

'DURGAR SHOMUDRO'

Thought-provoking pictures urge humanity to course-correct

SHARMIN JOYA

"Together we can always speak for those who cannot speak for themselves, whether they are animals, people with special needs, or victims of oppression," shared Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed, who recently came out with a thought provoking photoshoot, titled *Durgar Shomudro* (Durga's Ocean).

"Interestingly, for the past six years, we have joined hands with people from all walks of life—teachers, homemakers, wildlife photographers, drivers, doctors—and anyone with an artistic mind can be a part of our project, as our group is an open space."

The Durga-themed project in collaboration with Nawshaba's group, Together We Can, and the photography agency, Mr

Momentwala. "Our philosophies align well. We are vocal about issues such as women's rights, advocating for peace against war, or any other issues that need to be highlighted. We address them thematically, and they help transform the protest into powerful images."

Their recent collaboration, *Durgar Shomudro*, conveys the message that Durga is not just a goddess worshipped in temples; she symbolises the core of every woman's spirit. Omnipresent and boundless like the ocean, she embodies both serenity and victory. "At the same time, we have highlighted themes, such as communal harmony, marine pollution, and justice, among others."

In one of the images, Nawshaba is seen seated on the ground, wrapped tightly in yellow "caution" tape.

A golden trident stands behind her head, casting a long shadow. Her face and clothes are smeared with red, resembling blood, adding intensity to the scene. As she sits



within a circle of the tape, surrounded by tattered red hibiscus flowers, the image depicts a surreal atmosphere, suggesting themes of confinement, danger, or transformation.

"Each photo will make people think, and that is our goal—to make people think, and we believe it will create an impact," said Nawshaba.

In another photo, Nawshaba, dressed as Durga, is wrapped in plastics and garbage found in the sea, embodying marine pollution and the resulting hazards. "We aim to raise awareness and urge people to reconnect with nature, and save Mother Earth from ourselves."

Nawshaba shared that the idea of combining environmental awareness with Durga came to her when she was writing the script for *Tribeni*. "The idea was inspired from *Rokto Korobi*, sharing a similar anatomy, and that is when we sketched the plan for this project."

In another image, Nawshaba is seen riding a horse, embodying Durga. She is blindfolded, holding scales in one hand and a trident in the other, signifying justice, balance, and power. A crescent moon adorns her head, suggesting divinity. Dressed in a turquoise saree with golden accents and adorned with jewelry, she exudes a regal presence. The calm black-and-white horse, with decorative bridle



gear, complements the scene. A cloud-filled sky in the background adds to the dramatic atmosphere, blending themes of justice, serenity, and authority.

The actress shared that behind creating a picture-perfect shoot, they had to go through many

struggles, such as fund and attire sponsors, among others. "Nazmul and I were baffled initially, about how we would do this, but finally we did it. I am grateful to some beautiful souls without whose support the entire project would not have been possible to complete."

The project was directed and photographed by Md Nazmul Hossain. Nawshaba was styled as goddess Durga by makeup artist Emon Hossen. The music for the video was composed by Ezaz Farah, with cinematography and editing managed by Emranuzzaman Shohag. Amit Sinha is credited as the executive producer, and Nawshaba and Nazmul Hossain collaboratively developed the concept.



PHOTOS: MOMENTWALA
OUTFIT: KHUT AND
ANGGARAG
KUTIR
JEWELRY: KADAMBARI
SPACE: DIVINE ECO
RESORT
FUNDING PARTIALLY BY
SELF-HEALING HUB

NEWS

Sacked members of various forces

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Battalion (Rab) arrested eight people, including five who had been sacked from different security forces and three civilians, Lt Col Munim Ferdous, director of Rab's legal and media wing, told The Daily Star.

The Rab official, however, did not provide further details about the arrestees.

Drives are underway to arrest the others involved in the robbery, he said, adding that if members of law enforcement agencies are found to be involved, they will also be arrested.

Meanwhile, Talebir Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested three more people in connection to the case.

They were identified as Shariful Islam Tusher, 35, Zakir Hossain, 37, and Masudur Rahman, 47.

During the raids, law enforcers seized a microbus used in the heist, Tk 9.2 lakh in cash, two iPhones and some gold, including four bori of

ornaments, a bracelet, and a ring.

The robbery took place around 3:00am on Saturday on the second floor of the five-storey residential building "Haji Vila" near the Beribadh Tin Rastar Mor.

The building is also known to locals as the "Abu Company Building" as it belongs to a businessman named Abu Bakar.

Following the robbery, Abu Bakar filed a case with Mohammadpur Police Station.

Speaking to this newspaper, Abu Bakar explained that he was involved in a number of businesses, including the buying and selling of land, bricks, and sand. And that he was keeping the cash at home because banks had been delaying the release of large sums, which he needed to pay his bills.

According to the case statement, a group of 15-20 individuals dressed in uniforms resembling those of the army and Rab arrived at Abu Bakar's building around 3:30am and announced that they were there to

conduct a raid to recover weapons.

The security guard opened the building's main gate thinking that these people were law enforcers, who then went directly to Abu Bakar's flat and asked him to open the door.

Abu Bakar said, "They first asked me why I did not hand over my legal weapon to the local police station. Although I told them that I did, they started searching the flat. They went through my almirah and, at one point, barged into my office and looted money and ornaments from the safe kept there, which I was forced to open."

"The gang left my flat around 4:15am with Tk 75.5 lakh and 70 bori gold ornaments."

"They came in two sedans and two microbuses, wore masks, and one of them was carrying a rifle."

In light of this incident, the police have asked city residents to report any suspicious raids to their local police station or the national emergency helpline, 999.

Israeli tanks burst through its gates

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statement addressed to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

"The IDF has requested this repeatedly and has met with repeated refusal, which has the effect of providing Hezbollah terrorists with human shields."

Iran-backed group Hezbollah denies Israel's accusation that it uses the proximity of peacekeepers for protection.

Five peacekeepers have so far been wounded in a series of strikes that hit peacekeeping positions and personnel in recent days, most of the attacks blamed by UNIFIL on Israeli forces.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni spoke to Netanyahu by phone yesterday and denounced the Israeli attacks.

They present at the meeting included Commerce Adviser Dr Saleh Uddin Ahmed; Legal Adviser Asif Nazrul; Industry Adviser Adilur Rahman Khan; Road Transport and Bridges Division Adviser Muhammad Fauzul Kabir Khan; and Agriculture Adviser Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury.

A list of cops being prepared

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The Daily Star has obtained copies of two letters signed by Mazharul and dated October 3 and October 6, addressing the DMP commissioner.

According to the first letter, the agency asked for details of the officers in-charge and inspectors (investigation) of all police stations under DMP. The agency also asked for the lists of all the sub-inspectors and inspectors working at DMP's Detective Branch.

In the second point, the agency asked DMP to provide attested copies of the command certificates (CCs) for July 18-19, and August 3-5, of all its divisions and units.

In CCs, the police record information, including the force members' names, their designations, duty times, purposes of duty, and the details of the duty area. These certificates also explain how many firearms, bullets, and other equipment have been taken by the force members during duty hours.

With the CCs, the ICT investigation agency will be able to analyse which type of firearms and how many bullets were used on unarmed students and people during the uprising, according to sources.

In the letter, the agency further asked the DMP to provide details of ballistic reports of firearms used

during the period, if any reports were made.

In the other letter, the agency told the DMP commissioner to provide an organogram of the Crime and Operations Unit and details of the officers and their designations, who were on duty from July 16 to August 5.

Taherul Haque Chowhan, deputy commissioner (headquarters and admin) of the DMP, told The Daily Star yesterday that they received the letters from the ICT on Saturday. The Crime and Operations Unit of the DMP has already been instructed to take the necessary steps and provide information.

"Hopefully, we will be able to provide the details soon," Taherul said.

A high-ranking official of the agency, requesting anonymity, confirmed to The Daily Star that they were creating a list of armed goons belonging to political organisations, especially the Awami League and its affiliates Juba League and Chhatra League.

Many of these party goons were seen using lethal weapons to suppress the student movement.

Some officers believe that the move to create a list of policemen allegedly involved in the crimes during the movement will deal another blow to the force, with its members facing

hundreds of cases, including many on murder charges.

"We're already suffering after being accused in criminal cases. If legal action is taken by analysing the CC reports now, many of us will be accused of a crime that we did not commit," an officer with the rank of an additional superintendent of police, told The Daily Star.

The officer, requesting anonymity, said the move would shatter the field officials' morale.

According to the Police Headquarters database, at least 449 police personnel have been accused in 300 cases, mostly on murder charges, over the July-August incidents.

As many as 17 officers, including two former inspectors general of police, and several other top serving officers, have been arrested in these cases.

A sub-inspector, who was posted at the DMP in the July-August period, told this newspaper that they performed their duty as per the senior's orders.

"We didn't even write or follow the CC reports properly during July 17-18 and August 3-5, as the movement peaked at the time."

"So, it would be difficult to get the real picture from an analysis of the CC reports. But we are now facing charges," said the SI, requesting not to be named.

3,195 held this month for attacks on protesters

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release, signed by Assistant Inspector General of Police (Media and PR) Inamul Haque Sagar.

"Besides, police are going to file cases against, and arrest those who had been involved in extortion, exploitation, and criminal activities under the patronisation of the previous government."

The release said, "Those involved in the movement against discrimination, and the people have no reason to worry..."

"Police are committed to creating a discrimination-free society based on the achievements of this movement," it added.

Govt plans to sell vegetables through OMS

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syndicates to artificially inflate prices.

Moreover, he directed the commerce adviser to regularly meet the major importers of essentials.

Asked, an agriculture ministry source told The Daily Star, "Ordinary people, particularly those with limited incomes, are struggling with the high prices of essentials. The government is aware of this situation. Due to unforeseen factors, such as the recent floods, the vegetable market is spiralling out of control. To address this, the government is considering selling vegetables at subsidised prices."

The Department of Agricultural Marketing, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh, and Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) will provide the necessary support for this initiative, he added.

The previous Awami League government had made efforts to sell fish, meat and milk at fair prices.

The current government is taking

not oppress people as they did. We will seek justice for the oppression through the existing legal framework," he added.

Addressing the party leaders and activists, the Jamaat leader said, "We want to build a united nation in the future. Therefore, we must demonstrate immense patience."

The Jamaat ameer accused that the "AL has executed the top Jamaat leaders through judicial killings".

He said, "All the murderers, from October 28, 2006, to August 5, 2024, must be tried. However, those involved in recent mass killings during the uprising must be tried first."

The conference was presided over by Jamaat's Dhaka north unit Ameer Mohammad Selim Uddin.