

PHOENIX BUILDING COLLAPSE

Nuri's dream crushed

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Fate did not allow Nuri Begum, 45, to see the wedding of her beloved daughter as Saturday's Phoenix building collapse in Tejgaon put an end to her struggling life.

The poor woman's dead body that remained at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for five days was taken to her village on Wednesday.

Hailing from Medirpar village under Nakla upazila of Sherpur district, Nuri Begum came to Narayanganj one year ago to manage money by begging for the marriage of her younger daughter Rezia.

With Tk 5,000 that she had saved in a year, she started for her village home on Saturday.

As Nuri was waiting to cross the road to reach Mohakhali bus terminal where she would get a Sherpur-bound bus, the Phoenix building collapsed and she was buried under its debris.

"I was thundered to see the large building fall down and looked around, but did not find my aunt," said Nuri's nephew Shah Jamal who was accompanying her.

Searching here and there for sometime, he went back to Sherpur, he added.

Since then, the family had been looking for Nuri at Mohakhali and on

Tuesday night they found a picture of Nuri at the Detective Branch office and identified her decomposed body at the DMCH morgue.

Anjuman Mufidul Islam, a charitable organisation, was about to take the body for burial when the family members came to take it.

"Now we are struggling to take the body to the village as it will take around Tk 8,000 including the microbus fare and medicines to preserve and process the body. But we have to take the decomposed body as daughters want to see their mother for the last time and bury her in the village," said late Nuri's son-in-law NurAli.

"We borrowed Tk 3,000 and it is already finished as we are staying in the city for the last three days and now we don't know what to do," he said.

"For the last six months we were looking for a suitable boy to marry off Rezia. But we have no landed property or cash money and that's why my mother-in-law had to beg. We were just waiting for her returning home and arranging the marriage," he added.

Finding Nuri in a critical condition, rescuers sent her to the DMCH shortly. But the poor fellow succumbed to her injuries after half an hour.



(From left) Geeteara Safiya Choudhury, chairman & managing director, Adcomm Ltd, Naushad Choudhury, director, Brands and Development, Unilever Bangladesh Ltd, Israrul Haq, director, Channel i, and Shraman Jha, marketing manager, Unilever, at a press conference held in Dhaka recently to mark the launching of Surf excel 'Protibhar Lorai'.

SURF EXCEL 'PROTIBHAR LORAI'

Rajshahi PN School wins first prize

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Interschool creativity contest titled Surf excel 'Protibhar Lorai' organised by Unilever Bangladesh Limited was held at Rajshahi stadium yesterday.

Rajshahi government PN Girls' School won the first prize while Science Laboratory School and Cantonment Board School secured second and third places in the competition.

Teams of seven students from 15 schools took part in the contest from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

Rajshahi University fine arts teachers Fazlul Karim and TMM Nurul Mudasser Chowdhury and Unilever creative consultant Nazia Andali Prema were judges in the competition.

Surf excel, a brand of Unilever Bangladesh Ltd, pioneered the interschool creativity contest last year, which generated a lot of enthusiasm among schools all over the country.

This year nearly 200 schools

from all over the country will participate in the contest, the organisers said at a press conference in Dhaka on February 28

The contest is designed to help children express their creativity to the fullest through a range of exciting and challenging games.

The Surf excel Protibhar Lorai aims to provide a natural environment, outside the home or classroom, through which children can tap their hidden talent. This helps them to sharpen their natural creative instinct and learn new things in an exciting way.

This year, viewers across the country will be able to watch the creative potential of school children on Channel i.

Naushad Choudhury, director, Brands and Development, Unilever Bangladesh Ltd; Israrul Haq, director, Channel i; Geeteara Safiya Choudhury, chairman & managing director, Adcomm Ltd; and Shraman Jha, marketing manager, Unilever, were present at the press conference.

AGM of Habiganj Assoc held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Annual general meeting and a get-together of Habiganj Association, Dhaka was held yesterday amid festivity.

A number of noted personalities, politicians and different professionals from Habiganj took part in the function at the Textile Engineering College auditorium in the city, with Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassar Husain as chief guest.

He appreciated the association's solidarity with the inhabitants of Habiganj in their happiness and sorrow.

Shipping minister Lt. Col. (ret'd) Akbar Hossain, also the minister in-charge of Habiganj district, called upon the professionals living in Dhaka to work for the development of their localities after their retirement.

Former justice Abdul Wadud Chowdhury, former minister Zakaria Khan Chowdhury, Enamul Haque Mustofa Shaheed MP, Nazmul Hasan Jahed MP, Habiganj Association president Dr CM Dilwar Rana and general secretary Syed Fakhruul Hasan Murad also spoke on the occasion.

