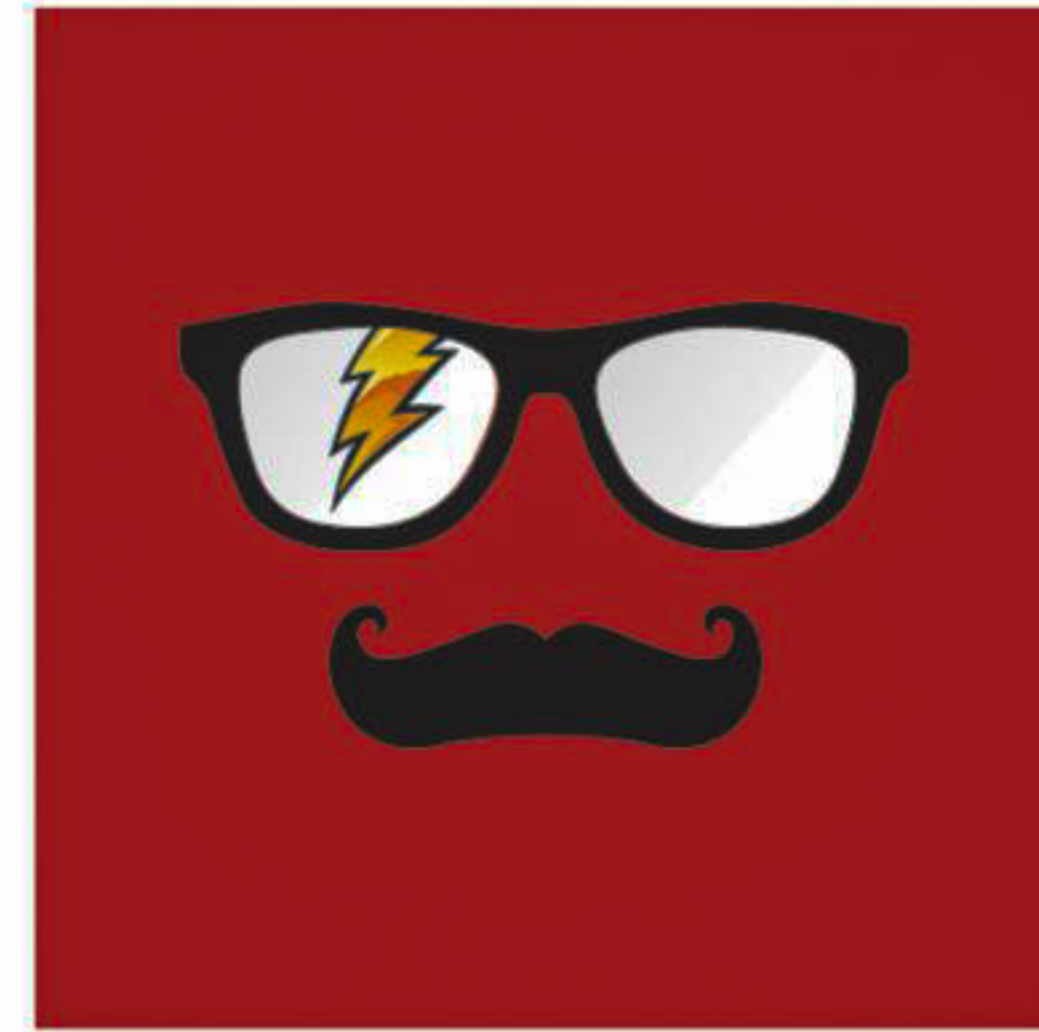


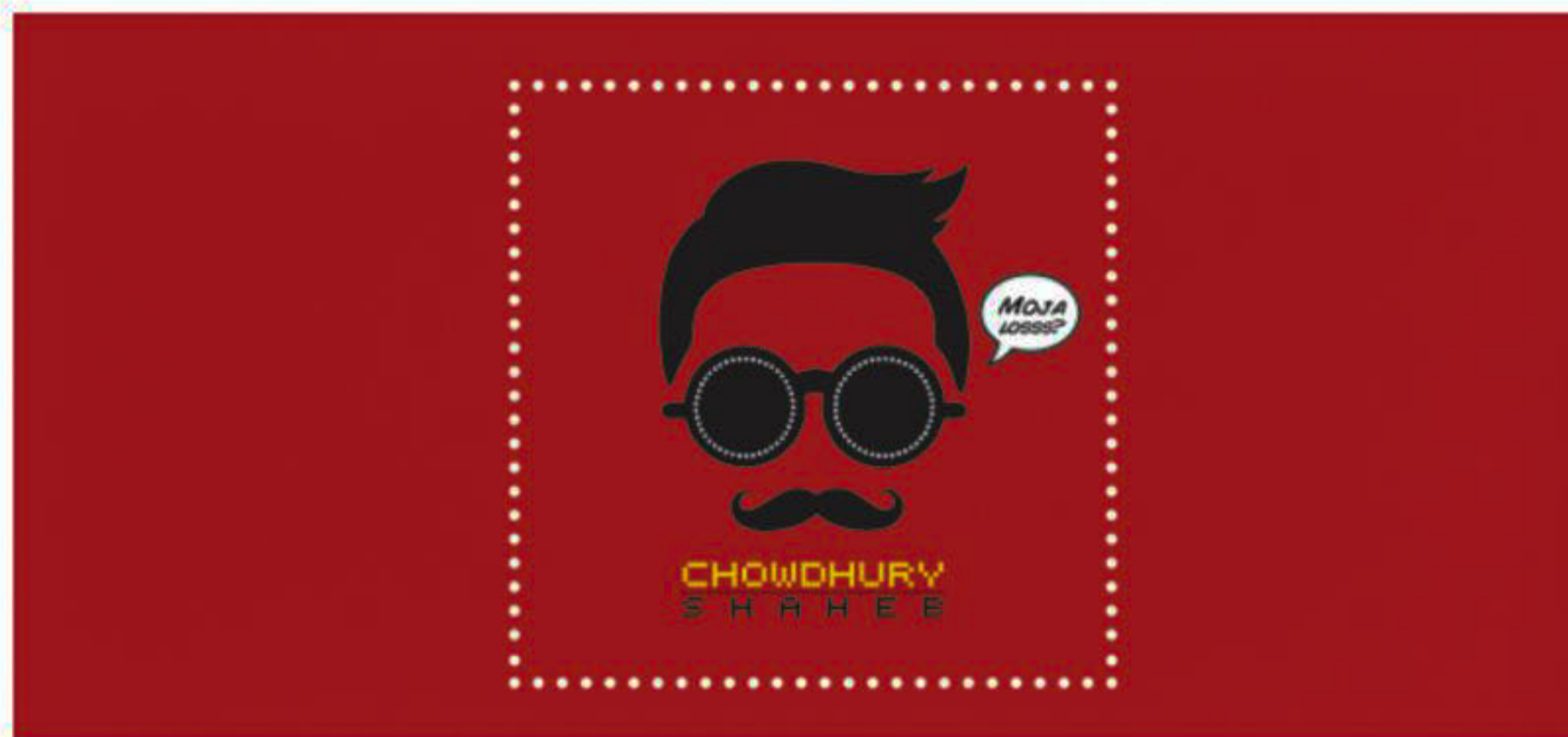
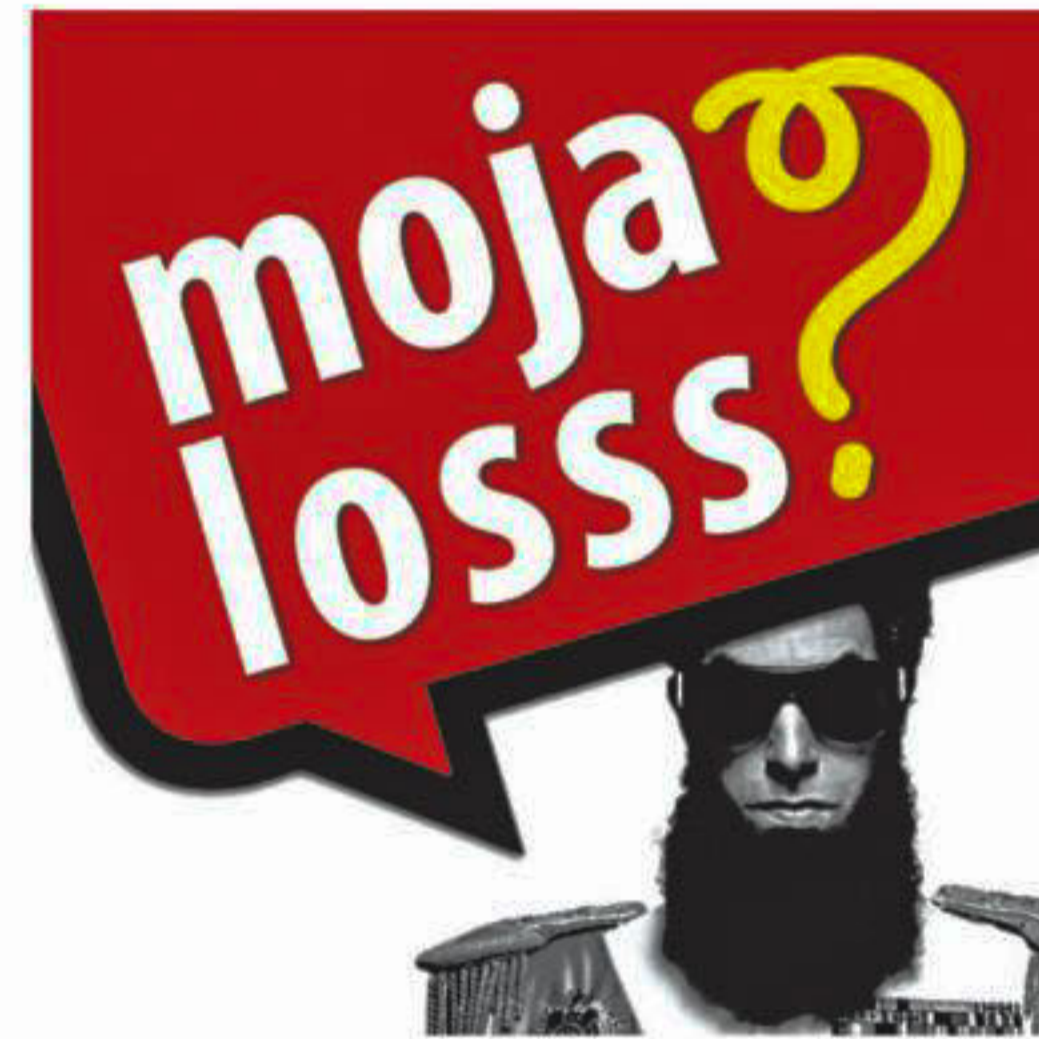
OPINION



HEROES VS. VILLAINS

DELVING INTO MOJA LOSS? AND SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVISM

AAYAN ABBASI



CONSIDER THIS BEFORE YOU START PUTTING LABELS – HAD IT BEEN YOU OR LITON NANDI CAUGHT IN THE SAME FOOTAGE IN THE MESS OF MEN, TRYING TO PUSH THE CROWD TO SAVE THE WOMEN WITH ALL THE RIGHT INTENTIONS, HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN YOUR ROLE IN THE PICTURE? WHO WOULD BELIEVE YOU?

understand how BCL's past record only goes to show their self-righteous acts of corruption, looting and overbearing assaults on commoners with no sense of accountability. Yet, it should not impede

in our own virtues of accountability. Without just about the right measure of evidence – be it first-person accounts, more footage, an elaborate contextualisation of the scene – our

I've always felt we live in a strictly bipolar country. We swing from heroes to villains, from patriotism to nihilism. As I mourned how *Moja Loss?* had to step back from their social activism because of the Supreme Grand Masters of the universe, I began to wonder whether we are too quick to make our decisions. I've been a long time follower of the page, and beyond trolls, I love their wit and proactiveness. While I was extremely thrilled to see them put on an 'activist hat' and leverage their presence to talk about issues that matter, I realized why often, we need to balance our angers with compassion, and our joys with reservation.

The footage from Ekattor TV and subsequently shared across social and print media were drawn from the CCTVs at the scene of action in TSC. *Moja Loss?* initial posts about identifying harassers and drawing from archives were extremely effective and eventually, caught the attention from law enforcement agencies. However, a blurred image of one harasser matched against the photograph of one BCL cadre is falling into the disadvantage of doubt.

Consider this before you start putting labels – had it been you or Liton Nandi caught in the same footage in the mess of men, trying to push the crowd to save the women with all the right intentions, how would you explain your role in the picture? Who would believe you? I

journalistic and legal parameters cannot rule out anyone as guilty. That's just Sensibility 101.

I sincerely condemn the fact that the page was asked to step back. I strongly feel this is an infringement on our freedom of expression. I see why *Moja Loss?* did what they did – alongside social activism, they were also emotional, enraged and determined to take matters into their own hands because no one else would. I genuinely feel that asking the page to back down isn't in any way the right approach and the power that should be more pragmatic and democratic. I feel powerless and angry – and I stand by *Moja Loss?* and their million fans versus critics.

One wrong cannot undo what is right however, the right cannot be made by killing off all the wrong.

SHUTTERSTORIES



Two years ago on this day, Rana Plaza, an eight storied commercial building in Savar, collapsed, killing at least 1129 people. At least 2515 people were severely injured. Most of the victims were poor garment workers, working in the clothing factories housed in the building. One of the most heartbreaking tragedies in history, the collapse left thousands of people disabled and jobless. Many of the injured survivors and their families are still leading a miserable life due to lack of rehabilitation efforts.



REMEMBERING RANA PLAZA

PHOTOS : PRABIR DAS and KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO
TEXT: MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

