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The rail tracks in Malibagh Railgate area have been transformed into a kitchen market with numerous makeshift shops being set up on its one side illegally. The tracks are also clogged with rubbish from the shops, making it more dangerous for trains to cross. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Steps taken to keep Dhaka clean this Eid

### Two city corporations to deploy over 21,000 cleaners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two Dhaka city corporations will be deploying 21,000 sanitation workers to ensure that waste generated from sacrificial animals is cleaned promptly on Eid day.

The north and south city corporations also came up with plans for the cleaning process.

About 10,000 employees of Dhaka South City Corporation will be working to ensure roads are clean during Eid.

In addition to DSCC's garbage vehicles, another 350 cars have been sourced for different government companies, including Rajuk, and Wasa for the cleaning operations.

The corporation also looks to distribute around 1,20,000 eco-friendly jute bags, disinfectants and bleaching powder among people to help clean the city faster. Water trucks will go to the city's several sacrificial sites to wash the places thoroughly after the garbage is collected and disposed of in a planned manner.

"We will start collecting the waste from 2:00pm on Eid day and hopefully will be done in the next 24 hours," said Iftikher Ahmed Chowdhury, chief waste management officer of DSCC.

Meanwhile, Dhaka North City

Corporation's 11,000 workers will carry out the same works in parts of the city that are under their jurisdiction. Around 550 vehicles, including DNCC's 204 pickups, 150 heavy vehicles and 10 water vans, will be employed to work on Eid day.

"Around 10,000 workers will be employed to do the job," said SM Sharif-Ul-Islam, chief waste management officer of DNCC.

Revealing his new plan to ensure quick disposal of waste during this Eid, DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam said, "It used to take us around 48 hours to clean the sacrificial animal waste when I first joined office as the mayor. The time was halved the following year. It took us around 12 hours last year. However, we are aiming to wrap-up the cleaning operations within eight hours this time."

Mentioning that the Eid-leaves of all DNCC employees were cancelled, the mayor also said that they have formed supervisory teams and committees for proper waste management. The corporation will also distribute around 9,00,000 biodegradable poly bags.

"People have to collect the waste in these bags and we will collect the bags from them and dispose them of in a proper manner," he added.

## 'We need basin-based water management'

### Say speakers on Ganges treaty at Asif Nazrul's book launching event



PHOTO: STAR

Speakers at the book launching event at UPL head office yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh should shift from the "water-sharing" concept to basin-based water management of transboundary rivers in its negotiation with India, Asif Nazrul, professor of Law Department at Dhaka University, said yesterday.

He came up with the suggestion during the launch of his book titled "Sharing Ganges Water Indo-Bangladesh Treaties and International Law" at the UPL head office. Basin-based water management for transboundary rivers is an approach that focuses on the entire river basin as a unit of management, rather than dividing the water solely based on international boundaries. A river basin refers to the area of land from which water drains into a specific river or river system.

By focusing on the entire basin rather than individual territories, this approach encourages cooperation, dialogue, and joint decision-making

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## Form committees, hold councils

### AL leaders strategise ahead of national polls

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Failure to hold timely councils for many of the party's district units and complexities over announcing full-fledged committees even after holding councils, dominated the discussion at a meeting of Awami League secretaries yesterday, said sources.

One of the joint general secretaries of the party pointed out the issue at the meeting, presided over by AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader, held at party president's Dhanmondi office.

The leader alleged that several districts had not conducted councils, while in others where councils were held, the formation of full-fledged committees faced delays for various reasons.

According to meeting sources, several factors, including infighting at the grassroots, conflicts over party positions, instances of nepotism, and the prevalence of loyalty towards specific leaders were identified as reasons for the stagnation in committee formations within the Awami League.

The leaders recognised the importance of addressing these issues promptly, particularly in light of the upcoming national election.

Meanwhile, dissatisfaction was expressed by some leaders regarding the delay in forming district committees, as the party's charter

mandates the formation of full committees within 45 days of holding councils in districts.

Meeting insiders revealed that out of the 26 district units discussed, nine districts had not conducted councils even though their committees' three-year tenure had already expired.

Additionally, in 17 other districts, councils had taken place around nine to 10 months ago,

**Several factors, including infighting at the grassroots, conflicts over party positions, instances of nepotism, and the prevalence of loyalty towards specific leaders were identified as reasons for the stagnation in committee formations within the Awami League.**

but full committees had not been formed yet.

The districts included Tangail, Madaripur, Munshiganj, Kishoreganj, Shariatpur, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Jamalpur, Netrakona, Mymensingh, Sherpur, Chittagong South, Cox's Bazar, Manikganj, Chuadanga, Barisal, Barguna, Moulvibazar, Narayanganj

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## President seeks EC support for free, fair polls



PHOTO: PID

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Md Shahabuddin yesterday urged political parties and candidates to come forward, along with the Election Commission, to make elections fair and participatory.

Shahabuddin said this when a delegation of the EC, led by Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal, paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban, said the president's Press Secretary Joyal Abedin.

The president said as elections are very important for the democratic process, all support, including law and order, will be extended to ensure a peaceful environment in the interest of a fair election.

Necessary steps should be taken to make the election fair and participatory by identifying the risks before election day, he said.

He hoped that the current EC will be able to conduct all the elections in a fair and beautiful

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## JSD gets registered as political party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has registered Bangladesh Jasad as a political party following an order of the High Court.

The party's electoral symbol will be "car", EC joint secretary Abdul Baten said yesterday.

A party must be registered with the EC to take part in polls. The EC has been providing registration to political parties since 2008 in line with the Representation of the People Order, 1972.

The number of registered political parties is now 42. Since 2008, a total of 47 political parties have got registration while that of five parties was cancelled.

## Migrant workers deserve better

### Says chief of JS body on expatriates ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Expatriates' Welfare Ministry Anisul Islam Mahmud yesterday said the country's non-government organisations are working as the voice of migrant workers but it's a "very weak voice".

"They [the NGOs] are also helpless," he said.

If the NGOs want to get something for the migrant workers, then the best they can do is raise the issue before bodies like the Bangladesh Parliamentarians' Caucus on Migration and Development (BPCMD) or the expatriates' welfare ministry.

The government has been working for the migrant workers but in a very limited way, he added.

He was addressing a seminar on "Migrant Workers' Access to Justice: Challenges and Way Forward" organised by BPCMD and Warbe Development Foundation at the Parliament Members' Club on the Jatiya Sangsad premises in the capital.

Addressing the event as chief guest, the Jatiya Party lawmaker said if something is really to be achieved for migrant workers then the caucus has to play a vital

**If something is really to be achieved for migrant workers then the caucus has to play a vital role, moving forward along with the NGOs.**

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With rickshaw-vans occupying most of this footpath on Kazi Nazrul Avenue, commuters are forced to walk across the narrow space left for them. This photo was taken yesterday in Karwan Bazar area.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ