

Gone with the wind

I had a pair of roller skates while growing up. I have not thought about them in years. Until I read the nostalgic cover story, that is. I miss a well written letter from a loved one and I miss a good fountain pen. But change is inevitable and we have to accept it. I enjoyed reading the story very much.

Shakil Khan
Azimpur, Dhaka

Hazardous Farming

The production of tomato is increasing every year in Bangladesh. That's good news. But I am concerned with the way farmers cultivate tomato in certain parts in the country. They engirdle the farm lands with nets to stop birds—who love ripe tomatoes—from entering into fields. In the process, birds get caught in the net and die. I saw many species of dead birds while visiting tomato farmlands in Dhunat area of Bogra. Farmers have to protect their crops but there has

to be a more environment-friendly solution. The government should take immediate steps to save birds.

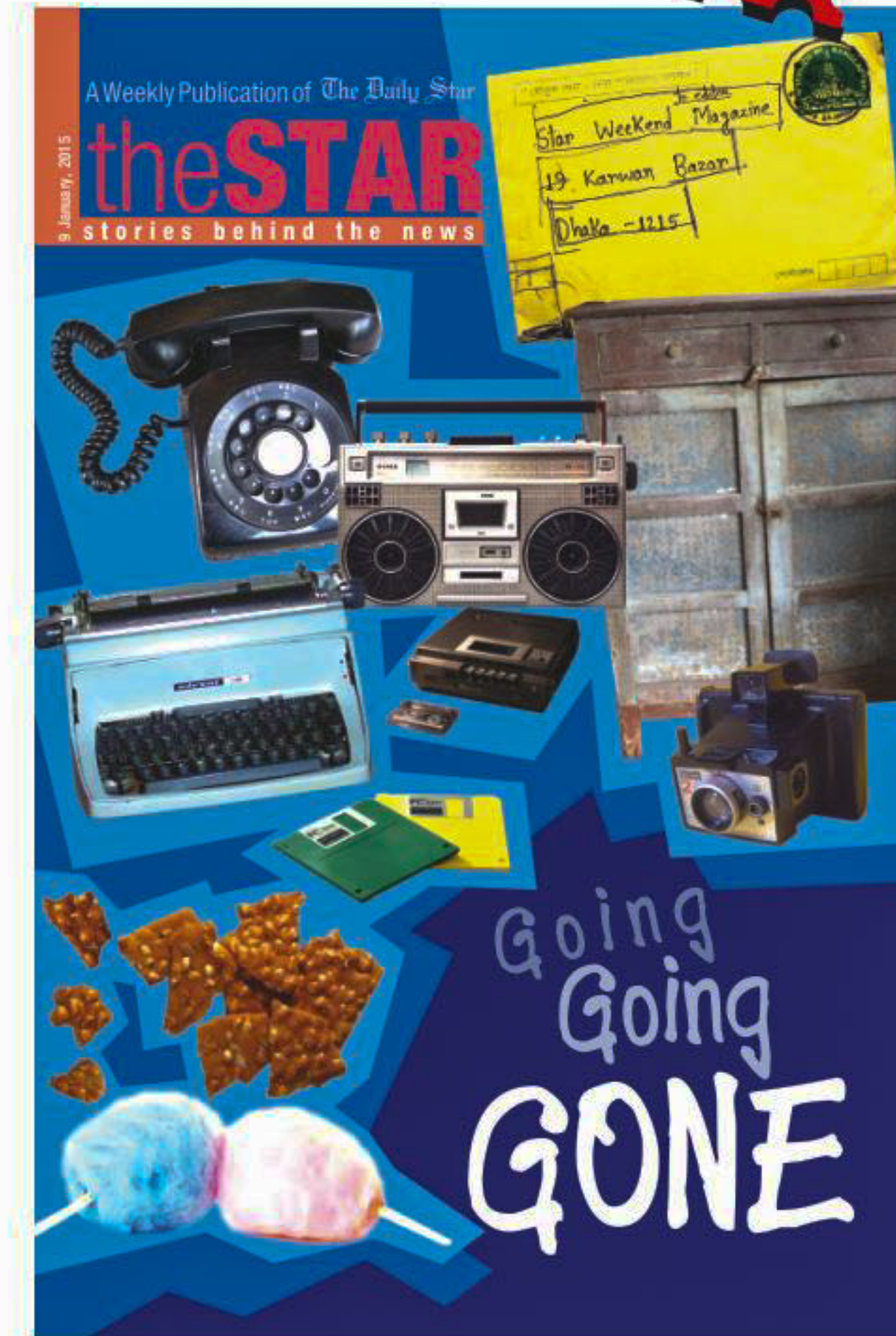
Md Nazmul Islam
HSC student
Jalshuka Habibur Rahman College
Bogra

A positive step of Indian HC

The High Commission of India in Dhaka recently announced that from henceforth medical visa applicants would no longer be required to obtain e-token. They can apply direct to the High Commission for visa. We applaud the move and thank the Indian High Commission for responding positively to peoples' demand. We further request the High Commission to design a mechanism for tourist visa applicants so that they are spared the inconveniences they often face obtaining visa.

Dr SN Mamoon
On email

MAILBOX
thestarmagazine@gmail.com



Will there be Another Monajatuddin?

I am deeply moved by the article 'The Minstrel Journalist' published on December 26, 2014. Monajatuddin was a brilliant and conscientious writer. His passion, industry and enthusiasm should inspire journalists to produce objective reports about life in rural Bangladesh. Sometimes he risked his own life for investigating an incident. Nowadays we hardly see any journalist like him. I want to thank the writer and the Star for such a wonderful article.

Punam Nath
On Email

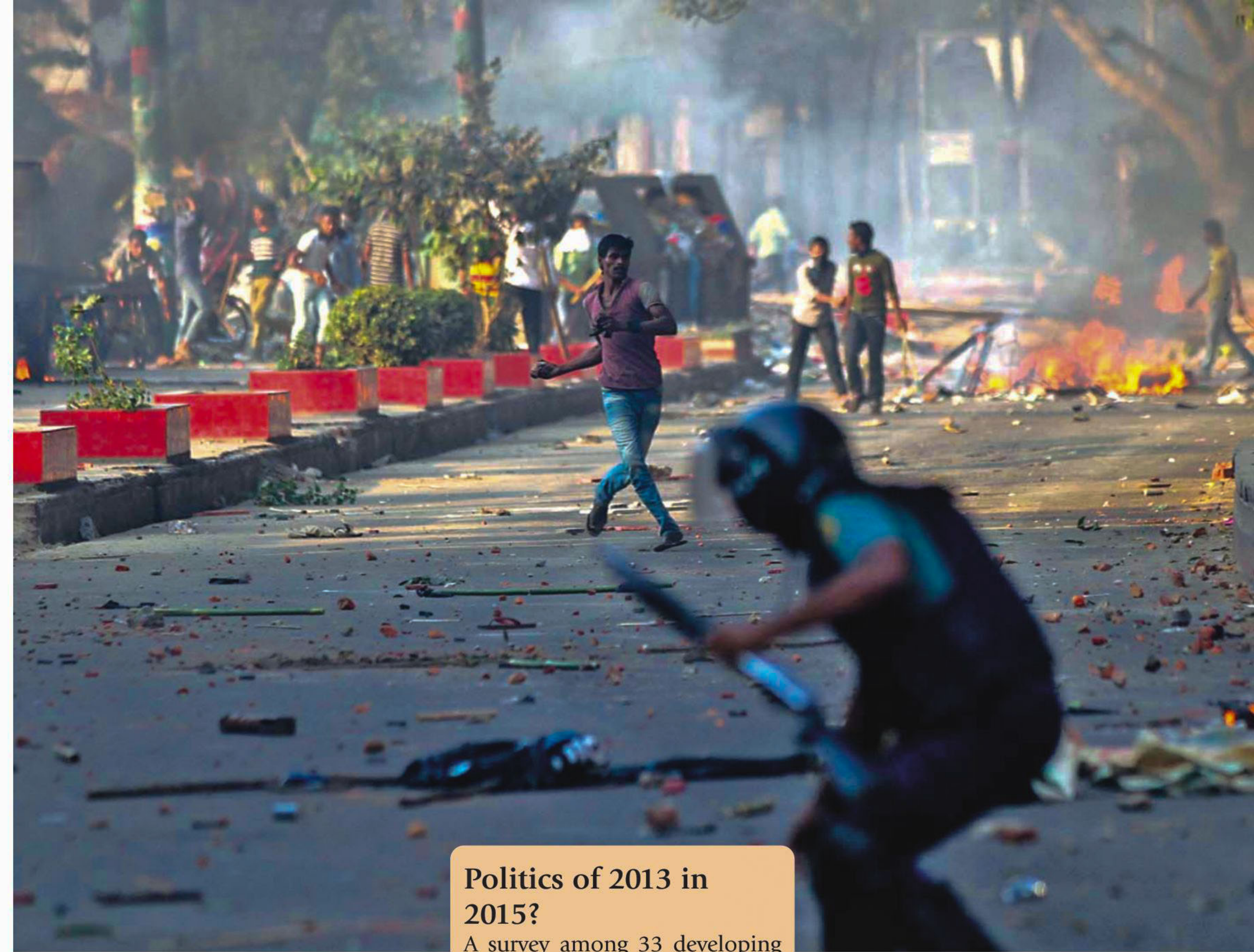
The opinions expressed in these letters do not necessarily represent the views held by the Star.

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Letters to the Editor, Star Diary and Write to Mita, with the writer's name and address, should be within 200 words. All articles should be within 1,200 words. A cover letter is not necessary, but every write-up should include the writer's name, phone number and email address (if any). While The Star

welcomes unsolicited articles and photographs, it cannot accept the responsibility of their loss or damage. The Star does not return unsolicited articles and photos. Response time for unsolicited write-ups ranges from three weeks to two months. All articles submitted are subject to editing for reasons of space and clarity.

All materials should be sent to: The Star magazine, 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Fax: 880-2-8125155 or emailed to: <thestarmagazine@gmail.com> It is recommended that those submitting work for the first time to The Star take a look at a sample copy beforehand. Our website is: <http://www.thedailystar.net/magazine>



Politics of 2013 in 2015?

A survey among 33 developing countries by PEW Research Centre entitled "Spring 2014 Global Attitude Survey" reveal that about 65 percent people of Bangladesh participate in the political meetings and processions. Among the 33 countries the people of Bangladesh are the most active politically. But people's lives are being held hostage by 'political activities' such as hartal and oborodh. January 5 was observed by the ruling party as "the victory of democracy" while the same day was observed as "the death of democracy" by the BNP. There must be a consensus among them on how to move forward and run the country. We want peace. Enough is enough.

Md Israfil Hossen
Bijoy Ekattor Hall
University of Dhaka

an ideal natural sweetener to use in moderation as we begin to control our carbohydrate cravings. Stevia is also recommended for people being treated for obe-

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

sity and high blood pressure. Stevia is widely used in Japan as a sugar substitute. In Bangladesh, it is possible to grow Stevia and make a variety of sweet dishes with Stevia extract instead of sugar.

The government should take steps to promote the cultivation of Stevia in Bangladesh. This will be a big relief for diabetic patients with a sweet tooth and those who are prone to diabetes.

Mohd Ashraf Hossain
Bashaboo, Dhaka

Indian Bangla channels

This has reference to Zahiruddin Babar's letter published on January 9, 2014. I could not agree with him more. The Indian Bangla channels telecast in Bangladesh are doing more harm than good. It is high time government banned controversial Indian channels.

Ayesha Siddiqua
New Eskaton, Dhaka