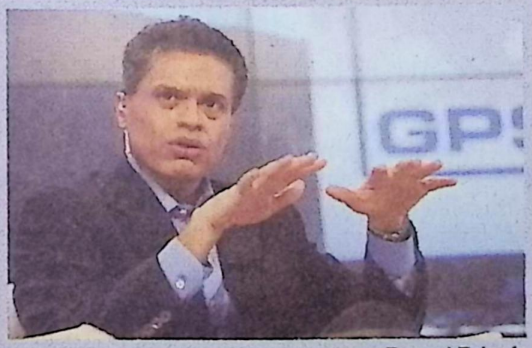


PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

However university students and researchers are not alone in committing this crime. Many famous personalities such as political leaders and artists have alleged to have committed plagiarism. And when proved guilty they have to pay a heavy price for it.

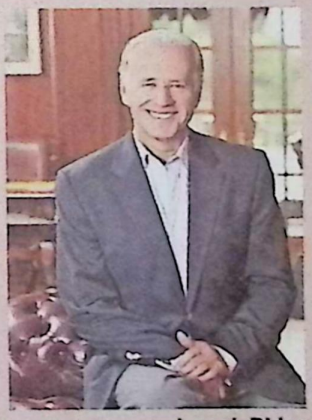
Fareed Zakaria



Fareed Zakaria

Famous journalist and author Fareed Zakaria was accused of plagiarism after publishing an article on gun control which had similarities with a New Yorker article by Jill Lepore. Farid was suspended temporarily from the CNN and Times while the allegation was investigated. He also apologised in a statement "unreservedly" saying that, "he had made a terrible mistake." Six days later, after reviewing his work, the CNN and Times reinstated him as they found it as an "unintentional" and "isolated" case.

US Senator Joseph Biden



Joseph Biden

Joseph Biden was forced to withdraw from the 1988 Democratic US Presidential nominations when it was alleged that he had failed a 1965 introductory law school course on legal methodology due to plagiarism. Biden insisted, however, that he had done nothing 'malevolent,' that he had simply misunderstood the need to cite sources carefully. Though Joseph was cleared of the allegations by the Supreme Court, he could not run that year as a Presidential candidate.

We still have no policy to prevent plagiarism in Bangladesh despite the fact that we have 32 public universities and over 50 private universities. Even in the latest education policy passed in 2010, no steps have been taken to prevent plagiarism. While other countries follows a stringent policy to prevent this crime to have more original researches and works, our policy makers and academicians seem to be unaware of it. ■