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Tk 20,000cr lost a year for air pollution

Finds WB study on Bangladesh; rapid, unplanned urbanisation blamed for air, water pollution

The country, especially its urban areas, is facing severe air and water pollution due to rapid and unplanned urbanisation, show the preliminary findings of a World Bank study.

It is losing one percent (around Tk 20,000 crore) of the gross domestic product every year due to air pollution, according to the study.

The country's GDP stands at nearly Tk 20.88 trillion as per the latest data of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

Titled "Bangladesh Country Environment Analysis 2017", the study found people living in the urban areas are inhaling extremely unhealthy air. They are also exposed to lead, arsenic, cadmium, pesticide and sulphur dioxide from different sources.

Air in the capital and its nearby Gazipur and Narayanganj cities remains highly polluted for several months in a year. It gets worst in February and March, showed a presentation on the findings during a workshop at a city hotel yesterday.

The brick kilns are the biggest polluter of air. They contribute 38 percent micro-pollutants while motor vehicles are responsible for 19 percent, road dust 18, solid dust nine

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



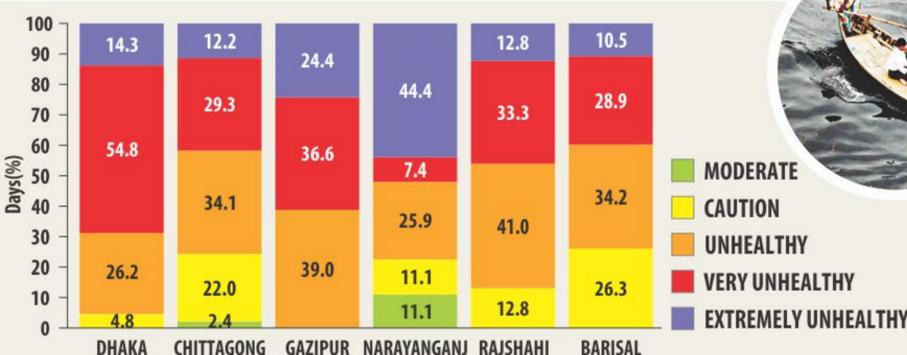
POLLUTION TAKES ITS TOLL ON CITIES



SOURCE: BANGLADESH COUNTRY ENVIRONMENT ANALYSIS 2017, WORLD BANK

- 1 Bangladesh losing 1% percent GDP every year due to air pollution
- 2 Nearly 600,000 people are exposed to lead contamination
- 3 Only 2 of 13 canals in Dhaka are fully operational in 2017
- 4 Pollutants are industrial, tannery, ship breaking, hospital wastes, and sludge, ashes
- 5 719 washing, dyeing, finishing factories each discharge 200 tonnes of wastewater per tonne of fabrics to rivers in Dhaka.

SEASONAL VARIATION IN AIR QUALITY INDEX



MAIN SOURCES OF AIR POLLUTION IN DHAKA

- Brick kilns 38%
- Motor vehicles 19%
- Road dust 18%
- Soil dust 9%



President leaves for OIC summit on Jerusalem

PM to fly to Paris today for planet meet

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The president and the prime minister begin their three-day separate overseas tour today. They will visit Turkey and France respectively to attend a special summit of Islamic leaders over the Jerusalem issue and a planet summit to fight against climate change.

President Abdul Hamid leaves for Istanbul tonight to attend the extraordinary leaders' summit of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) over the issue of Jerusalem, which has stoked fresh

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

ASSAULT ON LAW ENFORCERS

Police accuse 200 in 2 cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday filed two cases against around 200 people on charge of assaulting six law enforcers during a drive to arrest a trader at Fortune Shopping Mall in the city's Mouchak area on Saturday night.

Moinuddin Omar Faruq, sub-inspector of SWAT team of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit, filed a case against 12 named and 150-200 unnamed people. Mohibulla, an SI at Ramna Police Station, filed the other case against two named and 150-200 unnamed people.

Both the cases were filed with Ramna police station. In the case statements, the SIs said a SWAT team went to the market to arrest Majharul Islam Iran, owner of Ishwaria Sari Bitan, in connection with credit card fraud. When they arrested Majharul, the named and unknown accused armed with sticks and brick chunks attacked the team. This left five policemen injured and a microbus damaged.

They also tried to snatch Majharul from custody. Several hundred traders, staffs and locals threw brick chunks at the men in plainclothes as Majharul shouted for help during the arrest on Saturday night.

The incident happened at a time when cases of enforced disappearances have been rattling the nation. In many cases, men in plainclothes took those people, some of whom are still missing. Besides, allegations are rife that police force businessmen to bribe them after picking up them.

Traders yesterday claimed that they had mistaken the policemen as criminals as they were in plainclothes and were not carrying any firearms.

A trader who witnessed the incident said he had seen some six to seven plainclothes men dragging a person away.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

BSF shot dead 2 Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Indian Border Security Force shot dead two Bangladeshi cattle "smugglers" along Diar Manik Char border in Godagari upazila of Rajshahi early yesterday.

The two, Esharul Islam, 28, and his cousin Abu Nasrat, 29, were residents of Char Bhubanpara of the upazila, said officials of the Border Guard Bangladesh.

The BGB in a flag meeting with BSF protested the killings and said the shootings were against human rights and in violation of the Indo-Bangla agreement that prohibits killings at the border, said Lt Col Shamim Masud Al Iftekhar, director of BGB 1 Battalion in Rajshahi.

The shooting took place around 3:00am when the Bangladeshi smugglers allegedly intruded into Indian territory to collect

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Egypt reveals mummy from tomb in Luxor



AFP, Luxor

Egyptian archaeologists have discovered a mummy in one of two previously unexplored tombs across the Nile from the southern city of Luxor, the antiquities ministry said Saturday.

The tombs were found in the 1990s by German archaeologist Frederica Kamp, though she had only reached the entrance gate "but never entered", the ministry said.

It said that both tombs, which were given numbers by Kamp, were likely to date back to dynasties of the New Kingdom, which lasted several centuries until about 3,000 years ago.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Transcom Group ED Obaidur passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Obaidur Rahman Khan, executive director of Transcom Group, died in his Gulshan home in the capital at 10:30pm on Saturday.

He was 73. Khan was the eldest son of late Ataur Rahman Khan, former chief minister of East

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 11

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-15 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00

JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

NEPAL ELECTION Communist parties likely to win big

REUTERS, Kathmandu

A leftist alliance between Nepal's former Maoist rebels and moderate communists appeared to be heading for a victory in elections aimed at completing a transition to democracy after the abolition of the monarchy and end to civil war.

Early tallies from Thursday's vote show the leftists lead in 63 out of 80 constituencies where counting has begun.

Final results of the election, Nepal's first under its republican constitution approved by a special Constituent Assembly in 2015, could take around 10 days due to cumbersome counting procedures.

Nepal has seen 10 government changes in as many years. Instability has given rise to corruption, retarded growth and slowed recovery from a 2015 earthquake that killed 9,000 people.

The election pits the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



The Dohazari Bazar sees a host of sellers peddling various winter vegetables grown along the banks of the Sangu River. Radish, peas and aubergine are some of the vegetables sold here at low prices. Wholesalers purchase the vegetables from here and sell them at markets in the cities. *Inset*, farmers harvesting vegetables to be sold.

PHOTO: RAJTB RAIHAN

JERUSALEM AS ISRAEL'S CAPITAL Protests flare over US move

Violent clashes erupt near US embassy in Beirut; Arabs demand Trump rescind decision

AGENCIES

New protests flared in the Middle East and elsewhere yesterday over US President Donald Trump's declaration of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, a move that has drawn global condemnation and sparked days of unrest in the Palestinian territories.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has repeatedly warned of the consequences of Trump's move, also lashed out by calling Israel a "terrorist state" and "state that kills children".

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu meanwhile visited Europe for his first trip abroad since Trump's declaration, with talks planned with French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris and EU foreign ministers in Brussels.

And in Jerusalem, a security guard was in critical condition after a 24-year-old Palestinian man from the occupied West Bank stabbed him after approaching a metal detector at an entrance to the city's central bus station, police said. The alleged assailant was taken into custody after a passer-by tackled him, reported Reuters.

Trump's announcement on Wednesday has been followed by days of protests and clashes in the Palestinian territories. Four Palestinians were killed either in clashes or from Israeli air strikes in retaliation for rockets fired from the Gaza Strip.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2