

'I'll pass this story to my children'

Metro rail workers ecstatic on inauguration day

DIPAN NANDY and ARAFAT RAHAMAN

As the metro-rail train started its maiden journey yesterday afternoon, Swadhin Ahmed, a young man, had a wide smile on his face. In fact, it was a day of pride for Swadhin, who had been working for the metro-rail project for three years.

"This is the happiest day of my life. My contributions will remain alive for eternity," he said. "I want to share this dreamy chapter of my life with my children and grandchildren in future."

Not only Swadhin, all the workers were elated on the watershed day in the transport sector of Bangladesh.

"I don't have words to express my feelings. It's beyond everything," said Abdullah Al Noman, in-charge of mechanical work at the firefighting department for Uttara North and Agargaon metro stations.

Another worker, Abdul Alim, said that their work would be successful when metro-rail trains start in full swing, as passengers will reach their destination faster and comfortably then.

The country almost came to a standstill during the Covid-19 pandemic. But even then, these workers continued their work.

One of them is civil engineer Mosaddek Hossain. "There were many uncertainties surrounding the construction works, but we kept going," he said.

Not only workers, people from all backgrounds were celebrating the occasion.

Maria Akter Bristy, a fourth-grader of Hazi Yousuf Ali

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana, and Mariam Afiza, the driver who operated the inaugural journey of the country's first metro rail, inside the train's coach at the inauguration event yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

It was a dream come true
Says Mariam, who operated country's first metro rail

STAR REPORT

Mariam Afiza, the driver who operated the inaugural journey of the country's first metro rail, said it was a dream fulfilled that the prime minister and other dignitaries were her passengers on the momentous occasion.

"Actually, it's a dream come true. I was excited and happy. As the prime minister was with us during the journey, it was a proud moment for me," she told journalists.

Regarding the metro rail, she said it is an environment-friendly and sophisticated transport. "We took proper training home and abroad. Now, we are certified to operate the train."

Saying Dhaka residents experienced severe traffic congestion every day, she added, "We all hope that Dhaka residents will now get rid of the curse of traffic congestion."

Social movement, govt effort crucial

Speakers tell event on National Mental Health Strategic Plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An inadequate workforce, poor budgetary allocation and lack of awareness have left most (92 to 94 percent) people suffering from mental health illnesses without any treatment, speakers at an event said yesterday.

To bridge this mental healthcare gap, there is a need for social movement and the government's effort, they said at the dissemination event of "National Mental Health Strategic Plan 2020-2030".

"We have to bring a change in our attitude [towards mental health]. Any health plan or the health directorate or the ministry cannot do it alone. We need individual and collective effort as a nation," said Saima Wazed, lead

"We did not have any strategic action plan for mental health. Now we have one. We need a conducive environment for people's mental well-being, which is not the health directorate's job alone."

SAIMA WAZED
Lead consultant and chief advisor, working group of National Mental Health Strategic Plan

GAP IN MENTAL HEALTHCARE

18.4pc adults, 13pc teens suffer from mental-health problems

Only 350 psychiatrists, 500 psychologists
Only 1 psychiatric bed for every 1,00,000 people

0.13 psychiatrists per 1,00,000 people

consultant and chief adviser of the plan's working group, during her keynote speech.

Stressing on the proper implementation of the action

plan, she said, "We did not have any strategic action plan for mental health. Now we have one. We need a conducive environment for people's mental

well-being, which is not the health directorate's job alone."

Dr Helal Uddin Ahmed, associate professor of child, adolescent and family psychiatry at National Institute of Mental Health, presented the action plan at the event.

Highlighting the context, he stated that some 18.4 percent of the adult population and 13 percent of adolescents in the country suffer from mental-health problems. Due to mental illnesses, some 10,000 to 14,000 people have died by suicide in the country.

"However, there are only 350 psychiatrists and 500 psychologists to serve this huge number of people suffering from mental health issues. The

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FARUK MURDER CASE HC denies bail to Tangail mayor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday denied bail to former Tangail mayor Shahidur Rahman Khan Mukti in a murder case.

The case was filed over the murder of Faruk Ahmed, a freedom fighter and Tangail district Awami League leader.

The vacation bench of Justice Md Salim and Justice Md Atabullah sent Shahidur's bail petition back to his lawyer Mohammad Abdul Muntakim, saying there is no need to hear the petition at the moment.

The petition might be presented to a regular bench after the Appellate and HC divisions of the Supreme Court resume their activities on January 2, Deputy Attorney General Shahin Ahmed Khan told The Daily Star.

Faruk, 60, was found dead near his residence in the town on January 18, 2013, hours after he was shot.

Three days after the murder, Faruk's wife Nahar Ahmed filed a case with Tangail Model Police Station in this connection. Unidentified persons were made accused in the case.

On September 6, 2017, a Tangail court filed murder charges against former AL lawmaker Amanur Rahman Khan Rana, his brother Shahidur, and 12 others.



Dengue death toll **281**

Total number of patients **62,256**

360 still undergoing treatment

Number of recovered patients **61,615**

67 more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

PRAYER TIMING
DECEMBER 29

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:30	12:45	4:00	5:27	7:00
JAMAAT 6:05	1:15	4:15	5:30	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Dhaka Wasa has dug a long trench on Kamalapur Bazar road, narrowing down the street significantly and putting pedestrians in trouble. The dilapidated road is now risky for commuters, and is also a prime reason for traffic jams in the area. Also, dust flying from the site has made locals vulnerable to respiratory problems. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Goals: good governance, accountability, transparency

Says newly appointed Biman MD

RASHIDUL HASAN

Ensuring good governance, accountability and transparency from the topmost to the lower levels of Biman will be the main focus of the newly appointed Managing Director and CEO of Biman Bangladesh Airlines Shafiul Azim.

The Biman boss made the remarks while talking to The Daily Star and a few other journalists at Biman's head office in the capital's Kurmitola on Tuesday.

"Ensuring governance at all levels -- from myself as MD to the bottom level of the organisation --



Shafiul Azim

will be my target," said the MD of the national flag carrier.

Azim said he has removed all barriers for each Biman employee to talk to him so that everyone can share their grievances with him.

"If I can make them understand that we will work as a team, then we will be able to do something good. If anyone does good work, they will be rewarded. On the contrary, if anyone does anything wrong, they will be punished," said Azim.

About the challenges in the national flag

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Evaly chair Shamima denied bail, court issues arrest warrant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday cancelled bail of e-commerce platform Evaly's chairman Shamima Nasrin and issued an arrest warrant against her in a case filed with Gulshan Police Station over embezzlement of Tk 3.1 lakh from a customer.

Earlier that day, the same court framed charges against Nasrin and her husband Mohammad Rassel, also the CEO and Managing Director of Evaly, in the case.

Rassel, now in jail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mehedi Hasan read out the charges against them.

The magistrate issued the arrest warrant against Shamima Nasrin as she remained absent at the court submitting a time petition through her lawyer.

The magistrate directed officers-in-charge of Dhanmondi and Kafrul police stations to submit by February 18 the progress report on execution of the arrest warrant issued against her.

The court discharged Md Mainul Haque, an employee of the company, from the charges of the case as the court found no evidence to prosecute him.



জয়েনিং ফোর্সেস বাংলাদেশ

নারী ও শিশুদের প্রতি সহিংসতা দূরীকরণে
পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণের জন্য আহবান

১. অনলাইনে শিশু ও কিশোর-কিশোরীদের সুরক্ষিত রাখতে নিরাপদ অনলাইন সেবা নিশ্চিত করুন।
২. ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ গড়তে তথ্য প্রযুক্তিতে মেয়ে শিশুর অংশগ্রহণ বাড়াতে কার্যকরী উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করুন।
৩. করোনা পরবর্তীকালে কিশোরীদের সুরক্ষায় বাল্য বিবাহ বন্ধে এগিয়ে আসুন।
৪. সর্বক্ষেত্রে মেয়ে শিশুর চলাচলকে নিরাপদ করতে যে ভয়ভীতি প্রচলিত আছে তা দূর করতে ব্যাপক প্রচার প্রচারণার ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করুন।
৫. নারী ও শিশু নির্যাতনের ঘটনার বিষয়ে সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্তৃপক্ষকে তাৎক্ষণিক রিপোর্ট করুন।
৬. নির্যাতনের শিকার নারী ও শিশুকে নয় বরং নির্যাতনকারীকে অভিযুক্ত করুন ও তার শাস্তি নিশ্চিত করুন।
৭. আইনে ধর্ষণ এর সুনির্দিষ্ট সংজ্ঞা নিশ্চিত করুন।
৮. নির্যাতনের শিকার মেয়ে শিশুর সুরক্ষায় কার্যকর ও সমন্বিত রেসপন্স কার্ঠামো তৈরি করুন।
৯. নারী ও মেয়ে শিশুর সকল ধরনের নির্যাতনের তথ্য হালনাগাদ করার জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় গোপনীয়তা রক্ষা করে নির্দিষ্ট ডাটাবেজ তৈরির উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করুন।
১০. নারী ও মেয়ে শিশু সম্পর্কিত নেতিবাচক সামাজিক প্রথা নির্মূলে ব্যাপক প্রচার প্রচারণার উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করুন।
১১. নারী ও মেয়ে শিশুর প্রতি সহিংসতা বন্ধে জাতীয় কর্মপরিকল্পনা বাস্তবায়নে প্রয়োজনীয় বাজেট বরাদ্দ ও বাজেটের যথাযথ ব্যবহার নিশ্চিত করুন।
১২. বাল্য বিবাহ বন্ধে জেলা, উপজেলা এবং ইউনিয়ন পর্যায়ের কমিটিগুলোকে কার্যকর করতে পর্যাপ্ত মনিটরিং ব্যবস্থা নিশ্চিত করুন।
১৩. শিশু জন্মের ৪৫ দিনের মধ্যে তার জন্ম নিবন্ধন নিশ্চিত করতে কর্তৃক পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করুন।
১৪. পারিবারিক সহিংসতার বিরুদ্ধে আইনের যথাযথ বাস্তবায়ন নিশ্চিত করুন।
১৫. বাল্য বিবাহের শাস্তির বিভিন্ন দিক নিয়ে ব্যাপক প্রচার প্রচারণার ব্যবস্থা করুন।
১৬. করোনা পরবর্তীকালে ঝরে পড়া কিশোরীদের বিদ্যালয়ে ফিরিয়ে আনতে কার্যকর উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করুন।



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