

## Anwar Ehtesham unveils his first photo book, *Hopes and Dreams*



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Anwar Ehtesham Khandaker, an independent photographer and storyteller, has launched his debut photo book, *Hopes and Dreams: Stories from the Streets of Dhaka*. This collection of 121 compelling photographs captures the hopes, dreams, resilience, and daily lives of Dhaka's working-class individuals—the unsung heroes who embody the soul of the city.

The book vividly showcases Dhaka's vibrant streets, rich with colours, textures, and geometries, as a backdrop to the resilience and aspirations of its people. Despite the challenges of poverty and hardship, these stories of hope and perseverance shine through each photograph, portraying a city that thrives on the strength and dreams of its inhabitants.

*"This book invites readers to look beyond the surface and discover the beauty, struggles, and above all, the hopes and dreams of Dhaka's people,"* said **Mr. Ehtesham**. *"It tells the story of a city that never sleeps, powered by the hearts and dreams of its people."*

The pages of the book highlight overlooked fragments of life—smiles, rituals, and quiet moments of strength amidst adversity—offering a glimpse into the lives of those who dream of a brighter future. It is a tribute to the spirit of Dhaka, capturing both its challenges and its triumphs.

The inauguration event took place on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro, Banglamotor, Dhaka. The occasion was honoured by the presence of Mr. Khandaker Gyasuddin, father of the author and photographer. Distinguished attendees included Mr. ASM Rezaur Rahman, Curator & General Manager of Drik, and Mr. Md Golam Rabbani Shahin, Managing Director & Proprietor of Shaan Communication, alongside fellow photographers, esteemed guests, and members of the media. Adding a special touch to the event, Ms. Karen Ghostlaw, Editorial Director of The Pictorial List Magazine and renowned photographer, shared her heartfelt message and good wishes virtually, making the event even more memorable.

*At the event, Mr. Ehtesham, alongside the special guests, formally unveiled the book to the audience. He also expressed heartfelt gratitude to the book's Key Partner, Prime Bank PLC, for their generous support in bringing this project to life.*

*Hopes and Dreams: Stories from the Streets of Dhaka is now available for photography enthusiasts, art lovers, and anyone looking to explore the untold stories of Dhaka's vibrant streets. To collect a copy, interested individuals can reach out to the author and photographer via email at [ehtesham.digital@gmail.com](mailto:ehtesham.digital@gmail.com).*

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