

# Images of carnage, hope and victory

Exhibition of unseen photos of war, independence taken by Anne de Henning starts at Shilpakala Academy

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

April 11, 1971. Anne de Henning, a French photojournalist in her early twenties, crossed the Indo-Bangladesh border secretly to reveal the plight of the Bangladeshis to the world.

As she crossed the border through Jashore, she captured scenes of horrified refugees fleeing for their life, villages destroyed by occupation forces and courageous freedom fighters determined to resist the Pakistan army at all cost.

In Kushtia's Pangsha upazila, she took a photo of several freedom fighters, some of them being teenagers, who were demonstrating their determination and readiness to fight with bows and arrows, saying that they were willing to die to achieve an independent Bangladesh.

A speciality of the photos Anne had taken is that they are extremely rare, as foreign journalists were not allowed to enter the country when Anne visited, and these photos were never exhibited before.

Today, Anne's photos will be exhibited for the first time at an exhibition titled "Witnessing History in the Making: Photographs by Anne de Henning", jointly



organised by Samdani Art Foundation and Centre for Research and Information (CRI) to mark the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence.

The event will take place at Shilpakala Academy till December 31.

Anne took great risks to take the historic photos, as she felt committed to show the world the massacre committed by the Pakistan army and the sufferings of innocent Bangladeshis.

"I felt that the foreign press had a responsibility to convey to the outside world the plight of the Bengali people, who were ruthlessly denied their democratic rights following the December 1970 elections," Anne told this correspondent.

The photographer, who is now in her seventies, is currently in France and communicated with this correspondent via email.

She witnessed how Pakistani fighters were bombing villages in Kushtia and Pakistan army attacked innocent civilians and fleeing refugees.

She recounted, "In Goalundo Ghat on Padma river, which I intended to cross and push on to Dhaka, the silence was broken in the middle of the night by the rattle of

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Some of the pictures taken by the photojournalist. Counter-clockwise, women and children rush to board a train in Kushtia's Kumarkali upazila. A group of freedom fighters ready to battle with bows and arrows in Pangsha upazila, and locals chanting for independence. Far left, the photojournalist herself taking a selfie with others.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ANNE DE HENNING



## METRO RAIL

# Agargaon to Motijheel by Dec 2023

Experts say partial launch to have little impact on Dhaka traffic; commuters fear transport scarcity at Agargaon point; BRTC to provide special bus service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While metro rail operation from Uttara to Agargaon is scheduled to begin in December next year, people have to wait till December 2023 to use the metro to travel to and from Motijheel.

Although the partial operation will be helpful for commuting to and from Uttara and Mirpur, it would have little impact on the capital's overall traffic situation, experts said.

Rather, passengers may face a scarcity of transport options, especially at Agargaon, to go to other parts of the city, because more pressure will be put on other forms of public transport, as people will get off the metro and get on buses. Besides, there is no full-fledged bus stop at Agargaon.

Metro authorities, however, said they have already reached an understanding with Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC), which will operate buses from Uttara and Agargaon dedicatedly for metro passengers.

"On basis of the progress made so far, it is possible to meet the target [of operating from Uttara to Agargaon by December 2022]," MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd, which is implementing the metro rail project, said yesterday.



### FIRST METRO RAIL

- Overall progress of MRT-6 73pc till Nov
- Progress: first phase 89.88pc; second phase 71.82pc
- Works related to track installation and procurement related works 68.80pc
- BRTC buses to be operated from Uttara, Agargaon to facilitate metro passengers
- Recruitment, training of manpower for partial operation of metro train to be completed by Aug 2022
- All tests for partial operation to be completed by Sept 2022
- Finance ministry approved 357 manpower for metro police
- DMTC to submit metro fare proposal this month

He, however, said the Uttara-Motijheel route will be operational by December 2023.

As part of the preparation, performance test between Uttara and Agargaon will be carried out on Sunday for the first time, he said.

Siddique was speaking at an online news briefing to inform about the progress.

The Mass Rapid Transit Line 6 or MRT-6 is being constructed between Uttara Third Phase to Motijheel at a cost of around Tk 22,000 crores. Once completed, it will be able to transport 60,000 people per hour and would reduce travel time from Uttara to Motijheel from about two hours to only 40 minutes.

### PARTIAL OPERATION WILL HAVE LITTLE IMPACT

Prominent transport expert Prof Moazzem Hossain said taking the capital's current traffic situation into account, launching of a single metro line would have very little impact.

"And partial operation of a single line would be just for the sake of launching something," he said.

Authorities will have to launch at least two or three lines to see some impact on traffic, said Prof Moazzem, who teaches at the Buet's civil engineering department.

Talking about the authority's move to launch BRTC bus service,

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# WE WANT SAFE ROAD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



FILE PHOTO

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Students of several schools and colleges yesterday continued their protests demanding safe roads, justice for victims of road crashes and half public transport fares for students all across the country.

Around 11:30am, police obstructed a student rally in Nilkhet which proceeded towards the Prime Minister's Office to

## LEMON'S DEATH ON ROAD Lorry driver held in Sandwip

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives have arrested the prime accused -- driver of a lorry -- in a case filed over the death of a Green Rizvi Korayeshi, additional deputy commissioner of Detective Branch of police (Uttara division).

Md Yusuf Ali was arrested from Chattogram's Sandwip around 4:30am on Wednesday, said Md Kaisar Rizvi Korayeshi, additional deputy commissioner of Detective Branch of police (Uttara division).

A team of DB, during a drive, arrested Yusuf in Sandwip's Banglabazar, he said. Yusuf was produced before the

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## 10-year-old killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Two persons including a student were killed and five injured in road accidents in Kalmakanda upazila of Netrakona Wednesday evening.

In the upazila's Bahadurkanda, Md Morsalin (10), a third grader, died after a truck ran him over, said OC Md Habibur Khan of Kalmakanda Police Station.

He was declared dead at a local health complex.

In Chatrongpur, Monwara Begum (40) was killed and five injured when a battery-run auto-rickshaw and motorbike collided around 6:00pm.

The injured were rushed to the local health complex.

## INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY

# State must facilitate media's fight against corruption

Says TIB executive director

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is the responsibility of the state, in particular the government, to create a congenial atmosphere for the media to flourish in its role against corruption, Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said yesterday.

"Instead, what we can see is different kinds of pressure on media, especially in recent times," he told a discussion marking International Anti-Corruption Day.

"We want to remind the government that this is not permissible according to the [country's] constitution," he added.

TIB arranged the discussion at its office in the capital's Dhanmondi.

Iftekharuzzaman also said the government has its pledge to create a favourable atmosphere for investigative journalism against corruption.

According to a TIB paper that was presented during the discussion, investigative journalism in Bangladesh has been facing various challenges.

Such challenges included "controlled marketplace" and influence of corporate capital, political culture, state laws and policy frameworks, self-censorship, lack of willingness

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## Country straying from four founding principles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is far away from the four fundamental principles of its constitution, speakers said at a seminar yesterday.

Titled "State Thoughts at Constituent Assembly Debate", the seminar was jointly organised by Dhaka University's law department and law faculty at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Hall. The session marked the department's birth centenary and the golden jubilee of the independence of Bangladesh.

"Among the fundamental principles, nationalism was the base, socialism was the destination, democracy was the means and secularism was the catalyst," said Prof Asif Nazrul, chairperson of the department, while

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On the occasion of Begum Rokeya Day, members of "Begum Rokeya Deepshikha Parishad" formed a human chain yesterday evening in front of the capital's Central Shaheed Minar, in remembrance of the life and works of the feminist writer, educator and activist.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## We are failing Says environment minister on wildlife conservation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environment, Forest and Climate Change minister Md Shahab Uddin yesterday said they were not being able to conserve wildlife, citing section-18 (Kha) of the constitution that makes it mandatory to do so.

He made the remark while addressing a programme as chief guest titled "National Result Sharing and Consultation Workshop" organised by IUCN at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka.

"The wildlife is supposed to be in the forests. But when forests go under the clutch of humans, how will the wildlife survive?" he asked.

In November alone, eight elephants were electrocuted and shot by forest grabbers across Chattogram and Sherpur.