



‘I won’t return home without my boys’

Says father of two teens missing since Saturday’s trawler capsized

TANJIL HASAN, Munshiganj

A heart-breaking scene unfolded on the Padma riverbank as a father cried out for the safe return of his two sons, who went missing after Saturday night’s trawler capsizing incident in Munshiganj.

“I won’t return home without my boys!” exclaimed Arif with a heavy chest.

He said ever since the accident took place, he had been waiting by the riverbank for the rescue of his sons.

Arif is from Sirajdikhan upazila’s Koirakhola village. His two sons, Nava, 5, and Turan, 7, have remained missing since the picnic trawler sank in a tributary of Padma river near Raskathi village under Louhajang upazila.

At least seven bodies, including those of four children, have so far been recovered till the filing of this report last night.

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Members of the navy, coast guard, naval police, and fire service conduct a joint search and rescue operation yesterday to find three children who are missing since the trawler capsized in Munshiganj the night before.

PHOTO: STAR

Hardliners back into Hefazat fold

RASHIDUL HASAN

Hefazat-e-Islam leaders who are known for their staunch opposition to the Awami League government have been reinstated to the Qawmi madrasa-based Islamist organisation’s central committee.

Hefazat took the decision at an emergency meeting at a madrasa in the capital’s Khilgaon on Saturday.

Mamunul Haque and Azizul Haque Islamabadi are among those reinstated.

With several cases against him, Mamunul has been behind bars since 2021. The year before, he was made the organisation’s joint general secretary.

Azizul, who was recently freed from jail, was made an organising secretary that same year.

After the new committee was formed in late 2020, following the death of Hefazat amir Ahmad Shafi, the organisation made headlines as it strongly opposed the installation of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s sculpture in Dholaipara of Dhaka, and issued many anti-government statements.

The organisation came to the limelight again when it opposed the Bangladesh visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 26, 2021.

Following clashes between Hefazat and law enforcers from that day till March 28, around 17 people died in different parts of the country.

At least 154 cases were filed against Hefazat men in the following days.

Meanwhile, around 1,230 people, including more than 30 top Hefazat leaders like Mamunul, were arrested, according to the police headquarters data.

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Algorithm finds 600-foot asteroid near Earth



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

An algorithm has spotted a nearly 600-foot, potentially hazardous asteroid near Earth.

The tool is intended to find dangerous objects in Earth’s vicinity, to allow scientists to better track them and understand any threat they might pose.

The new discovery is the system’s first detection of a “potentially hazardous” asteroid, a term that is used for those rocks that are near enough and possibly threatening enough to cause a danger to Earth. An asteroid gets the designation if it is within about 5 million miles of Earth’s orbit.

The asteroid, known as 2022 SF289, does not pose any threat to Earth for the foreseeable future. Its closest approach brings it 140,000 miles from Earth – closer to us than the Moon, but still far enough away to be safe.

But the creators of the algorithm said that it showed that the system could be used to detect others in the future – some of which may pose a threat to life on Earth.

“By demonstrating the real-world effectiveness of the software that Rubin will use to look for thousands of yet-unknown potentially hazardous asteroids, the discovery of 2022 SF289 makes us all safer,” said scientist Ari Heinze, the principal developer of the algorithm, known as Heliolinc3D.

Russia launches a new burst of missile attacks

3 killed in Ukraine

REUTERS

Russia launched a multi-wave attack on Ukraine with 70 air-assault weapons including cruise and hypersonic missiles as well as Iranian-made drones, Kyiv’s Air Force said yesterday, and at least 10 missiles appear to got through air defences.

Three people have died in the night of intense shelling across Ukraine, according to officials.

Local media said a worker at a grain silo had been wounded in the overnight attack, which appeared to be focused on an area of western Ukraine, far from the front line.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said people had been killed and wounded in an earlier hit to a blood transfusion centre, aeronautics firm and a building of University of Economics and Trade.

Rescue workers were extinguishing a fire at the scene in transfusion centre, he said, describing the strike as a “war crime.” He did not say how many casualties there were.

Ukraine’s air defence destroyed 30 out of 40 cruise missiles and all 27 of the Shahed drones that Russia launched overnight, the Air Force – which celebrated in a holiday yesterday – said on the Telegram messaging channel.

It also said Russia launched three Kinzhal hypersonic missiles, but did not disclose any further information on them.

30 killed after train derails in Pakistan

Dozens injured; death toll may rise

AFP, Nawabshah

At least 30 people were killed yesterday when an express train derailed in southern Pakistan, the chief minister of Sindh province said, with an emergency declared at local hospitals struggling to deal with dozens of injured.

Accidents and derailments occur frequently on the country’s antiquated railway system, which has nearly 7,500 kilometres of track and carries more than 80 million passengers a year.

Sindh chief minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, who spoke to the media at People’s Medical College Hospital in Benazirabad – the district home to Nawabshah, said the injured could be shifted to Karachi if needed and directed the local administration and health officials to expedite relief and rescue efforts.

“This is quite a big accident,” railway minister Khawaja Saad Rafique told reporters. Rafique said at least 1,000 passengers were aboard the Hazara Express when it derailed on a section of track where no faults had been reported.

“There can be two reasons: first that it was a mechanical fault, or the fault was created – it might be a sabotage. We will investigate it.”

The derailment happened near Sahara railway station close to Nawabshah city in the southern Sindh province. “Eight coaches have derailed,” Mohsin Syal, a railway official, told local HUM News.

The railway minister said an emergency had been declared at local hospitals as doctors struggled to treat the injured. There were chaotic scenes at the Nawabshah Trauma Centre as ambulances and private cars ferried the injured for treatment.

One man leapt from the back of an ambulance clutching a child, his clothes soaked in blood, while a woman moaned in pain as she was carried in on a stretcher. “We don’t know what happened, we were just sitting inside,” said one dazed woman.



Poet, freedom fighter Mohammad Rafiq no more

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Bagerhat

Ekushey Padak-winning poet and freedom fighter Mohammad Rafiq passed away yesterday. He had been suffering from several health issues for a long time. He was 80.

Rafiq suddenly fell ill yesterday while staying in his hometown in Chitoli, Bagerhat. He was taken to a private clinic in Barishal city where he was diagnosed with several complications, including heart problems. Doctors advised taking him to Dhaka.

Rafiq breathed his last while heading to Dhaka from Barishal around 9:00pm, said his cousin Shibli Hawladar.

The prolific poet will be laid to rest in Bagerhat.

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MRT LINE-6

Agargaon-Motijheel section to open after October 15

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The metro rail up to Motijheel could be operational any day after October 15.

The authorities set a target to complete all kind of test and trial runs on Agargaon-Motijheel section by October 15 and sought time from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to open it after the date, said officials.

Meanwhile, physical work of the country’s third metro rail line started last month with the beginning of land development work for its depot at Hemayetpur, on the outskirts of the capital.

The Metro rail authorities also sought time from the prime minister to formally inaugurate the breaking ground of Mass Rapid Transit Line-5 (northern route) from Savar’s Hemayetpur to Bhatara. It is expected to take place next month, the officials added.

As per the government’s time-bound action plan, it would build a 140km metro rail network, comprising six lines, in Dhaka and adjacent areas by 2030 to reduce traffic congestion and environmental pollution.

The country’s first metro rail line – MRT Line-6 – was launched partially from Uttara to Agargaon in December last year.

Physical work of the second metro rail line – MRT Line-1 – which is also the first underground metro line of the country, started in March this year.

AGARGAON-MOTIJHEEL PART

Since the opening of Uttara-Agargaon section of MRT Line-6, the demand for trains on the Agargaon-Motijheel route has increased as the major catchment area runs through Mirpur to Motijheel.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader inaugurated the performance test on Agargaon-Motijheel section on July 7 and announced opening of this section in late October. The authorities also planned to opening

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The dilapidated road that leads to Syedabad under Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover is finally being repaired. Tailbacks caused by breakdowns on the pothole-ridden road was a common phenomenon there. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Helper crushed to death as two buses jostle for passengers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teen bus helper was crushed to death between two buses as the drivers were jostling to get ahead of each other to pick up passengers in the capital’s Mirpur area yesterday.

Md Jisan, 17, was a helper of a Paristhan Paribahan bus.

The incident took place around 8:00am, said Mohammad Mohsin, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station.

Police seized both buses and detained the drivers, he said.

The Paristhan Paribahan bus was going to Abdullahpur from Mohamadpur. When the vehicle stopped at Mirpur-1 to pick up passengers, another bus of Prajapati Paribahan arrived.

At that time, the Paristhan bus started moving in a bid to cut off the other bus.

Jisan, the helper of the bus who was calling in passengers, was crushed between the two buses while getting on the bus as both the vehicles tried to overtake each other, said Tofazzal

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