

Greetings, not dialogue

Obaidul Quader says about PM's meetings with political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Changing his earlier statement that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will hold dialogue with political parties that joined talks before the election, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said the PM will invite parties only to exchange post-election greetings with them.

Quader on Sunday told reporters that the PM will invite 75 political parties -- with whom she had held talks before the December 30 parliamentary polls -- for holding post-election dialogue at her Gono Bhaban residence.

Addressing the extended meeting of AL Dhaka South City Unit at the party's central office at city's Bangabandhu Avenue, Quader yesterday said Prime Minister wants to invite those 75 political parties to exchange post-election greetings with them. There will be no invitation for holding dialogue with them, rather views-exchange and greetings will take place, he said.

Quader, also Road Transport and Bridges minister, said there is no need for dialogue over the election. Question of holding dialogue over the election is absurd, as no confusion or question was

raised regarding it.

The extended meeting was organised as part of the party's preparation to hold a grand rally on January 19 to mark its landslide victory in the 11th parliamentary election.

Rejecting the December 30 election for alleged widespread irregularities and rigging, main opposition alliance Jatiya Oikyafront has been demanding that the government hold a national dialogue with stakeholders for a fresh election in line with the constitution and laws.

After Quader's statement on Sunday over holding dialogue, Oikyafront convener Dr Kamal Hossain appreciated the PM's decision to hold fresh talks with political parties, saying it was a positive step.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on the other hand yesterday commented that Oikyafront would decide whether it would sit for a fresh round of talks with Sheikh Hasina, once the agenda is set.

"The issue of scrapping the election must be there as an agenda, and then we will consider joining the talks," Fakhrul, also spokesperson of Oikyafront, said while talking to reporters after offering prayers at the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) in Sylhet.



Rokia Afzal Rahman, chairperson of Mediaworld Ltd; Shamsur Rahman, director of Mediaworld Ltd; and Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, cut a cake as the newspaper employees celebrate annual Staff Day on the rooftop of its office building in Dhaka yesterday. As part of the programme, employees were awarded in different categories for their outstanding performance in the last one year.

PHOTO: STAR

DMP to involve student volunteers

Traffic discipline programme begins today

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Inspired by last year's student movement for road safety, the traffic department of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) is going to include school and college students as volunteers in the fortnightly traffic discipline programme starting today.

According to an action plan of the traffic department, students of schools and colleges around main roads will work as volunteers with the traffic police before and after class.

On July 29 last year, students took to the streets after the death of two students of Shaheed Ramiz Uddin Cantonment College on Airport Road. They were seen managing traffic on main roads for nine days.

Police later welcomed the student movement and initiated traffic awareness programme.

Although, scouts and BNCC students took part in traffic awareness programme earlier, engaging general students as volunteers in traffic management is a first.

"Although the involvement of student volunteers is in our action plan, we are not yet sure about the level of their involvement. We do want participation of students, guardians and authorities," Mir Rezaul Alam, additional commissioner (traffic) of DMP, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We had provided some orientation training to students in some areas



Students queue up to separate lanes on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue during the road safety movement last year.

FILE PHOTO

at the time (during road safety movement)," he said, adding that they are also undertaking a programme involving Bangladesh Red Crescent to generate awareness and encourage volunteers in schools.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan will inaugurate the fortnightly traffic discipline programme at the capital's Zero point at 2pm today.

The DMP traffic department has already initiated an 11-point special action plan for the operation, includ-

ing setting up check posts at 29 points in Dhaka, starting digital remote control signal system at eight major points, and encouraging people to use foot over-bridges.

Additional Commissioner Rezaul said that they have already planned to upgrade traffic management systems and create awareness among people to abide by the system.

During the operation, police will also try to ensure that buses keep their

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FOOD ADULTERATION DSCC mobile courts hand jail sentences to restaurant owners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mobile courts of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) yesterday handed short-term imprisonments to owners of three restaurants in Aziz Super Market and at Nightingale crossing in Nayapaltan, for selling adulterated food items.

The mobile court teams also fined seven restaurants Tk 4.05 lakh and warned five more in different areas in this regard, said a press release of DSCC.

A mobile court under DSCC zone-1 sentenced the owner of Silyana Restaurant to three-days' imprisonment and Bismillah restaurant owner to five-days' imprisonment at Aziz Super Market. It also fined the owner of Mumtou restaurant Tk 20,000.

Another team of DSCC in zone-2 sentenced the owner of New Kabab and Restaurant, Mujibur Rahman, at Nightingale crossing in Nayapaltan to 15-days' imprisonment, for selling adulterated food.

The team also fined Diamond, Korai Gosht and Dastor Khana restaurants Tk 1 lakh each, and Kosturi restaurant Tk 5,000 for the same reason.

Another mobile team in zone-3 of DSCC fined Delicious Food Tk 10,000 and Hotel Raj Heaven Tk 20,000 in Azimpur Chapra Mosjid area. It also warned Mohon Chand, Ananda, Mithai, Haripad Mishtanno Bhandar and Haq Bakery in this regard.

ROAD TRANSPORT ACT-2018 Gazette notification within this month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is expected to issue necessary gazette notification within this month to make the Road Transport Act-2018 functional, officials said yesterday.

Although different organisations of transport workers are demanding amendment, the government would not bring any change to the act right now, they said.

The decision was taken at a high profile meeting at Road Transport and Bridges Ministry with the minister Obaidul Quader in the chair.

Chiefs of departments under the ministry, directors of ongoing projects, zone chiefs of Roads and Highways Department, and high officials of the ministry took part in the meeting.

"The law will be made operational by issuing gazette within this month," Nazrul Islam, secretary to Road Transport and Bridges Division, told The Daily Star.

Talking to journalists on Saturday, Quader said the act would come into force "right now" and there was no need to issue a gazette to put the law into effect.

However, yesterday, the minister asked the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to make the law

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DGHS suspends admin officer over corruption allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) yesterday suspended an administrative officer of Institute of Health Technology, Abzal Hossain, for allegedly amassing a huge amount of wealth illegally.

"Since several reports were published against him over acquiring wealth illegally and the Anti-Corruption Commission is carrying out an enquiry, we've suspended him," said a DGHS deputy director requesting anonymity.

The commission also issued a notice to Abzal's wife Rubina Khanam, a stenographer of the Medical Education and Health Manpower Development project under DGHS, to appear before ACC on Thursday. There are similar allegations against her, too.

Rubina is proprietor of Rahman Trade International, a contracting firm which used to supply surgical equipment to government hospitals and institutions.

So far, ACC has found that Abzal bought a house in Sydney, Australia spending more than US\$ 200,000, and owns four five-storey buildings and a plot in the capital's Uttara, an SUV and several plots and houses in different districts including Dhaka and Faridpur.

The couple in their income tax return documents showed they have Tk 12 crore worth of wealth.

Meanwhile, ACC yesterday quizzed Dr Md Anisur Rahman, an assistant director of DGHS, for about five hours over allegations of amassing wealth beyond the known sources of income.

The ACC deputy director, who is also a member of ACC's enquiry team, said Anisur allegedly made a fortune through irregularities in DGHS's tender process.

"A syndicate used to manage the

DUCSU ELECTION Formal proposal from DU committee on Jan 17

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka University (DU) committee -- to provide recommendations for an amendment, if necessary, to the constitution of DU's Central Students' Union (DUCSU) -- will provide a formal proposal to the DU authorities on January 17.

After evaluating different aspects of the proposal, DU authorities through a syndicate meeting will take the ultimate decision to amend the constitution. Authorities hope to hold the DUCSU election by March 31 this year, said Dr Mizanur Rahman, convener of the committee.

"Several good suggestions have been made from the student organi-

sations today (Monday) to amend the constitution as the election is going to be held after a gap of 28 years," said Dr Rahman, professor at the Law Department of DU.

The last DUCSU election was held in 1990 and a constitutional amendment was brought in 1998. However, the Supreme Court (SC) order delivered on January 6, 2019 has made it mandatory to hold an election.

On September 15 last year, after a meeting with representatives of student organisations, DU Vice Chancellor Md Akhtaruzzaman said the DUCSU polls might be held by March 2019.

Meanwhile, the DU authorities sent

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'Will start work for 9th Wage Board gazette right away'

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud tells journalists

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday assured that the new wage board award for newspaper and news agency journalists and employees would be announced within specified period.

"From today, I will begin work for the gazette on the 9th Wage Board Award," the minister said while exchanging views with leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) at Jatiya Press Club.

The minister said he also discussed the journalists' housing issue with the officials concerned.

Mahmud said, "My top priorities are to work for the welfare of news-men and freedom of media."

The minister made the remarks as he visited the press club for his maiden interaction with leaders of the journalist unions since he assumed office on January 8.

He sought journalists' support in discharging his responsibilities.

Mahmud expressed the hope that the journalist community would take necessary steps against yellow journalism.

"I think most of the journalists try to practise objective journalism... Only few of them are involved in yellow journalism," he said.

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CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER (CHRO)

Bank Asia Limited is a leading private commercial bank of the country having an extensive network of business outlets comprising of conventional Branches, Islamic Windows (IWs), SME/Agricultural Branches, SME Service Centers, Agent Banking, Off-shore Banking Unit, Brokerage House and Exchange Houses abroad. The Bank has 127 Branches, 5 IWs and 2,566 Agent Outlets across the country.

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- To work hand-in-hand with external consultants and to implement their recommendations.

Requirements

- Education: Postgraduate in any discipline preferably MBA major in HRM.
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- Industry Domain: The incumbent must have experience in a Financial Institution for 5-7 years in a senior position.
- Subject Matter: Should possess a thorough understanding of all areas of people management and staff development and in depth operational knowledge of HR.

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Bank Asia reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason whatsoever at any stage of the recruitment process.

People Management Division
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