

When photographs speak against dictatorship

Dinu Alam's historic photos, now free-for-all

"In light of tomorrow being Shaheed Noor Hussain Day, I want to inform all of you that my photos from back then will be free-to-use for everyone. Under the terms of the Share-Alike International Free-to-Use license, these photos of mine will now be accessible to the general public on Flickr.com and Wikimedia Commons."

MOUMITA SULTANA HEMA

Yesterday, photographer Dinu Alam—who is currently based in Toronto, Canada—hosted a press conference at the National Press Club in Paltan. The conference was held to announce that photographs taken by him during the anti-Ershad mass movement of 1987, would be free-to-use for the public.

Dinu Alam's photographs represent a crucial part of Bangladesh's 50-year history. Particularly, his photo of Shaheed Noor Hussain, who died during the protests on November 10, 1987, are remembered for their impact on dethroning Ershad. Even today, this iconic photo is called the 'photo that brought down a dictator'.

In 1987, Noor Hussain—a young protester, whose body was painted with pro-democracy slogans—was shot dead by the police in Dhaka. His massacred, bullet-ridden body was taken to a jail cell, and dumped by the police there. It would be a photograph taken by Dinu Alam of the incident, that really added steam to the mass uprising, toppling Ershad from his throne.

Dinu Alam opened the press conference by remembering Noor Hussain.



Photographed by Dinu Alam.



Shaheed Noor Hussain

painted with the words 'Let dictatorship die', as he stands directly in front of the procession of the current Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Today, at the press conference, Dinu Alam discussed three investigative pieces about Noor Hussain that were written by BBC News London. On the morning of November 10, 2020, two years prior, journalist Moazzem Hossain from BBC London called Alam in Toronto and informed him that he is conducting research for an investigative story based on the events of November 10, 1987, and the death of Shaheed Noor Hussain.

Moazzem Hossain—a Dhaka University student—was detained that morning, and kept in the same cell as Noor Hussain, at the Shahbag police station. Three investigative stories from the BBC were released back-to-back, one of which was translated into 10 different languages. Several of the pictures Alam took that day, paired with that incident, featured in the BBC article.

While Moazzem Hossain and Dinu Alam discussed the mass uprising and his

photographs from November 10, 1987, the former asked for permission to use Alam's photos in the BBC articles. Recalling this incident, Alam said at the press conference, "I gladly granted formal consent to journalist Moazzem Hossain to broadcast my photos on BBC News. However, I was moved by the thought that, what purpose does it serve to ask someone for permission to post old photographs?"

Alam further added, "In light of tomorrow being Shaheed Noor Hussain Day, I want to inform all of you that my photos from back then will be free-to-use for everyone. Under the terms of the Share-Alike International Free-to-Use license, these photos of mine will now be accessible to the general public on Flickr.com and Wikimedia Commons. The photos can be used without paying any royalties."

Dinu Alam humbly requested credit on the use of his photographs. 35 photos that he took on that day are historic records of the uprising against dictatorship at the time, and for the knowledge of the future generation looking for this exact information.

Nusraat Faria starts shooting for 'Bibaho Obhijaan 2'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



After some delay, popular actress Nusraat Faria started the shooting for *Bibaho Obhijaan 2* on November 2, in Kolkata. The movie will be directed by Soumik Halder.

"I'm very excited about this project, as the audiences appreciated the first part of the film. I will portray the same character in this sequel, but with a twist. It's a very high-budget film, as most of it will be shot in Bangkok. I hope the audience will love this film as they loved *Bibaho Obhijaan*, said Nusraat Faria to The Daily Star.

"I am very happy that I have been part of three Tollywood films this year—*Rockstar*, *Bhoy*, and *Bibaho Obhijaan 2*. My film *Operation Sundarban* also did very well in Bangladesh," she added.

Bibaho Obhijaan 2 also stars Ankush Hazra, Anirban Bhattacharya, Rudranil Ghosh, Sohini Sarkar, and Priyanka Sarkar in pivotal roles.

Mosharraf Karim to make his Chorki debut today with 'Daag'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Today, noted actor Mosharraf Karim will be making his Chorki debut with director Sanjoy Somadder's web film, *Daag*. The movie revolves around the barriers of society and how we need to overcome these obstacles to create a free atmosphere for everyone.



"We don't want to keep a *Daag* (blemish) in our minds, as it is something which reminds us of our mistakes. There are still some blemishes present in our society, that we have failed to remove. The story of these indelible spots is what the project is all about," said Mosharraf Karim.

In this web-series, Aisha Khan will also be seen playing an important role. "I didn't do any special preparations for this role. I listened attentively to what the director said, took time to prepare myself and stood in front of the camera," said Aisha.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

While the anti-Ershad mass movement was at its height, the opposition parties implemented a "Dhaka blockade" plan. Dinu Alam documented the struggle against the regime at the time with his photographs. Among the collection of his photos from the time, are three close-ups of Noor Hussain's face, taken ten minutes before he was shot near "Zero Point", now called Noor Hussain Chatter, in Gulshan.

An iconic photo, Noor Hussain's body is

NEWS

Ramp up efforts to stop human trafficking

FROM PAGE 12
At home, the government has taken various steps to promote safe migration and prevent human trafficking. Yet, the risks of human trafficking remain high.

About 12 million Bangladeshis work abroad and the remittance they send plays a critical role in the country's economy. Besides, climate change causes the displacement of thousands of people, making women and children especially vulnerable to exploitation.

Siobhan Mullally said significant measures have been taken to combat child labour, which can lead to increased risks of child trafficking.

"Therefore, continued development of exit strategies to eliminate child labour, in particular in high-risk sectors like hospitality and tourism, domestic work, brick kilns, and agriculture, is essential.

"Improving livelihoods for families, and expanding access to education, and training opportunities for children will be important."

Trafficking of women and girls for purposes of sexual exploitation within Bangladesh and cross-border, in particular to India, is a serious and urgent concern. Boys are also trafficked within Bangladesh, but receive limited assistance or protection from the state, and are often at risk of both sexual exploitation and exploitation in criminal activities, she said.

She said failures of identification and protection allow such trafficking to continue with impunity.

"More efforts to combat child trafficking are essential, including improving rates of birth registration for all communities and ending child marriage. We know that the children of sex workers are at great risk, and are often not registered at birth," Mullally said.

She said there are serious concerns that trafficking for purposes of forced labour persists. False job offers, very high recruitment fees and failure to protect migrant workers in all stages of migration allow trafficking to

persist.

"Returned migrant workers with significant debt are at continued risk of exploitation and face reprisals and threats because of difficulties in repaying debts and securing new employment."

Pressures to settle complaints and accept low rates of the settlement also undermine the goal of accountability for recruitment agencies and intermediaries, the expert said.

While countries of destination have a responsibility to prevent trafficking and protect migrant workers, Bangladesh, as a country of origin, must also strengthen its action to prevent such recruitment practices and to remedy the gaps in protection, Mullally said.

Migrant women domestic workers are particularly at risk of trafficking for domestic servitude and suffer horrific abuses. This is an area that the international community has been neglecting, but needs stronger actions, she said.

Murder accused

FROM PAGE 12
22-year-old Rajesh Roy allegedly died by suicide while in police custody in Tangail and Jhalakathi respectively. The police did not disclose any footage of the incident.

In August, a 25-year-old man called Sumon Sheikh had allegedly died by suicide while in custody at the Hatirjheel Police Station in the capital. A similar incident also happened in January in Lalmonirhat.

In the case of Sumon's death, the deceased was seen on footage to move out of the frame before the incident.

Govt bans foreign

FROM PAGE 1
But this time, the government has said it will not provide them any funds for travelling purposes.

The notice said the decision was taken given the ongoing state of the global economy.

The government widened the restrictions on travels as the country's foreign exchange reserves have been depleting fast.

The reserves stood at around \$34.5 billion yesterday, which were \$46.48 billion in November last year.

The decreasing trend of both remittance inflow and export earnings against higher import payments has created a volatile situation in the country's financial sector.

The expatriate Bangladeshis sent home to the tune of \$1.52 billion in October, down 7.4 percent from a year ago.

Remittances also decreased by 2.03 percent year-on-year to \$7.19 billion in the first four months of the current fiscal year, as per data from Bangladesh Bank.

Export earnings of October also declined by 7.85 percent year-on-year to \$4.35 billion, according to the Export Promotion Bureau data.

Between July and October this fiscal year, export earnings, however, increased by 7.01 percent year-on-year to \$16.85 billion.

The central bank has not yet published the data of import payments for October.

Import payments in the first three months of this fiscal year stood at \$19.34 billion, up 11.7 percent year-on-year.

Court to hear

FROM PAGE 12
by Mridha was based on fabricated information. It was designed to "harass and defame" his client.

JP Secretary General Mujibur Haque Chunu told the media that such a bar on a political party chief "cannot be valid".

"There is no such precedence. We have appealed to the court seeking revocation of its order. We hope the order will be cancelled. Otherwise, we will move the High Court," he added.

Meanwhile, Joint District Judge Masudul Haque on Tuesday served a show-cause notice to Quader in another case filed with the same Dhaka court.

Opposition Chief Whip Mashiur Rahman Ranga, who was removed from the JP on September 14, filed the case on October 28.

In this case, the JP chief was asked to explain in 15 days why he would not be barred from taking decisions about the party.

Court sources said Quader has sought time to give his explanations. The court will hold next hearing on the case on January 2 next year.

Both Mridha and Ranga filed separate cases seeking court orders announcing Quader's holding of the JP chairman post illegal.

Quader was made the party chairman on April 6, 2019, after its founder and former president HM Ershad fell sick.

Angered by the JP chief's recent sharp criticism of the government, AL high-ups are allegedly backing Raushan Ershad to put pressure on him.

Raushan, the chief patron of the party, all of a sudden, on August 31 convened its 10th national council on November 26.

Sources at the JP told The Daily Star that pro-Raushan group planned to remove Quader from the party's helm in the council and take control of the organisation.

Conflict between the two factions intensified as the Jatiya Party Parliamentary Party on September 1 decided to remove Raushan from the post of the leader of the opposition in parliament and make Quader the opposition leader.

The JP chief is now the deputy leader of the opposition.

After that meeting, a letter signed by Ranga was submitted to the Speaker in this regard.

The JP lawmaker on September 20 again wrote to the Speaker saying that

he would withdraw the previous letter.

The opposition party now has 26 lawmakers. All but three to four of them are reportedly loyal to Quader.

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury is yet to announce any decision on making Quader the leader of the opposition.

Meantime, JP leaders on October 30 decided to boycott the ongoing parliament session until Quader is made the opposition leader.

A day after, the JP backtracked on its decision saying it received an assurance from the Speaker in this regard.

Sources close to Raushan said the government high-ups changed their stance due to Quader-led faction's decision on boycotting parliament.

Raushan later postponed the council.

Feud between Raushan and Quader broke out over taking the helm of the party after HM Ershad became sick in early 2019.

The conflict worsened following the death of Ershad in July that year.

Two killed

FROM PAGE 12
BOP Camp Commander Shariful Islam Sharif said the deceased were involved with cattle smuggling.

Confirming the incident, Lt Col SM Touhidul Alam, commanding officer of 15th BGB Battalion, said a letter was sent to the BSF protesting the incident.

Moktarul Islam, officer-in-charge of Aditmari Police Station, said the bodies were sent to Lalmonirhat General Hospital for autopsy.

Wazkaroni's mother Shafiron Bawa said, "I forbade my son many times from going to India, but he didn't pay heed. My son used to work for a local cow trader."

Ayanal's wife Sharifa Begum said her husband used to earn between Tk 10,000 and Tk 12,000 per cattle.

Portugal hope

FROM PAGE 12
record goalscorer in Cristiano Ronaldo, questions abound as to whether the 37-year-old should still be the team's primary option in attack.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner has started on the bench more often than not for Manchester United this season, and has yet to score in the knockout phase at a World Cup.