

WAR OF WORDS

‘We are not in comfort zone in some sectors’

Quader says tough times ahead in wake of global crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said people in the country are suffering due to the global crises caused by the Russia-Ukraine war and the pandemic.

“We are not in a comfortable position in some sectors. However, we have no problem with our food stock. Not a single person died of hunger. There are tough challenges ahead and we are working with that in mind,” he said.

He, however, said Bangladesh is in a better position than many other countries.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, said this while talking to reporters at his ministry office.

He also said the next general elections will be held in line with the constitution.

“BNP could not leave its demand for a caretaker government. The election will be held as per the constitution. The Election

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It’s part of govt ploy to stay in office till 2041

Says Fakhrul on scrapping of caretaker system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday alleged that the government scrapped the caretaker system with a motive to stay in office till 2041.

Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the party, said this while addressing a discussion at a city hotel. Bangladesh Sachetan Nagorik Forum organised the discussion styled “Election time caretaker government in current perspective”.

Fakhrul said the caretaker government is not the demand of only BNP or Awami League rather it is a mechanism for bringing stability to the country’s political culture.

Fakhrul urged the party leaders and activists to get united and raise their voices against the government’s “misdeeds and misrules.”

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

A MOVING HAZARD... The Road Transport Act -2018 clearly states the operation of unfit and rundown buses is a punishable offence. However, such vehicles continue to ply Dhaka streets freely. These rundown buses not only cause inconvenience to passengers but also contribute to road accidents and pollution, right under the nose of the authorities concerned. This photo was taken in Hazaribagh Beribad road yesterday.

A much-needed initiative

CCTV cameras installed in 100 buses to ensure women’s safety



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To ensure women’s safety in public transport, CCTV cameras have been installed in 100 buses of four transport companies in the capital yesterday.

The Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, in association with Dipto Foundation, inaugurated the installation event at Syed Nazrul Islam Convention Centre, adjacent to the Mirpur Beribandh area.

Under a pilot project, CCTV cameras have been installed in 100 buses of Projapoti Paribahan Ltd (Mohammadpur to Abdullahpur), Rajdhani Super Services Ltd (Chandra to Demra Staff Quarter), Basumoti Transport Ltd (Gabtoli to Gazipur) and Poristhan Paribahan Ltd (Ghatarchar to Abdullahpur).

State Minister Fazilatun Nessa Indira said this project will help protect women from any untoward incident while commuting in Dhaka city.

Ministry secretary Hasanuzzaman Kallol said, “Installation of CCTV cameras and central monitoring cells will be able to scan everything on the bus happening in real time. If it is a success, the entire country will be brought under this system in the future.”

Dipto Foundation Executive Director Zakia K Hassan highlighted that they chose to install the cameras in the local buses of Dhaka, because the working women, especially RMG workers, take these buses regularly.

The foundation will submit a report to the ministry every three months, through which a clear idea can be obtained about the performance, progress and challenges of the initiative.

Citizens’ sufferings need to end

DNCC, DSCC mayors on hassles over birth, death certificates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka north and south city corporation mayors have expressed their disappointment over the mismanagement by the local government in issuing birth and death registration certificates at an event marking National Birth and Death registration Day at Bangabandhu International Conference Center yesterday.

Due to the low capacity of the registration server, people are having to go to brokers to get the work done, they said.

Urging Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Md Tazul Islam to take immediate and necessary steps to make the process easy, DNCC Mayor Md Atiqul Islam said, “When people come to the regional office of the city corporation, the registration server always malfunctions due to its lack of capacity. That is why they have to go to brokers to get the work done during nighttime.”

Atiqul said the workload is higher from December to February, when even phone calls are not received on the hotlines.

“One has to go to the district administration office for corrections in birth registration after 90 days, despite the presence of the city corporations and its mayors. Then again, if there is a case of transfer of a responsible officer, people have to wait for weeks to get another code and solve their issues,” he

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DNCC Mayor
Atiqul Islam

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DSCC Mayor
Sheikh Fazle Noor
Taposh

added.

Stressing the need for making the process easier, he said the government will have to authorise 10 zonal offices and city corporation councillors in this regard.

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said people are falling under the grip of brokers as there is no responsible officer at zonal offices.

“We have appointed officers to five zonal offices in this regard. However, the number is not sufficient. A responsible individual is also needed to do the job,” he said. “We have also introduced a number system to stop harassment from brokers.”

Stressing the need for increasing the capacity of the registration server, Taposh said the capacity will have to be increased by four to five times. Only then the process will be smooth for city residents.

Taposh demanded a solution to the problem before the admission season in schools, starting from November and ongoing till February.

Mentioning the budget crisis, the DSCC mayor said, “It is not right to allocate so little for this purpose while we spent around Tk 700 crore for the census.”

“We have heard about the server problem. There is also an acute crisis of human resources. I am also responsible for this but I will not be able to do it alone. We will take steps to solve the problem,” said the LGRD minister, acknowledging the complaints.



COURT CORNER

Man to die for killing 6-year-old cousin after rape

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing his six-year-old cousin after raping her in Dhaka’s Dakshinkhan area in 2011.

Judge Begum Shamsunnahar of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-5 of Dhaka handed down the sentence in presence of the convict, Raihan Ahmed Masud.

The tribunal also sentenced him to life in jail for kidnapping the victim. One of the sentences will be executed subject to confirmation of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, the judge said.

According to the case, Raihan kidnapped the victim and took her to a hotel at Ashkona at 11:00pm on April 10, 2011. Later, he raped and killed her there and fled. On April 12, the victim’s brother filed a case against the accused.

RIFAT MURDER

Minni seeks HC bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Death-row convict Ayesha Siddika Minni yesterday filed a petition with the High Court seeking bail in the case filed for murdering her husband Rifat Sharif in Barguna.

Minni, now in a Kashimpur jail, submitted the petition through her lawyers ZI Khan Panna and AM Jamil Hoque Faisal, saying that she was not involved in the murder; rather, she tried to save Rifat. Rifat (25) was hacked to death by a group of youths in front of Barguna Government College in broad daylight on June 26, 2019.

On November 4, 2020, the HC heard the appeal filed by Minni challenging a verdict of Barguna court that sentenced six people – including Minni – to death on September 30, 2020.



Underneath the Moghbazar-Mouchak flyover, the city corporation has set up a “secondary transfer station” for proper waste management. However it has been turned into an office for cleaners where waste collection vans are kept. As a result, garbage is still being dumped beside the station after collecting those from households. The unloading of garbage from vans not only leads to traffic jams, pedestrians also have to deal with a residual odour of rotten items. This photo was taken near the Malibagh Rail Crossing area yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

DSCC to create database for cleaners

Officials say it will prevent loopholes in recruitment

DIPAN NANDY

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) has taken a move to prepare a complete database of regular conservancy workers.

DSCC will provide each of them with an identity card and prepare a database by collecting their NIDs, birth certificates, salary sheets, copies of appointment letters and phone numbers.

Currently, there are 5,500 listed cleaners. The city corporation advertises the vacancies and listed workers contact them for a job.

The age limit for applying for the role of a conservancy worker is 59.

In the existing mechanism, many cleaners get the jobs by using fake identities. Waste collectors, who are older than 59, are also getting the jobs, taking advantage of the loopholes in the recruitment system.

According to officials, around 250 cleaners had already submitted their data. The work to ensure the verification is currently ongoing.

“Due to the loopholes, regular cleaning are facing a multifaceted crisis. Many use other’s identity cards or fake their identities. As a result, new workers not getting jobs,” said Marina Nazneen, DSCC regional executive director for region 1

and 7, also the chair of the committee responsible for creating the database.

Meanwhile, regular cleaners have also welcomed this move.

Robi Pal, a daily-waged conservancy worker in Ward-45 (Gandaria), said, “It is indeed a very good decision. We are suffering a lot due to the lack for a proper identity card. Many of our seniors are



working with juniors’ identity, even after crossing their age limit.”

Rahima Akhtar, another daily-waged worker in Ward-44 (Sutrapur), said, “If it is really done, the scope of mismanagement will stop as currently many sweepers get the jobs by changing the names of their fathers or faking their identities.”