

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.

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 cam-

eras 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 some-

one 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

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 Ashraful 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 superviser," 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

Bizarrely, police yesterday questioned the integrity of the five

"further" proof of the alleged

assaults.

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 idea 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 severa 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.

EVACUATED FROM YEMEN

337 Bangladeshis return home today

Reach Kerala from Djibouti

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Evacuated from war-torn Yemen last week, 337 Bangladeshis are expected to return home tonight. Currently, they are on their way to Kerala in India from Djibouti.

"Officials of our New Delhi mission and Biman [Bangladesh Airlines] have already reached Kerala. They will arrange our expatriates' repatriation by tomorrow [Saturday] night," Lutfor Rahman, director general (consular and welfare wing) of the foreign ministry, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The Bangladeshis would be brought back to the country from Kochi International Airport on two flights of Biman, said Biman sources. On April 12, two Indian ships -- MV

Kavaratti and MV Corals -- with the citizens of India and Bangladesh left the African country, Djibouti, for Kochi port.

The Bangladeshis took shelter in the African country after the crisis hit the Middle Eastern country, Yemen, last month.

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 Hodeida 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

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

with a foreign ministry team to super-

Twenty-six expatriates have returned home from Yemen.

Well-managed city FROM PAGE 1 city extremely hazardous.

interview with The Daily Star on Thursday.

"No other city in any civilised country would allow such a situation deleterious to human life. In fact, civilised countries would have declared parts of the city abandoned and enforced evacuation ... It has all the symptoms of a sick and dying city," he said in English. "Therefore, the city must be rebuilt,

reshaped by a renewed city administration which will improve city life by initiating structural changes," added Tabith, a science graduate from George Washington University, USA. He currently looks after the family business and has an annual income of Tk 1.76 crore, according to his wealth statement submitted to the Election Commission.

And in doing these, he plans to take help from his father, who has done several research work on Dhaka city, and other experts.

MAJOR PROBLEMS

"The city governance has reached such a deplorable stage that it could be no worse ... Citizens are enduring immense misery. Basic civic amenities are just not there. Pollution is the highest among all comparable cities," Tabith said, while speaking about the city problems that need immediate attention.

Of the 13 lakh cubic meters of effluent produced daily, only 1.20 lakh cubic meters are treated. The sewerage system covers only 20 percent of the population.

"Only 50 percent of 4,000 tonnes of solid waste is collected daily. That also is transported in open trucks and during the daytime.

"Drains are choked with solid waste causing flooding in many parts of the city during the rainy season. Only 55 percent of the city area is covered by some sort of drainage system.

"Billboards, neon signs and pillars everywhere make the city look like an eerie ghost town and these distractions cause daily accidents. Roads are narrow and incapable of handling the increased traffic. Slow-moving, nonmotorised vehicles constitute almost 56 percent of all traffic, and they occupy 65-70 percent of road space.

"Poorly constructed roads, open sewerage and drains, manholes without covers and streets without lights render movement on foot around the "Contaminated air and water make

the city a breeding ground for epidemics of all types of infectious and injurious diseases. Many parts of the city are unfit for human habitation. SOLUTIONS?

First of all, the attitudes of city corporation employees must be changed so that they understand what their jobs are, and they should be made aware of the consequences for failing to deliver, Tabith said.

sation of power, he said a councillor and the people in his ward should have the authority "to decide on assessment and payment of taxes, development work, primary education, peace in community, garbage collection, cultural activities, etc". The mayor has to ensure suitable

Stressing on the need for decentrali-

conditions for economic growth, and that the institutions, assigned to improve the quality of health and education, are properly functional, he

"The mayor has ... to ensure that the city administration provides adequate, effective and efficient services to fulfil citizens' needs, ... [and] has to take the initiative to involve the private sector in order to improve the efficiency of public services.

"Services should be decentralised and privatised as much as possible to "Only 75 percent of the city's popu- increase efficiency and costlation has access to the water supply. effectiveness," he said, adding that the city administration has to be freed from external political influence.

"All new recruitment and promotion should be done through a committee on the basis of merit only.

"The legal department [of the DNCC| should be capable of ensuring the enforcement of full functional authority of the city corporation.

"Citizens' committees should be involved as watchdogs. Independent consultants should be appointed to ensure the quality of jobs done.

"The system of tax and fee collection should be harmonised, and recordkeeping computerised and systematised," added Tabith, who is likely to face a strong challenge from the ruling party-backed mayor aspirant Annisul

"The city environment has developed a slum character. Something must be done for our children to be able to continue living in this city," he concluded, asking the people of Dhaka North to vote for him for a better and safer city.

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.

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

The highlight of the win, though, was the record-breaking 178-run partnership between Tamim and Mushfigur 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-

Taskin Ahmed and Arafat Sunny 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 offstump. 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

Mushfigur saw a shift in momentum. Tamim later described Mushfiqur's inning by saying: "Mushfiq was attacking and batted beautifully. He made 35. my life easy." It was Mushfigur's 77ball 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

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

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 back side.

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 already.

"I lay silent for a few minutes, made

my way slowly to the guard's room and called my officers to bring police," he

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 his sense. He even heard one of the Wahid-Uz-Zaman said, "Such an act of robbers saying that he had died bravery is not expected from an ordinary person like him. The bravery he This was how Wahab narrated his 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.