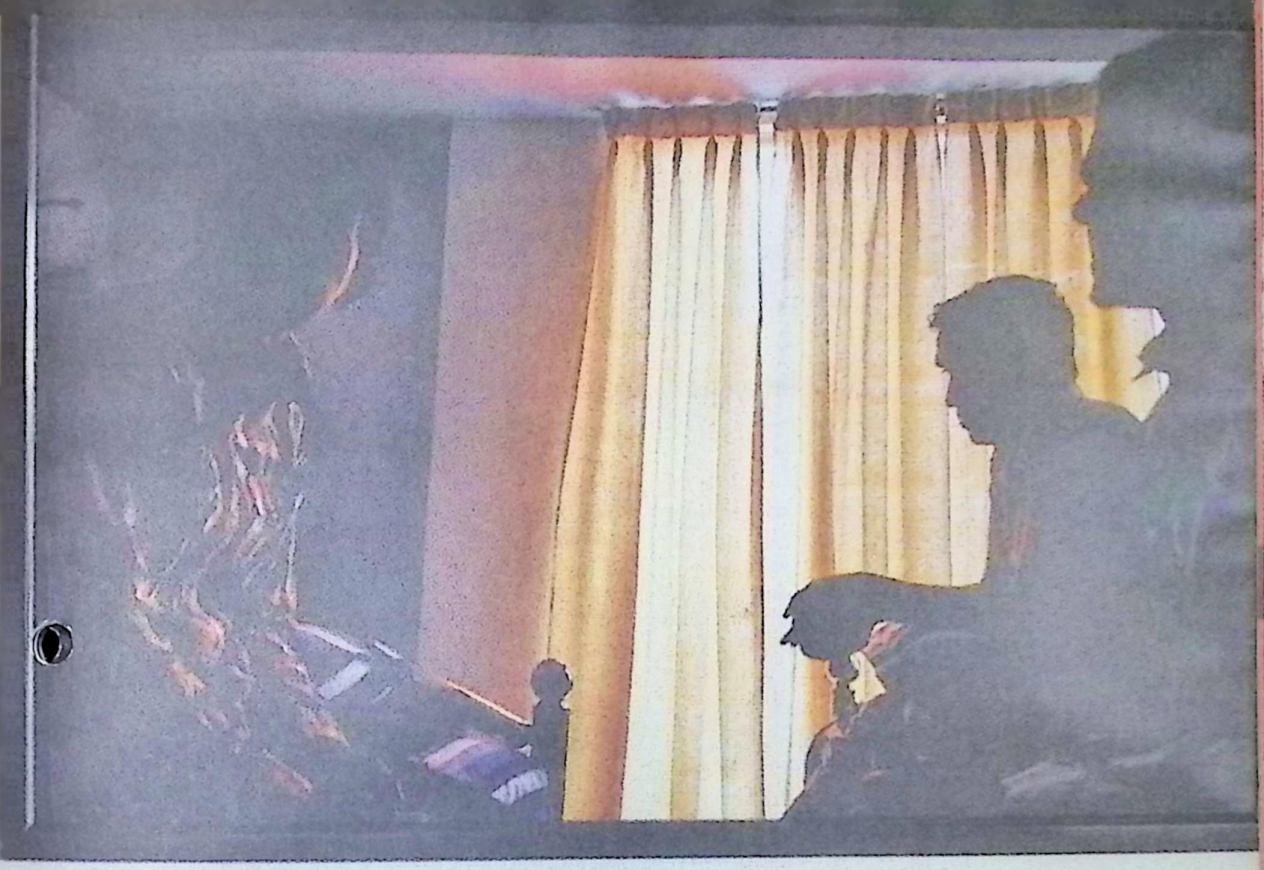


Community.

They face extra oppression for this reason, even if they choose to be in loving, monogamous relationships. Visiting places like Gopalgonj, Chittagong, and various places in Dhaka, they've allowed the public to be voyeurs into this secret community.

The photographs have basic titles that don't give anything away out of context. For example, *Isolation* could conjure up images of many things. The word is associated with being alone, and you'd expect it to feature a single person. Instead, it is a photograph of a lesbian couple who are isolated from their family because of their relationship. They have been photographed during a date, it appears. They're facing away from the camera.

Death told the story of Monir, a gay man who died after contracting HIV. Because of the stigma attached to HIV and homosexuality, his family refused to receive the body.

The oppression that people from the LGBT community face isn't limited to their family lives. *Coming Out* tells the story of a gay man and a transgender woman who are in a relationship. Their landlord refused to rent them a place to live, so they live in a slum. It isn't about not being able to afford it, because they have enough money. Another photograph told the story of an individual who, despite having an education, cannot get a job because of their sexual preferences. There are stories of men who have been forced to marry women after they've come out as being gay. There was a heartbreaking story of a girl who now identifies herself as male, and lives in the transgender community because she was raped so many times. *Community* shows a group of people sitting in a dark room. The group is gender diverse, their identities cleverly concealed by the lack of light. They resort to meeting in secret because society doesn't approve of their lifestyle. In many cases, they only have few friends because these people only find solace amongst those who find themselves in similar predicaments. ■

It's admirable that Royal and Chatelier have respected the values of ordinary Bangladeshis by not flaunting such a sensitive topic.