

Wasa MD stresses use of surface water

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the next 9 years, surface water will be used to meet 70 percent of Dhaka city's total demand for water, said Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) Managing Director Taqsem A Khan yesterday.

"There is no water crisis in Dhaka city," he said, adding that supplies were sometimes delayed in some pockets of the city due to technical reasons.

Taqsem was addressing journalists at a views exchange meeting at Wasa Bhaban.

He enumerated some steps Wasa took for the upcoming month of Ramadan. Those include increasing the use of water-carrying trolleys and rickshaw-vans, strengthening monitoring of 11 Wasa teams, ensuring water supply at mosques and keeping 15 complaint centres open 24 hours a day.

Only when Wasa is able to meet the capital's demand for 225 crore litres of water per day solely from surface water will the water crisis end, he said.

Currently, Wasa can supply 210 to 220 crore litres per day. It consists of 13 percent surface water and 87 percent groundwater.

Taqsem said the construction of Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant (phase-II), with a 22.50 crore litre per day capacity, will be completed by December.

Moreover, Wasa was going over the construction plans of Pagla Water Treatment Plant and Khilkhet Water Treatment Plant, he said.

On water supplied by Wasa sometimes found to be dirty, Taqsem said water supplies had been clean for the past few months since the construction of the pre-treatment unit at the Sayedabad plant.

Leaks on the supply pipes sometimes contaminated the water, he said.



Police fire teargas at villagers, who are victims of land subsidence due to Barapukuria coal mine in Dinajpur, as they clash with the law enforcers demanding complete disbursement of promised compensation yesterday. (Inset) A teenager holds a riot shield grabbed from police during the clashes.

PHOTO: STAR

Rab talks to Runi's mother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) officials talked to Meherun Runi's mother for around three hours at its headquarters in the capital's Uttara yesterday over Runi and her husband's murder.

Runi, a senior reporter for ATN Bangla, and her husband, Sagar Sarowar, a news editor at Maasrang, were killed in their West Rajabazar flat in the capital on February 11.

Runi's brother Nowsher Roman, who accompanied his mother, Nurunnahar Mirza, said, "The investigation officer of the case and a top official of Rab talked to my mother."

"They mainly asked about what my mother saw when she rushed to the flat that morning and what she knew about the murder. They did not ask about anything new. It seemed to me that they mainly cross-examined her," he said.

The investigation officer had sent a letter on July 4 asking Nurunnahar to come to the Rab office by 10:30am and they had entered the office around 11:45am, he said.

The High Court, on April 18, had ordered to transfer the case to Rab as Detective Branch of police failed to unearth the mystery behind the murder in its investigation in a span of over two months.

Rab investigators had exhumed the remains of the bodies on April 26 for fresh autopsies.

Domestic help killed in fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A domestic help was killed in a fire at a house in the capital's Uttara area in the early hours of yesterday.

The deceased is Lovely Aktar, 17, daughter of Harunur-Rashid, of Fulbaria upazila in Mymensingh.

Fire brigade sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit while Lovely was sleeping in her room on the first floor of a three-storey building at Sector No-5 in the area.

Two fire fighting units from Tongi doused the flame in one hour.

The fire fighters rescued injured Lovely around 1:00am and rushed her to a local hospital, where the doctors declared her dead.

History comes alive with coins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was an atypical exhibition for the Bangladesh spectators since coins and currency notes of eternal Bengal have been on display for the first time in the country since its independence in 1971.

Ancient currencies, including cowrie shells and metal coins, are apt to take visitors to an unseen old era, when primitive societies had advanced just a little from the time of the aborigines, and the people then determined that certain things with a special value would be used as a medium of exchange for ownership of livestock, and items of rarity or beauty.

After that attractive items, such as cowrie shells or beads, were exchanged for more useful commodities, such as food grains and farm animals. Precious metals, from which

the early coins were made, came hundreds of years later.

The 15-day exhibition that began yesterday at the Nalinikanto Bhattoshali Gallery of the National Museum showcases only coins and paper notes of eternal Bengal, attracting people of all ages and professional callings ranging from artists to researchers, from students to stray vagabonds.

There were queries from all enthusiastic visitors about the origins and sources of the ancient coins and currency notes on display.

The gallery displayed nearly 1,000 artifacts showing the history of money in vogue since the days of yore -- the undivided Bengal, including samples of cowrie shells, the earliest mode of currency used in this region.

Also, metal coins mainly from the seventh centuries onward, such as

gold and silver coins from the Gupta dynasty, Sultanate era, Mughal empire, British rule as well as currency notes from Pakistan period and Bangladesh were on display.

The exhibition displays a collection of Bangladesh Bank and the National Museum with 755 metal coins, 68 gold coins and 915 paper notes, said organisers.

"For me, getting to know about the history of money is a way to look at the history of the world. This new display at the National Museum is exciting and timely because it looks at money and the ways that people used it, and how that has changed over the past few millenniums," said Atiur Rahman, governor of Bangladesh Bank.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony, Abohoman Banglar Mudra o Kagoji Note Prodorshoni,

jointly organised by the central bank, National Museum and HSBC Bangladesh.

Although the history of money dates back to 2,500 years ago and the practices of collecting coins and notes also began more than 2,000 years ago, the first mint was established in Bangladesh in only 1989, said Rahman.

He said the central bank has initiated reforming the small currency museum of Bangladesh Bank to make it a Taka Museum soon.

Prakash Chandra Das, director general of National Museum, said they have a huge collection of ancient currency, where two-third of its total collection comprises coins.

The exhibition is open for all from 10am to 5pm from Saturday to Wednesday and from 3pm to 5pm on Friday.



Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman, third from left, looks at coins at a 15-day exhibition on the currencies used in Bengal till date at Nalinikanto Bhattoshali Gallery of Bangladesh National Museum in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

RECRUITMENT TO BIMAN HC summons acting MD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned four Biman officials, including its acting managing director AM Mosaddique Ahmed, to appear before it on July 22 on charge of violating its directive over recruitment of officials to Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

Three other Biman officials, who were summoned to explain their conducts over alleged violation of HC directive, are its directors Rajpati Sarkar (administration) and Md Shah Newaz (sales and marketing) and manager (law) Ajra Nasrin Rahman.

In response to a contempt of court petition, the HC yesterday also issued a rule asking the Biman officials to explain in 10 days why appropriate legal action should not be taken against them for violating its

directive.

The HC on March 4 this year had declared valid the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) under which 1,877 Biman employees were terminated during the regime of military backed caretaker government in 2007.

It, however, had ordered the Biman authorities to fill up 608 posts, which are now remaining vacant, from the terminated staff, and the rest terminated staff will be reinstated in phases.

Md Jahangir Alam and Md Selim Miah, who were terminated under VRS, jointly filed the contempt of court petition with the HC on July 8 saying that the Biman authorities on July 5 issued a notice to appoint fresh candidates to Biman's Purchase Section violating the directive of HC.

Subscribe to **SMS BREAKING NEWS**

Register at: **2222**
News as it happens

REGISTRATION FREE

The Daily Star

For Registration: Go to message option on your mobile and type start<space>br & send to 2222
Tariff: Tk. 2/SMS

thedailystar.net
f /dailystarnews

For Grameenphone subscribers

Stay order on ACC notice to Moudud upheld

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that stayed the operation of an Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) notice asking BNP leader Moudud Ahmed to appear before the commission in connection with a money laundering allegation.

Justice Sayed Mahmud Hossain passed the order after hearing a petition submitted by the ACC seeking stay on the HC order.

Chamber judge of Appellate Division of the SC, however, asked the ACC to move a leave to appeal (petition for the SC's permission to move a regular appeal) before the apex court against the HC order.

New life. New beginning. Start with Grameenphone

Get back 1 on every call with every new connection (Everyday maximum Tk.5)

Also includes Tk. 150 talk time | 150 SMS | 150 MB internet

Only @ Tk. 149

Stay Close | grameenphone

See inner for details