

Death anniv of Haisya Bala Malakar

STAR REPORT

Today is the 29th death anniversary of Haisya Bala Malakar, said a press release.



She passed away in 1995. She is the mother of former secretary Dhiraj Malakar. Her relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Anwar Hossain's death anniv

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first death anniversary of Md Anwar Hossain, former managing director of Khulna Newsprint Mills, was observed yesterday at Purba Darillah village in Nandail upazila, Mymensingh.



Anwar Hossain, who also served as managing director of Pakshi Paper Mills, Khulna Hardboard Mills and Karnaphuli Rayon and Chemicals Limited, passed away on February 4 last year, aged 78.

More than 1,000 rural people received free treatment and medicine at a medical camp held marking the death anniversary, said a press release.

More than 20 specialist physicians from Dhaka took part at the daylong camp. Later, a milad mahfil was held at Hossain's ancestral residence at the village.

39 more Covid cases in last 24 hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh reported 39 more Covid cases in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

The covid infection rate also dropped to 6.17 percent yesterday, compared to the previous day's 7.35 percent. No Covid-related death was reported in the country within this time.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, the total number of confirmed cases is now 20,47,297.

Sofar, DGHS has reported five Covid-related deaths this year. The total number of fatalities stands at 29,482, resulting in overall fatality rate of 1.44 percent.

Due to a sudden rise in infection rate from the beginning January, the government has decided to administer Covid-19 vaccines again.



For over eight years, residents of Kadamtara at Habiganj's Bhagulipara continue to suffer as an eight-metre-long bridge over the Dhulia canal remains inaccessible due to the absence of approach roads. PHOTO: STAR

NO APPROACH ROADS

Eight years on, bridge lies useless

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

For eight years, an eight-metre-long bridge over the Dhulia canal remains inaccessible due to the absence of approach roads.

As a result, residents of Kadamtara village at Bhagulipara in Habiganj continue to suffer.

Constructed at a cost of Tk 23.83 lakh and funded by the Disaster Management Department in the fiscal year 2015-16, the bridge was intended to ease the lives of hundreds, including school and college students, according to the Upazila Project Implementation

Office.

However, the reality remains the opposite.

The dire situation affects students commuting to educational institutions and villagers travelling to the upazila headquarters and district towns for medical services and other tasks, said local resident Shadikur Rahman.

Shibpasha Union Parishad member Muhibur Hasan Dulu echoed him.

Babul Mia, an elderly resident, said, "In winter, one can at least manage to cross the bridge, but in the monsoons, we have to wade through

the water to go to the main road. The elderly, women and school-going children are particularly vulnerable."

Contacted, Naliur Rahman Talukder, chairman of Shibpasha Union Parishad, said, "The construction of the approach road has not been possible as the land is privately owned."

In response, upazila project implementation officer Subodh Mondal said, "I found out that due to some complications, the construction of the approach road got delayed. Necessary measures will be taken in this regard after on-site inspection."

Metro goes offline

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first phase of Biswa Ijtema, he noted.

He said the gates were closed intermittently from 9:30am to 12:30pm.

The two disruptions in the service on the first day of the work week hit commuters hard. Many had to deal with overcrowding on concourses and platforms in the morning, while those affected by the suspension had to find alternative modes of transport to get to their destinations on the busy weekday.

Rokshana Yeasmin, who works at a private firm, said, "I arrived at Farmgate station at 3:30pm, and I had to go

to Paltan [Secretariat station] for urgent business. I found a huge number of people in front of the entrance, but there were no trains passing overhead. So, I was compelled to go to Paltan on a CNG-run auto-rickshaw, which cost me Tk 200, instead of the Tk 30 I would have had to pay on the metro rail."

Dipon Pandey, another private service holder, waited for over 30 minutes from 3:30pm outside the Secretariat station. He gave up when he saw there were no signs of the station opening.

"I could not even find an auto-rickshaw, and had to board a bus to come to Farmgate."

Rupayan Group

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involvement of land owner SMHI Faruque and seven others in the incident that killed 26 people and injured some 70 on March 28, 2019.

Based on the probe report submitted on January 30, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Rashidul Alam accepted the charges against Faruque and seven other accused in the case.

Of the accused, Faruque,

Tasvir Ul Islam, one of the owners of FR Tower, and Syed Aminur Rahman, treasurer of FR Tower, all now out on bail, were present at the court.

The court issued arrest warrants against five others as they were shown fugitives in the charge sheet. It also directed the officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station to submit by March 12 the progress report on execution of the arrest warrants.

Govt has no plan

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couple Sagar-Runi murder case, Anisul Huq said, "I will not say that Rab has failed. But if it is felt necessary to bring about change in the agencies for the investigation, that will be done. It is difficult for any agency to complete the investigation into this incident due to how it took place."

"I want to say confidently that the killers will be caught and the trial over... this murder will not be lost," he said.

"I want to give an example here; even we had similar disappointment

after the murder of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Our disappointment was even deeper, as an indemnity ordinance was passed on September 26, 1975," he added.

"When Sheikh Hasina came into power, this trial started, and the indemnity ordinance was repealed. The trial subsequently concluded, and after that, we tried the war criminals and the people who committed crimes against humanity. The culture of impunity doesn't exist anymore," the minister said.

Focus on clean

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achievement," Mondal added.

"Access to clean, affordable, and secure energy is crucial for sustainable development. Even though the world has made significant progress towards sustainable energy for all, about 4 billion people still lack clean and modern cooking fuels and technologies," said Edwin Koekoek, team leader at Green Inclusive Development and Social Protection, EU.

"We are starting a project on regional energy connectivity in South Asia," he added.

Shawkat A Begum, Bangladesh country director at Practical Action, highlighted the health risks faced by women who use traditional cooking

methods, and emphasised the necessity of transitioning to clean cooking for their well-being and for the overall environment.

A presentation on the SEE-CC project and its components was made by the project team of Practical Action and SNV at the event.

Dr Bianca van der Kroon, programme manager of SEE-Clean Cooking at the Department of International Enterprise Agency; Prof M Rezwana Khan from the Department of EEE at United International University; and Ishrat Shabnam, programme manager for private sector-social protection and green energy transition, EU, also spoke among others.

Hasina all set to begin ministry

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according to secretariat sources.

The newly-formed government is in an uncomfortable position due to the skyrocketing prices of essentials, and despite various measures, there have been no fruitful results.

With the month of Ramadan ahead, the government's main concern is to keep the prices at a tolerable level, which is why Hasina has prioritised the commerce ministry, according to sources.

A secretary, wishing anonymity, said whenever the PM plans to visit a ministry or division, its officials and employees

fast-track regular work.

Hasina initiated ministry-wise inspections in 2019 during her third consecutive term as PM.

Officials of the commerce and agriculture ministry are preparing to inform the PM about ongoing projects, progress in implementing the annual development programme, and their achievements over the last 15 years, plans, and overall issues.

When a new government is formed, ministries take up programmes in compliance with the election manifesto.

The Awami League's election manifesto pledged special priority to 11 issues, and the PM aims

to encourage officials and employees by visiting each ministry.

MEETING WITH SECRETARIES TODAY

A meeting with all secretaries is scheduled today at the Prime Minister's Office at 10:30am.

Cabinet Secretary Mahbub Hossain will chair the meeting, and secretaries of 12 ministries and divisions are expected to brief the premier on important contemporary affairs.

Secretaries to commerce, food, agriculture, home, education, energy, and finance ministries, along with two divisions, have been asked to make necessary preparations.

Love, loss and a cruel 51 arrested

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DMCH burn institute on February 2 after 28 days of treatment.

"His body has barely started to heal, but he is emotionally shattered," said Natasha's elder sister Nasreen.

Last week, Natasha's family went to the CID office to inquire about the delayed DNA results, but were given no clear answers.

"We just want the DNA results completed as soon as possible. But there are no updates," added Nasreen.

Elina Yasmin is among the four missing. Her husband Sajjad Hossain Chapol has kept close contact with DMCH and railway police about her DNA report, but to no avail.

Contacted, AKM Nahidul Islam, DIG (Forensic) of Criminal Investigation Department (CID), said preparing DNA profiles from bodies burned beyond recognition is a complicated process and can cause delays in extremely severe cases.

Organised under the guidance of self-proclaimed leaders known as Izaradars, they operated in groups stationed across different areas of the city at night, Moin said.

Using laser lights, sticks, and signals, they intercepted vehicles entering the capital, unlawfully collecting extortion fees from drivers.

Each truck and cargo vehicle was charged Tk 200-300. This illicit activity was particularly rampant during the late-night entry of goods trucks into Dhaka, he said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project
Directorate of Technical Education
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www.asset-dte.gov.bd

Memo No: 57.03.0000.000.07.411.24-256

Date: 04-02-2024

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Individual Consultant (National)

Country: Bangladesh
Name of the Project: Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project
Credit No: IDA 6874-BD
Reference No.: S29

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the World Bank toward the cost of the Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments for consulting services to be procured under the project.

Title	Qualification	Experience	Duration
Junior Procurement Specialist (Package No: S29) Person -01	- B.Sc. in Engineering or Master's degree with a major in a relevant field (e.g. Law, Procurement, Finance, Business or Commerce). - Professional certification will be considered as an added advantage.	a. Experience - At least 5 (Five) years' experience in carrying out public Procurement with primary responsibilities and substantial content knowledge and capacity of procurement in the practical application of internationally accepted procurement and contracting procedures and documents for works, goods and services; - Working experience in similar nature project will be an added advantage; - Hands-on experience in managing all steps in the procurement process, including procurement planning, preparation of bidding/contract documents, bid/proposal evaluation, contract award and implementation monitoring, of internationally competitive procurement of goods, works and consultant services; - Understanding of Government's procurement Rule/Act; - Analytical capability in identifying and resolving procurement issues; - Experience in managing procurement of goods, works and consulting services under projects funded by multilateral organizations such as World Bank /ADB/JICA/AIB; - Must have knowledge and experience in using e-GP.	The contract will be awarded for a period 24 months and extended every 12 months thereafter based on performance and available budget.
		b. Training & Suitability - 3-weeks or substantially equivalent training on Public Procurement Act and Rules; - Foreign training on procurement will be an added advantage; - Strong coordination and communications skills in presenting, discussing and resolving complex issues; - Ability to work efficiently and effectively in a multidisciplinary team; - Excellent computer skills both in English and Bangla; - Excellent English writing and speaking ability.	

1. Place of work: Office of the Project Director, ASSET Project, Directorate of Technical Education, F-4/B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
2. Commencement of the Service: 15-03-2024 (Tentative)
3. Certificates related with education, training and experiences must be submitted with the application.
4. Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) Project now invites eligible applicants express their interest in providing the services. Applicants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (complete CV with other details).
5. The consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 [Revised September 2023] ("Procurement Regulations").
6. The Procurement Regulations can be viewed at the World Bank's external website: <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/178331533065871195-0290022020/original/ProcurementRegulations.pdf>
7. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 [Revised September, 2023] ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
8. Interested applicants may obtain the Terms of Reference (TOR) from the office of the ASSET Project during office hours or download from the website: www.asset-dte.gov.bd
9. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours [i.e., 09:00 to 16:00 hour].
10. Expressions of Interest (EOI) needs to be submitted (either through e-mail or in person or by mail) to the following address by 15:00 hours (BST) on or before 18 February, 2024. Please clearly mention "Expression of Interest (EOI) for Junior Procurement Specialist".

77. 673/22 04.02.2024

(Abu Mottaz Saaduddin Ahmed)
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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Distric Primary Education Office
Faridpur
www.dpe.faridpur.gov.bd

Memo no. DPEO/Faridpur/e-GP/NNGPS/169

Date: 04 February' 2024.

Invitation for Tender (OTM)

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of furniture as stated below.

Tender ID & method	Description of procurement and package no.	Tender last selling date & time	Tender closing/opening date & time
944265 (OTM)	School furniture supply for 19 class rooms and 4 teacher's room of selected 4 newly nationalized govt. primary schools of Charbhadrasan and Saltha upazila of Faridpur district. Package no. e-Tender/NBIDNNGPSP1/FAR 2023-24.G1-22.	19 Feb 2024 16:00	20 Feb 2024 14:00

These are online tenders where only e-Tender shall be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal. No offline or hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the portal. The Procurement Entity (PE) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Md. Mohiuddin
District Primary Education Officer
Faridpur
e-mail: dpeofarid@gmail.com

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PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 5
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AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-15 5-52 7-15
JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-30 5-56 7-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

USAID | BANGLADESH
Position Vacancy Announcement
Position: Development Program Specialist (Communications and Knowledge Management), FSN-10
The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Bangladesh is seeking applications from qualified Bangladeshi nationals for the position of Development Program Specialist (Communications and Knowledge Management), FSN-10 in the Office of Population, Health, and Nutrition (OPHN).
Location: USAID/Bangladesh. Deadline for application submission: March 04, 2024
For a complete job description, required qualifications and detailed information on how to apply please visit USAID/Bangladesh website: <http://www.usaid.gov/bangladesh/work-with-us/careers> and www.bjjobs.com