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Five killed as tanker rams motor launch

Witnesses say over 10 feared drowned in the Shitalakkhya

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

The bodies of five women were recovered after a Munshiganj-bound launch, carrying over 50 passengers, capsized in the Shitalakkhya river in Narayanganj yesterday.

The bodies were recovered at different times after the launch capsized in the evening, said Nahida Berek, upazila nirbahi officer of Narayanganj Sadar upazila.

Four of the deceased were identified as Sukhina, 45, Protima Sharma, 53, Sunita Saha, 40 and Sauda Akter Lata, 18. Their bodies were handed over to their families, the UNO said.

Babu Lal Baidya, assistant director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) at Narayanganj Launch Terminal, said the launch named Sabit Al Hasan left Narayanganj Launch Terminal for Munshiganj with nearly 50 passengers at 5:56pm.

The launch sank near the third Shitalakkhya Bridge at Koylaghat of Syedpur area when it was hit by a tanker, he said.

Talking to this correspondent, family and relatives, who were at the spot, claimed that 10 passengers of the launch were missing since the incident.

Witnesses said locals rescued 30 passengers of the 50 from the spot.

However, authorities are yet to comment over the number of missing people.

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With their belongings, families of two brothers on a flatbed wait to cross the Padma at Shimulia ferry terminal yesterday. One of the brothers drove an auto-rickshaw in Dhaka and the other worked for a firm. Their wives worked in garment factories. They said due to the uncertainty caused by Covid restrictions, they decided to quit their jobs and go back to their home in Shariatpur.

PHOTO: SAJJAD HOSSAIN

GRAFT SUSPECTS They've right to move freely, go abroad

HC observes; says specific rules need to be formulated

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court has observed that restricting or interfering with citizen's free movement because of "arbitrary or whimsical desires" of the government or state authorities is unconstitutional.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman made this observation in the 12-page full text of one of its verdicts, which was released yesterday.

Following a writ petition, the HC bench had delivered this verdict on March 16 saying that a specific law or rules need to be formulated soon regarding imposition of embargo on corruption suspects or accused leaving the country.

There are no specific laws or rules banning people against whom enquiries or

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Won't tolerate vandalism, arson in name of Islam

Says PM about Hefajat mayhem

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told parliament that the government wouldn't tolerate arson and vandalism in the name of Islam.

"I can only tell that legal action will be taken against those responsible for such misdeeds and the law will take its own course," she said, delivering her winding up speech in the 12th session of the 11th parliament which prorogued yesterday amid the second wave of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal told parliament that those involved in recent violence and mayhem at different parts of the country have been identified.

In her valedictory speech, Hasina warned Hefajat-e-Islam, saying, "I tell them that they are playing with fire. If a house catches fire, the fire may spread to another house. Can't they understand this?"

"From the railway station to the land office, from the DC office to all the other places they have set on fire, what will they do if their madrasas, their houses, are set on fire? Will the people tolerate this?"

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Chudanga declared provisional capital

APRIL 5, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

RESISTANCE DESIGNATES CAPITAL

New York Times reported today that Chudanga had been designated the provisional capital of independent Bangladesh. The designation was made by Dr Ashabul Haq Joarder, who was regarded as the leader of the resistance forces in this area of the country.

He called himself their chief adviser, added the report.

Dr Haq Joarder, reported New York Times, said fighting would continue until the new nation is consolidated.

The report further stated, "Unlike the case in other towns in the area, which were in the hands of disorganized groups of Sheik Mujib's supporters, there appears to be some order in this town of about 35,000 people. Many have left, but the town has yet to see any fighting."



However, Pakistani Air Force planes are reported to have dropped bombs and strafed the area Saturday [April 4, 1971]. Several stores were open today in the market of this town."

YAHYA'S REPLY TO SOVIET

In a message made public today, President Yahya Khan asked the Soviet Union to use its influence to prevent what he described as Indian interference with Pakistani affairs. He asserted that India had deployed nearly six army divisions not far from the borders of East Pakistan.

The message was in reply to one from President Nikolai V Podgorny appealing for a halt to "the bloodshed, the

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Sammilito Parishad wins polls to BGMEA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Faruque Hassan-led Sammilito Parishad won the biennial election to the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association yesterday.

Faruque's panel won 24 posts of directors, while his rival ABM Shamsuddin-led Forum panel secured 11 director posts.

"I thank all my voters. I congratulate my members who voted for me. I want to unite the BGMEA to face the challenges and develop the sector," Faruque said in his immediate reaction after the announcement of the election result.

"I will address the challenges the sector has been facing from the fallouts of the Covid-19," Hassan told The Daily Star.

Around 86.56 percent or 1,996 votes have been cast in the election to the BGMEA.

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Nasa's Ingenuity helicopter lands on Mars



AFP, Washington

Nasa's Ingenuity mini-helicopter has been dropped on the surface of Mars in preparation for its first flight, the US space agency said.

The ultra-light aircraft had been fixed to the belly of the Perseverance rover, which touched down on the Red Planet on February 18.

"Mars Helicopter touchdown confirmed!" Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory tweeted Saturday.

"Its 293 million mile (471 million kilometer) journey aboard @NASAPersevere ended with the final drop of 4 inches (10 centimeter) from the

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Thrice MP Aslamul Hoque no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aslamul Hoque, the lawmaker of Dhaka-14, breathed his last at a city hospital yesterday. He was 61.



The Member of Parliament was elected three times in a row with the ruling Awami League nomination from his constituency.

Aslamul, also the vice-president of Dhaka City North AL, was taken to the hospital after he suddenly fell sick. He died around 11:00am.

On December 29, 2008, he was elected Member of Parliament for the first time. He was also elected MP from the same constituency in 2014 and 2018.

He served as a member

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PK Halder among five sued in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A case was lodged with a Chattogram court accusing former NRB Global Bank managing director Prashanta Kumar Halder alias PK Halder and four others yesterday.

PK Halder allegedly embezzled and laundered over Tk 10,000 crore of four non-banking financial institutions abroad and had an Interpol red notice issued against him following a request by Bangladesh Police.

Mohammad Abdul Alim Chowdhury, former managing director of Clewiston Foods and Accommodation, filed the case with the court of

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Relatives wheeling a Covid-19 patient, 65-year-old Rowshan Akter, out of the Mugda Medical College Hospital yesterday. The patient had come from Narayanganj three days ago and was admitted with breathing difficulties. After a sudden deterioration in her condition, she had to be taken out of the hospital because there are no available ICU beds there.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

VIRUS CURBS ON SHOPS Shop owners take to streets

Demand they be allowed to keep stores open

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Shop owners and employees of New Market, Bashundhara City Shopping Mall and Sadarghat areas in Dhaka took to the streets to protest the government's decision to keep all shops and malls closed during the seven-day restriction to contain Covid-19 surge.

Rajshahi Byabshayee Oikya Parishad, a platform of 110 businesses, also protested the government's move.

All the groups demanded that the government allow traders to keep their shops open while maintaining health guidelines.

The seven-day restriction is set to be enforced from 6:00am today.

Several hundred shop owners and employees of New Market and nearby markets and shopping malls blocked adjacent roads for two hours from 3:30pm in protest at the directive.

Witnesses said the protesters smashed windows of several cars while road closures caused severe traffic congestion.

"Our main demand is to keep the market open for a few hours because our families depend on our income. If the shops are closed, that would bring on uncertainty in our lives. We want to keep the shops running while maintaining safety guidelines," said Sohel Rana, an employee of a shop at New Market.

Protesters said they had suffered a lot due to last year's closure. They do not want any repetition.

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PRAYER TIMING APRIL 5

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-45 6-21 7-45
JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 5-00 6-24 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION