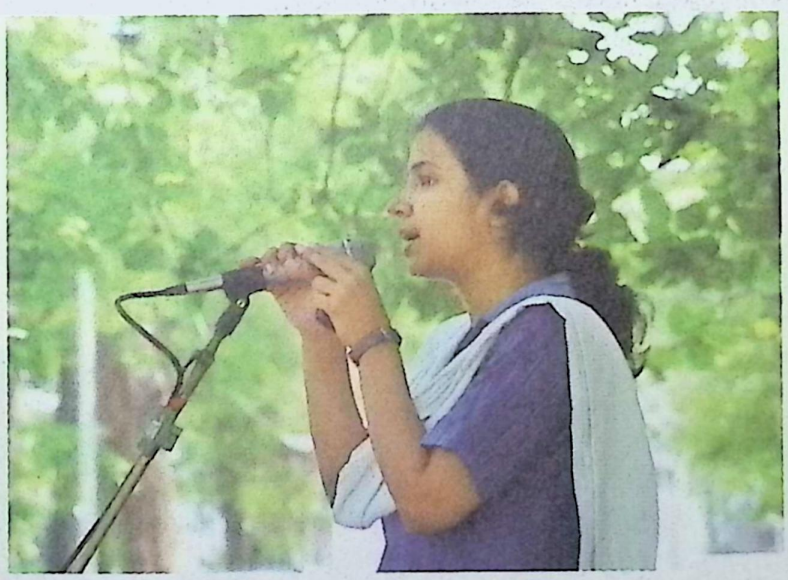
Time Magazine has selected "A final Embrace" as one of the top ten photos of 2013.



Taslima Akhter

and an overpowering stench engulfing the whole area. She says, "I found a couple lying at the back of the building. They were embracing each other in the rubble. The lower parts of their bodies were stuck under the concrete. A drop of blood from the man's eye ran like a tear."

"I didn't want to use flash but I had no other option because it was totally dark under the debris," she says. Akther took a few snaps and came out of the building with a heavy heart. The image was decisively set in her mind and many questions surfaced – she wanted to know more about the couple's identity, their relationship, and the last thought or flicker of hope that may have lingered in their minds to survive the collapse. She tried her best to find out who these two people were and went around the country to find out, but in vain. That poignant moment that she captured reflects the very nature of humanity; in the worst possible times, a human being is wont to save themselves but the instinct is also to save others. The image will not be praised for its technological reproduction of reality but for its portrayal of one of the most beautiful elements of humanity.

Akhter was born in a very traditional family. Just like many women in her family and community, she faced the usual restrictions and prejudice. And the experience made her reconsider her life choices.

In her first year as a student of University of Dhaka, her friends were involved in a leftist organization. Gradually, she too got involved. "Before joining a political party, politics was a dirty game to me but I realised later on that in order to change