

| SHUTTERSTORIES |



## RAMADAN IN THE BAZAARS

PHOTOS: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO  
TEXT: ELITA KARIM

With the beginning of Ramadan, bazaars all over Bangladesh vibrate with activity, a variety of tones and colours. For people belonging to different faiths and beliefs, bazaars turn out to be a fun hangout-spot for many. During Ramadan, bazaars become locations for reunions between old neighbours, invitations for iftaar and a quick sharing of seheri recipes. Starting from the fresh vegetables to the voices of the traders in unison with those of the consumers – the bazaars speak of the Ramadan elements that beautifully co-exist. And this is exactly what Bangladesh is all about!



| STRIKING A CHORD |

# REMEMBERING FAHIM MUNAIM

ELITA KARIM

PHOTO: COURTESY

When I had first met Fahim Munaim, my heart had sunk. I was in my late teens, studying at North South University and had managed to get a part-time job, writing for the Culture (now the Arts and Entertainment) section of the Daily Star. Fahim sir, the then Managing Editor, looked stern and a little serious for my liking. "You are going to have a lot on your plate. Can you manage?" he asked. "You'll

OVER THE YEARS, FAHIM MUNAIM BECAME A FRIEND FROM THE FRIGHTENING BOSS THAT I HAD (FALSELY) THOUGHT HIM TO BE!



have to balance your classes and your daily assignments here. So think about it." "Oh no!" I remember thinking to myself. "Am I going to be stuck with another dad, and that too at work?" I could see my dreams of 'being all grown up and attending office' shattering! Well, he wasn't my dad for sure, but he was no less than a father, a guardian and a mentor. He was always there for the reporters and the graphics team, with new ideas, solutions and new sets of jokes! Our weekly meetings would begin with a comic story and an anecdote or two. Of course, each of us would also be grilled for missing out on our deadlines, ending

with encouraging words to come up with stories and fun ideas for the paper. I remember how he loved chocolates! It was my 22nd birthday and I was happily sharing chocolate cakes with everyone on the floor, at the Kawran Bazaar office. I took two big slices of cake for Fahim sir (as he loved chocolate) and took the plate to his room. "Oh no! No cake for me please!" he said. "My wife will kill me if she sees me eating this!" I left the cake on his table, asking him to have as much as he could. After an hour or so, I went back to his office to show him the final edit of the page and much to my surprise; I found the plate (on which the cake previously

sat) sparkling clean! "I finished both the slices," said dear old Fahim sir. "Next time, Elita, please don't bring cakes and chocolates for me!" After I had graduated from NSU, it was Fahim sir who called me to his office and congratulated me. "You are now starting a new chapter," I remember him saying. "You are also doing well with your stories. Don't think that Fahim 'bhai' does not notice! I think you must stick to this profession and develop yourself further. Let me know if I can help." Even after he had moved on to a private television, we had kept in touch, as had many of his colleagues who loved and

respected him. We would discuss music, TV presentations and so much more. Over the years, Fahim Munaim became a friend from the frightening boss that I had (falsely) thought him to be! He passed away of cardiac arrest in the early hours of June 1, 2016 in his own home, in Gulshan 2. "Elita tumi to ekhon star hoye gecho! Amadero mone rekho!" (Elita, don't forget us, now that you have become a star!) - this is what he would say every time we met the last few years. Fahim sir, stay well wherever you are. May the Almighty give us all the strength to bear with this unbearable pain. ■

## ABOUT TOWN



**BGMEA-BUFT JOURNALISM FELLOWSHIP 2015**  
Date & Time: June 15, 2016 at 6 pm  
Venue: BGMEA Complex  
Hosted by- BGMEA  
For more information, visit:  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1694298840814065/>



**SOUTH ASIAN FASHION & LIFESTYLE FEST**  
Date & Time: June 12, 2016 at 10 am  
Venue: International Convention City Bashundhara – ICCB, Kuril Bishwa Road, Next to 300 ft. Purbachal Express Highway, Dhaka  
Hosted by- South Asian Fashion & Lifestyle Fest Bangladesh  
For Query and Tickets, visit:  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1031229253619708/>



**FOODPANDA PRESENTS SEHRI KHANN**  
(Sehri Khann brings to you two nights of togetherness with family and friends - with the best restaurants of Dhaka) Date and Time: June 16-18, 2016 from at 10 pm- 8 am  
Venue: International Convention City Bashundhara – ICCB, Kuril Bishwa Road, Next to 300 ft. Purbachal Express Highway, Dhaka Hosted by: foodpanda  
For more information, visit:  
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