

ANIKA HOSSAIN

Aziz Super Market has been around for so long, it has become an integral part of Dhaka city's culture. This isn't just any old market place, it is considered to be home to many a poet, philosopher, novelist, film-maker and intellectual who have spent hours in the market's cramped little coffee shops having passionate discussions which would later shape their futures in ways they were not aware of.

The dimly lit, narrow passages of the market, have a charm of their own, and the tiny shops each host a different, interesting talent. There are clothing stores, the wares of which are designed mostly by the store owners themselves. Kurtas and kameezes with ethnic motifs and bright colours, designed and priced reasonably for students.



PHOTOS: PRABIR DAS

The t-Shirt shops in Aziz market are well known for their bold patriotic catchphrases and have been a welcome addition to the wardrobes of many a blossoming revolutionary. It isn't uncommon to see a youngster, especially in times during these, abandoning his button down collared shirt for a slogan bearing t-shirt and Che beret— dressing the modern day activist seems to be a hobby for the designers in this market, many of whom are students of Dhaka University's Fine Arts Institute. Their t-shirts also portray musical icons such as Bob Marley, Pink Floyd and the Beatles and legendary sportsmen.

Aside from clothing stores, there are books galore, both local and foreign, classics and contemporary literature. Bangla translations of popular foreign books are also widely available here. Each bookshop is unique in its own way. One particular store, owned by an aspiring independent film maker, sells carefully selected foreign films (French, Irani, Spanish etc), while another sells posters of intellectual idols such as Sattyajit Ray,