



## Adviser Asif Mahmud vows to restore image of Dhaka WASA

Local Government Adviser Asif Mahmud Sajib Bhuiyan has pledged to overhaul the tarnished reputation of the Dhaka WASA and make it a corruption-free institution.

“If you suspect that any official or responsible person is involved in corruption, inform us, and we will take immediate action. A monitoring cell has been set up at the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives where you can lodge complaints,” Mr. Asif said while speaking at a meeting with Dhaka WASA employees on 4 December 2024 at its headquarters in Kawran Bazar, Dhaka. He also emphasised his determination to shift the narrative surrounding the organisation from one of corruption to one of efficiency and transparency.

He urged the staff to move forward from past challenges and work together towards a brighter future, embracing a proactive approach to positive change and reform.

The adviser’s commitment comes amid longstanding public grievances about Dhaka WASA, including corruption scandals and inadequate water supply. Addressing the latter, he highlighted the looming

challenge of the dry season. “People in the city suffer to get water. The dry season is approaching, and water scarcity will become an even greater issue. Meeting the demand for water during this period will be a significant challenge for us. The responsibility of ensuring safe drinking water for city residents lies with Dhaka WASA. From now on, work to ensure the best service for the residents,” he said.

Dhaka WASA Managing Director Md. Fazlur Rahman, who chaired the meeting, echoed the adviser’s sentiments, emphasising unity and progress, saying, “Dhaka Wasa must move forward; there is no room for regression. Although we have faced conspiracies in the past and continue to do so, we must overcome all challenges and advance”. He likened the organisation to a family, stating, “Dhaka WASA is a family, and we are all its members. If even one or two out of eleven players perform poorly, the team fails. Every player must perform well.”

Rahman also provided an overview of WASA’s operations, remarking that its water supply network

spans 401 square kilometres, supported by a 4,918-kilometer transmission and distribution system. It manages 400,100 residential and commercial connections, with a daily water demand of 2.6-2.65 billion litres. Five treatment plants supply 900 million litres daily, while 1,061 pumping stations, including 1,203 tube wells, contribute an additional 1.7 billion litres.

Adviser Asif Mahmud stressed the need for accountability, asserting that irregularities within WASA often involve complicity between officials and contractors. “Contractors cannot engage in corruption without the involvement of officials.

Therefore, WASA must become fair. We want to accomplish this task while we are in office,” he said.

The meeting also saw calls for cultural change, with Asif urging an end to the practice of displaying photographs of advisers and ministers on office walls, signaling a break from outdated traditions. With over 5,000 employees, Dhaka WASA faces significant challenges, but both Adviser Asif and MD Rahman expressed confidence in transforming it into a model institution through collective effort and integrity.

Local Government Division Secretary Nazrul Islam also spoke at the meeting.

## Dhaka WASA MD inspects progress of Gandharbpur Water Treatment Plant



Md Fazlur Rahman, Managing Director of Dhaka WASA, visited the Gandharbpur Water Treatment Plant project on Saturday, October 19, 2024, to assess its progress. The project, located at Bishnandi Point in Araihasar upazila of Narayanganj, is a key initiative under the Dhaka Environmentally Sustainable Water Supply Project, which aims to ensure a reliable and sustainable water supply for the capital.

During the visit, Fazlur Rahman examined critical infrastructure, including the intake point and transmission lines, and evaluated the project’s progress. “I’m optimistic that we’ll meet our timeline and bring this vital water

supply solution to Dhaka residents as planned,” he stated. Project Director Wahidul Islam Murad briefed the Managing Director, highlighting the plant’s capacity to produce 500 million litres daily and the construction of approximately 36 kilometres of transmission lines.

The Gandharbpur Water Treatment Plant will have a production capacity of 500 million litres per day, significantly improving water distribution in Dhaka. The project includes a 36-kilometer transmission pipeline and a 25-kilometer distribution network, ensuring supply to key areas such as Baridhara, Rampura, Airport Road, Uttara, Gulshan, Banani, and Kachukhet.

Dhaka’s daily water demand currently stands at 2.6 billion litres, with 35% met by existing surface water treatment plants and the remaining 65% sourced from groundwater. The completion of this project will help shift Dhaka WASA’s water supply strategy to a more sustainable model, with 70% coming from surface water and 30% from groundwater. “This initiative aligns with our long-term vision for an environment-friendly, people-centric water management system,” Mr. Rahman added.

Water will be drawn from the Meghna River at Bishnandi Point, purified at the Gandharbpur plant in Rugganj, and then supplied to

various parts of Dhaka North through a newly developed pipeline network. The project is expected to be fully operational by June 2025.

“Once completed, this project will not only enhance water security for millions but also contribute to the city’s sustainability goals,” Mr. Rahman emphasised.

It is noteworthy that the government undertook this initiative to ensure a safe water supply for all residents of the capital; this initiative will help to achieve Sustainable Development Goal#6.1 : safe and affordable drinking water for all



**DSIP MoU signing marks new era**

Dhaka WASA and Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to streamline road-cutting approvals for the Dhaka Sanitation Improvement Project (DSIP). The signing took place on November 27, 2024, at the Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives (LGRD) Ministry Office, attended by key officials, including DNCC CEO Mir Khairul Alam, LGRD Secretary Md. Nazrul Islam, and Dhaka WASA Managing Director Md. Fazlur Rahman.

The MoU facilitates road excavation for constructing and reconstructing sewer trunk mains and lines across Madhubag, Mahanagar Housing, Rampura, Moghbazar, Nayatola, and nearby areas, covering

approximately 76.48 kilometers. It aims to enhance environmental conservation and ensure safer sanitation. The agreement prioritizes a streamlined approval process, timely road reinstatement, and compliance with safety and environmental standards.

Under the terms, Dhaka WASA will construct 1.5 kilometres of sewer trunk mains from Madhubag to Sipahibag Bazar using open excavation and micro-tunneling. DNCC is to transfer the necessary roads within 15 working days for at least three months, appointing a focal person for coordination. Dhaka WASA is responsible for maintaining drainage, repairing roads per DNCC standards, and managing traffic and environmental

impacts. Collaboration with utility agencies and Dhaka Metropolitan Police will minimize disruptions.

“This partnership underscores our commitment to Dhaka’s sanitation infrastructure,” said Mir Khairul Alam. Md. Fazlur Rahman emphasized WASA’s focus on public safety. The MoU aligns with the Dhaka Metropolitan Road Excavation Policy-2019, designating DSIP as a specialized project with flexible excavation timelines. DNCC and WASA will work collaboratively to minimize public inconvenience, holding regular coordination meetings.

This MoU marks a significant milestone in urban infrastructure, promising improved sanitation services for millions of Dhaka residents.



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## Dhaka WASA MD leads site visits to boost sanitation and water infrastructure



Dhaka WASA Managing Director, Md Fazlur Rahman, along with Project Director Mr. Mohammad Salim Mia, Secretary, DWASA Md. Mashiur Rahman Khan, Chief Engineer Mustafizur Rahman, and Executive Engineer Mirza Golam Kibria (Water and sewage treatment plant circle), visited the Dhaka Sanitation Improvement Project (DSIP) plant at Pagla on December 21, 2024. During the visit, the MD observed the entire treatment plant system, reviewed ongoing construction work, and discussed key operational challenges with the project team.

Dhaka WASA Managing Director has been spearheading efforts to enhance the city's sanitation and water treatment systems through a series of site visits in late 2024. Joined by key officials, including Project Director, DWASA Secretary, Chief Engineer, and Executive Engineer, the MD inspected the DSIP Plant at Pagla on December 21, 2024. He reviewed the treatment plant's operations, discussed ongoing challenges, and assessed the construction progress.

“Our goal is to ensure sustainable and efficient systems that meet the growing needs of Dhaka's residents,” said Md Fazlur Rahman during the DSIP at Pagla visit, emphasising the importance of addressing operational hurdles head-on.

Before this visit, Md Fazlur Rahman also inspected several other major water and sanitation facilities in recent months. On November 23, 2024, he visited the Padma Water Treatment Plant, where he examined the Intake and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems, discussing existing challenges and operational improvements.

Additionally, on October 26, 2024, the MD visited the Dasherbandi Sewage Treatment Plant, accompanied by Deputy Managing Director (O&M) Mr. AKM Shahiduddin. During this visit, they assessed the intake systems and SCADA operations, ensuring the efficiency of the plant's functionality. Furthermore, on December 11, 2024, the MD visited the Saidabad Water Treatment Plant as part of his ongoing commitment to

overseeing and enhancing Dhaka's water and sanitation infrastructure.

Commenting on the importance of these visits, Dhaka WASA MD stated, “Ensuring the smooth operation of our water and sanitation facilities is crucial to providing safe and reliable services to the residents of Dhaka. These visits allow us to identify challenges, streamline operations, and work towards sustainable solutions for the city's growing needs.”

The continuous monitoring and evaluation of these key projects underscore Dhaka WASA's dedication to improving water supply and sanitation services for the city's residents.

These visits also reflect Dhaka WASA's proactive approach to tackling infrastructure bottlenecks, ensuring the city's water and sanitation networks keep pace with demand. With each stop, Md Fazlur Rahman and his team are laying the groundwork for a cleaner, more resilient Dhaka.