

PHOTOS: PRABIR DAS



John Lennon, Arundhati Roy and Tagore among many others whom students today consider their role models.

A number of arts and cultural centres, computer training centres, sweet shops and restaurants are also a part of this one of a kind market, but what catches the eye when you first approach it, is a unique little store, with a window display of marble statues of all shapes and sizes. This store has been a part of the market since the very beginning of its existence. Inspired by the sculptures he had seen in Spain, the shop owner opened this outlet as a hobby. The sculptures, all reasonably priced are marble casts of Spanish and Italian design as well as some with Bangladeshi influence. "I don't discriminate between religions or promote any one religion," says the owner who wishes to remain unnamed, as he shows us sculptures of Moses, Jesus, Radha, Krishna and a large emblem with the words "Allahu" carved on it. The store has also recently completed a series depicting the architectural heritage of Bangladesh, which includes intricate mini models of the Smriti Shoudho, Shaheed Minar, Parliamant building, Shat Gambuj Mosque etc.

Aziz Market, with its avant garde merchandise and artistic patrons is undoubtedly the most popular cultural hub of the city. Every student, especially of Dhaka University holds this market as the epitome of Bangladeshi spirit and pride. The coffee shop debaters, who have gone into the world to fight for their cause, still hold this landmark close to their hearts. A walk through Aziz Super Market will give every Bangladeshi a sense of unity, freedom and a sense of belonging and a reminder of who we are, something we all crave, in these troubled times.