

Syed Amir-ul-Mulk passes away

CITY DESK

Syed Amir-ul-Mulk, former secretary of Banking Division under the Ministry of Finance, passed away on Friday. He was 86, said a press release.

He suffered a cardiac arrest around 11:00am on the day at his Baridhara residence.

Mulk left behind his wife, two sons, and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

He started his career as a CSP officer and also served as a secretary of information and environment ministries.

His namaz-e-janaza was held after the Maghrib prayers at Hoglakandi village in Manikganj. He was buried at his family graveyard in Hoglakandi.

All are requested to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

Extending

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under its 'Songrami Ma' initiative to help them earn a livelihood. It also provided 10 domestic animals to other rural women under another initiative.

"I make bags and sell those to earn a living. My elder daughter is now a high school student. The sewing machine has helped me bear my family's expenses," said Marjina Khatun, a widow with two children from Haridhali union.

Anirban Library began its journey as a rural library, and eventually grew into a platform that supports those in need.

"A group of local youths established this library. Many of them are working in different parts of the country. However, they still contribute to keep the library active and expand its scopes for social services," said Rahima Akhter Shampa, president of the platform.

Simultaneously, over a hundred people visit the library daily to read books and newspapers. At present, it has a collection of around 7,000 books on various topics.

"Although we began as a local platform, our initiatives are now being conducted across the country," said Joydeb Kumar Bhadra, one of the founding members of Anirban Library.

"We even launched quick response services, in case of any disasters, to help those at risk. We even responded to the recent floods in Sunamganj," he added.

PRAYER TIMING

MAY 13

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ISLAMPUR UPAZILA HEALTH COMPLEX Lone govt hospital grapples with doctor crisis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

The 50-bed Islampur Upazila Health Complex in Jamalpur district, the lone government-run hospital in the area, has been running with inadequate facilities for years due to an acute shortage of doctors.

At present, the health complex is operating with only eight medical officers and five consultants, although it needs a total of 34 medical officers and consultants to provide services to patients seamlessly.

Of the eight doctors, one is on maternity leave while another is doing a foundation course in Dhaka.

The hospital does not have a single doctor for its surgery, medicine, cardiology, dental and physiotherapy departments.

As such, its modern operation theatre with equipment lies idle for years, said hospital sources.

The hospital's diagnostic facilities are also largely ill equipped. Patients with chest pain and cardiac complications cannot get their ECG tests done as the hospital's ECG machine is not working.

As a result, patients from the upazila have to depend on private clinics to get their tests done at a higher cost.

Visiting the health complex recently, this correspondent noticed



that only two doctors were working. A long queue of patients was seen there.

A number of middlemen were seen roaming around the hospital compound, even near the emergency department, trying to convince patients to go to their private clinics instead.

The hospital was also seen in a dirty, unhygienic state, unsuitable for a place where patients go for medical facilities.

Asaduzzaman, 65, was seen waiting outside the doctor's chamber for 30 minutes for his turn to get consultation.

Patients often have to wait for long before they can avail of any

service at the health complex amid its crisis of doctors.

"The health complex is the lone government-run medical facility for around 500,000 residents of the upazila. Due to the acute shortage of doctors, sometimes we find it difficult to cope with the situation and provide services to patients adequately," said Dr Abdul Aziz Ahmed, resident medical officer at the hospital.

Confirming the matter, Dr AAM Abu Taher, upazila health officer, said the higher authorities have been informed in this regard and steps will be taken to appoint more doctors and resolve the existing issues soon.

Mango harvest in Rajshahi starts May 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi's district administration yesterday announced this year's mango harvest calendar, prohibiting bringing mangoes to market before May 15.

The announcement came after a meeting with mango growers, businessmen, and agriculturists held in the DC's conference room with the deputy commissioner in the chair.

On May 15, the growers can start harvesting guti varieties of mango and bring them to the market.

The schedule for harvesting gopalbhog, laukhna, and ranipasad varieties was fixed for May 25, while himsagar and khirsapat varieties can start hitting markets on May 30.

The growers were allowed to harvest the much-coveted local variety langra and hybrid variety Banana mangoes on June 10.

Fazli and popular hybrid variety amrapali can start hitting markets on June 15.

BARI-4 variety will hit markets on July 5, while ashwina and gourmati varieties on July 15, and the ilamati variety on August 20.

Katimon and BARI-II varieties are allowed to be harvested year-round.

In the meeting, Rajshahi's DC Shamim Ahmed said executive magistrates will watch over the mango orchards and markets, and will take legal action if any violation of the mango calendar is found.

The district administration has been fixing mango calendar every year since 2015 to prevent immature and adulterated mangoes from hitting the market.

Department of Agricultural Extension's Acting Deputy Director Umme Salma expected 2,60,315 tonnes of mango production from 19,602 hectares of land in the district.

Deena Parveen Forkan no more

CITY DESK

Dr Deena Parveen Forkan passed away on May 11 at her residence in Gulshan 2, Dhaka. She was 70, said a press release.

She had been suffering from cancer.

She left behind her children, sisters, nephews, nieces, and grandchildren.

Deena Parveen contributed to the field of English Language Teaching, and academia.

She earned her PhD from the University of Toledo. She joined the Department of English and Modern Languages at North South University in 1997.

Her efforts were recognised with a Lifetime Achievement Award in Dubai for her contributions to ELT.

Dr Forkan had a career as a teacher and author, with a certification in writing and communication from Harvard. She had published a book of short stories, titled 'Fire on the Hills'.

Her Quikhani will be held on May 17 after Asr prayers at her Gulshan residence.

Trafficked to India

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India on December 22, 2023.

Upon arrival, Shahed and Bappi received Robin and took him to a rented house in Faridabad area where he was kept confined for about 20-25 days. They also took away his passport.

Then Masum went to India and coerced Robin into donating a kidney. He said Robin won't be able to return to the country without his passport.

Robin was taken to a hospital in New Delhi for various kidney-related examinations.

Then he was taken to a house in Muktinagar, Gujarat. In the meantime, the gang sent Tk 3 lakh to Robin's wife and assured Tk 3 lakh more, which they never paid.

On March 4 this year,

they took Robin to a Gujrat hospital and transplanted his kidney.

Robin was released from the hospital after four days. Later, he was held captive for 10-11 days at an unknown location. There, he overheard his captives saying that Robin's kidney was sold for Tk 50 lakh.

Robin returned to the country recently.

The kidney recipients or customers of this gang are also Bangladeshis, said police. They made contacts with the syndicate through social media pages.

According to the Transplant of Human Organ Act (amendment) 2018, a patient can obtain a kidney either from a "close relative" or from a brain-dead patient, with consent from the kin.

Lowest number

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steadily climbed since then, according to data from Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics.

Students under this board also recorded the lowest passing rate in the last four years -- 81.38 percent. In 2020, the rate was 72.70 percent.

Asked about low performance, Chairman of Technical Education Board Prof Md Mamun Ul Hoque said, "It's unexpected, but we have to consider the fact that this batch had to appear for the exam under the full syllabus, which is a first after the pandemic."

"These are the students who suffered from the pandemic, which caused significant learning gaps.

Changing curriculum

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and the method of education mainly to cut dependency on learning through memorisation.

"We want our children to get scope to flourish talents and creativity so they can move ahead with their merits. So, changes are being made in the curriculum and education method," she said.

The premier made the remarks while unveiling the results of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent examinations-2024 at Gono Bhaban.

She said her government has introduced pre-primary education to teach the children through playing.

"There is a way to educate

We need one or two more years to recover from this gap and reach normalcy," he said.

While the technical board suffered, the madrasa board saw a significant increase in achieving the highest grade in this year's SSC.

This year, with 2.84 lakh students attending the exams, 14,206 of them secured GPA-5, which is over two times higher than last year's 6,213.

It is also the third highest in the last 13 years.

The passing rate of madrasah students also increased to 79.66 percent from last year's 74.7 percent.

In both of these boards, girls did better in both passing and achieving GPA-5.

Changing curriculum

the children through toys and we are creating that scope," she said.

She said her government has attached topmost priority to education.

"Our target is to eradicate poverty. Poverty alleviation is not possible without an educated nation. So, we consider expenses in education as investment," she said.

She also asked the authorities concerned to find out the reasons -- why boys are declining in number and lagging behind girls in their academic results.

Hasina said her government is establishing a technical training school in every upazila to spread technical education.

Discussion to amend

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tomorrow [Monday]," he said.

He was speaking to reporters after holding a meeting with a six-member delegation of the ILO led by its Country Director Tuomo Poutiainen at the law ministry.

Anisul said ILO has given some suggestions to amend the labour law.

Juri, a river turned

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over time and harms the soil's fertility and pollutes nearby waterbodies. Over time, these break down into smaller particles, which then get consumed by fish and different animals, eventually entering the food chain.

"The polythene wastes dumped in Juri river will flow into the haor areas during monsoons, adversely affecting the haor ecosystem," he added.

Contacted, Lusikanta

Hajong, UNO of Juri upazila, said, "The Kaminiganj market is under lease, and its committee has been asked several times by the upazila administration to curb littering. A stricter stance with eviction will be taken if they continue damaging the environment."

"However, since the Bhabaniganj market is not under lease, its committee cannot be pressured directly," he added.

A green, clean Dhaka

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In the plans, the city corporations looked forward to a waste-free Dhaka, while ensuring sustainable water supply with wastewater treatment.

By 2050, all the buildings will use energy-efficient electronic or electrical appliances and lighting, and around 85 percent of grid electricity supply will be renewable, the plans also said.

DNCC Mayor Md Atiqul Islam said they have been increasingly bearing the brunt of climate change in recent years.

"Heavy and sudden rainfall -- leading to flooding, waterlogging, and drainage congestion, extreme heat events, and increased risk of vector-borne diseases such as dengue has demonstrated the significance of applying localised mitigation and resilience strategies," he said.

"If Dhaka is the centre of problems, we will also be the centre of solutions. We will re-excavate all the canals in Dhaka and it will be the Venice of the East," said Mayor Atiq.

DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said they have planned to plant 45,000 trees, including 10,000 on both sides of the Buriganga.

"DSCC views climate change as a major humanitarian crisis, and we have prioritised strategic environmental protection measures," he said, adding that they have already renovated some parks and have plans to renovate others.

"Climate migrants arrive in Dhaka every day. By 2050, the city will be more habitable, climate resilient, and eco-friendly for everyone," he added.

Mark Watts, executive director of C40 Cities, a network of nearly 100 mayors of world's leading cities, congratulated both city corporations on their commitment to responding to the climate crisis through the launch of climate action plans.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof ASM Maksud Kamal, Deputy High Commissioner at the British High Commission at Dhaka Matt Cannell, and Gazipur City Corporation Mayor Jayeda Khatun also joined the programme.

No departmental

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secretary of the Ministry of Public Administration to take disciplinary action against the UNO, considering her to have misbehaved," mentioned the decision letter.

Officials of the field administration wing of Ministry of Public Administration declined to comment on what decision is being taken in this regard.

Contacted, Sherpur DC Abdullah Al Khairum told The Daily Star that he had no information on the matter.

"It's our job to implement the decisions that come from the higher-ups," he said, adding that there is no scope to take any step in this regard from our level.

Asked, Mymensingh Divisional Commissioner Ommy Salma Tanzia said they too have no information about the issue, saying that the public administration ministry is entitled to comment on this.

According to the public administration sources, they were yet to take any steps in this regard. However, the sources said a decision will be taken soon.

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 PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
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Memo No. 53.23.0000.03.050.24.2948 Date: 12-05-2024

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PKSF invites e-Tender in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following goods:

Tender ID No	Description of Tender	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Closing/Opening Date & Time
977101	Supply & Installation of Generator (02 nos.) for PKSF's Shyamoli Building (Package No-PKSF/Shyamoli Building/2023-2024/G-02).	07-05-2024 & 15:45 PM	03-06-2024 & 12:30 PM
977139	Supply & Installation of AVR for PKSF's Shyamoli Building. (Package No-PKSF/Shyamoli Building/2023-2024/G-03).	07-05-2024 & 17:00 PM	03-06-2024 & 13:00 PM
977102	Supply & Installation of Fire Fighting Pump for PKSF's Shyamoli Building (Package No-PKSF/Shyamoli Building/2023-2024/G-04).	07-05-2024 & 18:00 PM	03-06-2024 & 13:30 PM
977186	Supply & Installation of AC (VRF System) for PKSF's Shyamoli Building (Package No-PKSF/Shyamoli Building/2023-2024/G-05).	07-05-2024 & 18:15 PM	03-06-2024 & 14:00 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

A.T.M. Hemayet-Ur-Rahman
Deputy General Manager (Admin)



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