



# OF BIG FAT WEDDINGS

The recent news about Bangladesh being the least emotional country has been making the rounds these days. Many have found it a convenient index to explain away almost all the bad things we do. As a people we feel no emotions apparently. However, the index in question used a very narrow range of very first world problems to reach that conclusion. Questions included whether one slept well, learned something interesting, how much we laughed and what emotions we experienced, among others. In short, these are things Bangladeshis don't care much about. We are a shy, humble people who mostly feel the most important day (month) in a person's life is their wedding. Looking at a deshi wedding, it instantly dawns on the observer how emotional and multicultural we really are.

See, Bangladeshis have few places to really show off. Most land is used for apartments, roads are too broken for flashy cars, every expensive clothing brand has an exact same cheap knock off and over-priced restaurants serve terrible food. That leaves one surefire area to really make a splash and that's during your wedding. Who in their right minds would take out a large loan to dress up an old building and feed a bunch of people they hardly ever meet? And that too on more than one occasion in a month? Well, us Bangladeshis of course. That's the way to start your lives, kids; in debt, the capitalist way! Nowadays though, traditional extravagance doesn't cut the mustard; we are getting every possible custom from every country in the world involved. If there was an index of countries with most tolerance for other cultures, Bangladesh would top that list. Provided it was patriarchal enough and only the cool Bangladeshis got to

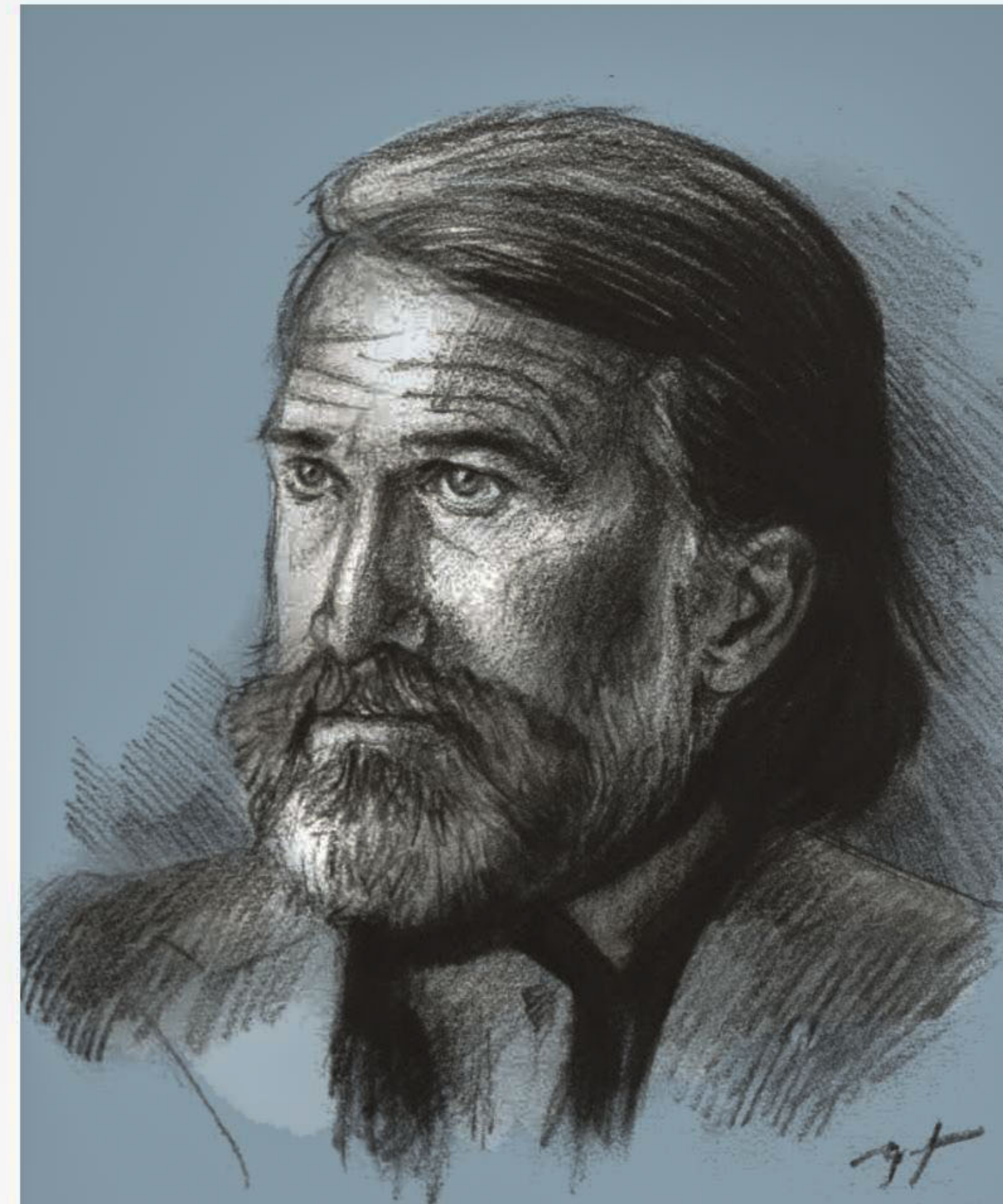


PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

celebrate it (those damn northerners!). A deshi wedding these days no longer entails the usual events. Those are now just the "blah" parts. Nowadays, we have engagement parties, engagement after parties, bachelor/bachelorette parties, more than one mehendis, sangeets, holud, holud after party, wedding/bridal showers, after wedding parties, the reception, the reception after party and then another party to conclude all other parties

aware. The huge gap between power production and consumption is tossed to the winds as entire blocks are decorated with different coloured lights – for some odd reason. Everyone present is highly emotional. When it comes to talk of the "dower", less vulgar than dowry because the evil man makes the payment to the salt of the earth woman, almost everyone is emotional. And everyone cries. Some cry out of joy

and others cry because the biryani wasn't good enough. Dance and painfully unfunny comedy routines meet deafening cheers and roars of approval. Everyone and I mean, literally everyone, gets in on the act. Wear a white dress, a sari imported from India, bumping the latest English, Indian, Pakistani beats while rubbing shoulders with guests in fine imported clothes sitting on top of chairs made in



MAD GENIUS

**CHRISTOPH WALTZ**  
4 October 1956

Christoph Waltz is a German-Austrian actor. He is best known for his works with American filmmaker Quentin Tarantino, receiving acclaim for portraying SS-Standartenführer Hans Landa in Inglourious Basterds (2009) and bounty hunter Dr. King Schultz in Django Unchained (2012). For each performance, he won an Academy Award, a BAFTA Award, and a Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actor.

“WELL, YOU NEED THE VILLAIN. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A VILLAIN, THE GOOD GUY CAN STAY HOME.”

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IT'S EASY TO NOT FEEL MISPLACED IF THIS TIDAL WAVE OF APPRECIATION IS COMING YOUR WAY.”

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA AND BRAINY QUOTES

## STARDIARY

# LOVE THE NATURE

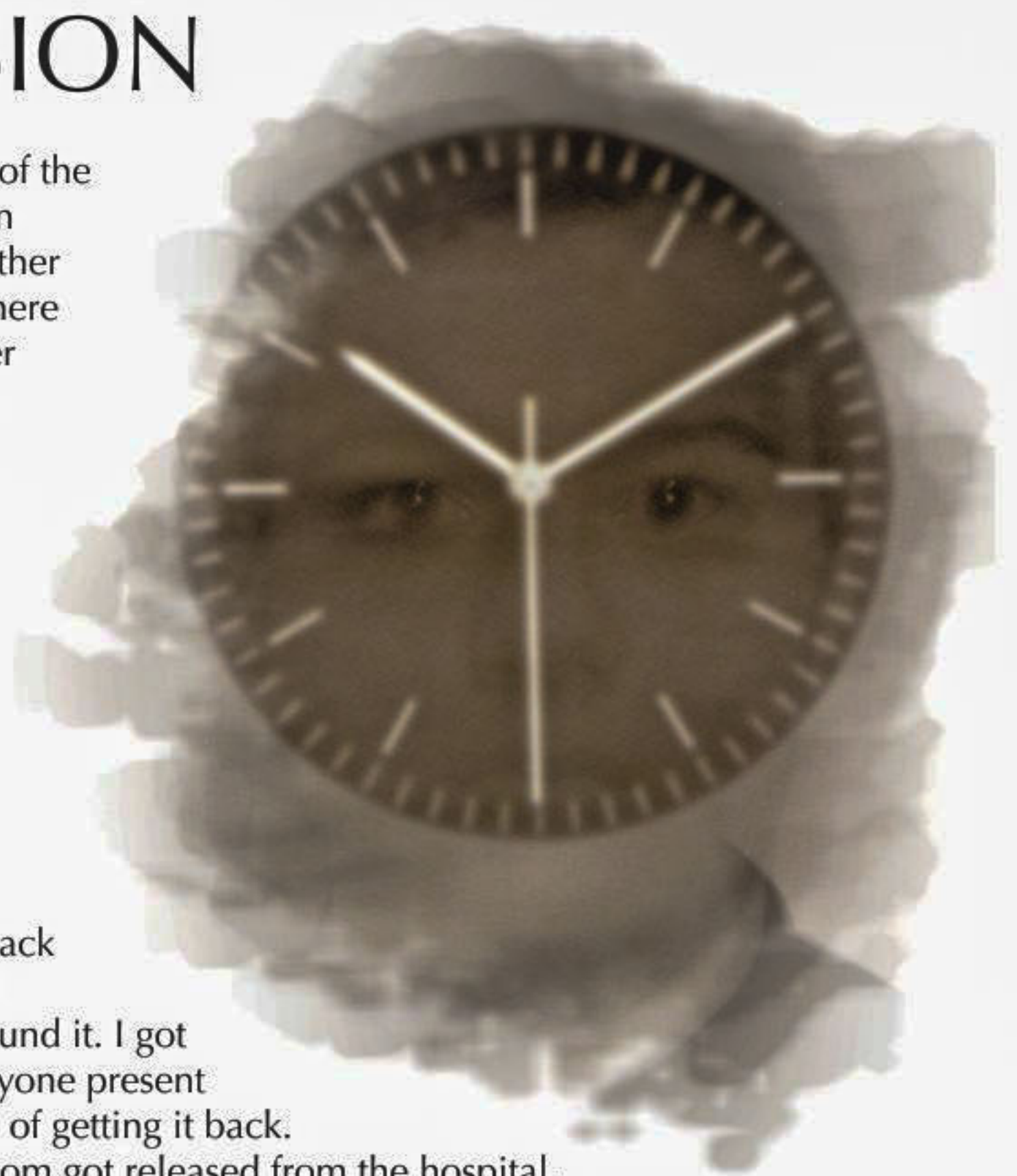
For our botany class experiment, we were asked to bring some saplings and seeds. I loved getting my hands dirty while doing the fun plant experiments. When we finished our experiments, we had some spare saplings which I brought home with me and planted in a tub on my balcony. Since then my favorite hobby has become gardening. It keeps me busy and happy. Whenever I have spare time I go to my small garden, which is now 6 months old. I water them and my father helps me with spade and hoe, whenever I need to use them. He also helps me with rooting out the unwanted plants. As I visit my garden I see my plants grow and flowers bloom. It gives me great joy. As I told my biology teacher about my hobby of gardening, she asked me to share my story with rest of the class. "There is nothing like spending time with nature. Never let this habit off and keep it in practice," she commented with a smile on her face. I found her words very inspiring. I am thinking of using the free space on our rooftop for planting some more trees.  
Khadiza Rashid  
Uttara, Dhaka



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# AN HONEST CONFESSION

This happened in one of the renowned hospitals in Dhaka where my mother was admitted. I had to go there every day to take care of her as she had a minor surgery. While she was undergoing the surgery, I donated her blood. On the very first day of blood donation, I had to take off my wristwatch. But I forgot to bring it back from the laboratory as I was a little busy taking care of all the other requirements of the patient. As soon as I found my watch missing, I went back to the laboratory and asked everyone if anybody had found it. I got negative answers from everyone present there and gave up the hope of getting it back. After two days, when my mom got released from the hospital, something very unusual happened. As we were preparing to leave, the lab boy turned up and ushered me into an empty cabin. He returned my wristwatch and confessed that he stole it, but he felt guilty for stealing it and wanted to give it back. As he corrected his mistake I forgave him and appreciated the honesty that he showed.



Samiul Rajjul  
School of Business and Economics  
North South University, Dhaka

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## The Dhaka Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd.

Head Office

19, Indira Road, Farmgate, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

Phone: 914-3318, 812-9438, 914-3727, Fax: +88-02-910-2124, E-mail: info@dmcb.com

for details 01730-701608