



### Dawra degree recognition was PM's commitment

Says home boss

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

The recognition of Dawra degree of Qawmi madrasa as equivalent to master's degree was a commitment of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, which she made years before, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said yesterday.

"Several years back, our prime minister had formed a committee including Hefajat-e-Islam chief Shah Ahmed Shafi and Maulana Farid Uddin Masuod (a key figure in the Qawmi education system) to work out the issue," he said.

The issue had no relation with Hefajat, he added.

The government took the decision based on the recommendations submitted by the committee, Kamal told journalists after inaugurating a fashion outlet at Bede Palli in Savar.

"The decision was finalised following a discussion with the members of all other educational boards...It was a long-time demand of alems-ulema," he said.

Earlier on April 11, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina officially announced that the government would recognise Dawra degree of Qawmi madrasa as equivalent to master's degree.



Parts of the newly-constructed surface water treatment plant (SWTP) complex at Beltola of Barisal have already collapsed into the Kirtonkhola after erosion of the river banks. Without immediate protective measures, the government faces the risk of losing this plant, which is capable of producing 1.6 crore litres of water per day. Although the construction of the plant, costing Tk 19 crore, ended a month ago, it has not gone into operation due to unavailability of electric supply lines. Locals fear the plant would be under water within one month, given the pace of the erosion. The photo was taken yesterday.



### Don't use BCL for your own good

Quader urges AL leaders at Chittagong north district unit confce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader has urged the party leaders not to use the organisation's student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League for own interest.

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, made the remarks while addressing a conference of AL delegates of Chittagong north district unit as the chief guest at a community centre in the port city's Panchlaish area yesterday.

"I request the leaders: 'Do not use BCL as an instrument for protecting your self-interest'," he said.

At the same time, he advised BCL leaders not to make headlines for wrong reasons. "If the deeds of a BCL leader or an activist tarnish the image of the party, no one will be spared no matter how big a leader he is," said the ruling party leader.

Referring to AL leaders, Quader said those who are instigating internal conflict will not get party nomination in the upcoming election.

At the programme, Quader also criticised BNP. According to him, "BNP is now taking preparation for committing a political accident."

Mentioning there is no reason to be upset about BNP, the AL leader said, "The party (BNP) has failed in all aspects..."

## Chittagong Port to have bay container terminal

UNB, Dhaka

The government has initiated a move to construct a bay container terminal with the Indian credit to enhance the capacity of Chittagong Port which will reduce congestion at the port, officials said.

He said another plan was there to construct a terminal at the proposed Payra Deep Sea Port, modernise Mongla Port, and construct Dry Dock in Chittagong.

Talking to the news agency, an official at the Economic Relations

Division (ERD) said such projects were taken to develop the country's ports under a \$4.5 billion fresh third Line of Credit (LoC) from India to be given against 17 projects selected so far.

Another official at the Ministry of Shipping said that the coastal area adjacent to Haliashahar, Chittagong was primarily identified for the establishment of the Bay Container Terminal.

The official said an 11km char had emerged about some 800 metres off the coast. It was not visible before 1990 and a channel was also created

there where the sea depth in some areas is up to 10 metres. The outer anchorage of the Chittagong Port is also near the area where sea depth is up to 12 to 13 metres.

The shipping ministry official said they had a target to launch the Bay Container Terminal by 2021 upon completion of the first phase of its work.

A German company will conduct a feasibility study to construct the Bay Container Terminal, while the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) is

## Two Bangladeshis killed in Malaysian landslide

CITY DESK

Two Bangladeshi workers were buried alive when a landslide hit their living quarters in Hulu Langat district in Selangor state early yesterday, reported Malaysian newspaper the Star.

They were part of the Langat 2 water treatment plant construction crew, staying at a renovated farmhouse that had been converted into living quarters for the workers.

Kajang OCPD Assistant Commissioner Othman Nayan said police received a call at around 4:00am of a landslide in Kg Sungai Serai and a search and rescue team was dispatched to the scene.

"Early investigations showed that the landowner had renovated an existing farmhouse and rented it out to workers of the Langat 2 project," he said.

He said 11 Bangladeshis and nine Indonesian workers

### Effluent being released into Dhaleshwari

Says industries secy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Industries Secretary Mosharaf Hossain Bhuiyan yesterday said legal actions will be taken against a Chinese company at the new Tannery Industrial Park in Horindhara area of Savar for discharging liquid waste into Dhaleshwari river without processing.

"They will face punishment and we will call Chinese ambassador to the ministry office for a discussion on this issue this week," said Mosharaf at a press conference at Savar Tannery Industrial Park.

Sometimes liquid waste is released into the river after processing, sometimes without processing, he added.

Local agents, who work at Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) at the park, were warned regarding the issue yesterday, said Mosharaf.

High officials of the ministry and tannery owners were present at the press briefing.

## Why Ctg waterlogging a never-ending problem

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg

Though a number of initiatives have been taken over the years to address Chittagong city's waterlogging problem, many of those have apparently gone down the drain due to a lack of coordinated efforts by the government bodies concerned.

Town planners and experts made the observation while approached by The Daily Star in the wake of recent waterlogging crisis caused by the Friday's incessant downpour in the port city.

Following the rainfall, many low-lying areas in the city went under knee-to-waist-deep water, causing immense sufferings to the city dwellers.

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) spent about Tk 292.89 crore since 2003-04 fiscal to address the problem, CCC sources said.

In this regard, town planner Subhash Barua said, "If money is spent in an unplanned way, it will bring no results."

There is no "integrated action plan" to mitigate the problem, he commented.

In addition, water bodies and open spaces are shrinking due to an "unplanned development"; as a result, rain water cannot recede, causing waterlogging, he said.

Subhash also underscored the need for dredging drains, canals, the Karnaphuli river on a regular basis.

The city's canals and drains have to be recovered from the clutches of the grabbers, he added.

Engr Delwar Majumder, former chairman of the Institution of Engineers Bangladesh, Chittagong Centre, said Chittagong city's waterlogging problem is

multi-dimensional.

"It is not possible on part of CCC alone to address the problem," he opined.

To him, in Chittagong, tidal water adds to rain water. Moreover, an onrush of water from upstream carries sand, which contributes to filling up the drains and canals.

He said silt trap could be set up to hold back sand. To address waterlogging, tidal regulators and water retention points could be installed, he opined.

Moreover, utility services, including gas, water and land lines, running through drains, have to be removed, which requires coordination from different concerned bodies, he said.

Taking into consideration the multi-dimensional nature of the problem, Engr Delwar said an "integrated approach" involving other concerned government bodies is needed under the leadership of the CCC mayor.

Contacted, CCC Chief Engineer Lieutenant Colonel Mohiuddin Ahamed said waterlogging is a longstanding issue, and they are trying their best to mitigate the city's waterlogging.

Bidyut Kumar Saha, executive engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Chittagong-1, said a project styled "Flood control, drainage improvement and water-logging mitigation of Chittagong city", involving about Tk 3,165.18 crore, awaits government approval.

Waterlogging problem will significantly be checked if the proposed project, which is expected to be concluded in June 2021, is implemented, he said.



A student struggles to keep her balance, trying not to fall into water caused by rain in the capital's Chamelibagh yesterday afternoon. In the absence of proper drainage system, rainwater cannot recede and remains stagnant in the area, while pedestrians and commuters continue to suffer.

### Workers Party won't accept alliance with Hefajat

Badsha tells public rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha yesterday told a public rally in Rajshahi city that his Workers Party, a component of the Awami League-led alliance, would not accept any compromise with Islamist party Hefajat-e-Islam.

"Any compromise with Hefajat will not solve problems; it'll only deepen the crisis. We will not accept any alliance with the party," said Badsha, also general secretary of the party.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the rally at Shaheb Bazar Zero point. Rajshahi district and city units of Workers Party of Bangladesh jointly organised the meeting with the city unit president Liakat Ali Liku in the chair.

Badsha said the nation began a new debate on sculptures and idols. "Sculptures will be kept and idols will be broken. What will happen to the country's non-communal ideologies? Will the people worshipping idols not be allowed to worship anymore?" he said.

He said the move to include corrections in

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Despite having a footbridge right above, a woman and a man help a young boy cross over the concrete road divider on this portion of Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Shimrail of Narayananj yesterday, while another man, on the right, waits for his turn. Without any effective campaign to create road safety awareness among people, pedestrians all over the country continue to jaywalk disregarding the safety of all road users.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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