



## Treasured memories, precious moments or face of the loved one

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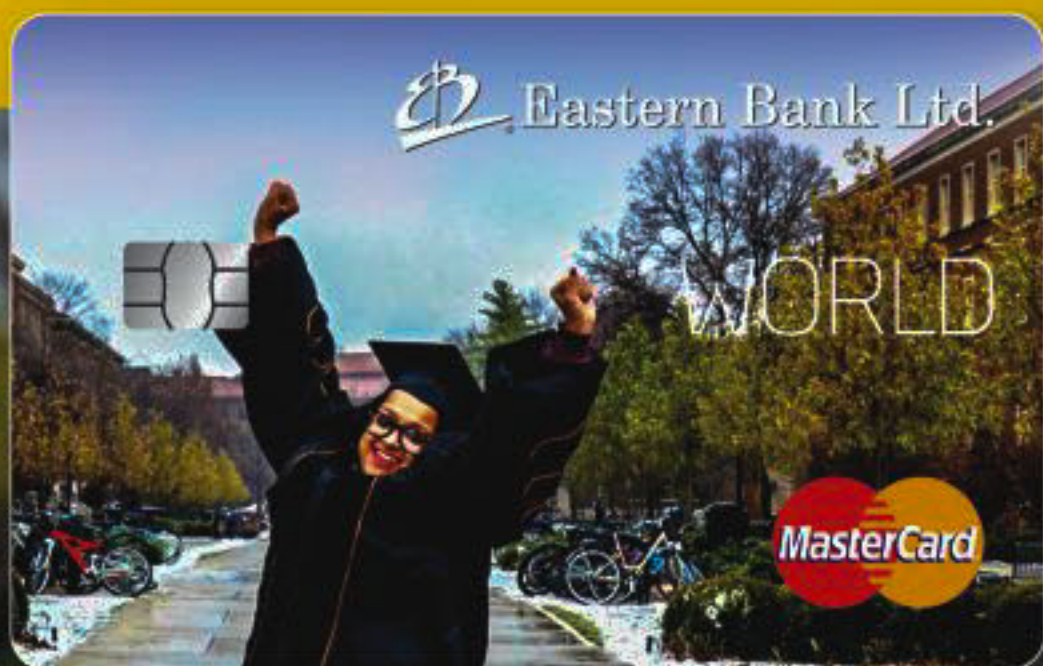
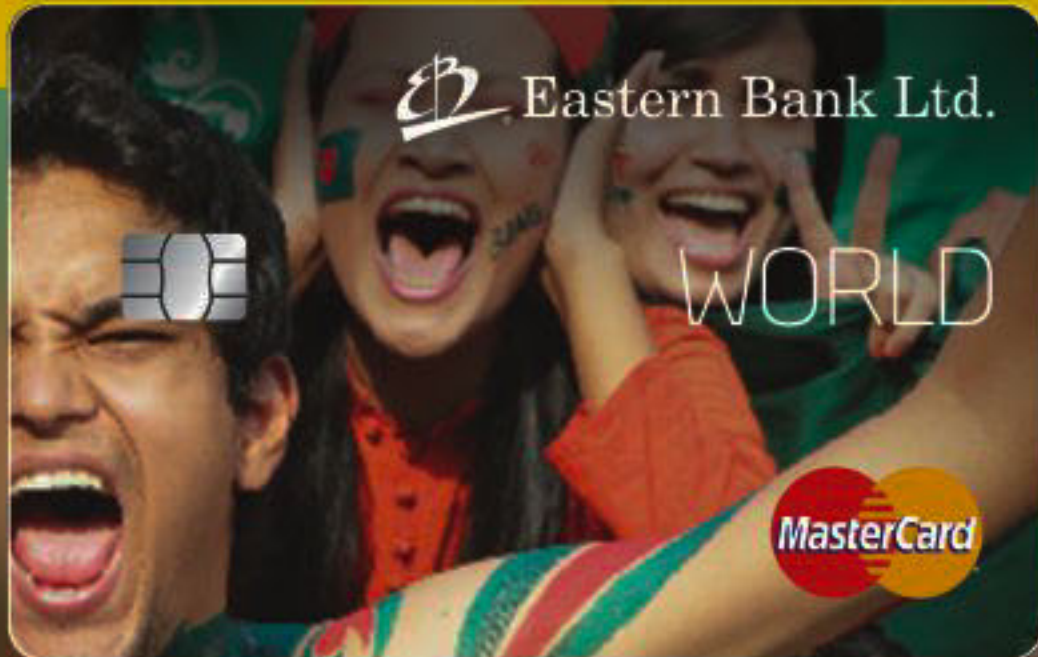
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## Special children to have playground of their own

RAFIUL ISLAM

Arijit Chakma Prithu has a disliking for claw hair clips. One afternoon six years ago this autistic young man was out walking in the city's Chandrima Udyan. He saw a girl with such a clip and grabbed it.

It took a lot of effort from his mother Subarna Chakma to explain Arijit's condition and dissuade three youths accompanying the girl from assaulting her son.

Arijit's family has since hardly taken the now 26-year-old to public places.

Like Arijit's, many other families refrain from taking their loved ones with special needs to playgrounds and parks to avoid facing such situations.

Consequently, this impedes mental and physical growth of challenged people.

Taking this into consideration, the government has started constructing presumably the country's first playground dedicated to people with special needs.

A 4.16-acre land at the corner of Manik Mia Avenue and Mirpur Road, near the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, was handed over to National Foundation for Development of the Disabled Persons by Public Works Department on December 18 last year for the construction.

The playground will have some benches and a toilet while other components required would be

decided upon later.

"We have already started the construction work. We will open it soon. We will do everything without obstructing people's view of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban," said AKM Maksudul Arefin, deputy director of the Foundation.

The playground will be a blessing for people with disabilities, helping their physical and physiological development, he added.

Apart from being a place for recreation, it would be a space where caregivers would gather and share experiences on better treatment of people with special needs.

There are around 15 lakh people with special needs in the country, PHOTO ON PAGE 2 SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

## President for competent, honest leaders in politics

DU CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged graduates to create honest and competent leadership to make the foundation of democracy stronger at the 50th Convocation of Dhaka University (DU).

He also said there is no alternative to political leadership in the country's development and this leadership would be created through student leadership.

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## Touching lives in the glow of her dream

Family of Abinta Kabir launches foundation to help poor children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nothing will bring back the child who is now in the great beyond, but what could be a better way the mother could remember her beloved daughter than making her dream her own and fulfill it!

That is what the mother and the family of Abinta Kabir, who was killed along with 19 other hostages in last year's Gulshan café attack, strove to do as they launched Abinta Kabir Foundation yesterday to help under-privileged children get education.

At a memorial programme at a city hotel where the



TOP QUOTE

"I don't get this will of God; I've come here as the chancellor of a university where I couldn't even get admitted."

PRESIDENT ABDUL HAMID AT THE 50TH DU CONVOCATION



## Experience

## The New Pacific Floor

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