



PHOTO OF THE DAY

SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Rain or shine, any time is apparently a good time for a selfie. The photo was taken yesterday at Karwan Bazar, after heavy rainfall flooded Dhaka streets.

No party in power carried out 'correction drive' against its men: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said they have taken time to collect evidence before launching the ongoing "correction" drive against people involved in gambling and other illegal activities.

Although the drive is not against any particular political party, the ruling party has shown courage by taking action against its own men first, Quader, also general secretary of Awami League (AL), said.

"No party in power had carried out correction drive against its own men ever... This is what Sheikh Hasina is doing," he said.

The minister was speaking at a press briefing on contemporary issues at his secretariat office.

Law enforcers have arrested several persons affiliated with AL's associate bodies for their alleged involvement in illegal activities, including gambling and tender manipulation.

Quader said although the arrestees do not hold important portfolios in the party, their offences are grievous.

Asked why such drive is now required as AL has been in power for the last 11 years and whether the government has shown leniency towards the offenders, Quader responded in the negative and said, "We kept them under watch. We wanted to take

time because action can't be taken against a person without proper evidence," he said.

"It is rare that a ruling party takes action against its men... Better late than never," the minister added.

Quader said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, while briefing the media in New York, already gave indication about intensifying the drive.

Asked whether the government is being lenient with Dhaka South Jubo League President Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat, an alleged kingpin of illegal casino business, Quader replied, "None will be spared."

"If proper evidence is found against anyone following investigation, he/she will be arrested," he said.

Asked whether enough evidence is not available against Samrat, Quader said, "The home minister has already said 'wait and watch', so let's wait. Why are you [journalists] in a hurry?"

Similar drives would be conducted across the country, he added.

"The drive is on. Someone is being arrested every day. Many others are now under watch," he said.

The minister said investigation is on against government officials -- allegedly involved in irregularities and corruption -- and people will get to know when action is taken against them.

ACCOMMODATION CRISIS AT DU Ducusu member threatens to move in to VC's residence

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) member Tanbir Hasan Shaikat yesterday issued a 15-day ultimatum to the university administration to resolve the accommodation crisis on campus.

Tanbir, a former member of Chhatra League's central unit, threatened to move in at the vice-chancellor's residence if the authority fails to take any effective measure by this time.

He issued the ultimatum at a student rally held at the base of Raju Memorial Sculpture. The event drew a good number of students.

To cope with the existing seat crisis, the hall authorities at DU accommodate students in what's known as "Gono Room" (mass room) in every hall. Around 35-40 students live in each of these rooms.

Tanbir claimed that Dhaka University could not make it to the ranking of world's top 1,000 universities because of the "accommodation crisis" and that the student wing of the ruling party uses this as a "political tool".

He also said, "The university should enrol new students only after solving the current accommodation problem. If the authorities cannot accommodate first year students, how will they make proper arrangements for newcomers?"

"We will start to live in your house if you fail to come up with any logical solution to the 'Gono Room' practice. The deadline will not extend," the graduate Ducusu member said, addressing the VC.

Earlier, Tanbir, who was elected to Ducusu from BCL's panel, started

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HC again refuses bail to Latif Siddique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday refused to grant bail to former textiles and jute minister Abdul Latif Siddique in a corruption case, filed on charge of misuse of power in selling a government property.

Justice Shahidul Karim and Justice Md Riaz Uddin Khan returned the bail petition of Latif Siddique to his lawyer Shah Manjurul Hoque, saying that it will not grant bail to the accused petitioner in this case.

Advocate Shah Manjurul Hoque told The Daily Star that they will move the bail petition before another HC bench once it reopens after the ongoing annual vacation. The court will reopen on October 13.

Anti-Corruption Commission's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told this correspondent that another HC bench on July 7 this year had refused to grant bail to Latif Siddique in the same case.

On that day, the HC bench, however, issued a rule asking the ACC and government to explain why Latif Siddique,

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Dhaka to get additional 45cr litre water per day

Padma Water Treatment Plant set for launch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka is going to get an additional 45 crore litres of water per day from a new Wasa water treatment plant project, to meet demands of city dwellers.

About four million residents of Dhanmondi, Azimpur, Mohammadpur, Shyamoli, Kalabagan and adjacent areas will get safe water from this project, titled Padma Water Treatment Plant Project -- at Jashaldia of Lauhajong upazila in Munshiganj.

While visiting the project on Monday, Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Minister Md Tajul Islam spoke to journalists about the initiative.

Replying to a query on when Dhaka dwellers would get the water, the LGRD minister said, "We still have some work left for water distribution line. Once all the distribution lines are complete, we will start supplying water in full force."

However, some of the water is already being provided through the existing distribution line, and the amount of water will be increased gradually, he said, without giving specifics.

Asked the reason behind choosing the Padma river as water source, the minister said, "Dhaka inhabitants will get a sustained supply of water, and it will meet the water demands of city dwellers."

Besides, the rivers adjacent to the

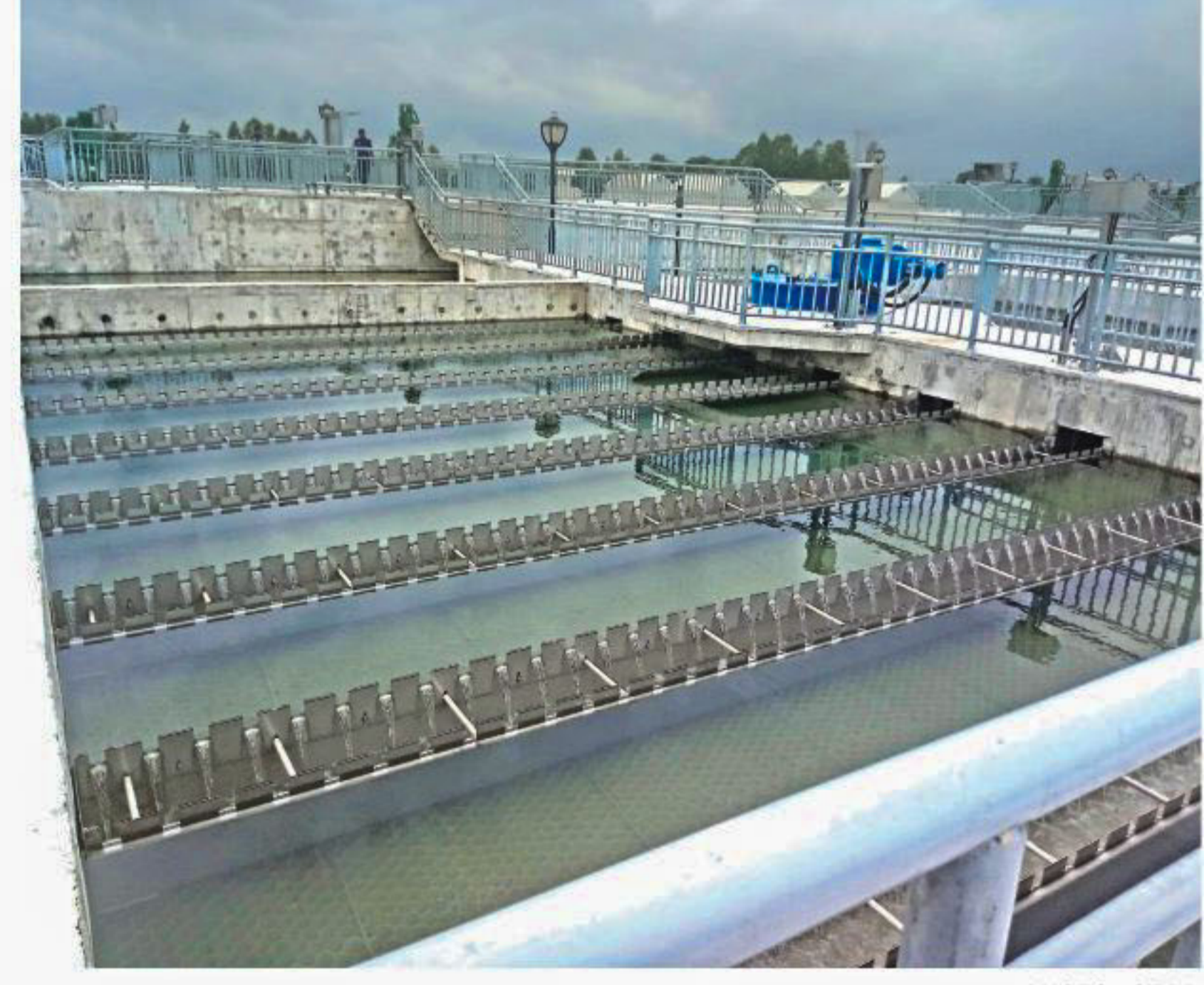


PHOTO: STAR

capital have become polluted over the last six decades, he said.

According to project director Rafiqul Islam, work of the project officially started in 2014 and ended this year. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the project on October 10.

"We are supplying the water to the south-west part of the city through this project. Currently, this part of the city is dependent on groundwater

and the Sayedabad treatment plant. Hopefully we will be able to provide 45 crore litres of water per day when it operates in full swing very soon," he hoped.

According to him, the project costs around Tk 3,200 crore.

Implemented in collaboration with the Chinese government -- with China CAMC Engineering Co Ltd as the contractor -- the project is situated on 100 acres of land.

DHAKA TODAY

LECTURE

Forced Displacement, Education and Opportunities

Organiser: Centre for Peace and Justice

Venue: Brac Centre Inn, Mohakhali

Time: 3pm

SEMINAR

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Organiser: Maya and City Alo

Venue: Shanta Sky Mark, Gulshan-1

Time: 3pm

HUMAN CHAIN

Commemorating International Day of Non-violence

Organiser: Sushasoner Jonno Nagarik

Venue: Bangladesh National Museum, Shahbagh

Time: 10:30am

WORKSHOP

On Bangla Wikipedia

Organiser: Wikimedia Bangladesh

Venue: Notre Dame College

Time: 12pm

MEMORIAL SPEECH

Remembering Bangabandhu

Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Time: 4pm

WORKSHOP

Autism: All You Need to Know

Organiser: Life Spring

Venue: EMK Center

Time: 5pm

AMENDMENT TO ROAD TRANSPORT ACT

Hopefully, it's just a rumour: Ilias Kanchan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should immediately start implementing the Road Transport Act 2018, without making any amendment, to restore discipline in the transport sector, said Ilias Kanchan, chairman of Nirapad Sarak Chai (Nischa), yesterday.

Mentioning a recent "rumour" about amending the act, the road safety campaigner said it already failed to deliver on some of their expectations. If the act is amended "to serve purpose of a particular group", it will be against public interest.

He made the remarks while speaking at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club. Nischa organised the event to announce its month-long programmes for upcoming National Road Safety Day on October 22.

"I became panicked and concerned after hearing about the amendment. A year has already passed, but the act is yet to be implemented," said Kanchan, who has been carrying out rigorous road safety campaigns since the tragic demise of his wife in a road crash in 1993.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader recently said that they have no plan to amend the act.

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Students need nurturing outside of classrooms

Speakers say at Asian Summit on Education

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR, back from Bengaluru

Identification and proper nurturing of gifted and talented children, outside of academics, is needed for fostering innovation and creativity among them, Bangladeshi and Indian educationists and officials said.

They said that every child possesses hidden talents in different fields like performing arts, visual arts, or even sports, other than scholastic performance.

While speaking at a session in the Asian Summit on Education and Skills (ASES) held in Bengaluru, the capital of the Indian state Karnataka, on September 22-24, experts said it was a challenge for both countries to identify gifted and talented children at schools.

Sixth edition of ASES, a leadership and ministerial event, was organised by India Didactics Association (IDA), with Microsoft as a key partner.

Discussants at the session said that those who are gifted and talented in performing arts or visual arts are often neglected.

"The education system is still exam-centric. Students are hardly appreciated for their performance in any form of art. There is no merit list for them. Education boards should think of identifying talent

in these fields," Additional Chief Secretary of Government of Bihar Vivek Kumar Singh said at session on how should we support gifted and talented students.

Such talent surpasses grades and test performance, so it is the responsibility of teachers and parents to provide the right mechanism to create a nurturing environment, discussants said.

Additional Secretary of Bangladesh's Ministry of Primary and Mass Education GM Hashibul Alam pointed out that proper screening of these children is a challenge.

He said lack of expert professionals, resources, and curriculum designs, as well as absence of social sensitisation and parental awareness are obstacles to identifying talented and gifted students. "If we fail to identify these children, the whole world will be devoid of geniuses," he said.

Bangladeshi State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Zakir Hossen, and Principal Secretary of School Education of government of Tamil Nadu, Pradeep Yadav, also took part in the discussion. Vinnie Jauhari, director of education advocacy at Microsoft India, moderated the session on the opening day of ASES.

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CID seeks 10-day remand to quiz GK Shamim

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday submitted a 10-day remand prayer for quizzing GK Shamim, a top government-listed contractor, in connection with a money laundering case.

The court, however, set today for hearing on the remand prayer in presence of Shamim.

Earlier in the day, another Dhaka court placed Shamim's seven bodyguards on four-day remand each for interrogation in the same case.

They are: Delwar Hossain, Murad Hossain, Zahidul Islam, Shahidul Islam, Kamal Hossain, Samsad Hossain and Aminul Islam.

Metropolitan Magistrate Sadbir Yasir Ahsan Chowdhury passed the order after the investigation officer, Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police Abu Sayeed of Criminal Investigation Department, produced them before the court in this regard.

On September 26, Shamim and his bodyguards were shown arrested in a money laundering case.

Rab members on September 20 arrested Shamim on charges of extortion and tender manipulation. His seven bodyguards were also arrested at the time.

The elite force raided his house and office in the city's Niketan and seized eight firearms, a huge amount of ammunition, fixed deposit receipt (FDR) worth Tk 165 crore, around Tk 1.8 crore in cash, a large stash of US and Singaporean dollars and some foreign liquor.

The next day, Shamim was placed on a 10-day remand in cases filed under the Arms Act and Narcotics Control Act.



Members of transgender community take part in a cleaning drive in Dhaka University's TSC area yesterday. Brihannala, a non-government organisation, arranged the event.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON