

"There's a storm coming, Mr Insane. You and your friends better batten down the hatches, because when it hits, you're all gonna wonder how you ever thought you could live so large and leave so little for the rest of us." These are the very words that our hero lives by. In the new world crafted by the designs of George RR Martin, there are no longer any good guys or bad guys; only realists who live on the very boundaries of the so-called grey area. And this is the grey area that gave birth to Bangladesh's first ever superhero: The Vatman. The Vatman knows its best too: have it all than leave too little for the rest.

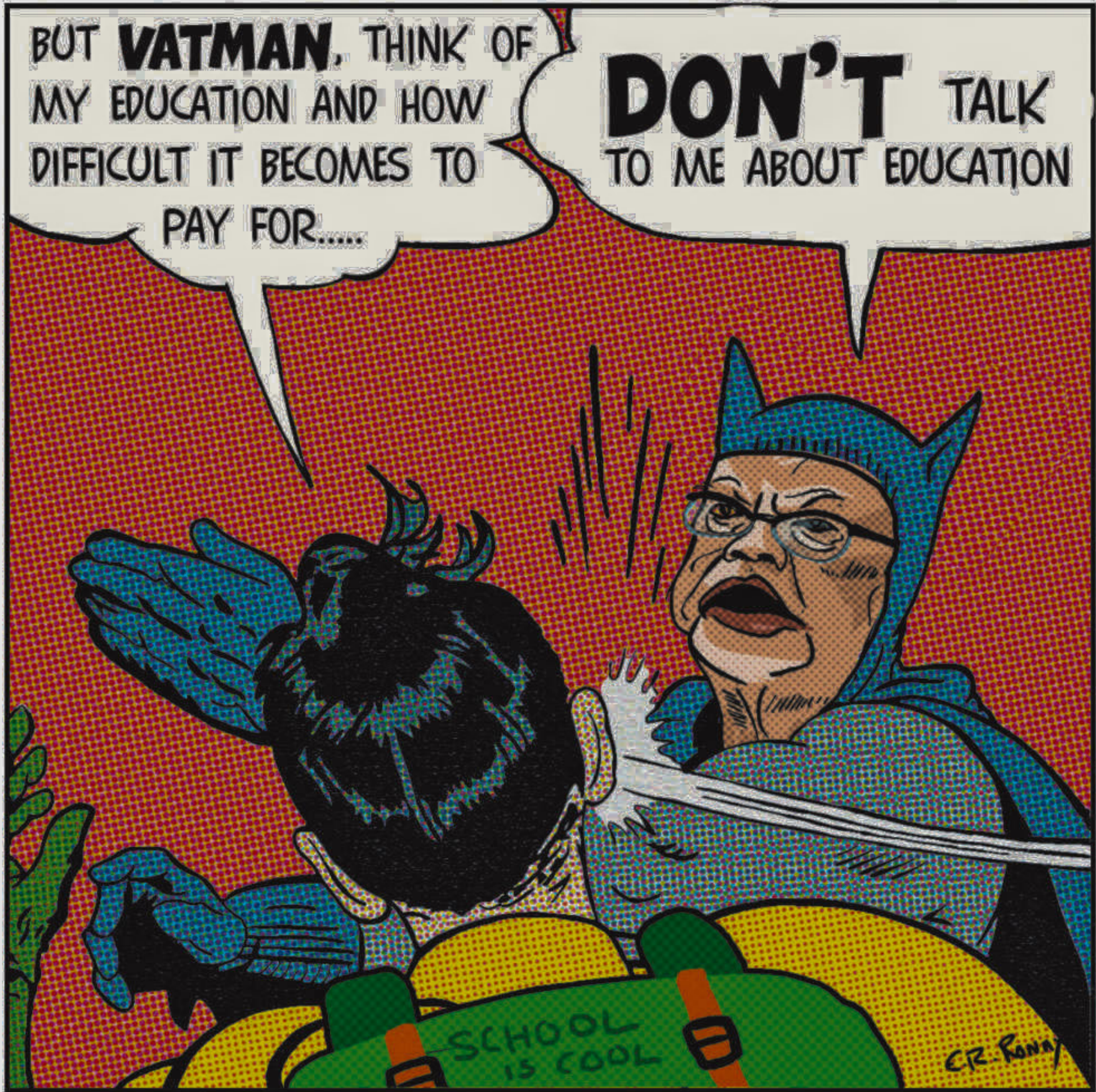
A reality that transcended into a meme and metamorphosed back into its former self, our only hopes of salvation now lies with the Vatman. No one knows who he is or what purpose he serves. Hell, no one even knows why he was selected to serve the purpose he was chosen to serve. But he is there nonetheless, making decisions and statements that even make Fox News reconsider their stance on whether Donald Trump is really the funniest thing about politics. The Vatman is an individual who considers 4000 crore taka a meager amount, only if it was embezzled from the populace he serves right under his nose. He is also the man much reviled for allowing an entire stock market to crash. He was further criticized for not disclosing the names of the individuals who caused the crash despite starting a committee just to find those very names. But now, he has a plan. And if logic is how you make plans, then the Vatman is surely not for your liking.

Some people just want to watch the world burn. Others burn it by trying to put out the flames using the bottle of Chivas Regal they just acquired by their latest appearance at some fashion show at a famous club or inaugurating yet another corporation, despite being a public servant and such endorsements being unethical. Some men just live beyond the rules and the Vatman is truly one such character. Now is the time to

THE VATMAN RISES AND SURPRISES AGAIN

OSAMA RAHMAN

CARTOON: E R RONNY



pick up the pen and jot down some details on how it's all done. But you probably can't by the time this article comes out. The Vatman is called that for a reason and the reason is he is the champion of Value-Added Tax, a capitalist orgy which considers all externalities derived from any activity to be fickle. Economic good or economic bad, the Vatman knows all things should be taxed.

Except listed corporations, of course. Listed corporations can pay less tax than they used to. After all, they contribute monetarily to society, unlike so many private educational institutes that only educate students. What is the point of educating students who don't even pay taxes? Maybe they do, but their university doesn't. And what about healthcare? People these days go to the doctor the minute their child sneezes more than once. The Vatman knows to tax that too. Tax anything that moves or doesn't. Had a new born baby? Tax that little bugger before he consumes too much milk and baby formula. The Vatman must protect.

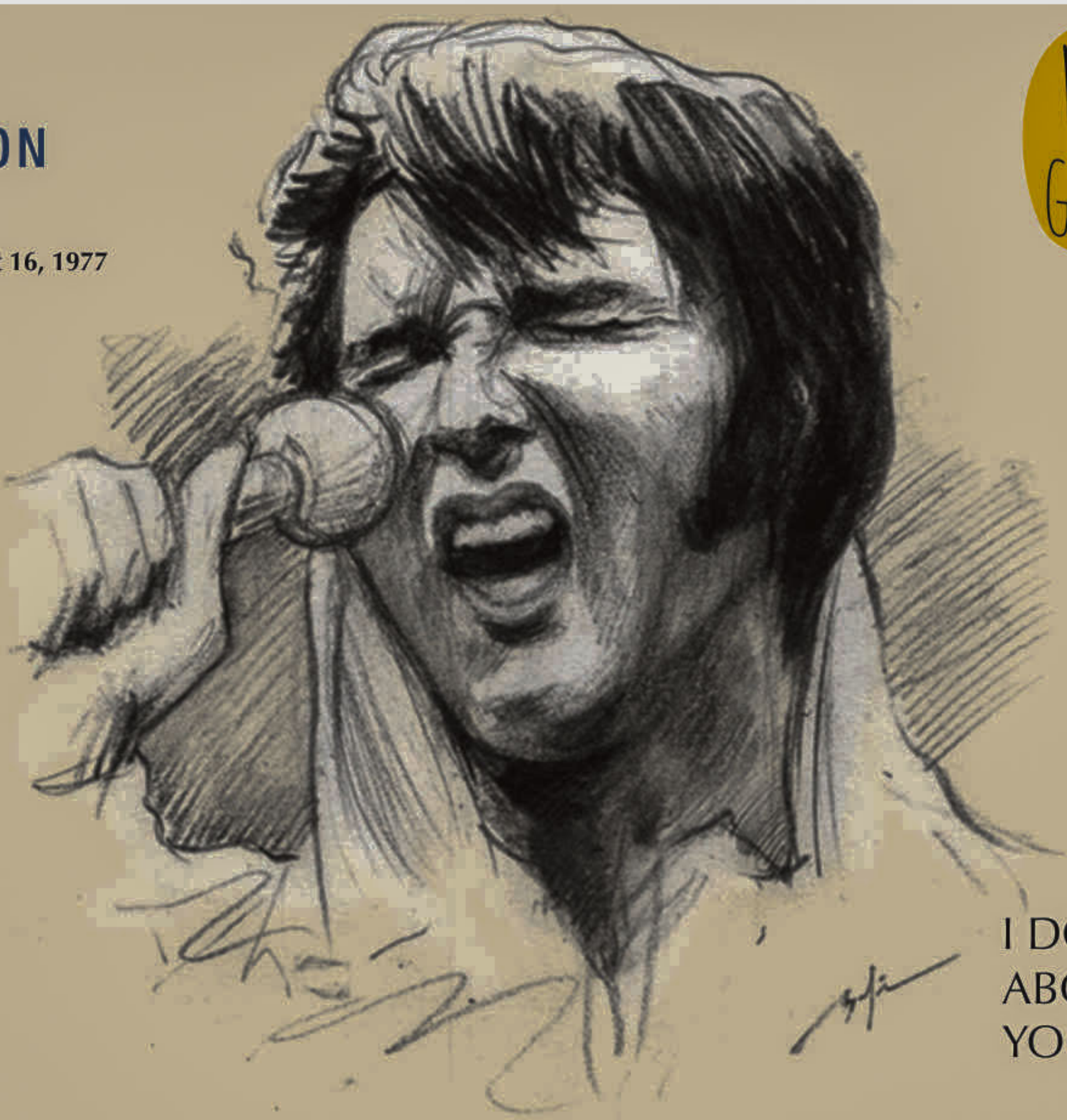
But who must he protect? Must he stop and ask why banks earn double on loans and pay half the interest rate for deposits? Should he in fact say it's better to have more public funded universities at a higher cost than a tax on already expensive private education? The Vatman doesn't have time for such petty thoughts. Armed with a BA in English Literature (a must for anyone dealing with finances, right?) and an MPA from Harvard, the Vatman knows what economics, at least micro – economics without the nuisance of economic externalities, is all about. He may not be the hero we want but he is certainly the hero we need. A visionary, the Vatman is primed to be a saviour. With his flavour of "what's logic" and short-termism, the country can only move forward in time at least for a few years. Then there will be too few skilled workers, all priced out of education. But that is a worry for someone else. Someone else who isn't Vatman. Someone else who needs the Vatman. ■

SATIRE

ELVIS AARON PRESLEY

January 8, 1935 – August 16, 1977

Elvis Aaron Presley was an American singer and actor. Regarded as one of the most significant cultural icons of the 20th century, he is often referred to as "the King of Rock and Roll", or simply, "the King".



SKETCH: YAFIZ SIDDIQUI

MAD GENIUS

“TRUTH IS LIKE THE SUN. YOU CAN SHUT IT OUT FOR A TIME, BUT IT AIN'T GOIN' AWAY.

FROM THE TIME I WAS A KID, I ALWAYS KNEW SOMETHING WAS GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME. DIDN'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT.

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MUSIC. IN MY LINE YOU DON'T HAVE TO.”

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA AND BRAINY QUOTES

STARDIARY

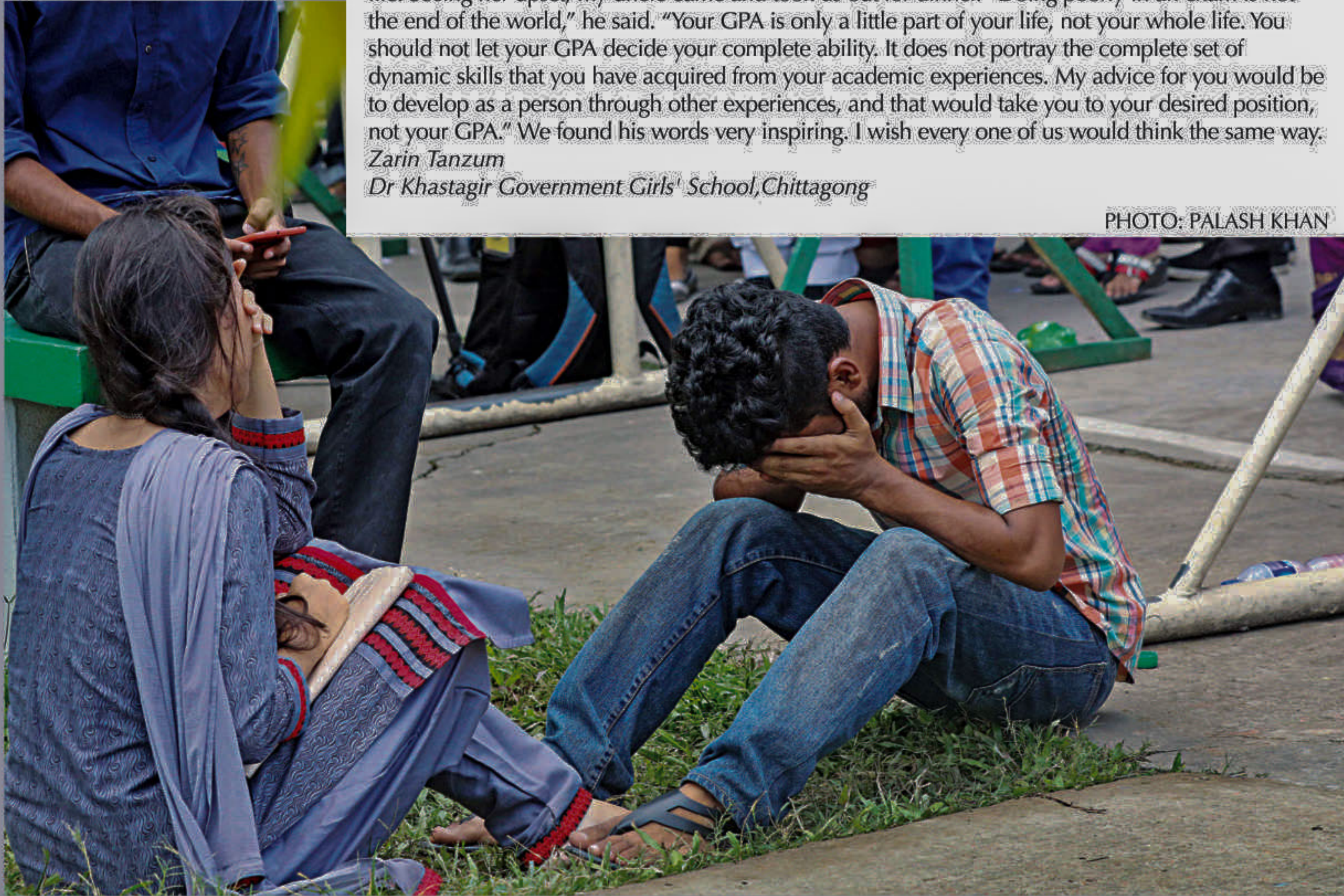
IT IS JUST A NUMBER

Last week the HSC results got published and my sister could not score a GPA 5. Seeing her results, she burst out into tears and became very upset. She had been a good student all her life and it was beyond her imagination that she would do poorly in such an important exam in her life. Seeing her upset, my uncle came and took us out for dinner. "Doing poorly in an exam is not the end of the world," he said. "Your GPA is only a little part of your life, not your whole life. You should not let your GPA decide your complete ability. It does not portray the complete set of dynamic skills that you have acquired from your academic experiences. My advice for you would be to develop as a person through other experiences, and that would take you to your desired position, not your GPA." We found his words very inspiring. I wish every one of us would think the same way.

Zarin Tanzum

Dr Khastagir Government Girls' School, Chittagong

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



STANDING UP FOR YOUR RIGHT

The other day as I was waiting for a rickshaw, I noticed that a CNG driver was behaving rudely with his passenger, a middle aged woman. He was demanding more than the actual fare, probably taking advantage of the fact that he could get away with acting in this manner with a woman. However, the woman stated that she happened to be a regular commuter who uses that route and that she knew the fare. She would have paid him more if he were a little less rude to her, she told the man. But the CNG driver continued to behave rudely, hurling insults at her. When she wanted to leave the place after paying the fare, the driver even tried to stop her, asking for that extra amount of money. This is when people standing nearby jumped in, rebuking him for his behaviour. It is quite a common scene seeing a random man behaving badly with a woman because he thinks he can get away with it. However, I am happy to see that people have become sensitive and aware about Women's Rights and unafraid to raise their voice in situations like this.

Monirul Kader
Mirpur, Dhaka

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11.00 %	01 Year
12.00 %	02 Years
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