

Dhaka rated 2nd least liveable city

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the 2013 Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Global Livability Survey.
The top cities and indeed much of the rankings remained similar to last year, with Australian and New Zealand cities landing five of the top 10 spots. Canadian cities made up another three of the top 10 positions.
Elsewhere in the EIU rankings, 28 cities saw changes in their rankings with negative livability changes driven by "civil unrest, with the Arab Spring, European austerity and Chinese discontent all contributing," according to the EIU report.
Vienna came a close second while Canadian cities Vancouver and Toronto stayed at third and fourth; Calgary tied with Adelaide for fifth place.
The top spots are mostly

"mid-sized cities in wealthier countries with a relatively low population density," said the EIU.
At the bottom of the list, due to ongoing civil conflict in Syria is Damascus -- dropping 10 rankings.
Tehran, Douala (Cameroun), Tripoli, Karachi, Algiers, Harare, Lagos, Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea), Dhaka (Bangladesh) and Damascus (are at the bottom of the list with conflict responsible for many of the lowest scores, the report stated.
A total of 140 cities were surveyed under five categories: stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education and infrastructure. Scores in each category and sub-category are compiled and weighted to give a total out of 100. 100 is considered ideal and 1 intolerable.

5 MOST LIVEABLE CITIES		
COUNTRY	CITY	RANK
Australia	Melbourne	1
Austria	Vienna	2
Canada	Vancouver	3
Canada	Toronto	4
Canada	Calgary	5

5 LEAST LIVEABLE CITIES		
COUNTRY	CITY	RANK
Zimbabwe	Harare	136
Nigeria	Lagos	137
PNG	Port Moresby	137
Bangladesh	Dhaka	139
Syria	Damascus	140

Keep Grameen Bank as it is

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the microfinance bank to at least 51 percent. With the majority share, the government would have had the controlling authority over GB.
After paying off its due in June against its share in the paid-up capital, the government now owns 25 percent shares while the remaining 75 percent are owned by GB's 84 lakh borrower-shareholders.
The government should stop Grameen Bank from continuing with the privilege of taking deposits from people, who were not its member borrowers. If needed, the government would fund the microcredit organisation as it is a statutory body, the report said.
GB is the only microfinance organisation that enjoys this facility in

the country and that helps it finance 100 percent of its outstanding loans.
It has about Tk 8,000 crore in deposits with more than 55 percent coming from its member borrowers.
Ajmalul in his report said the current ordinance did not clearly define shareholders.
He earlier told The Daily Star that the 1983 ordinance did not allow GB to have more than 5.4 lakh shareholders but the microcredit bank now had a much higher number of shareholders.
This matter should be resolved through a new law, the report says. It adds that the previous governments and government-appointed directors failed to monitor GB's activities properly.
Ajmalul also recommended bringing GB under

the central bank, as neither Bangladesh Bank nor the Microcredit Regulatory Authority nor NGO Affairs Bureau controls it now.
Besides, a set of rules should be formulated for electing nine directors of the GB Board from its borrower-directors, he said.
A two-member government committee has already submitted a draft, outlining the rules of election, to the finance ministry.
The ministry now awaits an opinion from the chairman of Grameen Bank before approving the draft, said a ministry official.
Ajmalul's report also explains the limitations the commission faced in preparing its final report. The GB commission took more than 15 months to complete the report whereas it had

been given only three months.
The finance ministry has contacted the commission's chairman after Ajmalul alone submitted his report.
Chairman Mamun Ur Rashid, who is now in Nepal, said the report submitted by Ajmalul was not a full report.
The full report will be submitted early next month, a ministry official quoted him as saying.
Ajmalul also recommended legalising all the irregularities centring the GB's associated organisations which were set up by Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus.
The recommendations of the two other members of the commission could not be known.

Lasers for controlling

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laser pulses can be used to generate changes in the atmosphere that influence the weather.
Their experiments have shown that intense pulses of light can cause ice to form and water to condense, leading to the formation of clouds.
The scientists have now begun testing their equipment outside for the first time with

extremely short pulses of laser light were fired into the sky.
Researchers have also proved that lightning discharges can be triggered and channelled through the air using laser pulses.
They hope the technology could allow lightning during thunderstorms to be guided away from sensitive buildings such as power plants or airports.

It could also be used to manipulate the weather by creating clouds and triggering rainfall ahead of major public events.
Prof Jean-Pierre Wolf and Dr Jerome Kasparian, both biophotonics experts at the University of Geneva, have now organised a conference at the WMO next month in an attempt to find ways of speeding up

research on the topic.
They said: "Ultra-short lasers launched into the atmosphere have emerged as a promising prospective tool for weather modulation and climate studies.
"Such prospects include lightning control and laser-assisted condensation."
There is a long history of attempts by scientists to control the weather, includ-

ing using techniques such as cloud seeding.
This involves spraying small particles and chemicals into the air to induce water vapour to condense into clouds.
However, Prof Wolf, Dr Kasparian and their colleagues believe that lasers could provide an easier and more controllable method of changing the weather.

Polls in January?

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political parties over the polls-time government and create a congenial environment.
Besides, if the election is held between October and January as per the constitution, the government will have less time to settle some burning issues, argue the leaders.
According to them, if the election is held after January 25, the government will be able to implement some important development projects and execute a few verdicts of war crimes trial which will give AL a positive image ahead of the election.
Seeking anonymity, one of the leaders of this section told The Daily Star that if the election is delayed there might emerge a scope for finding a solution over the polls-time government with the main opposition BNP.
Contacted, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, however, said no such discussion had taken place in the party and neither the prime minister nor the party general secretary had made any remarks in this regard.
"If anyone has said this, it

is his or her observation," she said.
Echoing Matia, AL president member Nooh-ul-Alam Lenin said there was no scope for holding the election after January without amending the constitution.
He said they had no plan to bring changes in the constitution.
The leaders who are advocating for the idea include presidium members, advisory council members, departmental secretaries and lawmakers.
Divided into several groups these leaders are trying to convince top policymakers, leaders and lawmakers who either have influence on party politics or are close to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, according to AL insiders.
One of the AL policymakers said he had been approached by a group of leaders with the idea. Preferring not to be quoted, the leader told The Daily Star that he was not convinced.
"I think if the prime minister accepts the idea, it will fetch nothing but negative results," observed the AL

leader.
Jatiya Party policymaker Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu said if the election was delayed by three months the lawmakers would not remain in office.
"Thus a congenial environment will be created which the major political parties may accept," he told The Daily Star.

No response from Facebook

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38,000 Facebook users for the same period, according to its Global Government Requests Report.
The tech firm admitted partially complying with at least 80 percent of those requests.
Reuters reports: The study follows allegations by former US intelligence contractor Edward Snowden that practically every major Internet company, including the Facebook, Google Inc and Microsoft Corp, routinely hands over troves of data on potentially millions of users to national intelligence agencies.

Facebook, which has over one billion users worldwide, said the vast majority of the government requests made to it and many other companies seeking account information in official investigations relate to criminal cases, such as robberies or kidnappings.
In many of these cases, the requests seek basic subscriber information, such as name and length of service, while other requests may also seek internet protocol (IP) address logs or actual account content.
The report includes both criminal and national security requests.

The US law enforcement authorities were by far the most active in mining Facebook, seeking information on about 20,000 to 21,000 users between January and June this year, a slight rise from the corresponding period last year, when the US agencies had requested information on roughly 18,000 to 19,000 Facebook accounts, according to figures from the company.
Authorities in other countries with large Facebook user bases, including India, the UK and Germany, had also requested information on thousands of users.

Facebook said it individually scrutinised every information request and required governments to meet a "very high legal bar" to receive user data.
Although the full scope of the National Security Agency's electronic data collection programmes remains unclear, Facebook has vigorously contested claims that it allows the US government unfettered access to secretly gather information on a significant fraction of its users.
In the report, Facebook General Counsel Colin Stretch said it hoped to contribute to the "ongoing

debate about the proper standards for government requests for user information in official investigations."
"We fight many of these requests, pushing back when we find legal deficiencies and narrowing the scope of overly broad or vague requests," he noted.
The company in June had negotiated with the US government to begin publishing the total number of data requests it receives without specifying how many are related to law enforcement investigations as opposed to intelligence-gathering efforts.

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S. Korea jet trainer crashes, killing two pilots

AFP, Seoul
Two pilots were killed Wednesday when a South Korean air force jet trainer crashed near the southwestern city of Gwangju, the defence ministry said.
Investigations were underway to determine the cause of the crash of the T-50 aircraft, a spokesman said.
It was the second crash in less than a year involving T-50, South Korea's first indigenous supersonic aircraft jointly developed by Korea Aerospace Industries and Lockheed Martin.

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It's a drama

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three instalments around Tk 21 crore that Koko and his associates had siphoned off to Singapore.
The ACC received Tk 7.40 crore, the last instalment, on August 13, Attorney General Mahubey Alam told reporters after handing over the cheque for the amount at the multi-agency training programme on asset recovery.
At the programme on

Tuesday, representative from Singapore's attorney general's office Paul Chia presented a case study on how the laundered money had been sent back to Bangladesh.
Koko had received the money as bribe for securing contracts for China Harbour Engineering Co and Siemens.
Fakhrul went on, "The attorney general handed over the big cheque to the

ACC in a way that resembles a cricket player receiving a cheque after a cricket match.
"It tarnished the image of Koko and the BNP."
Fakhrul also remarked that the cases filed against Koko and BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman were politically motivated.
He alleged that the government had withdrawn "all the cases"

against ruling party leaders and activists but not a single one against those of the opposition.
Fakhrul's comment on the handover of the cheque is a repeat of what he said in November last year, when the ACC had received the first instalment from the Singaporean government.
Meanwhile, Attorney General Mahubey Alam yesterday lambasted Fakhrul for calling the handover of the cheque a drama.
"We have recovered the money through the verdicts of Bangladeshi and Singaporean courts and with assistance from different countries of the world," the lawyer told private television channel EkattorTV.
It was unfortunate that Fakhrul had made the comments, he observed, adding that Fakhrul wanted to prove wrong the court verdicts and all other things centring the issue to satisfy "a family".
Ruling Awami League acting general secretary Mahubul Alam Hanif said the government had no scope to spread confusion over the corruption charges against the two sons of Khaleda Zia, as those had been proved by US and Singaporean courts.
"It was neither the Awami League nor the government that had pressed charges against them," he told a press conference at the AL president's political office in Dhanmondi yesterday.
Criticising Fakhrul's comment on the return of Tk 7.40 crore, Hanif said the BNP leader had made this statement only to "save his skin and kowtow to Khaleda Zia's family".

Govt to challenge

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rights of ethnic groups and regional peace and harmony.
He said the petitioners' lawyers were ready to place arguments before the apex court for upholding the HC verdict.
The appeals could not be heard earlier because the petitioners' lawyers and the government were preoccupied with other cases, including the ones related to war crimes, Belayet added.
The regional council was formed to coordinate the district councils of Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari in terms of development activities and the maintenance of law and order.
The council has been

functioning under the leadership of Santu Larma since its formation in 1999 under the CHT Regional Council Act, 1998.
The act was declared illegal and unconstitutional following the writ petitions filed by Bengali settler M Badiuzzaman and pro-Jamaat SC lawyer Tajul Islam.
The chamber judge of the Appellate Division, however, stayed the verdict after the government and Santu Larma, chairman of the council, filed the petitions.
A full bench of the division upheld the stay order on March 3, 2011, allowing the government and Larma to appeal against the HC verdict.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Interested parties are invited to submit a proposal to develop & host an interactive eLearning platform to support behavior change communication (BCC) and blended learning under the Bangladesh Knowledge Management Initiative (BKMI) of the Johns Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs (JHU / CCP). Eight eLearning courses have already been produced. Some of the existing courses will need to be hosted on a new platform and will require supplemental support, while other new courses will need to be developed. The eLearning platform will need to be accessed online & offline. The awarding of this RFP is subject to the approval of funds.
Tasks include:
● Evaluation of current eLearning courses to address existing issues
● Development of CMS/Course Authoring tool, LMS and course player
● Migration of established eLearning courses into new platform
● Creation of new eLearning courses, inclusive of electronic assessments
● Provision of any training required to use the system
● Support for simple data collection & interface management tools (dashboard)
● Ongoing maintenance of course player, LMS and CMS
● Contribute to the design of a scale-up strategy to expand the reach of the eLearning courses
Proposals are due Thursday September 12 th 11:59 AM BST. Expected implementation time frame is October 1, 2013-September 30, 2016. For additional details and to download the full RFP, please go to www.bangladesh-ccp.org/home/opportunity

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Office of the Administrator of Waqf, Bangladesh
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(বিধি ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি)
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EDCL ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE
EDCL invites International Tender for Supply of Laboratory Equipment for EDCL, Bogra factory on C&F © Dhaka by Air basis :-

S.L No.	Tender No. Date	Name of the Item	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
01.	IMP/Lab. Equipment / SEM / 18 / 2013-2014 dated 28/08/2013	Supply of Following Laboratory Equipment for Bogra Plant : 01 Hardness Tester Machine- 01 no. (Automatic)	Tk. 750.00/set Equivalent to US\$ 10.00 Non-refundable	Closing : 18/09/2013 At 3.00 PM Opening : 18/09/2013 At 3.15 PM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays).
No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.
EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.
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