



CAPTURING DHAKA MOMENTS

Winning shots from “My Dhaka Lens”

MY DHAKA DESK

The Daily Star's “My Dhaka” recently ran a photography contest titled “My Dhaka Lens,” where people were asked to submit their entries on the theme of Dhaka – anything that embodies the beauty, soul, or essence of our city.

The contest came to a close on February 22, with an award ceremony at The Daily Star Centre. Crests and certificates were given to the top four photographers – Md Enamul Kabir, Apu Jaman, Showhat Rasadin Showkhin, and Md Istiak Ahmed Asif.

Additionally, 12 other photographers received certificates for their brilliant works.

This photo feature presents the top four of the My Dhaka Lens contest, selected from more than 2,200 entries.

Congratulations to the victors!

On the other hand, the top 38 photos that emerged from this competition are on display in the ongoing My Dhaka Lens exhibition, currently being held at Level 1 of The Daily Star Centre (64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka, Bangladesh).

The exhibition will run this week from 5:00pm to



Second position.

PHOTO: APU JAMAN

7:00pm.

To discover the beauty and soul of Dhaka, and to fall in love with this city all over again, My Dhaka invites you to visit the exhibition with your loved ones.

Join My Dhaka's Facebook community (facebook.com/groups/dailystarmydhaka) for updates on more such initiatives!



Joint third position.

PHOTO: SHOWHAT RASADIN SHOWKHIN



Joint third position.

PHOTO: MD ISTIAK AHMED ASIF

Growing unease in the city amid crime spree

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stopped him and tried to snatch his bag. When he resisted, one of the robbers shot him and fled with the bag on their bikes.

Police are trying to identify and arrest the criminals, the OC added.

In Dhanmondi's Shankar, panic spread around 7:00pm when 12-15 “unidentified men” were spotted near Shankar Ali Hussain High School, said Saiful Islam, OC of Hazaribagh Police Station.

They came from Mohammadpur, said Hazaribagh OC Saiful Islam.

At that time, a muezzin alerted locals of an approaching “kishore gang” using a mosque's loudspeaker. The muezzin claimed the gang members were carrying locally-made

weapons.

As the information spread, the youths fled before police arrived at the spot, said the officer.

Two days ago, community leaders in Shankar decided to alert residents whenever any teen gangs would come to the area.

In Ashulia, TV actor Azizur Rahman Azad got shot while his mother and wife were injured in an attack by unidentified men at his residence, said the family members.

Azad's elder sister Afrina Akhter said around 2:45am, Azad heard some unusual sounds from the kitchen on the first floor. When he went there, three unidentified miscreants opened fire at him. Three bullets hit Azad's legs.

“Hearing the gunfire,

my mother and Azad's wife rushed to the kitchen, the criminals beat them up too, fired 10-15 blanks, and fled the scene without looting anything,” she also said.

The victims were later admitted to a private hospital in Dhaka.

Police are looking into the incident, said OC Nur Alam Siddique of Ashulia Police Station.

Around 12:20am today, footage of muggers robbing two women travelling in a rickshaw did the rounds on Facebook.

The caption mentioned that the incident happened in Mohammadpur.

Inspector Hafizur Rahman of Mohammadpur Police Station said, “We heard about the incident, but we don't know exactly where in Mohammadpur the crime happened.”

Duty officers at both Adabor and Mohammadpur police stations said most of the senior officers were patrolling the streets as of around 3:00am.

In Badda, a security guard was arrested on charges of “attempted rape” of a seven-year-old girl.

The arrestee is Sabuj Ahmed, 53, said police.

Sabuj, is a resident of Anandanagar, said Badda Police Station Officer-in-Charge Saiful Islam.

The incident took place around 4:30pm on DIT Road in Merul Badda.

Quoting locals, the OC said the security guard of the building lured the victim to his room and tried to rape the child.

At that time, locals detained and beat Sabuj

before handing him over to police.

The victim's mother filed a case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act with the Badda Police Station, said the OC.

HOME ADVISER'S PRESS BRIEFING

At the press briefing at his Baridhara home, the home adviser said the government was aware of the law-and-order situation.

Cohorts of the Awami League regime are trying to destabilise the country by any means. “But we will not let it happen. All forces will resist it.”

He said the ousted AL members are now using the huge amount of money they gained through corruption to create unrest in the country.

“I instructed law enforcement agencies to beef up their patrolling so that no such incidents happen from tomorrow [today] onwards. If the law enforcement agencies do not execute my order, we will take action against the officers concerned.

“Law and order situation will not further deteriorate, rather it will improve,” he said.

Responding to a query about the demand for his resignation, the home boss said, “They want improvement of law and order and if I can ensure that, there will be no question about my resignation.

“Law and order situation has largely improved and it will improve further. From today, you will see the improvement,” he said.

Freeze Tk 813.56cr in 227 bank accounts of S Alam, family

Court orders ACC to take steps

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission to freeze 227 bank accounts with a combined balance of Tk 813.56 crore of S Alam Group Chairman Mohammad Saiful Alam and his family over allegations of ill-gotten wealth and money laundering.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court in Dhaka passed the order after ACC Deputy Director Tahasin Munabil Haque, who is leading the inquiry team, submitted an application in this regard.

In the application, Haque said that during the investigation they found Tk 813.56 crore in 227 accounts with banks and financial institutions belonging to Alam, a close associate of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and his family members.

“S Alam and family members were trying to transfer that money from the accounts. If they do so, inquiry into the allegations against them might be hampered. So an order is needed to prevent them from transferring that money,” said the ACC official in his application.

On February 12, the same court ordered the ACC to freeze 437.85 crore shares of 42 companies belonging to Alam and his family in connection with allegations of laundering \$1 billion to Singapore and several other countries.

The value of the shares stands at Tk 5,100 crore.

Earlier on January 30, the court ordered the confiscation of 58 acres of immovable property worth Tk 368 crore belonging to Alam and his family members.

On January 16, the court ordered the freezing of more than 32.1 crore shares in 24 companies owned by S Alam and his family members. The value of the shares stands at Tk 350 crore.

On January 14, the same court ordered the confiscation of immovable properties worth Tk 200 crore and the freezing of 87 bank accounts of Alam, his wife Farzana Parveen and 16 of his family members in connection with the allegations brought against them.

ACC Public Prosecutor Ruhul Islam Khan moved the application on behalf of the anti-graft body.

Make or break for Tigers

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It gave them a lot of confidence. So, I hope it has a significant bearing on how they think about this ground,” Bangladesh head coach Phil Simmons told reporters yesterday.

After their day-time practice session at the Islamabad Club on Saturday, the Tigers also trained under floodlights at the main stadium in Rawalpindi.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) director Nazmul Abedeen Fahim was seen having a long chat with curator Tony Hemming, who is currently the head curator at the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), in front of the wickets prepared for the three matches to be played at the venue, starting with the Bangladesh-New Zealand match today.

Meanwhile, experienced cricketer Mahmudullah Riyad had a long batting session, giving a positive vibe regarding his participation in today's match. Riyad missed the first game due to a calf injury.

“We're thinking about a lot of different things. The first thing is, as we said before, we have to find out if Riyad is fit and then we can

know how to balance out the team again after that. When practice is finished today [Sunday], we'll know a little bit more, have a look at the wicket and everything like that. So, final decisions will be made later this evening,” said Simmons.

“This is a ground where big scores are made, and we have seen the scores made in Lahore yesterday [on Saturday, in the game between England and Australia]. So, you're looking at big scores here [in Pakistan], looking at 300-plus totals,” he added.

Meanwhile, New Zealand won their opening game by 60 runs against hosts Pakistan in Karachi and a win in today's match will confirm their semifinal berth after India won both their games against Bangladesh and Pakistan.

“Yeah, it's a nice position to be in,” said New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner, ahead of their practice session yesterday.

“I think at different stages of every game we've played, different guys have stepped up, which is probably the most pleasing thing,” Santner concluded.

Dhaka must decide

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Jaishankar shared two aspects of what is “very troubling” for them.

“Firstly, the spate of attacks on minorities in Bangladesh. Obviously, it is something which impacts our thinking and it is something we have to speak up about and we have done so,” he said.

Secondly, he said, despite taking into consideration the internal politics in Bangladesh, the two countries are

neighbours with a shared history.

“We have a long history with Bangladesh. We have a very special history with Bangladesh. It goes back to 1971,” Jaishankar said.

He said Dhaka cannot claim to want normal ties with India while continuously blaming New Delhi for its domestic issues.

“They have to make up their minds on what kind of relationship they want to have with us,” he said.

Guterres to arrive

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Professor Yunus said the United Nations would hold an international conference on the Rohingya crisis later this year. He urged Bishop, a former acting prime minister of Australia, to play a key role in the event.

“Your role will be crucial,” Yunus said, adding that Malaysia and Finland have agreed to serve as co-facilitators for the conference.

He also sought the UN special envoy's support in addressing the humanitarian crisis in war-

torn Rakhine State and preventing a new influx of refugees from western Myanmar.

They also discussed mobilising more donors for Rohingya refugees amid uncertainty over shifts in US foreign policy.

Bishop emphasised the importance of making the upcoming UN international conference on the Rohingya crisis a major success, as it would be critical for achieving a sustainable resolution to the decade-long crisis.

Protests flare on campuses

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The students also demanded that the home affairs adviser resign, citing the administration's failure to prevent crimes.

Samiha Chowdhury, an English and humanities student, expressed a sense of fear gripping the nation.

“With rape cases surging, we are afraid to step outside. Even going to university feels unsafe. We want immediate action from the government,” she said.

Meanwhile, on Mirpur Road in Dhaka, a separate protest led by students and activists disrupted traffic for three hours.

The demonstrators chanted slogans such as “Wake up, government, we demand justice for the rapists”.

Nur Mohammad, a protester, reiterated

their demand for capital punishment for rapists.

At Eden College, students gathered at Bakultala and brought out a torch procession. They demanded that no one in the “new Bangladesh” should ever fall victim to rape again.

Sumaiya Saina, a student, criticised the state's failure to ensure women's safety.

“Women who led the revolution now find themselves unsafe at home and on the streets. The state has failed them,” she said.

Another student said the state has failed to protect them.

“A child was raped while picking flowers to pay respect to Language Movement martyrs. Women are violated by their neighbours, assaulted on buses. Nowhere is safe,” she added.

Students at Titumir College held a human chain and protest march, warning of tougher actions if the perpetrators were not brought to justice within 72 hours.

They have called for the immediate identification and prosecution of offenders.

At Jagannath University, a protest rally by the “Jagannath University Student Forum” gathered momentum.

The protest began with a march through key areas of the campus and concluded at the 1971 Genocide Sculpture.

The government that came to power through a mass uprising seems to be betraying the revolution – it must ensure public safety, or admit its failure and step down,” said Shatabdika

Urmi, a Bangla student.

Students of ULAB also held a “Human Chain Against Rampant Crimes” at their permanent campus, highlighting the growing concerns over unchecked criminal activities.

Meanwhile, in Tangail, students staged a day-long sit-in protest under the banner of the Women and Children Anti Sexual Abuse Forum, demanding justice for sexual violence victims.

The protest, which began at 9:00am at Tangail Central Shaheed Minar, culminated in a call for thorough investigations and the maximum punishment for offenders.

They cited the alarming number of rape incidents in the past 48 hours, describing it as evidence of extreme lawlessness.

Elsewhere, Biplobi

Chhatra Maitri members staged a protest outside the National Museum in Shahbagh on Saturday, condemning child rape and ongoing violence against women.

The protesters expressed frustration at the government's failure to ensure women's safety and questioned the commitment of Women and Children's Affairs Adviser Sharmeen S Murshid.

She was once known as a feminist activist, but her class allegiance has become clear since assuming power, said Nuzia Hasina Rasha, president of the Dhaka University unit of Biplobi Chhatra Maitri.

“Has she gone deaf? Why is she not hearing the cries of oppressed women? What concrete steps has this so-

called interim government taken to ensure women's equality and safety? Have they introduced new plans to protect women?” she asked.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, expressing serious concern over these incidents, said such crimes are increasing, creating an atmosphere of fear and insecurity for women.

It also questioned the effectiveness of law enforcement, stressing that violence against women hampers their ability to lead normal and progressive lives.

The organisation called for impartial investigations and strict punishment for the perpetrators, and urged the authorities to prioritise women's safety through immediate and effective measures.