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Don't waste water during Ramadan

Says Wasa MD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Wasa Managing Director Tassem A Khan yesterday suggested all to be rational while using water during the upcoming month of Ramadan.

"Don't waste water during Ramadan," the Wasa MD said at a views-exchange meeting with journalists on the water supply system of Dhaka during Ramadan at Dhaka Wasa conference room.

"If needed, measures will be taken to ensure water supply through rationing," he added.

About the overall preparations for water supply during the Ramadan, Tassem said all the water treatment plants and water pumps of Dhaka Wasa are operating round the clock. During the power outage, the water pumps will run using generators, he added.

As per the special arrangement in Ramadan,

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PHOTO: STAR

Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury being given a portrait of himself by Dhaka University Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury and Samakal Editor Mozammel Hossain at an event yesterday as Samakal Publisher and Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh President AK Azad and Channel 24 Chief Executive Officer Tarun Chakrabarty look on. Bangla daily Samakal and Channel 24 jointly organised the programme -- "Samakal-Channel 24 Gunjan Sammanana 2023" -- at Times Media Bhaban in the capital. At the event, Dr Zafrullah was felicitated for his lifelong contributions to the Liberation War, health sector and social service. Story on Back Page.

ROHINGYA REPATRIATION

It's time to share responsibility

Momen urges OIC members

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has called for OIC member states to share collective responsibility to ensure safe and dignified return of Rohingyas to their homeland.

He made the call during a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held yesterday in the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott, on the margin of the 49th OIC Council of Foreign Ministers.

The meeting of OIC's ad-hoc ministerial committee was on the accountability for human-rights violations against the Rohingyas.

During the meeting, Gambian Foreign Minister Mamadou Tangara updated the status of the Rohingya-genocide case, filed by the Gambia against Myanmar with the International Court of Justice to hold Myanmar accountable.

He also presented the status of the member states' voluntary contribution and summary of the fund required to continue case proceedings.

Momen reiterated the importance of Rohingya repatriation to avoid a transnational socio-economic catastrophe, especially the derailment of thousands of youths' future.

While thanking the Gambia and OIC for their support for legal action, he shed light on the importance of ensuring the momentum to provide justice to Rohingyas.

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THREE YEARS OF COVID-19

Where we stand now and the road ahead

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

When the first casualty of Covid-19 in the country was reported on March 18, 2020, it made headlines in almost all national dailies the next day.

The announcement further escalated the public anxiety that began when the first case of Covid-19 was reported 11 days back -- on March 8. The skyrocketing cases and deaths due to Covid-19 eventually forced the government to impose a series of lockdowns countrywide at different times.

So far, around 20.38 lakh Covid-19 cases were detected and 29,445 lives lost due to the viral disease. Yet Covid-19 has not gone away, with the last death reported on February 13.

"But it no longer causes any panic among people because now we know how to manage Covid-19," Dr Mushtaq Hussain, consultant of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease

Control and Research told The Daily Star.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque claimed multiple times that the government has become successful in tackling the Covid-19 health crisis. "We had been hugely criticised.



But we did not stop working [to prepare the health system to tackle Covid-19]," he said at an event in Dhaka on Tuesday, titled "Health system now better prepared".

In the beginning, there was only one laboratory at the IEDCR that was capable of testing for Covid-19.

There was an outcry for Covid-19 tests across the country, which moved on for the next few months.

By early December 2020, Covid-19 testing was expanded to 137 government laboratories. Private organisations were also approved to set Covid-19 testing laboratories later.

So far, there are 885 Covid-19 testing laboratories in the country, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The government instructed all public hospitals up to the district level to dedicate five beds for Covid-19 patients. With the massive spread of the virus, the hospitals were soon flooded with patients.

Moreover, the shortage of standard personal protective gear like coveralls and masks caused a loss of confidence among the healthcare staffers.

By late 2020, treatment arrangements were expanded up

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1971 WAR

Cultural campaigns deserve more credit

Prof Muntassir Mamoon tells discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the fronts war of the Liberation War holds great significance in the country's history, the cultural campaigns and activities abroad that were undertaken to support the cause did not receive the attention they deserved, said noted historian Prof Muntassir Mamoon.

Mentioning the role of Bangladesh Mukti Sangrami Artists Association, Muntassir, also the Bangabandhu Professor at Chittagong University, cited examples such as Tareque Masud's "Muktir Gaan" and Shahriar Kabir's "Muktijuddher Gan"

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Dhaka air remains 'unhealthy'

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka's air quality continued to be in the "unhealthy" zone yesterday.

With an air quality index (AQI) score of 158 at 9:03am, Dhaka ranked seventh in the list of cities worldwide with the worst air quality.

An AQI between 101 and 200 is considered "unhealthy", particularly for sensitive groups.

Iraq's Baghdad, Myanmar's Yangon and India's Kolkata occupied the first three spots in the list, with AQI scores of 185, 163 and 162, respectively.

A score between 201 and 300 is said to be "very unhealthy", while a reading of 301 to 400 is considered "hazardous", posing serious health risks to residents.

In Bangladesh, the AQI is based on five criteria pollutants -- particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), nitrogen dioxide

(NO2), carbon monoxide (CO), sulphur dioxide (SO2) and ozone.

Dhaka has long been grappling with air-pollution issues. Its air quality usually turns unhealthy in winter and improves during the monsoon.

Air pollution consistently ranks among the top risk factors for death and disability worldwide. Breathing polluted air has long been recognised as increasing a person's chances of developing a heart disease, chronic respiratory diseases, lung infections and cancer, according to several studies.

As per the World Health Organization (WHO), air pollution kills an estimated seven million people worldwide every year, largely as a result of increased mortality from stroke, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer and acute respiratory infections.



The Gems of Nazrul arranged a listening session for Nazrul Sangeet admirers at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The programme, titled "Bone Bone Dola Lage" featured musical performances, discussions and refreshments. The event featured Sumon Chowdhury and Prof Asit Roy, who performed and held discussions on related events. The event was moderated by founder of Gems of Nazrul, eminent Nazrul Sangeet exponent Sadya Afreen Mallick.

PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka univ registered graduate polls end

DU CORRESPONDENT

The fourth phase of election to choose 25 registered graduate representatives for Dhaka University senate ended yesterday.

The election started at four voting centres -- Senate Building, DU Teacher's Club, Teacher Student Centre (TSC) and Gymnasium -- around 9:00am. The results will be published today.

Only two pro-Awami League panel candidates are competing in this election -- Democratic Alliance Council [Gonotantir Oikya Parishad] and Team Aparajeyo.

Pro-BNP-Jamaat panel boycotted the election.


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PRAYER TIMING
MARCH 19

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:00	12:45	4:30	6:14	7:45
JAMAAT 5:35	1:15	4:45	6:18	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION



This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of Bank Asia Limited in its 491st meeting held today, the 18 March 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at the Board Room of the Bank at Bank Asia Tower, 32 & 34 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, has approved the Audited Financial Statements of the Bank for the year ended on 31 December 2022, and took the following decisions:

i)	Proposed Dividend for the Year Ended on 31 December 2022	15% Cash Dividend			
ii)	24 th Annual General Meeting (AGM)	Date :	30 April (Sunday) 2023		
		Time :	11:00 a.m.		
		Venue :	Through Digital Platform (link will be communicated in due course)		
iii)	Record date	06 April (Thursday) 2023			
	Particulars	Solo		Consolidated	
		2022 (Taka)	2021 (Taka)	2022 (Taka)	2021 (Taka)
iv)	Net Asset Value (NAV) (Million Taka)	28,640.25	27,356.64	28,463.84	27,203.75
v)	NAV per Share	24.56	23.46	24.41	23.33
vi)	Earnings per Share (EPS)	2.61	2.32	2.62	2.34
vii)	Net Operating Cash Flow per Share (NOCFPS)	14.22	14.72	13.82	15.23

The Shareholders whose names will appear in the Share Register of the Company on the Record Date will be entitled to attend and vote at the 24th AGM and to the dividend declared in the same.

Dated: Dhaka
18 March 2023

Corporate Office
Bank Asia Tower
32 & 34, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215

