

Mujibur Rahman passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mujibur Rahman, a freedom fighter, passed away yesterday at Faridpur Medical College and Hospital.

He breathed his last at 8:00am. He was 76.

Mujibur had been suffering from cancer for several years and had been in the ICU for the last four days, said family members.

He was a student of Dhaka University's Geography Department (1971 batch). However, he graduated in 1973 as his studies were interrupted due to the Liberation War.

Mujibur devoted his life to various nation-building activities until his death.



Dhaka North City Corporation yesterday demolished illegal structures, including a 10-storey under-construction building, on the bank of Lautola canal at Mohammadpur's Basila in Dhaka. The building occupied 70 percent of the canal, said DNCC officials.

PHOTO: STAR

Nurul Islam no more

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'Singh

Veteran journalist Md Nurul Islam, former Mymensingh Correspondent

of Bangladesh Observer and later Daily Observer, died of cancer at his Dhitpur Shantiganj residence in Bhaluka upazila of Mymensingh on Thursday. He was 68.

Involved with journalism for over four decades, Islam was a former president of Bhaluka Press Club. He was also a member of Mymensingh Sangbadik Union.

Islam left behind his wife, a son and a host of relatives, colleagues and well-wishers to mourn his death.

He was buried at his family graveyard after a namaj-e-janaza at Shantiganj Bazar after Asr prayers.

Three more hospitalised with dengue

UNB, Dhaka

No dengue deaths were reported in Bangladesh in the 24 hours till yesterday morning, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

However, three more patients were hospitalised with the viral fever during this period.

A total of 29 patients are now receiving treatment at hospitals across the country. So far, 1,319 dengue cases have been reported since January 1.

Golden cauliflowers, golden prospects

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Numerous farmers in Khulna have been successfully growing coloured cauliflowers and selling them for a handsome profit, prompting even more farmers to start cultivating this visually striking, savoury, and nutritious variant.

Coloured cauliflowers can be yellow, golden, orange, green or purple, depending on the variety, and have the same mild, sweet, and nutty taste and texture as the traditional white cauliflower. Moreover, they are just as good for your health.

In local markets, the price of the traditional white cauliflower is around Tk 15-20 per kg, while coloured cauliflower goes for around Tk 40-45.

Coloured cauliflowers began appearing in markets abroad some 15 years ago, but cultivation in Bangladesh began only two years back. In Khulna, over 300 farmers, with the help of the Agriculture Department, cultivated them for the first time recently.

"At first, I was worried about how this kind of cauliflower would grow and how it would taste. But after a month, I was astonished by how well they grew, and I sold more of them at the local market than I had previously sold white cauliflowers," said Taposh Sarkar, a farmer from Atalia village.

"Since it was new to our locale, the Agriculture Department helped us by providing seeds, fertilisers, and organic pesticides

free of cost. I'm very happy with the profit. I plan on using more farm land to cultivate coloured cauliflowers next season," he added.

Purnima Mallick was similarly delighted with the results on her farm in Baratia village. She has already sold Tk 65,000 worth of coloured cauliflower this year. Next season, Purnima plans to use more land to cultivate more of the crop.

She explained, "You can expect to yield 25-30 tonnes of white cauliflower from one hectare of land, with a production cost of Tk 50,000-60,000 and

revenue of Tk 2.5-3 lakh. However, the production cost of coloured cauliflower is Tk 80,000 to Tk 1 lakh per hectare and the revenue is Tk 4-5 lakh."

Md Walid Hossain, additional upazila agriculture officer, said, "We wanted to assess coloured cauliflower's compatibility with the local soil and climate, and gauge its potential yield."

Kazi Zahangir Hossain, deputy director of Department of Agriculture in Khulna, said, "In the future, we will provide all kinds of support to anyone who wants to grow coloured cauliflowers."

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FARMER PURNIMA MALLICK



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh sees one more Covid death

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh saw another Covid-19 death in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, reports UNB.

So far, DGHS has reported 11 Covid-related deaths this year.

With the new numbers, the country's total fatalities rose to 29,488 and caseload to 2,048,149, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The daily case test positivity rate stood at 11.12 percent as 289 samples were tested, said the DGHS.

The recovery and death rates remained unchanged at 98.39 percent and 1.44 percent, respectively.

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

Advising people to use masks as a precaution at high-risk places such as hospitals or medical centres, DGHS in a press release said the new type of Covid-19 Jn.1 infection has increased in several countries around the world.

Amid this situation, the DGHS advised those who are at high risk to receive the fourth dose of the vaccine. It also asked people to do Covid-19 test before any surgery or treatment of any other disease if there are any signs or symptoms of Covid.

It's the best gift

FROM PAGE 5

He is currently serving as a sub-inspector of police.

A group of local youth volunteers now run the library.

Since its establishment, the library has been carrying out various activities. They have also set up small libraries in saloons, bus stands and railway stations to create reading habits among the people to build an enlightened society.

their eyes and excitement on their faces after receiving free books.

Khadija Akter, a fifth grader, said, "I like reading story books. I used to come to the library and read books there. So, I am really happy to receive the books today. It's the best gift I ever got."

Md Shajahan, president of Batighar Adarsha Pathagar, inaugurated the book distribution programme.



One such initiative involved the distribution of free books among underprivileged children yesterday, in hopes of sparking the love for books amongst them.

Four hundred children's books were distributed, free of charge, among 200 children studying in kindergarten to the eighth grade.

The children had joy in

The library's founder Kamruzzaman and other founding members Md Shakil Ahmed, Sumon Chowdhury, Ripon Miah, Sajjad Hossain, Md Zahid Hasan, Rifat Hasan, and Likhan Ahmed were also present at the event.

They said they distribute books free of charge to cultivate reading habits among children at an early age.

India a crucial 'actor'

FROM PAGE 3

Former foreign secretary M Touhid Hossain said mutual interest is crucial in the India-Bangladesh relationship.

He said India wants to remain a "key player" in the region, although it is not very attentive when it comes to people-to-people connectivity in the case of a bilateral relationship with Bangladesh.

Columnist Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb said there is a perception among

a section of people in Bangladesh that India has not been "honouring" their democratic expectations, as India's role has turned out to be a challenge for upholding political and voting rights.

He stressed India's role in overcoming the challenges and continuing a "just relationship" with Bangladesh.

Shafquat Rabbee, a teacher at the University of Texas at Dallas, US, among others, spoke at the webinar.

9th DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF MD. RAFIUDDIN (BABLU)



Today the 24th February is the 9th death anniversary of late **Md. Rafiuddin (Bablu)**, Managing Director of **Modhumita Group** and youngest son of late Md. Sirajuddin founder of Modhumita Group.

Though he is not in this world he lives in our hearts, in our minds and in our memory.

All friends relatives and well wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

All Members of Modhumita Family

US keen to deepen

FROM PAGE 3

The Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC observed International Mother Language Day on Wednesday by recalling the supreme sacrifice of the Language Movement, according to a media release issued yesterday.

As part of the programme, a function

was held at the auditorium of the mission in the evening in the presence of ambassadors, diplomats from various countries, senior officials of the US government, and the members of the Bangladeshi diaspora.

Bangladesh Ambassador Muhammad Imran delivered the welcome remarks.

Will Satrasta

FROM PAGE 3

lands. We received a letter last week in this regard," he added.

"We've initiated the design preparation process for the terminal and will soon appoint a consultant who will engage with stakeholders to finalise the design," Atiqul said.

PRAYER TIMING
FEBRUARY 24

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-20 12-45 4-30 6-03 7-30
JAMAAT 5-55 1-15 4-45 6-07 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Scientists eye climate-resilient

FROM PAGE 5

of nutrients for growth and development. The sensor-based operations deliver a balanced amount of nutrients to each plant. Right now, research is being conducted to develop eco-friendly varieties by changing the light, wavelength, temperature, water content, salinity level, etc externally through the machine."

Tanjim Ahmed, a postgraduate student engaged in the project, said, "Developing a heat-stress tolerant

maize variety has been a successful outcome of the research. This variety can be cultivated in the comparatively warmer regions of the country."

Zaber Sabuj, another postgraduate student, said, "Work is ongoing to develop rice varieties that are tolerant to both salinity and high temperature. Once developed, these will help continue rice cultivation even in 19 salinity-prone districts in the south."

Another researcher, Sirajum Monira, said it may

become possible to produce winter tomato varieties even in summer through greenhouse method.

Postgraduate student Farzana Akter is focusing on finding out which rice varieties expel less methane in higher temperature regions.

The scientists said this modern greenhouse has opened the door for advanced agricultural research, and hoped that within five years, the outcomes of this research could reach the farmers' door.

Request for Expression of Interest

A leading private commercial bank of the country is going to procure 400,000 contactless cards for the year 2024. The delivery has to be made round the year, and work order to be issued in a block of 5,000 card plastics for a single design.

Competent vendors are requested to mail an Expression of Interest with their product information to eoibanks@gmail.com by February 29, 2024.

The bank will share Card Plastic specifications for the submission of price quotations to the Participating Companies. Bank reserves the right to reject any offer without showing any reasons.

ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়
প্রায় রেডি ২৭৬০ বর্গফুটের
১ টি বিলাশ বহুল
এ্যাপার্টমেন্ট বিক্রয় হবে।
ঠিকানাঃ বিসুন্দারা, ব্রক-বি।
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help to learn skills to earn!

UCEP Bangladesh

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

UCEP Bangladesh is a non-governmental organization which provides Technical Education and Decent Work to youth. UCEP is seeking applications from qualified candidates for the post of **Senior Specialist, Entrepreneurship Development**.

For details, please visit <https://jobs.ucepbd.org> or www.bdjobs.com. Last date for submitting application is **March 09, 2024**.

Application without requisite qualifications and experience will not be considered.

Relics of ruin

FROM PAGE 5

during such initiatives. In this case, they are blaming each other instead of removing the pillars, which would have let the river survive."

"Hari river serves as a lifeline to thousands of people in the region, supplying water to Bhabadah and Beel Khukhsia areas. If the pillars are not removed immediately, it would

pose environmental risks, including permanent waterlogging in adjoining areas," he added.

Abdur Rahman Tazkia, executive engineer (Khulna-I) of Bangladesh Water Development Board, said, "Continuous silt accumulation around the abandoned pillars left obstructions in the river's flow not only disrupt its natural course but also pose a threat to the region's

environmental balance."

He urged the RHD to take prompt steps towards removing the pillars. Contacted, Md Anisuzzaman Masud, executive engineer of RHD in Khulna, said, "I did not know about this. It is by no means ideal to have unnecessary pillars left abandoned in the river bed. I will visit the site soon and take steps to remove the pillars."