

PKSF holds micro-enterprise fair
STAR REPORT

The three-day "Shupnono Somahar: Environment-friendly Microenterprise Fair 2024" will start today, under the Sustainable Enterprise Project (SEP) of PKSF at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center, Dhaka.

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation has been implementing the SEP since 2018 to support the production and marketing of high-quality value-added products by adopting environmental best practices in the microenterprise sector of the country.

The fair's opening ceremony will take place at 11:00am at the Carnival Hall, BICC. Dr M Khairul Hossain, chairman of PKSF, will inaugurate the fair.

The fair will feature 77 stalls of micro-entrepreneurs supported through the project, as well as 47 stalls of Project-implementing Partner Organizations of PKSF. The fair will remain open to visitors every day from 10:00am to 8:00pm till February 10.

The Sustainable Enterprise Project is jointly funded by the PKSF and the World Bank. It provided financial and technical supports to over 65,000 microenterprises across 37 districts through its 64 sub-projects implemented by 47 partner organisations.

Missing girl found dead in canal, 2 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A girl was found dead in a canal in Barguna yesterday, two days after the 12-year-old went missing.

Meanwhile, police arrested two people — Hridoy Khan, 20, and his accomplice Zahidul, 19 — in connection with the incident.

The deceased — Tanjila Begum, daughter of Tofazzel Hossain Khan from Puzakhola in Amtali upazila — was a sixth grader at Islampur Hasania Dakhil Madrasa, said police.

Amtali Police Station Officer-in-Charge (Investigation) Amir Hossain Serabiab said criminals suffocated her to death and left the body in the waterbody.

Police and locals said Tanjila had been missing since Monday morning. The next day, her father Tofazzel Hossain filed a GD with the police station.

The victim's father alleged, "Hridoy kidnapped my daughter, and demanded Tk 15 lakh from me. When I refused to pay the money, they killed my daughter."

Police are investigating the incident.

Schoolgirl 'kills herself over stalking'

A CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A schoolgirl allegedly died by suicide yesterday after being stalked and harassed by a youth in Satkhira's Tala upazila, said a family member.

The victim is Nodi Biswas, 15, a ninth grader. She left a note saying one Uzzal Biswas was responsible for her death, said the victim's elder brother Sagar Biswas.

He said Uzzal had been stalking his sister for a while. "He even called my sister yesterday (Tuesday) and made some indecent remarks. That's why, she got upset and took her life by hanging from a ceiling," said Sagar.

Jethuria Union Parishad Chairman Mofidul Islam said he had heard that a youth named Uzzal Biswas of the same area had been stalking the girl. "We have informed the police about it," he added.

Mominur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Tala Police Station, said police went to the spot and recovered the body. The process of filing a case is underway, he said, adding that they are trying to arrest Uzzal.



Children browsing through books at this year's book fair in Sylhet.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

A little piece of Ekushey book fair

STAR REPORT

For those unable to attend Amar Ekushey Boi Mela in Dhaka, alternate renditions of the fair held in Chattogram and Sylhet are there to fill the hearts of bookworms.

The month-long Boi Mela begins today at CRB Shirishola in Chattogram, organised by the Chattogram City Corporation in collaboration with various stakeholders.

In a press conference, Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury

announced the participation of 155 stalls, including 92 publishing houses from across the country.

"This joint initiative fulfils a long-standing desire of Chattogram people," he said.

This fair will run until March 2. It will remain open daily from 3:00pm to 9:00pm, with extended hours on Fridays, Saturdays, and public holidays.

Simultaneously, the Sylhet Boi Mela started on February 3 and will conclude on February 17.

Supported by Sylhet City Corporation and

Prothom Alo's youth organisation "Bondhushava", the fair will last 15 days.

During the inauguration, Mayor Anwaruzzaman Chowdhury emphasised Sylhet's rich literary history, expressing pride in contributing to the region's literature and culture.

The fair, featuring 23 publishers, opens daily at 2:00pm.

Antor Shyam, president of the Sylhet chapter of Bondhushava, said, "For over a decade, this book fair has become a part of Sylhet's tradition."

Government

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"Our stance is against extremism, fundamentalism, anti-Liberation War spirit and militancy. We all are united in terms of democracy, elections, the country and its interest and national flag and anthem," the state minister continued.

Speaking about the opposition party in the parliament, he said the ruling party definitely wants a strong opposition in the House. "But we do not want any anti-Liberation War evil force involved in militancy and extremism."

Editors Guild, Bangladesh President and Editor-in-Chief of Ekattor TV Mozammel Haque (Babu), General Secretary and Editor of The Business Standard Inam Ahmed, Advisor and Editor of the Aker Patrika Dr Golam Rahman, and Presidium Member and Managing Director and Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha Abul Kalam Azad, were present at the meeting, among others.

AL staying

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every individual, family, and institution in the country of their rights, freedom, and dignity.

He questioned if any other party is surviving despite facing so many fabricated cases like BNP.

The BNP leader also termed BNP's decision to boycott the January 7 national elections with 62 parties "right and logical".

CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITY
International Labour Organization (ILO) invites proposals from interested individuals to carry out Monitoring & Evaluation and Reporting Activities under Skills 21 Project. The Terms of Reference (TOR) can be downloaded from the ILO website at: https://www.ilo.org/dhaka/WCMS_910743/lang-en/index.htm

BANGLADESH DIESEL PLANT LIMITED
TENDER NOTICE
Memo No: BDPL/Pro/Overhead Distribution System/2024/OT Date: 07 February 2024
Sealed tenders in prescribed form are invited from bona fide manufacturers/local agents/importers/suppliers for Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Electric Low Voltage Overhead Distribution System in Bangladesh Diesel Plant Limited Factory.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Sherpur
www.lged.gov.bd
Memo No. 46.02.8900.000.07.001.24-246 Date: 07-02-2024

e-Tender Notice
Invitation for Tender No. 21/e-GP/2023-24
e-Tenders are invited through the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following works. Details are given as follows:

Govt unable to curb

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hospitals and upazila health complexes along the two national highway corridors.

Asked whether the new project will yield fruit when the government backtracked from setting the economic life of commercial vehicles following alleged pressure from transport associations, the minister said, "What is the point of raising the question of the project's success when its implementation is yet to be started?"

"Due to the delay in the start of its implementation, the project hasn't witnessed expected progress. That's why I am now directing my attention towards it. I will monitor it," he said.

People will not get the benefit of the numerous development projects if the roads are not safe and disciplined, he said. At least 6,524 people

were killed and 11,407 injured in 6,911 crashes last year. Of the deceased, 1,128 (17.29 percent) were children, according to Road Safety Foundation.

'WON'T ALLOW ANY MORE ROHINGYAS'

Meanwhile, while talking about the ongoing fighting between the Myanmar army and the rebel Arakan Army at the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, Quader said Bangladesh will not allow any more Rohingyas to enter the country, as the existing Rohingya population in the country has already become a burden.

"There is no scope to be generous regarding Rohingyas this time," Quader said at a press briefing at the capital's Setu Bhaban. He said Bangladesh is working with China and India so that the internal crisis in Myanmar does not cause any crisis here.

Flat owner, wife sent

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Mohammadpur Police Station, also the case's investigation officer, to question them at the jail gate and submit the report within three days.

House help Preeti Uran, 15, from Moulvibazar, died after she fell through the opening of the windowpane of the couple's flat on the eighth floor around 8:00am on Tuesday. Shortly after the incident,

police took Ashfaque and Tania into custody.

Police produced them before the court yesterday after the victim's family filed a case under section 304(a) of the penal code, which deals with death caused by negligence.

Meanwhile, Preeti's body was handed over to her parents yesterday after an autopsy at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital.

Destroying croplands

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in South Sadis village under the upazila," said Shefali Begum, a victim.

Locals allege that individuals associated with brick kiln owners engage in the unauthorised removal of topsoil during the night. The majority of this soil belongs to the government, and the perpetrators often focus on soil left abandoned along riverbanks.

Shah Sajeda, former convener of Sacheton Nagorik Committee, a citizens' platform, urged the authorities concerned for prompt steps against illegal soil extraction.

On October 7, 2023, Bakerganj upazila administration conducted drives along Pandav riverbanks and fined one person Tk 50,000 in this

regard. "Drives are underway in the upazila against illegal soil extraction. Tk 7.5 lakh was collected as fine in the last week alone," said Shakila Rahman, UNO of Babuganj upazila. Md Nizam Uddin, UNO of Muladi, said, "I joined here recently, so I am not aware of it. However, I will take action if I receive any complaints."

AH Rashid, deputy director of Department of Environment in Barishal division, said, "We have so far demolished 10 brick kilns for using soil from croplands, while drives against those extracting soil are also continuing." "However, it is often difficult to nab the culprits as they usually operate late at night," he added.

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e-GP Tender Notice
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.procure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of following works.