



With sketches and cartoons on their placards, students of Dhaka University form a human chain at TSC on campus yesterday to protest the assault on women during the Pahela Baishakh celebrations on Tuesday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# EVACUATED FROM YEMEN 337 Bangladeshis return home today

## Reach Kerala from Djibouti

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Our New Delhi correspondent adds, a Kochi Port Trust official said the two ships were expected to reach the port around 2:30pm today. The Bangladesh mission in New Delhi will ensure all necessary arrangements for bringing the Bangladeshis home.

Meanwhile, 136 more Bangladeshis were shifted to Djibouti from Hodeidah of Yemen on Thursday. They were evacuated by Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sumitra, said SM Mahbubul Alam, counsellor at the Bangladesh embassy in Kuwait, in an email sent to The Daily Star yesterday.

A total of 500 Bangladeshis have been relocated to Djibouti from Yemen since April 3, said Mahbubul, who is currently in the African country with a foreign ministry team to supervise the evacuation.

The 136 Bangladeshis were received by Ambassador in Kuwait Maj Gen Ashab Uddin and other diplomats of the Bangladeshi team in Djibouti.

Twenty-six expatriates have returned home from Yemen.

# If this is not sexual assault, what is?

FROM PAGE 1

Police, told The Daily Star that what happened was "some jostling", not sexual assault.

"So far, we have not seen in the footage any woman being stripped off," he added.

According to him, the media exaggerated the matter.

The two hours' footage from two cameras that police gave to journalists, however, paints a sordid picture.

And this footage is not even of the Suhrawardy Udyan entrance opposite the TSC, the spot where more severe incidents of sexual assault reportedly took place. It is mainly from the cameras that covered the road in front of the entrance.

The Daily Star has been able to take from the footage at least 50 snaps that show several women being molested by certain groups of youths between 6:22pm and 7:19pm, according to the camera clock.

It also shows a number of other women being squeezed by some men, giving thumbs up apparently to someone not seen in the footage.

At 6:30pm, a youth is seen at the hands of three people, apparently plainclothes cops with one of them

carrying a walkie-talkie. Around the same time, some policemen in uniform are seen charging batons to disperse the attackers in vain.

Most of these youths were wearing panjabis.

Following Tuesday's incident, the print and electronic media reported that a group of 30 to 40 men molested more than 20 women for over an hour.

Reports also mentioned that a rescuer, Liton Nandi, president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union's Dhaka University chapter, gave his panjabi to a victim whose dress was ripped at places.

The footage obtained by this paper does not show this incident, but that is no proof that it did not happen because the footage are from cameras that watched the footpaths along the Suhrawardy Udyan.

According to police, about 100 CCTV cameras were installed in the area as part of their security preparation. Some 19 cameras were installed around the Suhrawardy Udyan alone.

In other parts of the footage, women are seen running away from molesters or walking in the embrace of their male companions from fear

of being harassed. One woman is found pursuing a molester pointing her finger at the direction the man fled.

But let alone mentioning that they had got hold of one alleged perpetrator, police until yesterday did not even admit that five alleged culprits were handed over to them.

Tuhin Kanti Das, general secretary of DU Chhatra Union, repeatedly claimed to have handed over two perpetrators to a Sub-inspector named Ashraf Islam.

Ibrahim Khan, an additional deputy commissioner of DMP, for the first time yesterday admitted that someone indeed handed over one perpetrator to Ashraf.

"Ashraf had left the perpetrator in the charge of the man who caught him as he [Ashraf] had to go somewhere on the order of his supervisor," said Ibrahim.

Ashraf returned to find the molester gone.

Incidents of fistfights, apparently when someone tried to resist the molesters, are also seen in the clips.

Police say they are now planning to seek assistance from anyone with

"further" proof of the alleged assaults.

Bizarrely, police yesterday questioned the integrity of the five Chhatra Union activists who were injured while trying to protect the women.

Liton Nandi is one of them.

"If Nandi was right in his description of the assault, we want to know whether he did his duty of an ideal citizen," said Jahangir.

"Did he call the police to inform the matter? Did he seek help from the police deployed in the TSC?" he added.

In fact, Liton did. In the footage released by the police, he is seen trying to resist the attackers on several occasions and is seen talking to one cop, apparently seeking help, once.

"First I went to a group of policemen asking them to bring more force, but they did not respond. Another time, I requested another team to intervene when it started charging batons on the attackers," said Liton, who came to The Daily Star office last night when he described the whole incident and explained the footage frame by frame.

# Tigers make it after 16 years

FROM PAGE 1

Mushfiqur hit blazing centuries -- the first time that two Bangladesh batsmen have scored centuries in a single ODI innings -- to set up a mammoth score of 329 for six, the highest for Bangladesh -- eclipsing their previous best of 326 made against the same opposition during the Asia Cup last year.

Last time when Bangladesh had scored 300-plus against Pakistan, they failed to defend that total in Fatullah as Pakistan scraped home with three wickets in hand. But the bowlers made sure there was not going to be yet another heartbreak against this relatively inexperienced Pakistan batting line-up, and bowled efficiently to fold the visitors for 250 runs in 45.2 overs.

Pakistan skipper Azhar Ali, all-rounder Haris Sohail and debutante Mohammad Rizwan hit half centuries, but the target always looked beyond the Pakistanis' means.

Taskin Ahmed and Arafat Sunny were the most successful bowlers for Bangladesh -- taking three wickets each -- but the rest of the bowlers, except for Abul Hasan, played a very good supporting role in scripting the historic win.

The highlight of the win, though, was the record-breaking 178-run partnership between Tamim and Mushfiqur for the third wicket, overtaking the 175-run stand made by Habibul Bashar and Rajin Saleh against Kenya in 2006.

Tamim, the dashing left-handed opener, had come into the game under heavy criticism, and he chose the right match to silence his critics with a scintillating hundred; his fifth overall and first since March 2013. The Chittagongian once again proved his worth with a nicely-paced 135-ball 132 which featured 15 fours and three sixes. The way the aggressive left-

hander charged Haris Sohail over deep midwicket for consecutive sixes only served to remind of his class.

Tamim and Soumya Sarker made a cautious start on a placid wicket, after stand-in skipper Shakib Al Hasan had decided to bat first in the day-night encounter. Pakistan's trio of left-arm seamers kept the Bangladesh openers honest with tight line outside the off-stump. Soumya fell to a run-out and on-form Mahmudullah Riyad was bowled trying to manufacture room against Junaid Khan in the 20th over as Bangladesh started to struggle with 67 on the board. But the arrival of Mushfiqur saw a shift in momentum.

Tamim later described Mushfiqur's inning by saying: "Mushfiq was attacking and batted beautifully. He made my life easy." It was Mushfiqur's 77-ball 106 -- featuring 13 fours and two sixes -- and a late surge from Shakib and Sabbir Rahman which saw

Bangladesh score 262 runs from their last 30 overs.

The aggressive batting from Mushfiqur gave Tamim the confidence to get out of his temporary shell. He was struggling against Saeed Ajmal, although the right-arm bowler did not look the same after remodelling his action. But the two batsmen took full advantage of the three back-up bowlers -- Saad Nasim, Haris Sohail and Azhar Ali -- smashing them for an aggregate of 79 runs.

Sloppy fielding did not help Pakistan's cause either, especially with two crucial catches being dropped, including Tamim's return catch to Saad Nasim when he was on 47 and Junaid's grassing of Mushfiqur when he was on 35.

The two took full advantage of their lifelines and made the most of their chances to set the platform for a historic win.

# Brave guard foils bank robbery

FROM PAGE 1

to the guard room and locked it from inside. Then he called the bank officers, grabbed his gun and scared the robbers away.

This is the story of Abdul Wahab Talukdar, an ordinary night guard of Janata Bank's Sat Masjid Road Corporate Branch at Zigatola in the capital.

Perhaps you will not even notice him when you pass the branch at night. But this ordinary man, in an act of bravery, risked his life to foil the robbery attempt on Wednesday night.

The bank rewarded him with Tk 2,00,000 in recognition of his bravery on Thursday.

"Like any other day, I went to buy rice from a shop around 7:30pm. When I entered the branch on the first floor, I heard voices inside and thought they might be robbers," Wahab told The Daily Star yesterday. He suffered serious head injury and is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical

College Hospital. Police said the robbers had broken into the building through a window from the backside.

One of the robbers held him tight from behind. As he tried to set himself free, they started hitting on his head. He fell flat on the floor. Though his head bled badly, he did not quite lose his sense. He even heard one of the robbers saying that he had died already.

This was how Wahab narrated his story.

"I lay silent for a few minutes, made my way slowly to the guard's room and called my officers to bring police," he said.

Then he took his gun from an Almira. Seeing a gun in his hand, the robbers fled away.

Fahmida Rahman, assistant manager of the branch, arrived there quickly with police and took him to hospital. The police thanked him heartily.

Asked about the way he was recognised by the bank, Wahab said he is happy for it.

Thanking the bank management for the reward, he said, "While on duty, my responsibility is to protect the organisation even if it has to be done at the cost of my life."

Janata Bank Chairman Shaikh Md Wahid-Uz-Zaman said, "Such an act of bravery is not expected from an ordinary person like him. The bravery he has shown definitely deserves recognition."

Hailing from Shibchar in Madaripur district, Wahab, now 50 years old, has been serving the bank as a security guard for 28 years. His job was made permanent in 2012 and now he earns around Tk 11,000 with which he runs his family and bears the educational expenses of his two daughters studying at higher secondary level.

A case has been filed with Hazaribagh police station in this connection.



The father and a sister of Md Zakaria in tears after hearing about the death of the student of Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University in Dinajpur.

PHOTO: STAR