

# Air quality index in city soon

BSS, Dhaka

All preparations are set to launch an Air Quality Index (AQI) for Dhaka city to inform the people about air quality conditions and promote public awareness as well as action to reduce emissions.

Disclosing it to the newsmen at a media workshop here yesterday, Director General of the Department of Environment (DOE) Dr Omar Faruque Khan said DOE was now planning release of AQI thrice a week in cooperation with Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

"AQI will give complex information about the air pollution level and quality of air in a simple way that people can easily understand," he said expressing his firm optimism that the introduction of AQI would greatly help improve air quality management in the capital city of Bangladesh.

He said the air quality level of Dhaka city has already improved by 27 per cent to 40 per cent over the last six months due to several important measures undertaken by the present government.

The workshop was jointly organised by DOE and Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) at the DOE conference room. Journalists representing print and electronic media took part in the workshop.

"The purpose of AQI is to inform the people how clean or polluted air they are breathing in comparison to health based objectives. It is to advise the people about the general health effects associated with different pollution level," Dr Faruque said while spelling out the rationale of AQI.

He said, air quality index is now routinely released in many countries. The AQI scale runs from 0 to 500. If the AQI value for a particular area on a particular day is higher, it means air pollution level is higher and higher the health concern.

"We are dividing the AQI scale into four categories -- green, orange, red and purple and each category has a description of the level of health concern like good, unhealthy, very unhealthy and extremely unhealthy," said DOE

Director Reazuddin. Chairman of FEJB Quamrul Islam Chowdhury suggested introduction of the air quality index in a very simple, easy and reader-friendly way so that newspapers, radio and television channels can use it easily to help disseminate public information for improving the country's air quality management.

## Clinic Plus- Prothom Alo inter-school debate begins on July 26

CU CORRESPONDENT

The 'Clinic Plus- Prothom Alo' inter-school parliamentary debate competition begins in the port city on July 26.

'Dristi', a local cultural organisation, organises the competition. A total of 16 educational institutions of Chittagong will take part in the competition.

A meeting of moderators and team leaders of the participating schools will be held at the Gems English Medium School at Jubilee Road in the city today to have a formal exchange of views.

Hasina Zakaria Soma, 'Dristi' president and principal of Gems English Medium School, will preside over the meeting.

## MIU observes Siratunnabi

Manarat International University (MIU) held a discussion in observance of holy Siratunnabi on July 14, says a press release.

Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan, state minister for religious affairs, attended the discussion as chief guest.

Syed Ashraf Ali, director general of Islamic Foundation, was the main discussant.

Ismail Hussain, vice-chancellor, presided over the function while Abul Bashir Khan, registrar, delivered the welcome speech.

The programme began with a recitation from the holy Quran.

Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan advised the students to follow the teachings of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Sm) to groom them up as ideal citizens of the country.

Syed Ashraf Ali told the students to be imbued with the ideals of the holy prophet while contributing to the development of the country.

Ismail Hussain asked the students to follow the moral teachings of the holy prophet to become honest and worthy citizens.

Later, the state minister distributed prizes among the winners of different competitions arranged on this occasion.

Al Emran, a lecturer of the university, conducted the programme.



LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan speaks at a briefing session on the National Sanitation Campaign in the city yesterday.

# Political parties to be involved in sanitation campaign

BSS, Dhaka

All political parties would be asked to join the government drive for bringing the entire nation under hundred per cent sanitation coverage by 2010, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said.

"Although the government has targeted to bring all under the sanitation coverage by 2010, but it could be achieved far ahead of the deadline if all political parties are integrated to it," he said at a meeting yesterday at the LGED Bhaban.

The government with backing

from NGOs and public representatives has launched a nationwide sanitation campaign to ensure hygienic latrines for all within the year 2010.

Bangladesh was listed third among SAARC countries in terms of people having sanitation facilities, sources said. Mannan Bhuiyan said letters would be sent to all political parties requesting them to extend full cooperation to the sanitation campaign, which would save lives of hundreds of children, who die of diarrhoea and dysentery.

He said, letters would also be

sent to the chiefs of police, BDR, Ansar and armed forces as well as civil administrations soon to ask their men to set up hygienic latrines at their village homes.

Chaired by Dhaka Divisional Commissioner A H M Abdul Quasem, the function was addressed by State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Ziaul Haq Zia, Local Govt Division Secretary A Y B I Siddiqui, LGED Chief Engineer Shahidul Hassan, Chief Engineer of DPHE Farid Uddin Ahmed, UNICEF representative Shafiqul Islam and Plan Bangladesh representative Dibalok Singha.

## Painting competition

# Working children show creativity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The underprivileged children can also realise their potential to contribute and participate in the social, economic and cultural life if they are provided with the support they need.

This was demonstrated at a painting competition yesterday for the children engaged in worst form of child labour in urban informal sector.

The children showed their creativity through painting works and walked off with prizes.

Held at the National Press Club, the painting competition on 'Worst form of child labour' was organised by the Prevention and Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, a project of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) - the International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).

About 50 working children, selected from 3,000 students of Multi-Purpose Centres under the project, took part in the competition. The selection was made through a competitive process.

The contestants were divided

into two groups. Children aged between 8 and 12 were placed in 'Group A' while children aged between 12 and 15 in 'Group B'.

Three contestants from each group were awarded first, second and third prizes and the rest received special prizes.

The Group A first prize winner did a painting of a boy working at a mechanical workshop while the Group B first prize winner depicted the plight of a child at a battery factory.

Artists Kanak Channa Chakma and Khaled Mahmud Mithu were the judges of the competition.

A cultural function was also held where the children performed song and dance and staged drama.

Ronald Berghuys, chief technical advisor to the project, Mahbubul Haq, deputy director (programme) of UCEP, Asaduzzaman, director (programme) of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, and Sharfuddin Khan, coordinator, Advocacy and Awareness Raising of ILO-IPEC, attended the function.

# One electrocuted in port city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

One person was killed and two others were injured by electrocution at a steel mill at Kalarpole under Patiya thana of the district yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Akhtar Hossain, 35. The injured were Moktar Hossain, 27, and Shahidul Islam, 20.

They were reportedly the workers of S Alam Steel Mill situated on the other bank of the river Karnaphuli.

Sources said the victims were working in the mill when they were electrocuted at around 9.00am.

They were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared Akhtar dead. The other two were undergoing treatment at the hospital.

All the victims hailed from Bamorigam of Madhupur upazila in Tangail district.

When contacted, S Alam Steel Mill authorities denied the occurrence of any accident or death in the mill.

Police however confirmed the death of Akhtar Hossain by electrocution, but expressed ignorance about the injured persons. A UD case was filed with Patiya thana in this connection.

# 'Develop human resources to face globalisation'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Development of human resources, strong social safety net and rapid growth in the technology sector could only protect a small state from the adverse impact of globalisation, speakers said at discussion.

They also underscored the need for strengthening the intrastate management to derive maximum benefit from globalisation.

The Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) organised the discussion on Wednesday with economist Prof. Muzaffer Ahmed in the chair.

Presenting the keynote paper on 'Economic Globalisation and Regional Security in South Asia: The Small States in Perspective', Dr Mirza Azizul Islam, consultant of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said economic policy, not the small size, makes a country vulnerable.

Referring to the success of globalisation, he laid emphasis on macro-economic management, financial sector supervision, adaptation of technologies, domestic governance and global negotiations.

He also suggested setting up a 'social fund' to deal with the emergency situations.



State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan gave away prizes among the winners of different competitions arranged on the occasion of Siratunnabi. Manarat International University organised the prize giving ceremony recently.

# Resignation of shipping minister demanded

CU CORRESPONDENT

Bangabandhu Juba Parishad held a rally on the Central Shaheed Minar premises in Chittagong yesterday demanding immediate resignation of Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain for his failure to ensure safety for the launch passengers.

The Parishad leaders said the shipping minister has totally failed to provide safety measures for hundreds of people using water transports daily.

He has no moral right to hold his portfolio after the Meghna launch

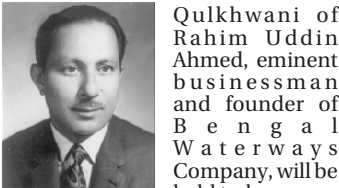
disaster that caused deaths of hundreds of passengers, they said.

The leaders also demanded immediate action against those responsible for the tragedy.

Parishad Convenor Moshir Rahman presided over the rally. Awami League leader Advocate Sheikh Iftekhar Naimul Chowdhury was present as chief guest.

Abdul Quayum, Khandakar Mintu, Shimul Prasad Chowdhury, Rajib Roy, Gias Uddin and Yahia Rana also spoke.

## Qulkhwani



A milad mahfil will be held at his family residence at House-18/C, Road- 32 (old), Dhanmondi after Maghrib prayers.

Rahim Uddin Ahmed died on July 16 at the age of 72.

## Reunion

CU CORRESPONDENT

The students of 1973 batch of sociology department of Chittagong University (CU) will hold a reunion on December 25.

A preparatory meeting for the reunion fixed the date at a meeting held in Chittagong recently.

Interested students have been requested to contact Prof. Dr Gazi Saleh Uddin of the sociology department for details.

Md Momtazul Haque presided over the meeting.



Rexona Deodorant held an award giving ceremony of its promotional campaign Rexona Confidence Check at Meena Bazar in Dhanmondi recently. Mahfuzur Rahman of Rampura won the first prize -- a Samsung air conditioner. From Lever Brothers Bangladesh Limited, Mizanur Rahman, trade marketing manager, Partha Salahuddin, senior brand manager & consultant for Meena Bazar, and Kazi Jamil Islam were present.

## WEATHER TODAY

### Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Barisal, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and one or two places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions till 6pm today.

Met Office said day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 24.8 degree at Rangamati.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:48pm today and rises at 5:21am tomorrow.**

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in	
	in Celsius		percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.8	27.0	69	65
Chittagong	34.0	26.5	69	69
Rajshahi	34.3	26.1	81	70
Khulna	34.0	27.0	72	75
Barisal	33.5	26.0	86	84
Sylhet	33.1	25.4	81	67
Cox's Bazar	33.0	26.0	72	72

Environment Minister Shahjahan Siraj distributes saplings at the BATB's free sapling distribution programme yesterday.

