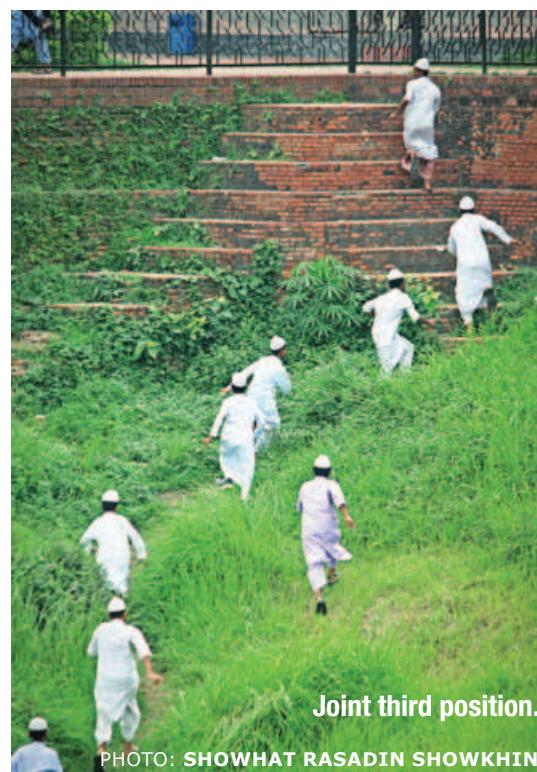


MY DHAKA



First position.

PHOTO: MD ENAMUL KABIR



Joint third position.

PHOTO: SHOWHAT RASADIN SHOWKHIN

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!

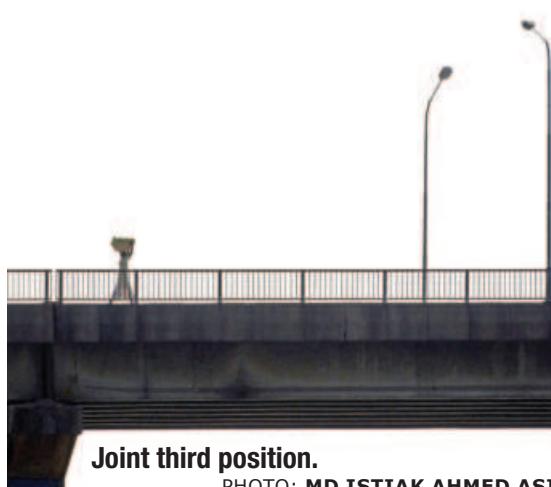
On the other hand, the top 38 photos that emerged from this competition are on display in the ongoing My Dhaka Lens exhibition, currently being held at Level 1 of The Daily Star Centre (64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka, Bangladesh).

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



Second position.

PHOTO: APU JAMAN



Joint third position.

PHOTO: MD ISTIAK AHMED ASIF

Growing unease in the city amid crime spree

FROM PAGE 1

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 Dhamondi'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 Akther 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.

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

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.

"Law and order situation has largely improved and it will improve further. From today, you will see the improvement," 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

is 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.

"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.

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

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

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