## PAINSY MEST MAEIT YOUS

Future Bangladesh in the eyes of the youth



## Paint the Sky Make it Yours

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The universe moves for us. Location: Carmichael University College, Rangpur Photo: Istiak Karim/Drik



We are Strong

We are on
earth
to take care
of Life
to take care
of eachother"

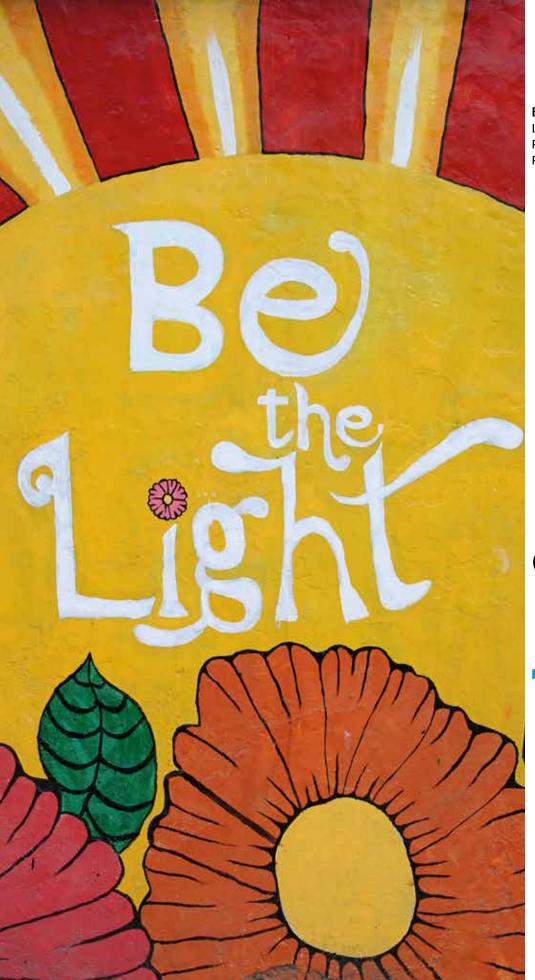
¥,...

# FAIN THESKY MAKEIT YOURS

## Paint the Sky Make it Yours

Future Bangladesh in the eyes of the youth





Be the light.

Location:

Police Line Road, Barishal Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik

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**CHANGE MYSELF,** 





## Foreword

The title of the book "Paint the Sky Make it Yours" is inspired by a poignant piece of wall art that I first saw on my way to the office. The mural symbolizes the unlimited potential of our youth and their inclination and ability to become changemakers. As we move around in different parts of the country, everywhere the colorful walls and striking graffiti remind us of the resilience and creative force of the youth. While we know of historical precedents such as the South African Anti-Apartheid Movement or the Mexican Rural Movement, I have seen nothing like this in any other country, where the entire youth have turned to art to communicate their vision and priorities for their country.

The photos in this book showcase the vibrant wall art in Dhaka and ten other districts, created by students and youth in July and August of this year. Each piece of art in this book reflects their hopes, struggles, and dreams—messages that resonate deeply within our society.

As a longstanding development partner of Bangladesh, we felt it was immensely important to hear the voices of youth, their aspirations, and concerns for the country. The World Bank has always recognized the pivotal role that youth play in shaping



the present and the future. The voices in this book renew our focus on empowering young people. We are committed to creating opportunities for the youth, and our ongoing strategy for Bangladesh focuses on creating quality jobs for about 2 million youths entering the job market every year.

Let me also extend our deepest condolences for the tragic loss of lives in July and August. It is important to honor everyone we lost by upholding their vision.

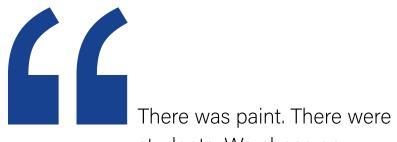
In closing, I would like to share my heartfelt gratitude to the thousands of young people in Bangladesh who created these magnificent wall arts. Your art is a reminder of the incredible potential that lies within each of you. The World Bank remains committed to supporting your journey and helping Bangladesh achieve the aspirations of its people, particularly the youth. Together, let us continue to build a future that is as bright and beautiful as the skies you have painted.

## **Abdoulaye Seck**

Country Director for Bangladesh and Bhutan World Bank







There was paint. There were students. We chose any wall and drew whatever came to our mind. This was independence!

## Atul Mallik

Student, Bangladesh University of Professionals



1 2









3 4

1 Location: Lions School & College, Rangpur Photo: Istiak Karim/Drik

3 Location: BL College, Doulatpur, Khulna Photo: Habibul Haque/Drik 2 Location: Shukrabad, Mirpur Road, Dhaka Photo: M.H Akash/Drik

4 Location: Uttara Sector 11, Dhaka Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik 5 6









7

5 Location: Dhaka City College, Dhaka Photo: M.H Akash/Drik

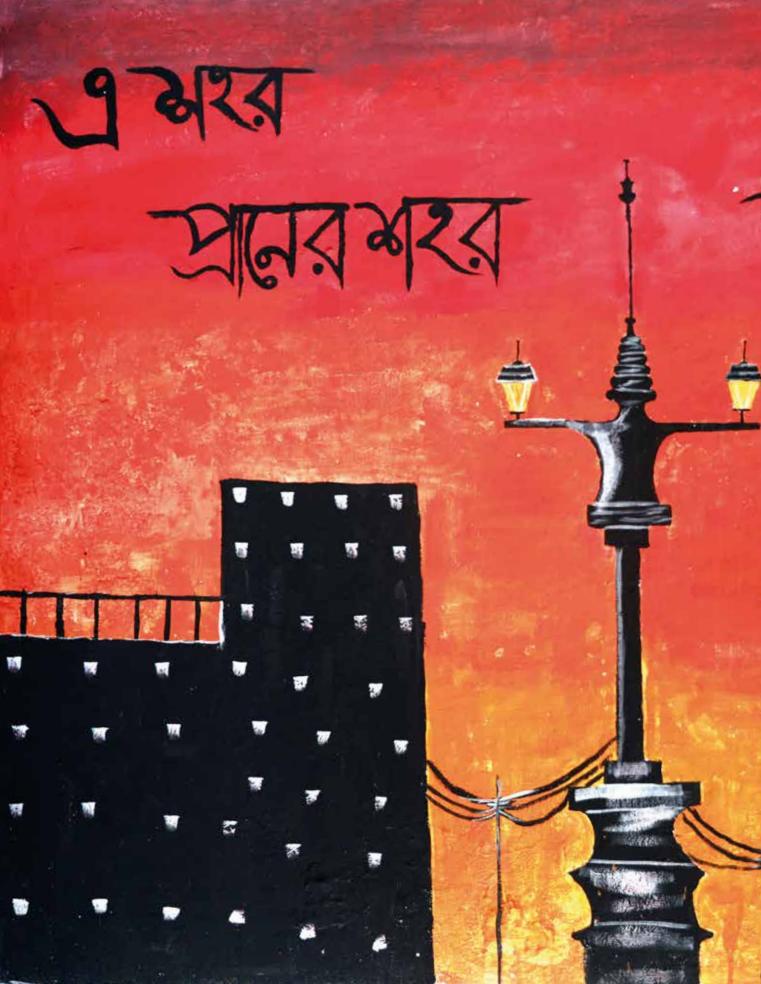
Location: Begum Rokeya Sharani, Mirpur, Dhaka Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik 8 Location: Dhaka City College, Dhaka Photo: M.H Akash/Drik

Location: Segun Bagicha, Dhaka

Photo: Raisa Mubarak Bibha









Location: TSC, Dhaka University,

Dhaka

Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik



This city is mine. Location: KD Ghosh Road, Khulna Photo: Habibul Haque/Drik



## 1952 Language Movement. 1969 Mass Uprising. 1971 Great War of Liberation.

Location: Newmarket, Chattogram Photo: Tapash Paul/Drik





Independent Bengal. Valiant Chattola.

Bengal's Muslim, Bengal's Hindu, Bengal's Buddhist, Bengals' Christian. Everyone's responsibility to protect.

Location: Halisahar, Chattogram

Photo: Mohammad Shahnewaz Khan/Drik



**BM** (Brojomohun College) the rebel.

Location: Government Brojomohun College, Barishal Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik



We are indigenous. We are human.

Bawm, Marma, Chakma, Pangkhoya, Tripura, Tanchangya, Oraon, Hajong, Khiyang, Lusai, Mro, Khumi, Rakhain Location: Khagrachari Photo: Suman Kanti Paul/Drik



The city of my heart Sylhet. Location: Police Lines Road

Sylhet

Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik





Brave valiant Bengalis, take up your arms Make Bangladesh independent.

(A popular slogan during Independence War in 1971)

Location: Cumilla Victoria College, Cumilla Photo: Sultan Mahmud Mukut/Drik





Our culture, our pride. Location: Bandarban Sadar Photo: Tapash Paul/Drik





Valiant speak, speak with head held high. (Line from rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's poem)

Location: Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur

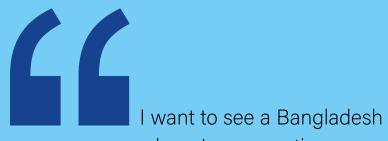
Photo: Istiak Karim/Drik

**Rajshahi.** Location: Rajshahi University, Rajshahi Photo: Istiak Karim/Drik







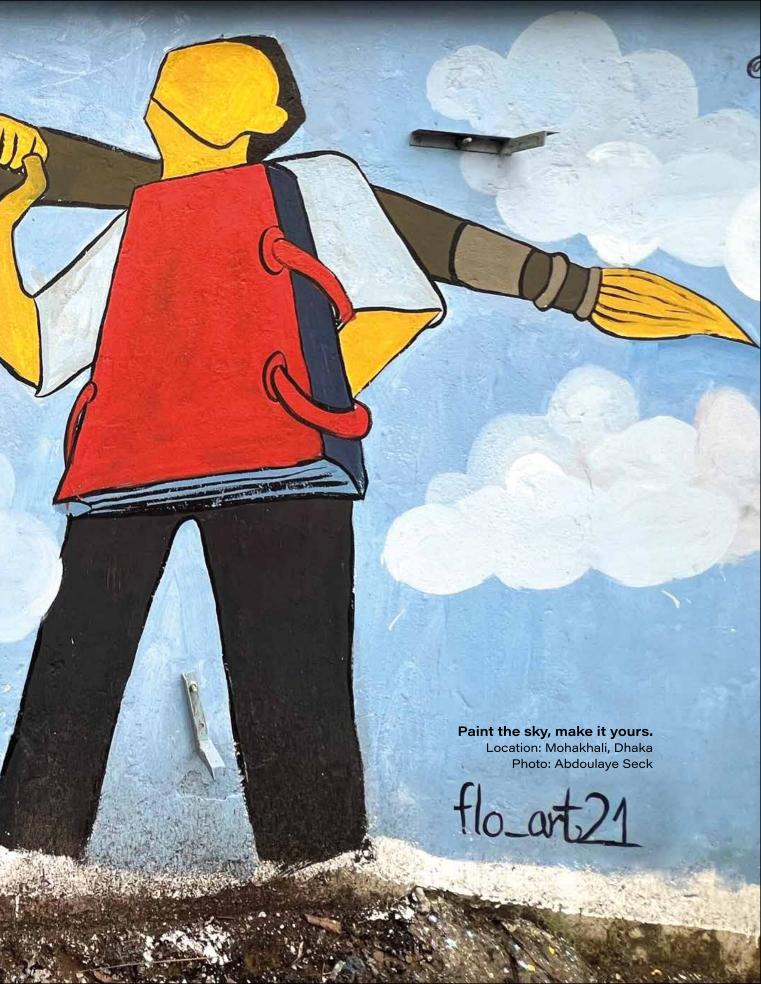


I want to see a Bangladesh where I can question everyone.
I want to see a Bangladesh where independence, freedom of speech and democracy prevails.

Subha Tahsin
Student, Chattogram University

## PAINT THE SKY MAKE IT YOURS







I dream of Touching the sky.

Location: Dhaka University, Dhaka

Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik





(Top) Location: Baily Road, Dhaka Photo: Habibul Haque/Drik

(Bottom) May our free wishes spread their wings.

Location: Mohammadpur, Dhaka

Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik





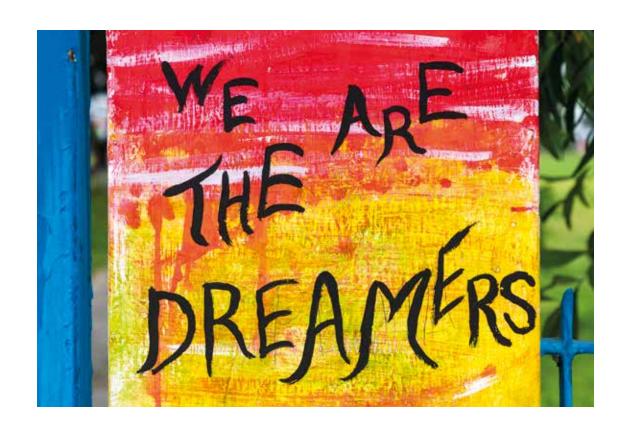
#### Freedom must be defended.

Location: Mirpur Road, Dhaka Photo: Habibul Haque/Drik

#### We are independent.

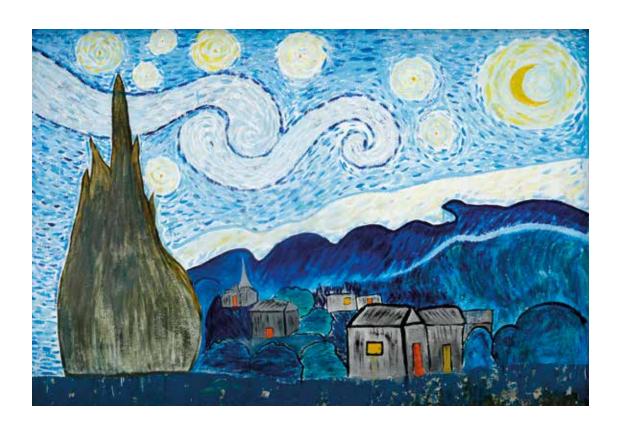
Location:Dhaka University, Dhaka Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik



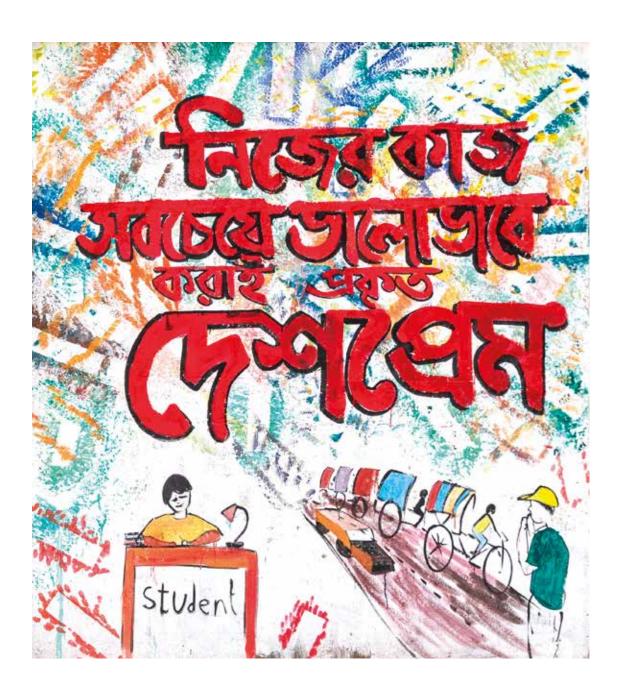


#### We are the dreamers.

Location: City Bazar Road, Rangpur



Location: Dhaka University, Dhaka Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik



#### Real patriotism lies in doing your work best.

Location: City Bazar Road, Rangpur



#### The future is beautiful.

Location: Jamuna Future Park, Dhaka Photo: Salahuddin Ahmed/Drik



# Paint the new Bangladesh.

Location: Dhaka University, Dhaka

Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik



# Let a rikshawala's offspring dream of being the Prime Minister.

Location: Police Line Road, Barishal

Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik



#### We will build Bangladesh.

Location: City Bazar Road, Rangpur





#### We are one.

Location: Satmasjid Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka

Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik



Location: The Millennium Stars School & College, Rangpur



Location: The Millennium Stars School & College, Rangpur



My name is the people I am Bangladesh.

Location: Parjatan Motel Road, Rajshahi Photo: Istiak Karim/Drik





#### Patriotism is the heartbeat of the nation.

Location: Jamuna Future Park, Dhaka Photo: Salahuddin Ahmed/Drik



# My motherland is dearer than heaven.

Location: Alekanda Road, Barishal

Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik



# Unity is power. We will build our golden Bengal.

Location: Mirpur 11, Dhaka Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik



# Of the people, by the people, for the people.

Location: Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur



# Student's power Reform is ongoing.

Location: Dhaka University, Dhaka

Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik



You are a human I am also a human The difference is in our spine.

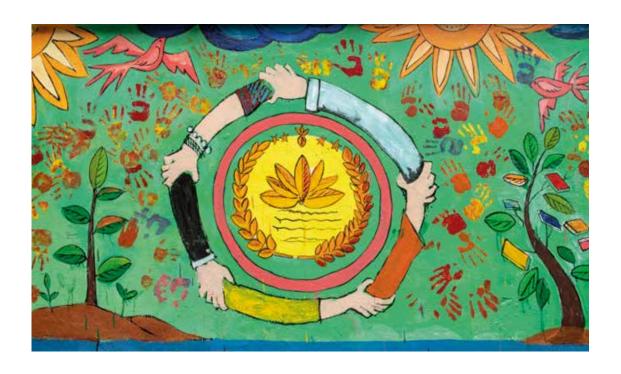
Location: Shaheb Bazar Road, Rajshahi



I can't But... We can.

One voice...
One effort...
One prayer...
One wish...
We're one always.

Location: Baily Road, Dhaka Photo: Habibul Haque/Drik



Location: North South University, Dhaka

Photo: Salahuddin Ahmed/Drik



# Remittance warriors The unseen pillars of the economy.

Location: Cumilla Zilla School, Cumilla Photo: Sultan Mahmud Mukut/Drik



**Indomitable Bangladesh** 





We are resistance.

Location: United International University, Badda, Dhaka

Photo: Piyas Biswas/Drik



#### Oppression divides but resistance unites.

Location: United International University, Badda, Dhaka Photo: Salahuddin Ahmed/Drik



# This indomitable generation 2024.

Location: Dhaka University, Dhaka

Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik



#### Indomitable Bangladesh.

Location: Science Laboratory, Mirpur Road, Dhaka

Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik



Location: Mirpur, Dhaka Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik

#### If you're afraid, you're done If you stand tall, you're Bangladesh Abu Sayed (an iconic figure, the first student martyr in Quota movement).

Location: City Bazar Road, Rangpur Photo: Istiak Karim/Drik





#### Haven't seen '71, but have seen '24.

Location: Halishahar, Chattogram

Photo: Mohammad Shahnewaz Khan/Drik



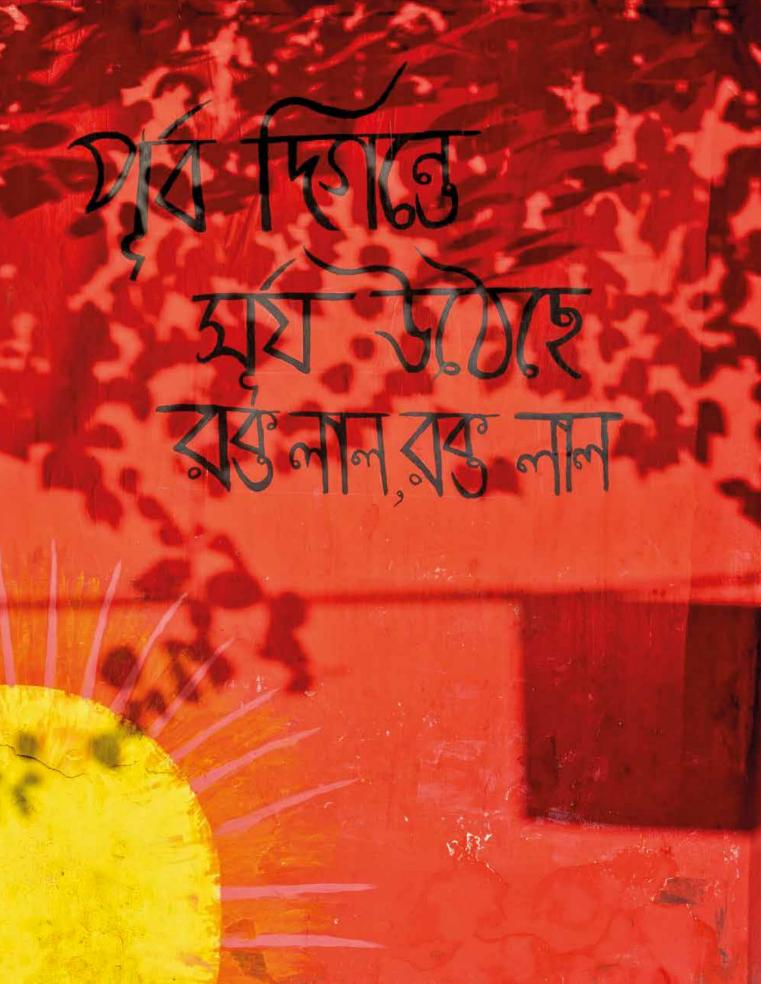
Water, do you need water? (Refer to Mir Mahfuzur Rahman Mugdho, a student, who was shot dead while distributing drinking water to protesters).

'My younger sister is alone at home,' shouted a student while being arrested.

Location: Dhaka University, Dhaka

Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik







# Bangladesh.

Location: Rangpur Government School, Rangpur





# Speak Up.

Location: Dhaka University, Dhaka



# 'Speak less,' but with the last letter crossed off, it now means 'speak.'

Location: Cumilla Victoria College, Cumilla

Photo: Sultan Mahmud Mukut/Drik



Destroy those iron gates of prison. (Line from Kazi Nazrul Islam's song 'Karar Oi Louho Kopat')

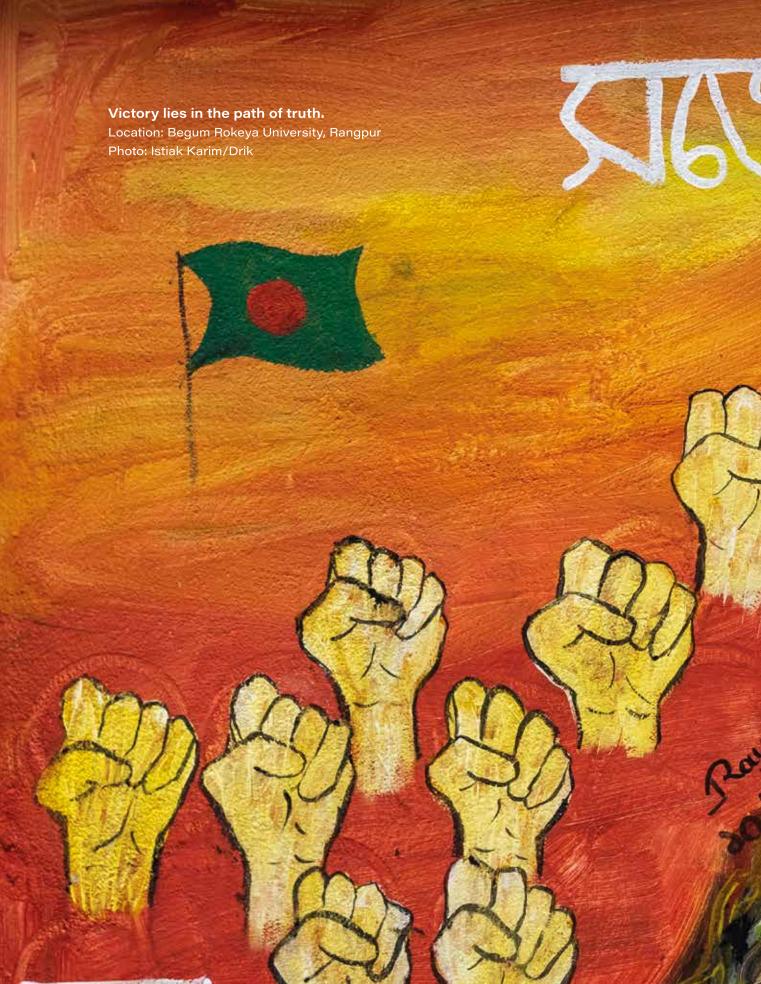
Location: Rampura, Dhaka Photo: Piyas Biswas/Drik



If they don't let you speak, sing... draw... write... If they don't let you sing, or draw...

Location: Mirpur, Dhaka

Photo: Fahamid Ahasan Antu/Drik







# Freedom Bangladesh 2.0 Loading.

Location: Jamuna Future Park, Dhaka Photo: Salahuddin Ahmed/Drik



### Freedom.

Location: Dhaka University, Dhaka

### Taste of freedom.

Location: New Market, Chattogram

Photo: Tapash Paul/Drik







### Freedom.

Location: Dhaka University, Dhaka Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik



### Let freedom be butterflies.

Location: Rangpur Government College, Rangpur

Photo: Istiak Karim/Drik



### Freedom.

Location: Rikabi Bazar, Police Lines, Sylhet



You can cut all the flowers But you cannot keep Spring from coming.

Location: Nawab Faizunnesa Govt. Girls High School, Cumilla

Photo: Sultan Mahmud Mukut/Drik



### We are Free.

Location: Mirza Jangal, Police Lines Road, Sylhet



# I am the alternative.

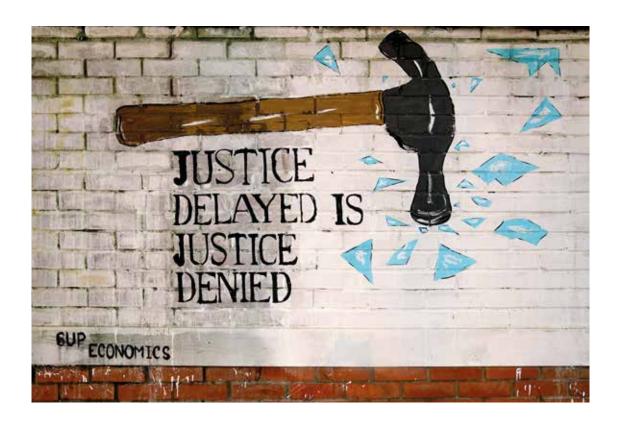
Location: 2 No. gate, Chattogram

Photo: Mohammad Shahnewaz Khan/Drik



মবার উপর^ মতা

Humanity above all



# Justice delayed is justice denied.

Location: Begum Rokeya Sharani, Mirpur, Dhaka

Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik



### Protest.

Location: KSI Road, Sadar, Bandarban

Photo: Tapash Paul/Drik



BanishCommunalism
Sycophancy
Inequality
Anarchy
Religious extremism
Corruption
Violence
Partisan attitude

Location: Barishal Zilla School, Barishal

Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik



Want bribe? Take a punch. Let conscience be awakened in all hearts.

Location: C&B Road, Barishal Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik





# Where lies security?

Location:

Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik



### Slave. Save.

Location: Dhaka University, Dhaka



Raise tea workers' wages. Conscience is hiding. Equality

Location: Dhaka University, Dhaka

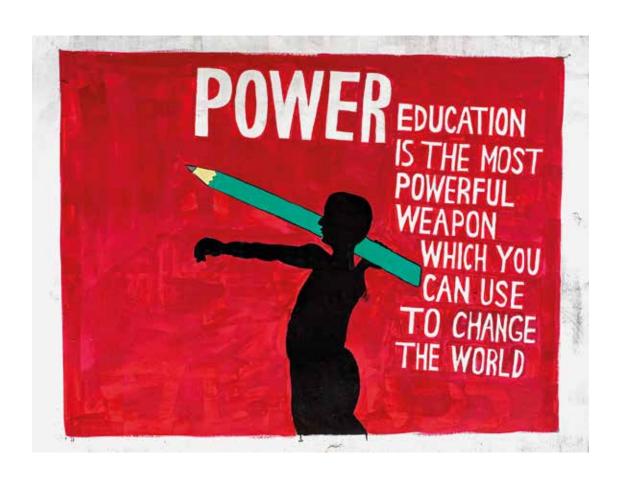


# Humanity above all.

Location: Khan Jahan Ali Road, Khulna

Photo: Habibul Haque/Drik

# EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON



### (Left) Power

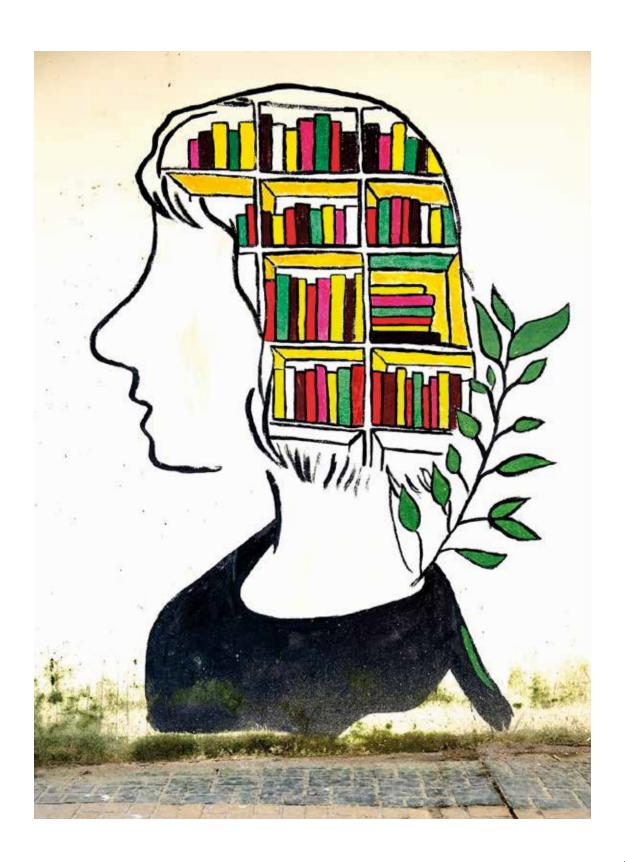
Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

Location: Dhaka TT College, Mirpur Road, Dhaka

Photo: Habibul Haque/Drik

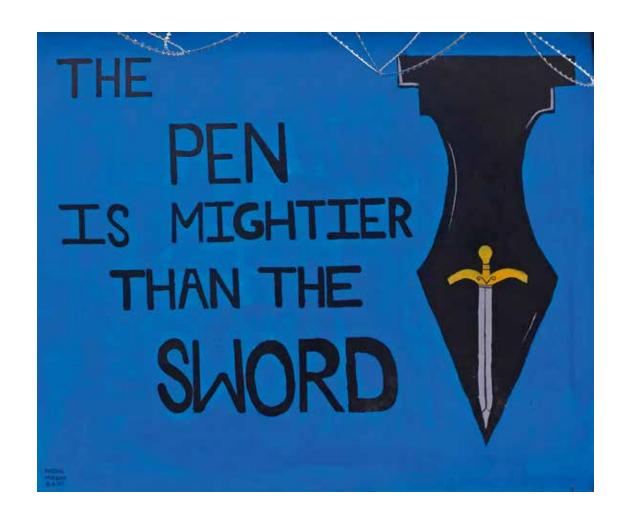
(Right) Location: M. M. Mohammmed Ali Road, Chattogram

Photo: Tapash Paul/Drik









### The pen is mightier than the sword.

Location: Indoor Stadium, Mirpur, Dhaka

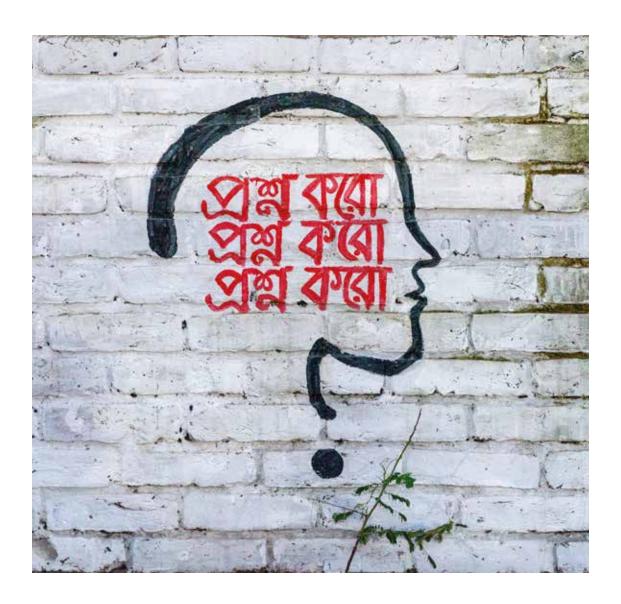
Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik



# Proper educational policy is required to build the country and the nation.

Location: Indoor Stadium, Mirpur, Dhaka

Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik



Ask Question Ask Question Ask Question.

Location: City Bazar Road, Rangpur

Photo: Istiak Karim/Drik



# Warrior with pen.

Location: Dhaka University, Dhaka



# WOMAN REGLATIM THE NIGHT





### Woman Reclaim the Night.

Location: Dhaka University, Dhaka

Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik

#### The mothers and daughters of Bengal are still warriors.

Location: Mirpur, Dhaka Photo: Fahamid Ahasan Antu/Drik





Location: Mirpur Cantonment, Mirpur, Dhaka



Stop #Rape #Violence #Child Abuse

Location: Jahaj Company More, Rangpur

Photo: Istiak Karim/Drik



# Third gender cannot be a slur I'm a human being, that's my identity.

Location: Upper Jessore Road, Khulna

Photo: Habibul Haque/Drik

## Women's freedom is elusive

Change

You are a mother
You are a sister
You are a young woman
You are a partner
You are a fellow warrior
You are a conqueror
You are a proud woman
You are a woman

Location: Upper Jessore Road, Khulna Photo: Habibul Haque/Drik





#### Whether a boy or a girl, let property be divided equally.

Location: Rani Dayamoyee High School, Rangamati



No to child marriage. Women's progress. Mother mine.

Development of women's education in society.

Location: Rani Dayamoyee High School, Rangamati

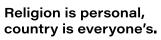


#### Equality.

Location: CRB, Chattogram Photo: Tapash Paul/Drik







Location: Taltola Road, Sylhet Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik



#### I sing the song of equality.

Location: Satmasjid Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik







#### Tearing leaves is forbidden.

Buddhist Hindu Indigenous Muslim Christian

Location: Dharma Shagor Par, Cumilla Photo: Sultan Mahmud Mukut/Drik

#### Fight against communal attacks.

Location: Shaheb Bazar road, Rajshahi Photo: Istiak Karim/Drik





#### Hindu scripture and Islamic calligraphy.

Location: Shaheb Bazar Road, Rajshahi

Photo: Istiak Karim/Drik



There is nothing as sacred as knowledge (Geeta 4/38). Just as the king rules the kingdom So does the queen be its protector (Rigved 1/126/7)

Location: Government Brojomohun College, Barishal







Location: Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet

Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik



It was not untrue brother There is no temple-Kaaba Greater than my heart.

(Lines from rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's poem 'Shammobadi')

Location: North South University, Bashundhara RA, Dhaka

Photo: Salahuddin Ahmed/Drik



#### Our new secular Bangladesh.

Location: Police Lines Road, Sylhet

Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik

#5AUE OUR ETHNICS ...



#### **#Save our ethnics**

Location: Halishahar, Chattogram

Photo: Mohammad Shahnewaz Khan/Drik



#### Come forward!

Location: Khagrachari

Photo: Suman Kanti Paul/Drik



Location: Rangamati Government College, Rangamati Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik





#### Develop the primary education system in the Hills.

Location: Rangamati Government College, Rangamati



## Hill people want peace Not conflict!

Location: Rangamati Government College, Rangamati



We want quality education system in the Hills. Do not destroy our hills. Who are you? Who am I? Indegenous. Indegenous.

Location: Pankhaiya Para, Khagrachari

Photo: Suman Kanti Paul/Drik



Location: Rangamati Stadium, Rangamati

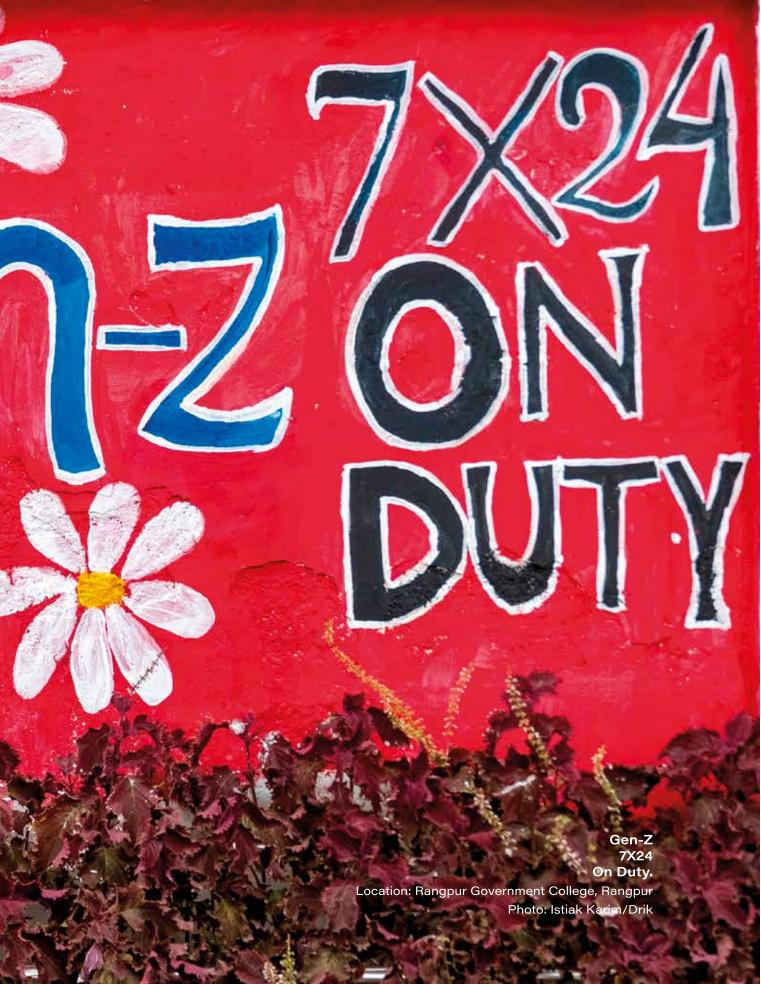


#### We want our colors back.

Location: Rani Dayamoyee High School, Rangamati



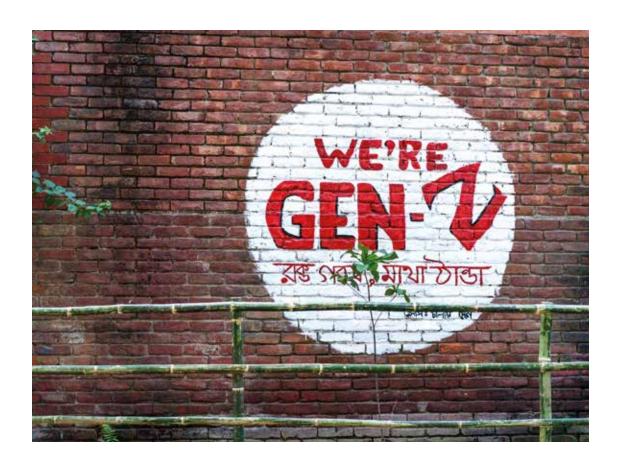






Location: Shahjalal University of Science and Technology Area, Sylhet

Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik



## We're Gen-Z Passionate, cool-headed

Location: Rampura-Aftab Nagar-Banasree, Dhaka

Photo: Habibul Haque/Drik



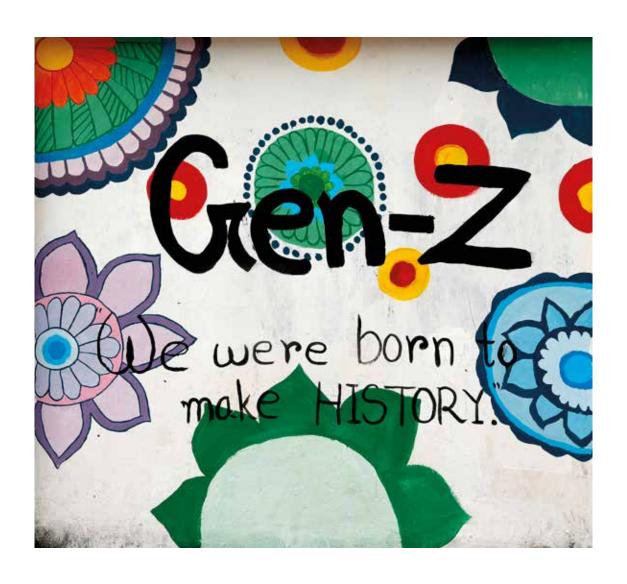




#### Gen-Z the real hero.

Location: Shaheb Bazar, Rajshahi Photo: Istiak Karim/Drik





## Gen-Z We are born to make history.

Location: Dhaka University, Dhaka

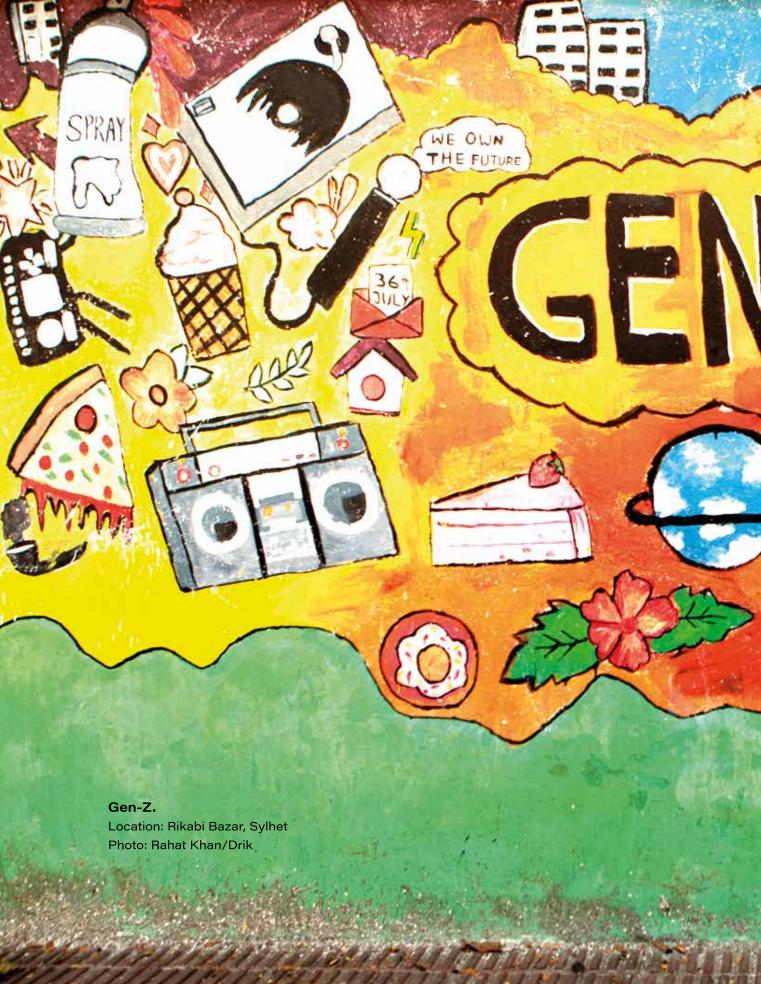
Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik

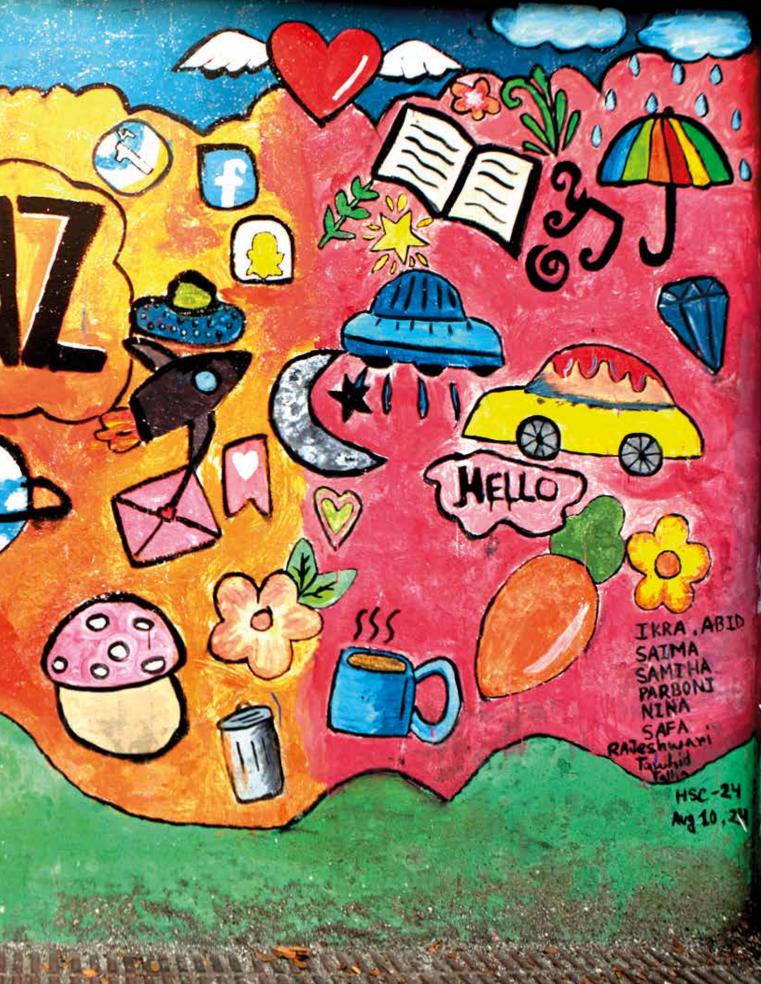


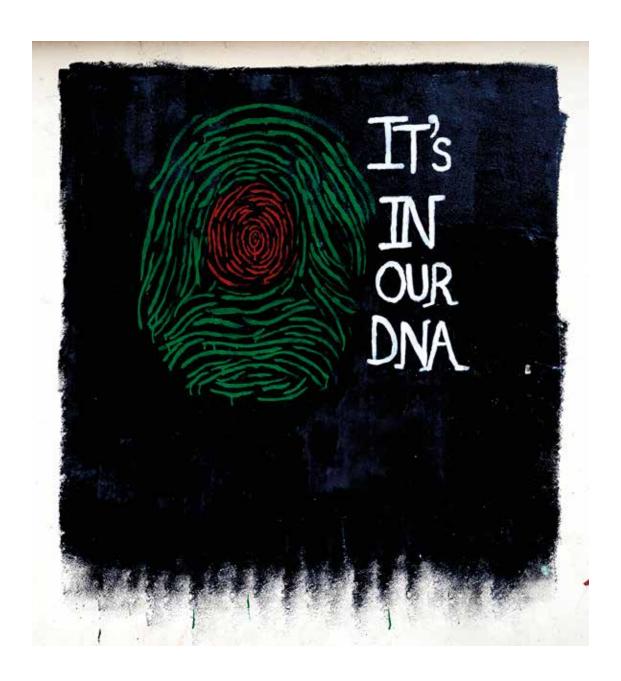
Youth rise in the dawn's light... (Line from Kazi Nazrul Islam's poem 'Notuner Gaan')

Location: Dhaka University, Dhaka

Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik







#### It's in our DNA.

Location: Halishahar, Chattogram

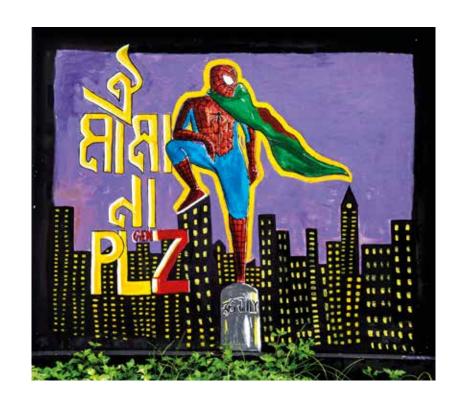
Photo: Mohammad Shahnewaz Khan/Drik



## New Bangladesh unlocked by Gen-Z.

Location: Rangpur Government College, Rangpur

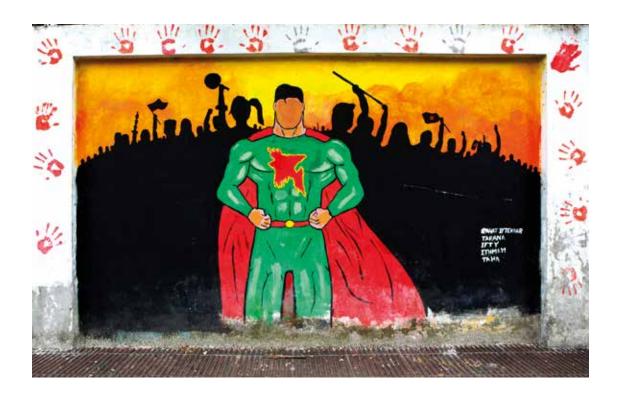
Photo: Istiak Karim/Drik



## Hey bro, chill (Gen-Z language).

Location: Upper Jessore Road, Khulna

Photo: Habibul Haque/Drik



Location: Rikabi Bazar, Police lines, Sylhet

Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik



### If you don't take risks, you can't create a future.

Location: Police Line Road, Barishal

Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik



## From leaving Bangladesh To rebuilding Bangladesh We all grew up.

Location: North South University, Bashundhara RA, Dhaka

Photo: Salahuddin Ahmed/Drik



We fight to defend the petals of a flower. (Popular liberation war time song by Gobinda Halder)

Location: Shaheb Bazar, Rajshahi Photo: Istiak Karim/Drik







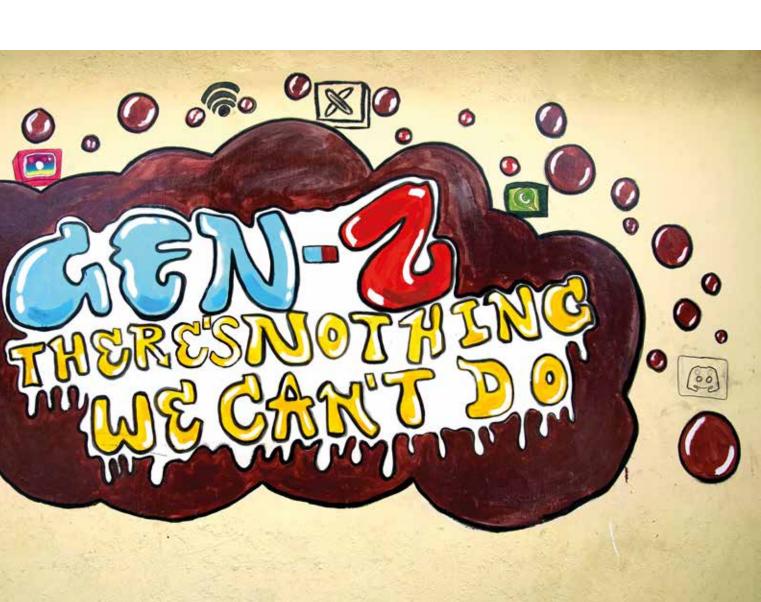
Photo: Piyas Biswas/Drik



#### Gen-Z

#### There's nothing we can't do.

Location: Mirpur 12, Dhaka Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik

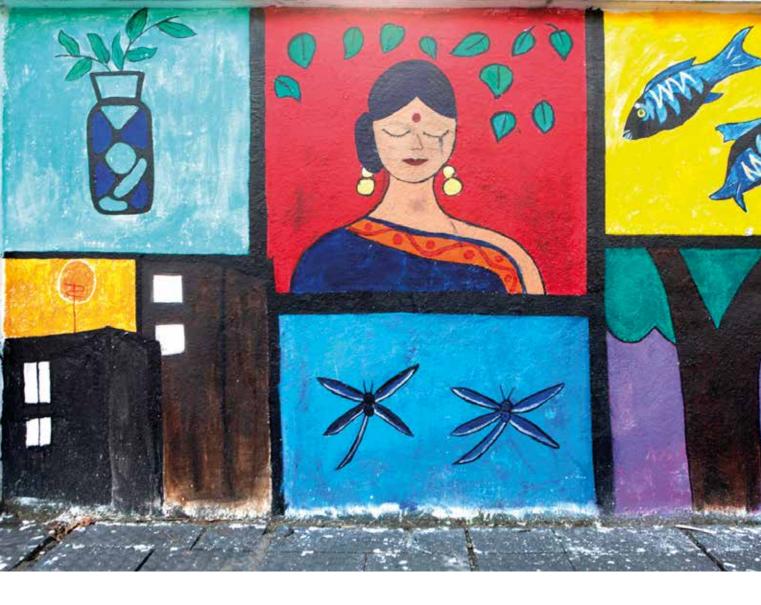




Location: Rangpur Government College, Rangpur

Photo: Istiak Karim/Drik



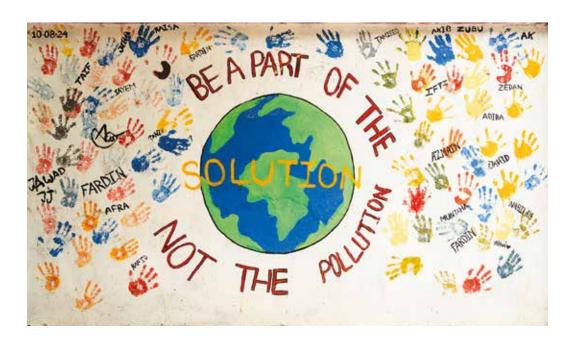


Location: Rikabi Bazar, Sylhet Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik



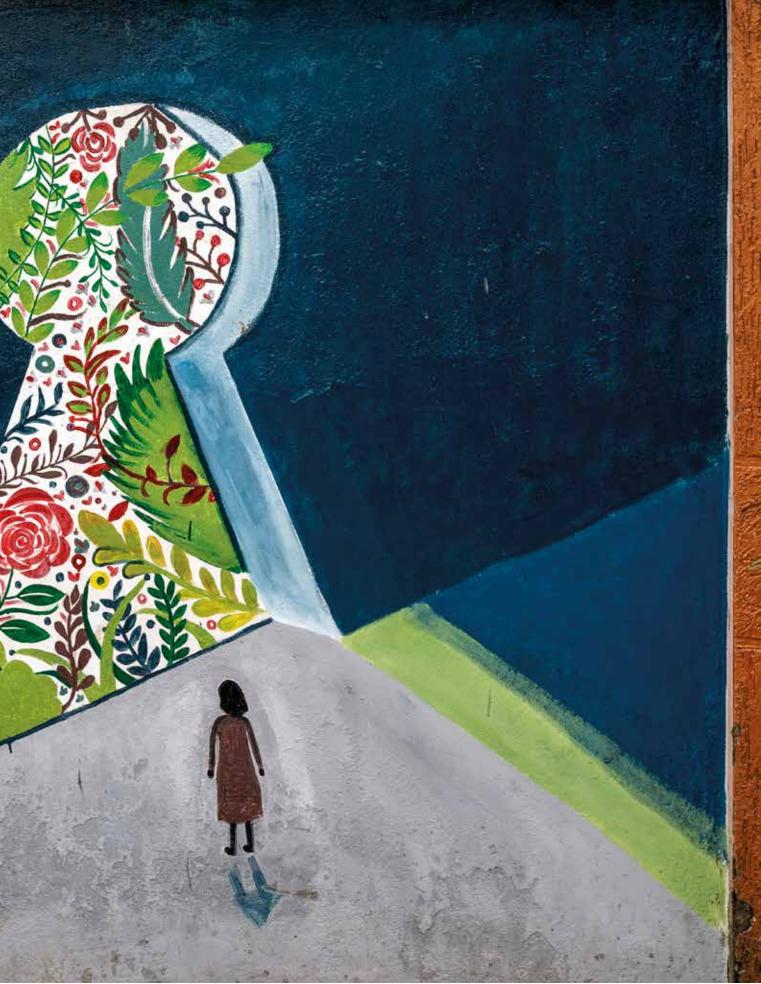
## Be a part of the solution, not the pollution.

Location: Halishahar, Chattogram Photo: Mohammad Shahnewaz Khan/Drik





Location:
Dharma Shagor Par, Cumilla
Photo:
Sultan Mahmud Mukut/Drik





## Plant trees, save the environment.

Location: Carmichael College, Rangpur

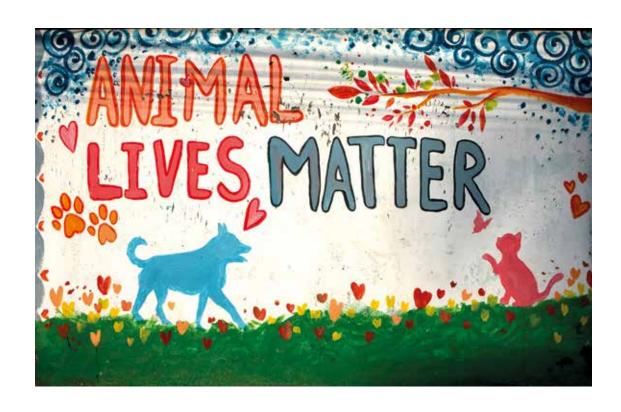
Photo: Istiak Karim/Drik



# Save Sundarbans (the world's largest mangrove forest in southern Bangladesh).

Location: Begum Rokeya Sharani, Mirpur, Dhaka

Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik



### **Animal Lives Matter.**

Location: Rikabi Bajar, Sylhet Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik



## Let this city be for all living beings.

Location: Dharma Shagor Par, Cumilla Photo: Sultan Mahmud Mukut/Drik



## There can be alternatives to authoritarianism But none to trees and plants.

Location: Police Line Road, Barishal

Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik



Change myself, change my country







## Change myself, change my country.

Location: Upper Jessore Road, Khulna

Photo: Habibul Haque/Drik



If you're afraid, you're done
If you stand tall, you're Bangladesh.

Location: Police Lines Road, Sylhet

Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik





We are history. We are reality. We are the future.

Location: Nawab Faizunnesa Govt Girls High School, Cumilla Photo: Sultan Mahmud Mukut/Drik



### We are the alternative.

Location: Nawab Faizunnesa Govt. Girls High School, Cumilla

Photo: Sultan Mahmud Mukut/Drik



## May light clear away the dark.

Location: Jamuna Future Park, Dhaka

Photo: Piyas Biswas/Drik







# (Left) People are the architects for nation's change.

Location: Dhaka University, Dhaka

Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik

(Right) We will build the city of our dreams.

Location: Dhaka Residential Model College,

Mohammadpur

Photo: Fahamid Ahasan Antu/Drik



Location: Mirpur Cantonment, Mirpur, Dhaka

Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik



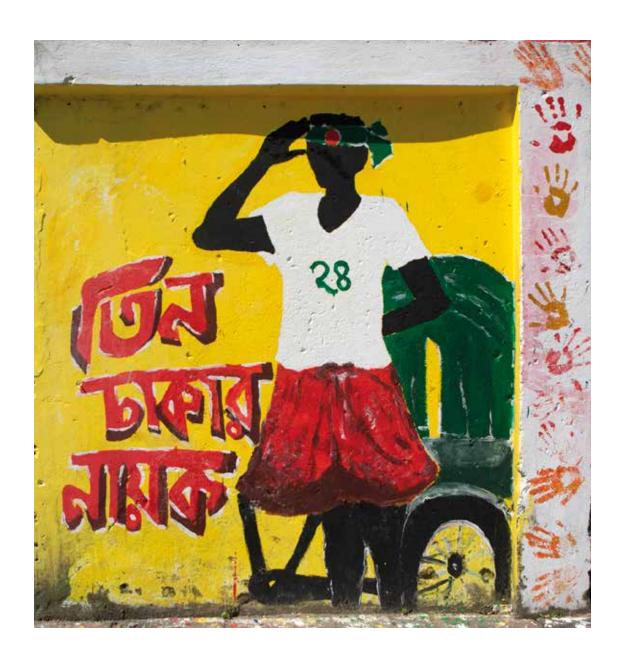
# The young shall lead the future Not the old.

Location: Carmichael College, Rangpur

Photo: Istiak Karim/Drik



Location: Mouchak, Dhaka Photo: Piyas Biswas/Drik



#### He is the hero of Dhaka.

Location: Naya Sarak, Sylhet Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik



## Change the system.

Location: Cumilla Zilla School, Cumilla Photo: Sultan Mahmud Mukut/Drik



# You are the change.

Location: Dhaka University, Dhaka

Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik



A new dawn Pour a tide of happiness today. (Line from 'Raater Shesh' song by 'Cryptic Fate')

Location: Mirpur, Dhaka Photo: M.H. Akash/Drik

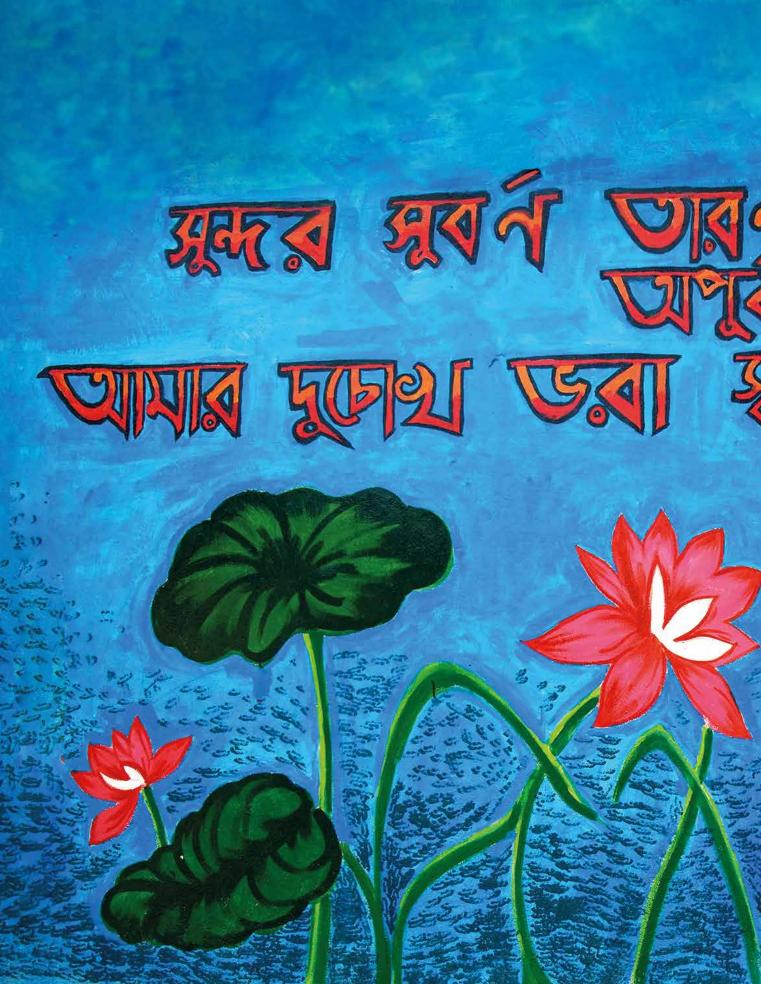


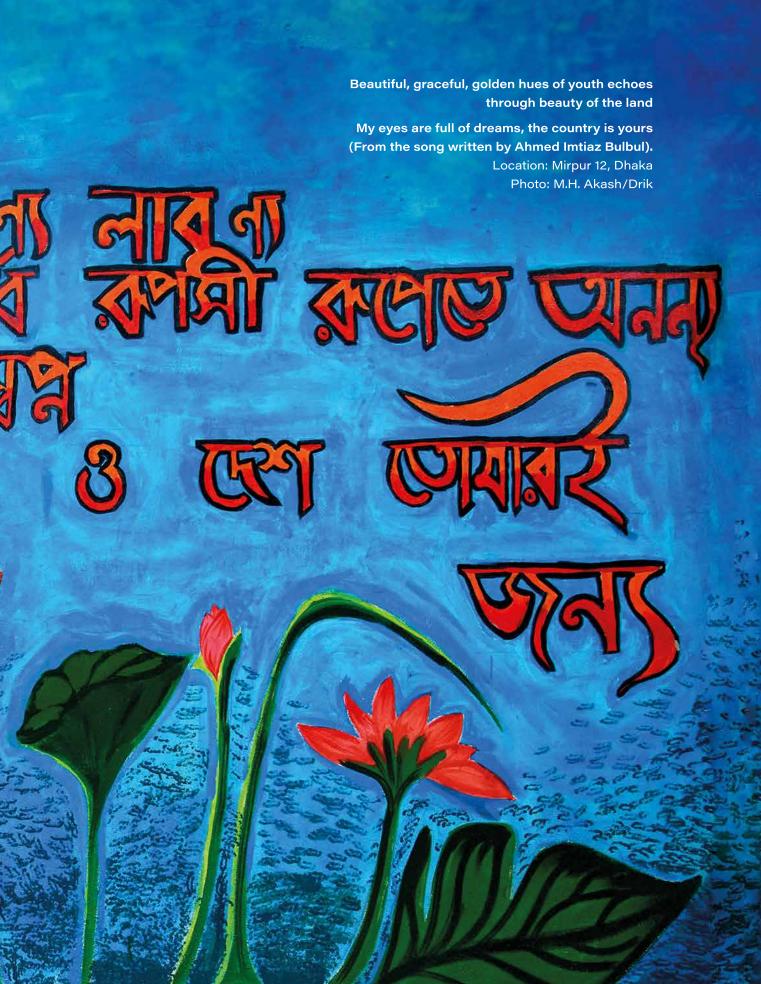
#### Still a long way to go.

Location: Elephant Road, Dhaka Photo: Fahamid Ahasan Antu/Drik











# However many a time you destroy We shall rebuild.

Location: Upper Jessore Road, Khulna

Photo: Habibul Haque/Drik

## The whole country is Sundarbans Tigers and tigers.

Location: Police Lines Road, Sylhet Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik





# Rejuvenate Bangladesh.

Location: Rajshahi University School And College, Rajshahi

Photo: Istiak Karim

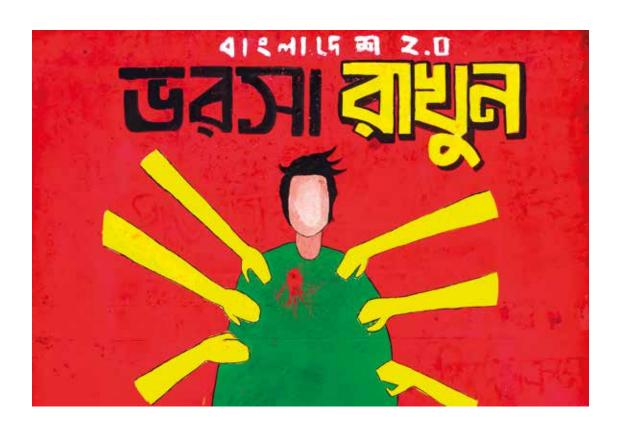




## Never stop raising your voice.

Location: Dhaka University, Dhaka

Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik



# Bangladesh 2.0 Have faith.

Location: Carmichael College, Rangpur

Photo: Istiak Karim/Drik



No country you will find Like mine in this world. (Line from Rabindranath Tagore's song 'Dhono dhanne pushpe bhora')

Location: Police Lines Road, Sylhet

Photo: Rahat Khan/Drik

