

Who will marry off Hafsa now?

HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

Pakhi and Hakim Sharif were done choosing a groom for their elder daughter Hafsa.

Pakhi went to her husband Hakim, who works for the Social Marketing Company (SMC), in Dhaka around a week ago with her two-and-a-half-year-old son Nasrullah to shop for the wedding. While in Dhaka, Pakhi also withdrew money from a bank to meet the expenses of the programme.

In a joyous mood, they started their journey back to Barguna on Thursday evening by MV Abhijan-10. Though they usually travel on deck, they rented a staff cabin this time to keep all the things they brought from the capital. The couple was supposed to fix the date of the wedding once returning home on Friday.

But none of this was to see the light of day. In the aftermath of the passenger launch catching fire on

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PHOTO: STAR

LAUNCH FIRE TRAGEDY: TALES OF SUFFERING AND LOSS



PHOTO: STAR

Bodies of twins identified, mother still missing

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

They were on their way to visit their grandfather's house in Barguna's Taltoli upazila. But as luck would have it, four year old twins Samia and Lamia never reached there, as they died in the MV Abhijan-10 launch fire.

Daughters of Shimu Akhter and Rafiq Hossain of Taltoli's Agapara village, the twins were accompanied by mother Shimu and grandmother Dulu Begum as the tragic incident occurred.

After recovering and identifying their bodies, Barguna District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer Lutfar Rahman handed them over to the twins' relatives from the morgue of Barguna General Hospital yesterday morning.

Police said Samia and Lamia died on the spot after being badly burnt in the terrible fire, while their mother has gone missing. Meanwhile, their grandmother was

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She slipped right through my fingers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

As Hafeez Tuhin leapt from the launch after it had caught fire, he was still holding his wife Rizia Begum and their baby girl Tabassum's hands.

But swimming through the ice-cold Sugandha river in the early hours of the day proved to be a herculean task, and by the time Hafeez and Rizia reached ashore, they could no longer trace their two-and-a-half-year-old. As Friday rolled by, she was yet to be found.

Passengers of the MV Abhijan-10, the family were on their way to their village in Barguna sadar upazila's Dholua from Dhaka when the launch caught fire in the middle of the river.

Hafeez frantically searched for Tabassum everywhere, but could not find her initially. She was eventually found, at the last place where Hafeez wanted her to be.

Early yesterday, she was found as an "unidentified" body in one of the coffins that was being prepared for burial.

She was among 29 other such bodies that were being prepared for the mass burial.

A namaz-e-janaza was held for them at 11:00am yesterday at Barguna Circuit House ground. Except Tabassum, the others were buried in Potkakhali area of the sadar upazila.

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PHOTO: STAR

Diakul villagers step up for victims

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

"Hearing screams emanating from Sugandha river, my neighbours and I got up from our beds. It was obvious that something was wrong," Md Aliul Islam Akan, a local of Diakul village of Jhalakathi Sadar upazila, recounted.

"As we rushed to the riverside, we discovered the passenger launch burning," he said. As the situation became clearer, almost everyone from the village rushed to the river, carrying clothes for the passengers, he added.

This little call of wit helped the victims who were rescued, as they could change their wet clothes to fend off the biting cold of the night.

As the burnt launch remained anchored at Diakul, the entire village turned into a makeshift shelter home for the victims.

"From 3:00am to until the fire was put out, we tried

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'It's nothing but a farce'

Says Rizvi about dialogue on EC reconstitution

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday termed the ongoing dialogue on the reconstitution of the Election Commission (EC) a farce, as the party thinks it will not pave the way for holding a credible national election in the country.

"This dialogue is not meant for holding a free, fair and transparent election at all," alleged BNP senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi.

Speaking at a programme at BNP's Nayapaltan central office, he said absolutely no one believes that the government -- which does not allow its opponent to go to polls and voters to go to polling stations -- will form a neutral EC and hold a credible election.

"But the state is holding a dialogue to stage a farce... It's a joke with the nation," the BNP leader said.

He alleged that the dialogue has been arranged to merely show the country and the international community the government is reconstituting the EC through a search committee after holding talks with political parties.

Rizvi said the purpose of the talks is to reconstitute a pro-Awami League EC which will remain subservient to the government.

The president began the talks with the registered political parties over the formation of the new EC on December 20.

Though BNP leaders are making various comments against the dialogue on the EC, its secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on December 22

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Breaking through concepts

Pathshala celebrates 23rd anniversary



PHOTO: COURTESY OF PATHSHALA

PRIVANKA CHOWDHURY

"Those who come to Pathshala strive for more than just a comfortable living. The works at display here is a demonstration of how far we have come in these 23 years," said Chairperson of Pathshala Trust Shahidul Alam during his inauguration speech of five days of festivities to mark the institution's 23rd founding anniversary.

"What I admire about these artists' work is their courage to break through concepts. This will surely help them grow," he also said.

Featuring a photography exhibition titled "Tibro", Pathshala South Asian Media Institute opened the five-day programme at the premises of Drikpath Bhaban in the capital's Panthapath yesterday.

Pathshala is also scheduled to hold artist talks, panel discussions, book shows, film screening sessions and more.

Artiste and curator of the show Munem Wasif, curator of Chobi Mela ASM Rezaur Rahman, Pathshala's Head of Photography Khandaker Tanvir Murad and artists Shahria Sharmin and

Sarker Protick were present during the opening of the exhibition.

The photography exhibition Tibro showcases the work of seven artists expressing empathy, collective concepts of trauma and violence, personal grief or an attempt to express their surroundings.

The seven featured artists are Pranabesh Das, Sagar Chhetri, Salma Abedin Prithi, Sarker Protick, Shadman Shahid, Shahria Sharmin, and Soumya Sankar Bose.

Curator of the show visual artist Munem Wasif shared the concept of the show, "While planning it, I intended to capture the time that we are living in. Through the works of the artists, I wondered if it could be captured through one scale and not categorise it under a particular theme."

"We are constantly moving in time, the scale thus oscillates with our experience of time. The movement of this scale is what we are calling Tibro. What is different about curating this show is that, I am well acquainted with the artists, almost to a personal level because we shared the same institution," Munem said.

Loss of a luminary

Journalists, political parties mourn death of Reazuddin Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different journalist organisations and political parties mourned the death of senior journalist Reazuddin Ahmed yesterday, saying he was a "luminary" whose vast knowledge and experience helped flourish the country's journalism.

They said the Ekushey Padak-winning journalist was a front-liner in establishing journalists' rights in the country and a "guardian" to the journalist community.

After contracting Covid-19 recently, Reazuddin passed away at a city hospital yesterday. He was 77.

Reazuddin, who received Ekushey Padak in 1993 in journalism, was serving as the editor of English daily



Financial Herald at the time of his demise.

Expressing deep shock at his death, Sampadak Parishad (Editors' Council) in a condolence message said Reazuddin was one of the front-liners who contributed to independent journalism in an independent Bangladesh.

"His vast experience in journalism and leadership skills helped the parishad flourish," it said in a statement, issued by its president Mahfuz Anam and acting general secretary Dewan Hanif Mahmud.

In a condolence message, Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab), in which Reazuddin was a senior member, said in his over five-decade-long journey in journalism, he immensely contributed to flourishing the profession.

Attributing him to be a "truthful and wise" editor, Noab said with his death, the country's journalism as well as the newspaper industry will have to count an irreplaceable loss.

It added that Reazuddin left signs

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Even in the digital age, the demand for traditional paper calendars is far from dying out. Freshly printed calendars are still synonymous with the new year. As December comes to an end, workers at printing mills are hard at work trying to meet the demand. This photo was taken yesterday from Chattogram city's Anderkillia. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



50TH ANNIVERSARY
4th January 2022
1972-2022

বিমান-এর ৫০ বছর পূর্তি

০৪ জানুয়ারি ২০২২

(উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠান)

বিমান বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্স বিগত ৫০ বছর ধরে বিশ্বব্যাপী গৌরবের সাথে জাতীয় পতাকা বহন করছে।

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<http://biman.gov.bd/forms/form/Anniversary%20of%20Biman>

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