

AIR POLLUTION

Dhaka world's second most polluted city

STAR REPORT

Dhaka has ranked second on a global list of cities with worst air pollution, which claims 122,400 lives in Bangladesh a year. Delhi tops the list, while Karachi and Beijing stand third and fourth, according to the State of Global Air Report 2017. Air pollution is the leading environmental cause of death worldwide, and 92 percent of the world's population lives in areas with unhealthy air, mentions the report launched by Boston-based Health Effects Institute (HEI) on Tuesday. India and Bangladesh experienced the steepest increase in air pollution levels between 1990 and 2015, it says. Bangladesh, India and Pakistan had fine particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5) attributable rates five to 10 times the lowest rates found in the US and Japan, shows the report. PM2.5 is an air pollutant that becomes a concern for people's health when its levels are high in the air. This tiny particle reduces visibility and causes the air to appear hazy when its levels are elevated. Long-term exposure to fine particulate matter -- the most significant element of air pollution -- contributed to 4.2 million premature deaths and to a loss of 103 million healthy years of life in 2015, making air pollution the fifth biggest cause of death among all health risks, including smoking and high blood pressure. China and India together were responsible for over half

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Banshbari slum near the Shia mosque in the capital's Mohammadpur after a devastating fire razed over 220 shanties there early yesterday. Many of those who became homeless alleged it was an arson attack. Story on page 3.

Air Force, 15 people get Independence Award 2017

BSS, Dhaka

The government yesterday named Bangladesh Air Force and 15 persons for the Independence Award 2017 for their outstanding contributions at national level.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will hand the awards to the winners and their representatives at a function in the city's Osmani Memorial Auditorium on March 23, said a notification of the Cabinet Division.

The awardees are: Group Captain (ret'd) Shamsul Alam Bir Uttam, Ashraf Alam, Shaheed Md Nazmul Huq, late Syed Mohsin Ali, Shaheed NM Nazmul Ahsan, Shaheed Faizur Rahman Ahmed and Bangladesh Air Force (independence and Liberation War), Prof AHM Touhidul Anwar Chawdhury (medical science), Begum Rabeya Khatun and late Golam Samdani Koraisi (literature), Prof Enamul Huq and

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"False and baseless"

Says Yunus Centre about allegations against Yunus on Padma Bridge issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yunus Centre has said Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus has never made any statement in public or private to anyone about the possibility of corruption in the Padma Bridge project at any time.

In a statement issued yesterday, it protested the allegations raised against

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CRACKDOWN ON ROHINGYAS Myanmar ends army operation in Rakhine

REUTERS, Yangon

Myanmar's military has ended a clearance operation in the country's troubled Rakhine State, government officials said, ending a four-month sweep that the United Nations said may amount to crimes against humanity and possibly ethnic cleansing.

The security operation had been under way since nine policemen were killed in attacks on security posts near the Bangladesh border on

Oct 9. Almost 69,000 Rohingyas have since fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh, according to UN estimates.

The violence has renewed international criticism that Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi has done too little to help members of the Muslim minority.

The government led by Nobel laureate Suu Kyi has denied almost all allegations of human rights abuses in Rakhine, including mass

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WB has to win back trust of Bangladesh

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the World Bank must take steps to win back Bangladesh's trust.

The WB can compensate Bangladesh and take measures against its officials who had brought the false allegation against the country regarding the Padma bridge project, he said.

The minister was talking to reporters after attending

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IS car bomb kills 48 in Baghdad

REUTERS, Baghdad

A car packed with explosives blew up in southern Baghdad yesterday, killing at least 48 people and wounding 55, security and medical sources said, in the deadliest such attack in Iraq this year.

Islamic State, which is on the defensive after losing control of eastern Mosul to a U.S.-backed Iraqi military offensive, claimed responsibility for the bombing in an online statement.

As it cedes territory captured in a 2014 offensive across northern and western Iraq, the ultra-hardline group has stepped up insurgent strikes on government areas, particularly in the capital Baghdad.

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China's 'last cave village'

MAIL ONLINE

High in the hills of southwestern China's Guizhou province, 18 families live in the most unusual of houses - a natural cave.

Despite having electricity, life in

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Dhaira, the parasite shrub

MOKARAM HOSSAIN

I came across Dhaira for the first time on an old mango tree in my grandpa's place in my childhood. At that time I did not bother about its birth history. The tree wore a

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PHOTO: MOKARAM HOSSAIN

Skippping homework costs her dearly

OUR CORRESPONDENT Benapole

A madrasa teacher in Jessore pounded duster on a girl student's hand repeatedly on Wednesday until her two fingers broke: all for not doing her homework.

With the fingers plastered, seven-year-old Fahima Khatun is now receiving treatment at Jessore Medical College Hospital.

The second grader of Jessore Hamidpur Darul Aman Madrasa went to class that day without her homework done, said Fahima, daughter of Mahmudul Hasan, of

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